



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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www.holycrossga.org | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Sunday after Pascha: Thomas Sunday
 + St. George the Great Martyr

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: First (Matthew 28:16-20)

Mode of the Week: Festal/Της Εορτής

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, April 23</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Thomas Sunday/Feast of St. George Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
<i>Tuesday, April 25</i>	7:00pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Sunday, April 30</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 1:00pm Not So Young Adult Outing (Mercer Baseball Game)
<i>Wednesday, May 3</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class
<i>Friday, May 5</i>	10:00am Orthodox Book Study
<i>Saturday, May 6</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, May 7</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
<i>Wednesday, May 10</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Mid-Pentecost 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class
<i>Saturday, May 13</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, May 14</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
<i>Wednesday, May 17</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (4/30) Aleca Hortman, Charles Glotzbach; (5/7) George Saratsiotis, Diana Cazacu
Upcoming Ushers: (4/30) John A., Charles G.; Ushers for the month of May: TBD
Upcoming Video Operators: (4/30) Gray Y./David N.; (5/7) David Z.; (5/10) Joanna P.; (5/14) Gray Y./David N.
Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (4/30) Danai Esquivel; (5/7) Maria and Joanna Patronis; (5/14) Cleo Bennette

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 worshiping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is reserved for 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

*Εὐφρανθήσεται δίκαιος ἐν Κυρίῳ.
Στίχ. Εἰσάκουσον, ὁ Θεός, τῆς φωνῆς μου.*

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Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Κατ' ἐκεῖνον τὸν καιρὸν ἐπέβαλεν Ἡρῴδης ὁ βασιλεὺς τὰς χεῖρας κακῶσαι τινὰς τῶν ἀπὸ τῆς ἐκκλησίας. Ἀνεῖλε δὲ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν Ἰωάννου μαχαίρα. Καὶ ἰδὼν ὅτι ἀρεστόν ἐστι τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις, προσέθετο συλλαβεῖν καὶ Πέτρον· ἦσαν δὲ αἱ ἡμέραι τῶν ἀζύμων· ὃν καὶ πιάσας ἔθετο εἰς φυλακὴν, παραδόντες τέσσαρσι τετραδίοις στρατιωτῶν φυλάσσειν αὐτόν, βουλόμενος μετὰ τὸ Πάσχα ἀναγαγεῖν αὐτὸν τῷ λαῷ. Ὁ μὲν οὖν Πέτρος ἐτρεῖτο ἐν τῇ φυλακῇ· προσευχὴ δὲ ἦν ἐκτενὴς γινομένη ὑπὸ τῆς ἐκκλησίας πρὸς τὸν Θεὸν ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ. Ὅτε δὲ ἔμελλεν αὐτὸν προάγειν ὁ Ἡρῴδης, τῇ νυκτὶ ἐκείνῃ ἦν ὁ Πέτρος κοιμώμενος μετὰ δύο στρατιωτῶν δεδεμένος ἀλύσει δις, φύλακές τε πρὸ τῆς θύρας ἐτήρουν τὴν φυλακὴν. Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου ἐπέστη καὶ φῶς ἔλαμψεν ἐν τῷ οἰκήματι· πατάξας δὲ τὴν πλευρὰν τοῦ Πέτρου ἤγειρεν αὐτὸν λέγων· ἀνάστα ἐν τάχει. καὶ ἐξέπεσον αὐτοῦ αἱ ἀλύσεις ἐκ τῶν χειρῶν εἶπέ τε ὁ Ἄγγελος πρὸς αὐτόν· περιζῶσαι καὶ ὑπόδησαι τὰ σανδάλιά σου. Ἐποίησε δὲ οὕτω· καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· περιβαλοῦ τὸ ἱμάτιόν σου καὶ ἀκολούθει μοι. Καὶ ἐξελθὼν ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ, καὶ οὐκ ἤδει ὅτι ἀληθὲς ἐστὶ τὸ γινόμενον διὰ τοῦ ἀγγέλου, ἐδόκει δὲ ὄραμα βλέπειν. Διελθόντες δὲ πρῶτην φυλακὴν καὶ δευτέραν ἦλθον ἐπὶ τὴν πύλην τὴν σιδηρὰν τὴν φέρουσαν εἰς τὴν πόλιν, ἣτις αὐτομάτη ἠνοιχθῆ αὐτοῖς· καὶ ἐξελθόντες προῆλθον ῥύμην μίαν· καὶ εὐθέως ἀπέστη ὁ Ἄγγελος ἀπ' αὐτοῦ. Καὶ ὁ Πέτρος γενόμενος ἐν ἑαυτῷ εἶπε· νῦν οἶδα ἀληθῶς ὅτι ἐξαπέστειλε Κύριος τὸν Ἄγγελον αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐξείλετό με ἐκ χειρὸς Ἡρῴδου καὶ πάσης τῆς προσδοκίας τοῦ λαοῦ τῶν Ἰουδαίων.

