



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthros, part 1



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

Sunday, April 26, 2026

3rd Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women
 St. Vasilevs, Bishop of Amasia

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Fourth (Luke 24:1-12)

Mode of the Week: Second / Δεύτερος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, 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 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy Youth Greek School 1:00pm Youth Greek School
<i>Wednesday, April 29</i>	5:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Chapel/on Zoom
<i>Thursday, April 30</i>	10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste & See in Downtown Macon
<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 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 1:00pm Bible Study & Youth Greek School
<i>Wednesday, May 6</i>	6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Chapel/on Zoom
<i>Saturday, May 9</i>	11:00am Holy Baptism 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, May 10</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Holy Chrismation of Debby Rankin during the Divine Liturgy Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship following the Divine Liturgy Youth Greek School 1:00pm Youth Greek School
<i>Wednesday, May 13</i>	5:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Chapel/on Zoom <i>Quarterly Bulletin Due Date for Committee Reports</i>
<i>Thursday, May 14</i>	10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Downtown Macon 6:45pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Saturday, May 16</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, May 17</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Blind Man Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Last Day of Sunday School for the School Year Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 1:00pm Bible Study

Upcoming Epistle Readers (5/3) George Saratsiotis, Caroline Saratsiotis; (5/10) Kostas Iakovidis, Cleo Bennette
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (5/3) Kathy Patras; (5/10) Jim Lekas; (5/17) Kostas Iakovidis; (5/24) Chad R.
Upcoming Ushers: (4/29) Maria S.; (5/3) Sarah, Haris; (5/9) Maria S; (5/10) Jim, Charles; (5/13) Cristina
Upcoming Video Operators: (5/3) Cristina L; (5/10) Kostas I; (5/17) David Z; (5/20AM) Cristina; (5/20PM) Adam
Fellowship Hosts: (5/3) Haris Sorovigas; (5/10) Cristina + Sofia Lekas; (5/17) Maria Bronisevsky + Joanna Patronis

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

*Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος,
καὶ ἐγένετό μοι εἰς σωτηρίαν.*

*Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος,
καὶ τῷ θανάτῳ οὐ παρέδωκέ με.*

+++

*Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

+++

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις, πληθυνόντων τῶν μαθητῶν ἐγένετο γογγυσμὸς τῶν Ἑλληνιστῶν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑβραίους, ὅτι παρεθεωροῦντο ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ τῇ καθημερινῇ αἱ χῆραι αὐτῶν. προσκαλεσάμενοι δὲ οἱ δώδεκα τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν εἶπον· οὐκ ἄρεστόν ἐστιν ἡμᾶς καταλείψαντας τὸν λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ διακονεῖν τραπέζαις. ἐπισκέψασθε οὖν, ἀδελφοί, ἄνδρας ἐξ ὑμῶν μαρτυρουμένους ἐπτά, πλήρεις Πνεύματος Ἁγίου καὶ σοφίας, οὓς καταστήσομεν ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας ταύτης· ἡμεῖς δὲ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου προσκαρτερήσομεν. καὶ ἤρρεσεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ πλῆθους· καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον, ἄνδρα πλήρη πίστεως καὶ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου, καὶ Φίλιππον καὶ Πρόχορον καὶ Νικάνορα καὶ Τίμωνα καὶ Παρμενᾶν καὶ Νικόλαον προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχέα, οὓς ἔστησαν ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀποστόλων, καὶ προσευξάμενοι ἐπέθηκαν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας. καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ ἠύξανε, καὶ ἐπληθύνετο ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν μαθητῶν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ σφόδρα, πολὺς τε ὄχλος τῶν Ἰουδαίων ὑπήκουον τῇ πίστει.

*The Lord is my strength and my
song, and He became my salvation.*

*Verse: The Lord chastened and
corrected me, but He did not give me
up to death.*

+++

*The reading is from the Acts of the
Apostles. (6:1-7)*

+++

In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Mark (15:43-16:8)

