



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Pre-Orthros



Orthros



859 First Street | Macon, Georgia 31201 | 478.621.0744 (office)
www.holycrossga.org | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Great and Holy PASCHA

St. Basil the Confessor of Parium

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Festal (Mark 16:1-8)

Mode of the Week: Festal / της Γιορτής

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Pascha Sunday, April 12</i>	12:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy for PASCHA/Easter—Resurrection Service 12:00pm Agape Vespers 1:00pm Pascha Picnic & Easter Egg Hunt
<i>Bright Friday, April 17</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy for the Life-Giving Spring of Theotokos
<i>Sunday, April 19</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Thomas Sunday Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion 12:00pm Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 1:00pm Bible Study & Youth Greek Dance
<i>Wednesday, April 22</i>	5:30pm Great Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class
<i>Thursday, April 23</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. George the Trophy-Bearer 12:00pm Orthodox Book Study at Taste & See 5:00pm Men's Brotherhood Meeting in the Parish House 6:45pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Saturday, April 25</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, April 26</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Woman Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion 12:00pm Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 1:00pm Youth Greek School
<i>Wednesday, April 29</i>	5:30pm Great Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class
<i>Thursday, April 30</i>	10:00am Orthodox Book Study @ Taste & See
<i>Saturday, May 2</i>	11:00am Spring Fling & Youth/Philoptochos Yard Sale (until 7:00pm)
<i>Sunday, May 3</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Paralytic Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion 12:00pm Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 1:00pm Bible Study / Youth Greek School
<i>Saturday, May 9</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, May 10</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Youth Sunday School; Fellowship; Greek School (@1:00pm)

Upcoming Epistle Readers (4/19) Helen Troupous, Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (4/26) Haris Sorovigas, Nicholas True
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (4/19) Natalia S.; (4/26) Maria Spicer; (5/3) Kathy Patras; (5/10) Jim Lekas
Upcoming Ushers: (4/17) Eleni A.; (4/19) Cleo B., Jim L.; (4/22) Maria S.; (4/23) OPEN; (4/25) Erick + Cheryl S.
Upcoming Video Operators: (4/17) Norm; (4/19) Cristina; (4/23) Cristina; (4/26) David Z.; (5/3) Cristina
Fellowship Hosts: (4/19) Toula Tsamolias; (4/26) Haris Sorovigas; (5/3) Eleni Adams; (5/10) Cristina + Sofia Lekas

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a **warm welcome** to all worshipping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is offered only to Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.
Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!

Epistle Reading

Αὕτη ἡ ἡμέρα, ἣν ἐποίησεν ὁ Κύριος· ἀγαλλιασώμεθα καὶ εὐφρανθῶμεν ἐν αὐτῇ.

Στίχ. Ἐξομολογεῖσθε τῷ Κυρίῳ, ὅτι ἀγαθός, ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ.

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Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Τὸν μὲν πρῶτον λόγον ἐποιήσαμην περὶ πάντων, ὦ Θεόφιλε, ὧν ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς ποιεῖν τε καὶ διδάσκειν ἄχρι ἣς ἡμέρας ἐντειλάμενος τοῖς ἀποστόλοις διὰ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου οὐς ἐξελέξατο ἀνελήφθη· οἷς καὶ παρέστησεν ἑαυτὸν ζῶντα μετὰ τὸ παθεῖν αὐτὸν ἐν πολλοῖς τεκμηρίοις, δι' ἡμερῶν τεσσαράκοντα ὀπτανόμενος αὐτοῖς καὶ λέγων τὰ περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ. καὶ συναλιζόμενος παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων μὴ χωρίζεσθαι, ἀλλὰ περιμένειν τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρὸς ἣν ἠκούσατέ μου· ὅτι Ἰωάννης μὲν ἐβάπτισεν ὕδατι, ὑμεῖς δὲ βαπτισθήσεσθε ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ οὐ μετὰ πολλὰς ταύτας ἡμέρας. οἱ μὲν οὖν συνελθόντες ἐπηρώτων αὐτὸν λέγοντες· Κύριε, εἰ ἐν τῷ χρόνῳ τούτῳ ἀποκαθιστάνεις τὴν βασιλείαν τῷ Ἰσραήλ; εἶπε δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς· οὐχ ὑμῶν ἐστὶ γινῶναι χρόνους ἢ καιροὺς οὐς ὁ πατὴρ ἔθετο ἐν τῇ ἰδίᾳ ἐξουσίᾳ, ἀλλὰ λήψεσθε δύναμιν ἐπελθόντος τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος ἐφ' ὑμᾶς, καὶ ἔσεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες ἐν τῇ Ἱερουσαλὴμ καὶ ἐν πάσῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ καὶ Σαμαρείᾳ καὶ ἕως ἐσχάτου τῆς γῆς.