The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord.

Verse: Hear my voice, O God. (Ps. 63)

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The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. (12:1-11)

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About that time, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (20:19-31)

Thomas Sunday

Οὔσης ὀψίας τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ τῇ μιᾷ σαββάτων, καὶ τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων ὅπου ἦσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ συνηγμένοι διὰ τὸν φόβον τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἔδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ. ἐχάρησαν οὖν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες τὸν Κύριον. εἶπεν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. καθὼς ἀπέσταλκέ με ὁ πατήρ, κάγὼ πέμπω ὑμᾶς. καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐνεφύσησε καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Λάβετε Πνεῦμα ἅγιον· ἂν τινῶν ἀφήτε τὰς ἀμαρτίας, ἀφίενται αὐτοῖς, ἂν τινῶν κρατῆτε, κεκράτηνται. Θωμᾶς δὲ εἰς ἐκ τῶν δώδεκα ὁ λεγόμενος Δίδυμος, οὐκ ἦν μετ' αὐτῶν ὅτε ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς. ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ οἱ ἄλλοι μαθηταὶ· Ἐωράκαμεν τὸν Κύριον. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Ἐὰν μὴ ἴδω ἐν ταῖς χερσὶν αὐτοῦ τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων, καὶ βάλω τὸν δάκτυλόν μου εἰς τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων, καὶ βάλω τὴν χεῖρά μου εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ, οὐ μὴ πιστεύσω. Καὶ μεθ' ἡμέρας ὀκτὼ πάλιν ἦσαν ἔσω οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ Θωμᾶς μετ' αὐτῶν. ἔρχεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων, καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον καὶ εἶπεν· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. εἶτα λέγει τῷ Θωμᾷ· Φέρε τὸν δάκτυλόν σου ὧδε καὶ ἴδε τὰς χεῖράς μου, καὶ φέρε τὴν χεῖρά σου καὶ βάλε εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν μου, καὶ μὴ γίνου ἄπιστος, ἀλλὰ πιστός. καὶ ἀπεκρίθη Θωμᾶς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου. λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Ὅτι ἐώρακάς με, πεπίστευκας· μακάριοι οἱ μὴ ἰδόντες καὶ πιστεύσαντες. Πολλὰ μὲν οὖν καὶ ἄλλα σημεῖα ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐνώπιον τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ, ἃ οὐκ ἔστι γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ· ταῦτα δὲ γέγραπται ἵνα πιστεύσητε ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἐστὶν ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ἵνα πιστεύοντες ζωὴν ἔχητε ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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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 23, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Bennette, Jim Lekas

Video: Cristina L.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek), Cheryl Schwartzkopf (Eng.)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Maria Mahoney



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Sunday after Pascha: Thomas Sunday

Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Saviour wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, "Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

+ The Holy Glorious Great Martyr George the Trophy-bearer (+303)

+ The Holy Martyr Valerius

+ The Holy Martyrs Anatolios and Protleon the Commanders, Glykerios the Farmer, and Athanasios (+303)

+ The Holy Martyrs Donatos and Therinos (+250)

+ The Holy New Martyrs George of Ptolemias (+1752) and Lazarus the Bulgarian (+1802)

The *By 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, ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

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.

- Hymn of Thomas Sunday (Ἐσφραγισμένου, Grave Mode):

O Life, You rose from the sepulcher, even though the tomb was secured with a seal, O Christ God. Then, although the doors were shut, You came to Your Disciples, O Resurrection of all. Through them You renew a right spirit in us, according to Your great mercy.