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ ἐλθὼν Ἰωσήφ ὁ ἀπὸ Ἀριμαθαίας, εὐσχήμων βουλευτής, ὃς καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν προσδεχόμενος τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, τολμήσας εἰσῆλθε πρὸς Πιλάτον καὶ ἠτήσατο τὸ σῶμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. ὁ δὲ Πιλάτος ἐθαύμασεν εἰ ἤδη τέθνηκε, καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν κεντυρίωνα ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν εἰ πάλαι ἀπέθανε· καὶ γνοὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ κεντυρίωνος ἐδωρήσατο τὸ σῶμα τῷ Ἰωσήφ. καὶ ἀγοράσας σινδὸνα καὶ καθελὼν αὐτὸν ἐνείλησε τῇ σινδόνι καὶ κατέθηκεν αὐτὸν ἐν μνημείῳ, ὃ ἦν λελατομημένον ἐκ πέτρας, καὶ προσεκύλισε λίθον ἐπὶ τὴν θύραν τοῦ μνημείου. ἡ δὲ Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία Ἰωσή ἐθεώρουν ποῦ τίθεται. Καὶ διαγενομένου τοῦ σαββάτου Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Ἰακώβου καὶ Σαλώμη ἠγόρασαν ἀρώματα ἵνα ἐλθοῦσαι ἀλείψωσιν αὐτόν. καὶ λίαν πρωὶ τῆς μιᾶς σαββάτων ἔρχονται ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον, ἀνατείλαντος τοῦ ἡλίου. καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἑαυτάς· τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον ἐκ τῆς θύρας τοῦ μνημείου; καὶ ἀναβλέψασαι θεωροῦσιν ὅτι ἀποκεκύλισται ὁ λίθος· ἦν γὰρ μέγας σφόδρα. καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον εἶδον νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιοῖς, περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν, καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν. ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· μὴ ἐκθαμβεῖσθε· Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρητῶν τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον· ἠγέρθη, οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε· ἴδε ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἔθηκαν αὐτόν. ἀλλ' ὑπάγετε εἶπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ ὅτι προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε, καθὼς εἶπεν ὑμῖν. καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου· εἶχε δὲ αὐτάς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις, καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπον· ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ.

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

E-mail: frtheodore@holycrossga.org

Office: 478.621.0744

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 26, 2026

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Haris Sorovigas

Video: David Z.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Haris Sorovigas (Greek); Nicholas True (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Eleni Adams

PC Member On-Duty: Maria Spicer



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Third Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women (Κυριακή των Μυροφόρων) along with Joseph of Arimathea (Ιωσήφ εξ Αρμαθαίας) and Nikodemus (Νικόδημος) the Disciple by Night

During the early years of His ministry in Galilee, Jesus Christ was followed by devoted women who had experienced His healing and mercy. These women supported Him from their own means and remained faithful through His crucifixion and burial. After His death, they courageously came to His tomb with myrrh-oils to anoint His body, earning the name Myrrh-bearers. Among them were the Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Clopas, Joanna, Salome, Mary and Martha of Bethany, and Susanna, along with others unnamed in Scripture. Also honored are the secret disciples Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. Nicodemus, a learned Pharisee, brought costly spices for Jesus' burial. Joseph, a respected counselor, boldly requested Jesus' body from Pilate and laid Him in his own tomb, showing great devotion and courage.

+ The Hieromartyr Vasilevs (Βασιλέας), Bishop of Amasia (+323)

This Saint was Bishop of Amasia in Pontus, in the days of Licinius (reigned 308-324), fellow Emperor and brother-in-law of Saint Constantine the Great. Licinius' wife Constantia, sister of Saint Constantine, had as handmaid a virgin named Glaphyra. When it became known that Licinius had conceived a sinful desire for her, Constantia secretly sent Glaphyra away to the East. Coming to Amasia, she took refuge with Saint Basileus. When Licinius learned of this, he furiously commanded that both be brought before him. When the soldiers came for them, however, Saint Glaphyra had already departed to the Lord; she is also commemorated this day. Saint Basileus was taken alone to Nicomedia, where he was beheaded. His body was cast into the sea, but through divine revelation was found again and brought back to Amasia.

+ The Devout Woman Glaphyra (Γλαφυρή) of Nicomedia (+322)

+ The Devout Woman Justa (Ιουστά)

+ The Devout Nestor (Νέστωρ) the Monk

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 ἡarisάμενος.

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

• *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.

• *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Ὅτε κατήλθες, 2nd Mode):*

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, "O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!"