This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

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The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)

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In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (1:1-17)

Great and Holy Pascha

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος, καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος. Οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν. πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν. ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων. καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν. Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ Θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν, ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα πάντες πιστεύσωσι δι' αὐτοῦ. οὐκ ἦν ἐκεῖνος τὸ φῶς, ἀλλ' ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός. Ἦν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν, ὃ φωτίζει πάντα ἄνθρωπον ἐρχόμενον εἰς τὸν κόσμον. ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν, καὶ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔγνω. εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθε, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον. ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν, ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα Θεοῦ γενέσθαι, τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, οἳ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκός, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ἐκ Θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν. Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ, δόξαν ὡς μονογενοῦς παρὰ πατρός, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας. Ἰωάννης μαρτυρεῖ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ κέκραγε λέγων· οὗτος ἦν ὃν εἶπον, ὁ ὀπίσω μου ἐρχόμενος ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. Καὶ ἐκ τοῦ πληρώματος αὐτοῦ ἡμεῖς πάντες ἐλάβομεν, καὶ χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος· ὅτι ὁ νόμος διὰ Μωϋσέως ἐδόθη, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. That was the true light that enlightens every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

E-mail: frtheodore@holycrossga.org

Cell: 770.256.0290

Office Days: Tuesday through Friday; call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of April 12, 2026

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Kostas Iakovidis, Haris Sorovigas
Video: Natalia S. **Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Richard Stewart (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Parish Council

PC Member On-Duty: David Zoumberis



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Great and Holy PASCHA (ΑΓΙΟ ΠΑΣΧΑ)

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday. As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Savior's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honor of the Lord; in honor and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labor that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

All foods allowed during Renewal Week.

+ Our Devout Father Basil the (Βασίλειος) Confessor, Bishop of Parium (+754)

+ Our Devout Mother Anthousa (Ανθούσα), daughter of Emperor Constantine V (+809)

+ The Holy Martyrs Demes (Δήμης) and Proteon (Πρωτίων)

+ The Holy Hieromartyr Artemon (Αρτέμων, +284)

+ The Three Holy Martyrs, Menas (Μηνάς), David (Δαβίδ), and John (Ιωάννης) of Palestine (+636)

+ Our Devout Father Akakios (Ακάκιος) the New of Kafsokalivia on Mount Athos (+1730)

Through the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- Hymn of the Resurrection (Χριστός ανέστη, Plagal 1st Mode):

Χριστός ανέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν ἠαρισάμενος.

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance)

- Special Entrance Hymn (Ἐν ἐκκλησίαις, 2nd Mode):

Bless God in the churches, the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

- Hypakoe of Pascha (Προλαβούσαι τον ὄρθρον, 4th Mode):

When the women with Mary had come before dawn, and they found that the stone had been rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard from the Angel, "Why do you seek among the dead, as a mortal man, the One who exists in everlasting light? See the grave clothes in the sepulcher. Run and proclaim to the world that the Lord has risen and put death to death; for He is the Son of God who saves the human race."

- The Hymn of the Holy Cross is not sung today due to the feast.

- The Kontakion of Pascha (Ἐὶ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ, Plagal 4th Mode):

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection. (Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 274)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Commemorations, Fasting Guidance and Scripture Readings:

