

# HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

953 Telfair Street • Augusta, GA 30901 706.724.1087 augustaholytrinity@gmail.com  
Father Vasile Bitere, Parish Priest 706.888.8382 www.holytrinityaugusta.org

## Antiphon I. Mode 2.

Verse 1: O God, my God, hear me; why have You forsaken me?

**Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.**

Verse 2: The words of my transgressions are far from my salvation. O my God, I will cry out by day, but You will not hear me.

**Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.**

Verse 3: But You dwell among the saints, O praise of Israel.

**Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.**

## Antiphon II. Mode 2.

Verse 1: O God, why have You rejected us to the end?

**Save us, O Son of God, who were crucified in the flesh. We sing to You, Alleluia.**

Verse 2: Remember Your congregation You acquired from the beginning.

**Save us, O Son of God, who were crucified in the flesh. We sing to You, Alleluia.**

Verse 3: This Mount Zion, where You encamped.

God is our King before the ages; He worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

**Save us, O Son of God, who were crucified in the flesh. We sing to You, Alleluia.**

**Apolytikion of the Elevation of the Holy Cross**

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth.

**Small Entrance**

**Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at**

**the footstool of His feet; for He is holy. Save us, O Son of God, who were crucified in the flesh. We sing to You, Alleluia**

## Resurrectional Apolytikion Tone 6

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

## Apolytikion of the

## Elevation of the Holy Cross

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

## Hymn of the Church

O Blessed are you, O Christ Our God, who by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, made the fisherman wise and through them illumine the world and to You the universe was ever drawn all glory to You O Lord.

## Kontakion

You who were lifted on the cross voluntarily, \* O Christ our God, bestow Your tender compassions \* upon Your new community to which You gave Your name. \* Cause our faithful emperors to be glad in Your power, \* granting them the victories against their adversaries. \* And for an ally, Lord,

may they have You, \* peace as their armor, the trophy invincible.

## Epistle Reading

**St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20**

**Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2  
Psalm 27.9,1**

**O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.**

**Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20**

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

## GOSPEL READING

**The Gospel According to Mark 8:34-38;  
9:1**

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my

## Today's Readings

**Sunday September 21, 2025**

**Sunday After the Holy Cross**

words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

**Prosphora and Coffee Hour** offered by Eleni Kountakis for the health of her family and honoring her daughter in law-Abby.

**Next Week: Monday, Tuesday , Wednesday, Thursday**

9:30am Festival Prep Chicken & Lamb Cooking

& Pastries Variety Assemble

\*

## GREEK FALL FESTIVAL UPDATE !

Dear Parish Family,

As we prepare for our upcoming Greek Festival, we are reaching out to ask for your support in a special way.

We are in urgent need of parishioners to take the lead at our cash registers and helping at the pastries and gyro booths. These roles are vital to the festival's success, as they are requiring many hands and we are looking for your dependable, friendly, and organized skills that would help us keep things running smoothly.

Let's come together as a parish and make this year's festival an amazing expression of our culture and faith. Your leadership matters!

\*\*

*"Carry your cross without complaint. Don't think you are anything special. Don't justify your sins and weaknesses, but see yourself as you really are."*

*Seraphim Rose 1982 (USA)*

☛Sunday Coffee Hour – Hosts Needed!

Help us keep the tradition of fellowship alive after Divine Liturgy! We’re looking for individuals or families, to host **Sunday Coffee Hour** by bringing coffee & light refreshments and helping with setup/cleanup.

~~~~~  
**Sign Up to Bake Prosphora**

"Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving." – Psalm 50:14

We are inviting parishioners to take part in a beautiful ministry by baking Prosphora (Holy Bread) for Divine Liturgy. This is a sacred and meaningful way to serve the Church and deepen your own spiritual life.

We need volunteers each week to bake and offer Prosphora.

Prosphora guides/recipes available upon request .

**Traditional Prosphora Recipe (Holy Bread)**

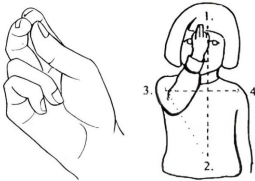


**Ingredients (for 2 large loaves ):**

- 8 cups unbleached all-purpose **flour** (blue King Arthur)
- 3-4 cups **warm water** (about 110°F / 43°C)
- 1 packet (2¼ tsp) **active dry yeast**
- **Extra flour** for dusting



The sign of the holy cross is a symbol steeped in profound meaning and history, a gesture that varies in significance and practice across different Christian denominations. This article explores the symbolism and meaning behind the sign of the cross, tracing its origins back to the ancient Church. We delve into the proper way for an Orthodox Christian to cross themselves, the appropriate prayers to recite during this act, and the occasions when the sign of the cross should be made in church. An Orthodox Christian begins each day with prayer and the sign of the cross, a gesture that sanctifies various aspects of life, including church services, household activities, personal moments, and family traditions. The priestly blessing itself is delivered through the sign of the cross. This leads us to ponder: what does this gesture truly represent? Why is it customary in Orthodoxy to make the sign of the cross using three fingers, and has this method always been the norm?



The Sign of the Cross is instrumental in bringing the soul into a state of reverence before prayer. It is an invocation of God’s power to sanctify the mind and heart, cleansing it of impure thoughts and desires often incited by demonic influences. The sign of the cross is akin to a blaze that drives away demons, as attested by numerous accounts. Parents can cross their children, offering a blessing when they go to bed or head to school. It’s also customary to cross new items or food after purchasing them, to make the sign of the cross over the road before traveling, and to bless the baby carriage before placing a child in it. Many cross themselves when boarding an airplane or cross their cars before driving and when leaving them in a parking space. Crossing oneself upon seeing an ambulance or a fire truck is a way of sending prayers for those in unknown peril, expressing a sincere wish for their swift deliverance from trouble. Before retiring to bed, it is advisable to cross oneself, as well as the bedroom walls, pillow, and bed.

Η ΑΓΙΑ ΤΡΙΑC



**Sunday September 21, 2025**

**Sunday after Elevation of the Holy Cross**

**Saint Quadratus the Apostle**