- Hymn of St. George (Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων, 4th Mode):

As the one renowned for setting captives free and for defending those in poverty, the physician of the sick and the champion of emperors, great and victorious Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.

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

- The Kontakion of Pascha (Εἰ καὶ ἐν τᾶφῳ, 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.

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Thomas Sunday (4/23—No Fasting): Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 12:1-11; John 20:19-31

Monday (4/24—No Fasting): Acts 3:19-26; John 2:1-11

Tuesday (4/25—St. Mark—No Fasting): I Peter 5:6-14; Luke 10:16-21

Wednesday (4/26—Wine+Oil): Acts 4:13-22; John 5:17-24

Thursday (4/27—No Fasting): Acts 4:23-31; John 5:24-30

Friday (4/28—Wine+Oil): Acts 5:1-11; John 5:30-47, 6:1-2

Saturday (4/29—No Fasting): Acts 5:21-32; John 6:14-27

Prayer Requests:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Eve, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Pete, Jill, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Alexi, Chris, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Adrienne, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Sedky, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Raymond, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Alexie (+March 5), Jane (+March 17), Tasos (+March 21), Fr. Angelo (+April 20)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Katina B.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahiotes, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Nate, Chad, Alexander, and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

Elder Thaddeus encouraging us to stay steadfast in our journey in Christ: "All of us sin constantly. We slip and fall. In reality, we fall into a trap set by the demons. The Holy Fathers and the Saints always tell us, 'It is important to get up immediately after a fall and to keep on walking toward God'. Even if we fall a hundred times a day, it does not matter; we must get up and go on walking toward God without looking back. What has happened has happened – it is in the past. Just keep on going, all the while asking for help from God."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

Sunday after Pascha: Tom Zdrakas

April 23: George Cazacu, George Benjamin Davis, George Drakopoulos, George Gordy, Norberto Hernandez, George Iakovidis, Georgia Karras, George Lane, Tennessee George Morris, George Saratsiotis, Georgia Saratsiotis, George Stefanis, Richard George Stewart

April 24: Maggie "Elizabeth" Bennette, Caroline "Elizabeth" Saratsiotis, Elizabeth Saratsiotis, Beth Zoumberis

April 25: Marc Saad

April 29: Wyatt "Jason" Morris

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

April 24: Tony Bennette

April 25: Elizabeth Saratsiotis

April 26: Nadia-Gabriela Cazacu, Tony Kallergis
April 29: George Lane, Maria Murphy, Eleni Saratsiotis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

April 25: Maria and Greg Spicer

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

Announcements:

* **Shut-Ins:** If you know of anyone who is unable to come to the Church because of illness, age, or any other reason, please contact Fr. Theodore so that he can visit with them, pray with them, and administer to them the Holy Mysteries.

* **THANK YOU** to all who assisted throughout Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha for the Divine Services and Events/Activities around our Holy Cross Church!

* **YOUTH:** We thank our Youth for their presence and participation in Holy Week and Paschal services and for their volunteering at the Spring Gyro Sale yesterday! May 14th: 2nd Sunday GOYA meeting/activity. Take note: Last day of Sunday School is May 21st. Traditional Ice Cream Sundaes to celebrate! We will also honor our Graduates on the 21st. Plan to be there! ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL: we are so proud of our Holy Cross finalists, Mary Katherine, Panos, Isabelle, and Carter, who represented our community and their Holy Orthodox Faith beautifully in Peachtree City at St. Christopher Orthodox Church at the District Level Oratorical Festival competition yesterday! Bravo, you four! Thank you for your witness! A special congratulations to Mary Katherine who placed 2nd overall in the Senior Division and will be moving on to the full Metropolis of Atlanta level Festival in Charlotte May 12-14!

* **Philoptochos:** Elections will be taking place next month in May. The Food Drive is continuing until Mother's Day. Thank you to those that have participated!

* Coming Soon: Mother's Day Gift Section in the **Bookstore!**

* There will be NO Vespers or Study Class this Wednesday (April 26) as Fr. Theodore will be out of town for a funeral.

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!