Sunday, April 12: Great and Holy Pascha

Fast Free

Mark 16:1-8; Acts 1:1-8; John 1:1-17

Monday, April 13: Bright Monday

Fast Free

Acts 1:12-17, 21-26; John 1:18-28

Tuesday, April 14: Bright Tuesday

Fast Free

Acts 2:14-21; Luke 24:12-35

Wednesday, April 15: Bright Wednesday

Fast Free

Acts 2:22-38; John 1:35-51

Thursday, April 16: Bright Thursday

Fast Free

Acts 2:38-43; John 3:1-15

Friday, April 17: Theotokos of the Life-giving Spring

Fast Free

Acts 3:1-8; John 2:12-22

Saturday, April 18: Bright Saturday

Fast Free

Acts 3:11-16; John 3:22-33

Prayer Requests for Health of Soul and Body:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Mike, Panteleimon, Kassiani, Dimitri, Georgia, Maria, Valerie, Dianna, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Austin, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Brian, Bessie, Katerina, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian, Paul, Lucas, Nicholas, Kevin, Andy, Karen, Vera, Adam, Debbie, Alberto, Sadith, Richelle, Paul, George, Christina, Kristen, Diane, Lydia, Lucy, George, John, Pauline, Bill, Nicholas, Mandy, Benjamin, Brenda, Gabriel, Barbara, Taylor, Elizabeth, Rich, Penny, Brian, Gracie, Woody, Braeden, Nikitis, Donna, Joellen, George, Yianni, Emilie, Pete, Sloan Georgia, Dimitris, Patricia, Luis Miguel, Debra, Lanny

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Kalliopi (+March 7), Irene (+March 8), Marion (+March 24)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Amanda, Kémie, Sophia

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Benjamin George Davis, Joseph Fajloun, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Joseph Viteri, Daniel Vogt, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Adam, Alexander, Amanda, Amber, Aryn, Avery, Billy, Bobbie, Brianna, Dakota, Darryl, Debbie, Deia, Gabrielle, Gavin, Grayson, Hannah, Jessica, John, José, Kyle, Macayla, Maegan, Mary Emma, Nate, Noah, Philip, Sarah, Sophia, Susan, Tammy, Tristan, and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers and Mothers of our Holy Orthodox Church:

St. John the Wonderworker (+1966) on our participation in Holy Pascha: "The Lamb of God communicates with us on the holy and light-bearing night of Resurrection. We pray for this when we are just beginning to prepare for Lent, and afterwards many times during the course of the Great Fast: that the Lord would vouchsafe us to partake of the Holy Mysteries on the night of Holy Pascha. At that time the grace of God acts in a special way upon

men's hearts. We partake of the Christ Resurrected, we become partakers of His Resurrection. Of course, we must prepare ahead of time, and, having already communed during Great Lent, receive again the Holy Mysteries. Before Paschal Liturgy there is no time for a proper confession; this must be done earlier. And then, on that light-bearing night, having received general absolution, to draw near to the Divine Lamb, the pledge of our resurrection. No one should leave the church prematurely, rushing away to eat the meat of animals instead of receiving the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

April 12: Tassie Cantrell, Chloe Goss, Stacey Goss

April 15: Leo Economopoulos

Birthdays—Happy Birthdays!

April 12: Christine Nicholas

April 16: Monika Robinson

April 17: Tim Murphy

April 18: Cornelius Chiorescu

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

April 13: Betty & Spencer Maxwell

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

* **Congratulations** to Sydney Wheeler (sponsor: Schyler Johnson), her son Max (sponsor: Danaí Esquivel), and Ron (sponsor: Jim Lekas) and Ecaterina Fuentes (sponsor: Natalia Saratsiotis) who were received into the Holy Orthodox Church during the Holy Saturday Vespers Liturgy!

* Please see the insert for the **Pascha Lilies Dedication**. Thank you to all of those who participated. If you were unable to participate and would like to make a monetary donation towards the flowers used throughout Holy Week, including the Kouvouklion, donations will be greatly appreciated.

* Join us for an **Easter Egg Hunt & Pascha Picnic** after the **Agape Vespers** today. The Parish Council will provide lamb, and parishioners are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Donations are appreciated to help cover costs. If you were unable to RSVP; however, you are able to attend, please come! All are welcome!

* **Spring Fling** will be on Saturday, **May 2nd**. We will be setting up the Friday before after work. Please mark your calendars. We are asking all GOYANS, Young Adults & NSYA to please sign up to work this event (see link in Father's Bulletin email).

* **Yard Sale:** The Youth, jointly with the Philoptochos, will be having a Yard Sale Fundraiser during the Spring Fling on Saturday, May 2! Great opportunity to shed your excess items and also help raise money for our youth activities and the work of the Philoptochos. Please bring your items to church and we'll store them in the back building for you until then. We'll have several tables, and a tent and we'll need day-of volunteers who aren't already promised elsewhere that day. Thanks in advance!

* **Please note** that the stand-up water dispenser has been removed from the Bridal Parlour. If you need a sip of water after Holy Communion or in case of a need like a cough, tickle, etc, there are small paper cups available next to the sinks in the bathrooms.

* We have been blessed to have **Hieromonk Father Sava** who was with us for Holy Week to serve and chant! We thank him and wish him safe travels back home.

Χριστός Ανέστη - Christ is Risen!
Αληθώς Ανέστη - Truly He is Risen!