• *Hymns of Myrrh-Bearing Sunday (Ὁ ενοχήμιον Ἰωσήφ, Ταῖς Μυροφόροις, 2nd Mode):*

When he took down Your immaculate Body from the Cross, the honorable Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen shroud with spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day You arose, O Lord, and granted the world Your great mercy. (Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 102)

The Angel who had come to the sepulcher said to the Myrrh-bearing women, "Ointments are appropriate for mortal men; but Christ is indeed a stranger to decay. Now go proclaim that the Lord has risen and granted the world His great mercy."

• *Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, 1st Mode):*

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. (sung in Greek and English)

• *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 26: Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women
Fast Free

Luke 24:1-12; Acts 6:1-7; Mark 15:43-47, 16:1-8
Monday, April 27: St. Symeon the Hieromartyr
Fast Free

Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-5, 47-60; John 4:46-54
Tuesday, April 28: Holy 9 Martyrs of Cyzicus
Fast Free

Acts 8:5-17; John 6:27-33
Wednesday, April 29: Sts. Jason and Sosipater of the 70
Wine + Oil

Acts 8:18-25; John 6:35-39
Thursday, April 30: St. James the Apostle
Fast Free

Acts 12:1-11; Luke 9:1-6
Friday, May 1: Jeremiah the Prophet
Wine + Oil

Acts 8:40, 9:1-19; John 6:48-54
Saturday, May 2: Sts. Hesperos and Zoe the Righteous
Fast Free

Hebrews 13:7-16; Matthew 5:14-19

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, 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, Gracie, Woody, Braeden, Nikitis, Donna, Joellen, George, Yianni, Emilie, Pete, Sloan Georgia, Dimitris, Patricia, Luis Miguel, Debra, Lanny, Katina, Nikos

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Irene (+March 8), Marion (+March 24), Brian (+April 13), Michael (+April 18)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Amanda (baby born 4/22), 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, Debby, Deia, Gabrielle, Gavin, Grayson, Hannah, Jessica, John, José, Kyle, Macayla, Maegan, Mary Emma, Nate, 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. Ambrose of Milan on our response to Pascha: "...Now since you are celebrating the holy Pascha, you should know, brethren, what the Pascha is. Pascha means the crossing-over, and so the Festival is called by this name. For it was on this day that the Children of Israel crossed over out of Egypt, and the Son of God crossed over from this world to His Father. What gain is it to

celebrate unless you imitate Him Whom you worship; that is, unless you cross over from Egypt, that is, from the darkness of evil-doing to the light of virtue, from the love of this world to the love of your heavenly home?"

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

April 29: Wyatt Jason Morris

April 30: Vuc Habic, Mina Stewart

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

April 26: Nadia Cazacu, Jace Johnson, Tony Kallergis

April 28: Remi Dempsey

April 29: George Lane, Lisa Jones,

Maria Murphy, Eleni Saratsiotis

April 30: Despina Passias

May 1: Taylor Zoumberis

May 2: Niveen Habib, Adeline Waight

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

April 28: Helen & Ray Vardy

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

Announcements:

* As a reminder, **we do not kneel or make prostrations** during this Paschal season (until the Kneeling Vespers at Pentecost) due to the resurrectional and joyful theme of this liturgical season! We also do not pray the prayer "O Heavenly King/Βασιλεὺς οὐράνιε" in Church or in our private prayers during this time until the Feast of Pentecost. We begin our prayers during this time with the singing or recitation of Christos Anesti/Christ is Risen thrice!

* **Congratulations and God's blessings** to Noah Milligan who was baptized yesterday. His godfather is Adam Phocas Landin.

* **The Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will continue this Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Church/on Zoom. Father Theodore will be sending an email to all with more details.

* **The Orthodox Book Study** will begin anew this Thursday, April 30 at 10:00am at Taste and See in Macon. We will be studying St. John Chrysostom's commentary on the Acts of the Apostles.

* **Spring Fling** will be THIS Saturday, **May 2nd**. We will be setting up the Friday after work (around 6pm). Please come and help. This year, we will have security Friday night so we will set up everything on Friday. GOYANS, Young Adults & NSYA...If you have not signed up to work, please contact one of the Festival Chairmen (David, Jim, Mike or Natalia).

* **Yard Sale:** The Youth, jointly with the Philoptochos, will be having a Yard Sale Fundraiser during the Spring Fling this 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!

* **Statements** of first quarter donations to the parish have been sent out. Please contact Kostas Iakovidis or Maria Spicer with any questions you may have.

* **We welcome back Ari Kovaci and his crew** as they adorn our walls with more Holy Iconography. Glory to God!

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