



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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[www.holycrossga.org](http://www.holycrossga.org) | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

### Sunday, May 12, 2024

Sunday of Thomas

St. Epiphanius, Bishop of Consantina, Cyprus

Eothinos/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, May 12</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Thomas/Anti-Pascha (Mother's Day) Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship after the Divine Liturgy 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance
<i>Wednesday, May 15</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class in the Library
<i>Saturday, May 18</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, May 19</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion (last Sunday for the school year) Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study 2:00pm Youth/GOYA Outing
<i>Tuesday, May 21</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen
<i>Wednesday, May 22</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class in the Library
<i>Sunday, May 26</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Paralytic Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance
<i>Monday, May 27</i>	Memorial Day – Office Closed
<i>Tuesday, May 28</i>	3:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House (until 7:00pm) 6:00pm Great Vespers for Mid-Pentecost
<i>Wednesday, May 29</i>	4:30pm Orthros 5:30pm Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Mid-Pentecost 6:45pm Adult Study Class in the Library
<i>Thursday, May 30</i>	5:30pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Saturday, June 1</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, June 2</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (5/19) Kostas Iakovidis, Cleo Bennette; (5/26) Pete Tsamolias, James Scarborough  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (5/19) Gray Yates; (5/26) Natalia Saratsiotis; (6/2) Jim Lekas; (6/9) John A.  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (5/15) Melanie M.; (5/18) Erick+Cheryl S.; (5/19) Charles G., Jim L.; (5/21) Norm+Eleni A.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (5/19) Cristina L.; (5/26) Gray Y./David N.; (5/29) Natalia S.; (6/2) Gray/David N.  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (5/19) Sarah Drakopoulos; (5/26) Maria McCluskey; (6/2) Chad Ridley; (6/9) Patsy Zoumeris

### 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 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

*Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ  
ἰσχὺς αὐτοῦ.*

*Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθὸς  
Κύριος.*

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*Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις, διὰ τῶν χειρῶν τῶν ἀποστόλων ἐγένετο σημεῖα καὶ τέρατα ἐν τῷ λαῷ πολλά· καὶ ἦσαν ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἅπαντες ἐν τῇ στοᾷ Σολομῶντος· τῶν δὲ λοιπῶν οὐδεὶς ἐτόλμα κολλᾶσθαι αὐτοῖς, ἀλλ' ἐμεγάλυνεν αὐτοὺς ὁ λαός· μᾶλλον δὲ προσετίθεντο πιστεύοντες τῷ Κυρίῳ πλήθη ἀνδρῶν τε καὶ γυναικῶν, ὥστε κατὰ τὰς πλατείας ἐκφέρειν τοὺς ἀσθενεῖς καὶ τιθέναι ἐπὶ κλινῶν καὶ κραβάτων, ἵνα ἐρχομένου Πέτρου κἂν ἢ σκιά ἐπισκιάσῃ τινὶ αὐτῶν. συνήρχετο δὲ καὶ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν πέριξ πόλεων εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ φέροντες ἀσθενεῖς καὶ ὀχλουμένους ὑπὸ πνευμάτων ἀκαθάρτων, οἵτινες ἐθεραπεύοντο ἅπαντες. Ἀναστὰς δὲ ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς καὶ πάντες οἱ σὺν αὐτῷ, ἡ οὖσα αἵρεσις τῶν Σαδδουκαίων, ἐπλήσθησαν ζήλου καὶ ἐπέβαλον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτῶν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἀποστόλους, καὶ ἔθεντο αὐτοὺς ἐν τηρήσει δημοσίᾳ. ἄγγελος δὲ Κυρίου διὰ τῆς νυκτὸς ἠνοιξε τὰς θύρας τῆς φυλακῆς, ἐξαγαγὼν τε αὐτοὺς εἶπε· πορεύεσθε, καὶ σταθέντες λαλεῖτε ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ τῷ λαῷ πάντα τὰ ῥήματα τῆς ζωῆς ταύτης.

*Great is our Lord, and great is His  
strength.*

*Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord  
is good.*

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*The reading is from the Acts of the  
Apostles. (5:12-20)*

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In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

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

### Sunday of Thomas

Οὔσης ὀψίας τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ τῇ μιᾷ τῶν 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 ἀφῆτε 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· ἐώρακαμεν 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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Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

### Bulletin for the week of May 12, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Bennette, Melanie Moya

Video: Natalia Saratsiotis Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek); Panos Drakopoulos (Eng.)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Maria Bronisevsky

PC Member On-Duty: Melanie Moya



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pascha—Touching (Ψηλάφησις) of the Lord's Body by Thomas

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). This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

+ Our Father among the Saints, Epiphanius, Bishop of Constantina in Cyprus (+403)

+ Our Father among the Saints, Germanos, Archbishop of Constantinople (+740)

+ Our Devout Father Theodore of Kythera (+922)

+ The Holy New Martyr John Vlachos in Constantinople (+1662)

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 (pg. 8 in the Small Book/pg. 37 in the Hymnal):

- Hymn of the Resurrection (Χριστός ανέστη, Plagal 1<sup>st</sup> Mode):

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

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mode):

Bless God in the churches, when 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 (Ἐσθραγισμένου, Grave Mode):

The tomb being sealed, You rose from the sepulcher, O Christ God, the Life. And the doors being shut, You came to the disciples, O resurrection of all. Through them You renew a right spirit within us, according to Your great mercy. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 154)

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

- The Kontakion of Pascha (Εἰ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ, Plagal 4<sup>th</sup> 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 large hymnal on pg. 274)

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### This Week's Daily

#### Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Thomas Sunday (5/12—No Fasting): Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 5:12-20; John 20:19-31

Monday (5/13—No Fasting): Acts 3:19-26; John 2:1-11

Tuesday (5/14—No Fasting): Acts 4:1-10; John 3:16-21

Wednesday (5/15—Wine+Oil): Acts 4:13-22; John 5:17-24

Thursday (5/16—No Fasting): Acts 4:23-31; John 5:24-30

Friday (5/17—Wine+Oil): Acts 5:1-11; John 5:30-47, 6:1-2

Saturday (5/18—No Fasting): Acts 5:21-32; John 6:14-27

### Prayer Requests:

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Kassiani, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, Betty, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Hermione, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Stelianos, Brian, Vassilios, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian

### Prayers for those recently reposed:

Audrey (+April 2), Kathy (+April 26), Mary (+May 3)

### Prayers for expecting mothers:

Julie G., Bobbie I., Muryah S.

### 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:

Bobbie, Jessica, Nate, Schyler, Susan and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

### Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

The Sabbath day (Gr. Σάββατο) is the seventh day, it is the day of rest in this world, the final day of the week. The next day, the Lord's Day (Gr. Κυριακή), is symbolic of the first day of creation. It also symbolizes the last day of the Kingdom of God, the Eighth Day. In other words, the first day is also the eighth day. It is the day beyond the confines of this world, the day which stands for the life of the world to come, the day of the eternal rest of the Kingdom of God.

In both Jewish and Christian tradition, the number seven signifies completion and fullness, while the number eight signifies more than completion and fullness. Thus,

for Orthodox Christians, the Lord's Day is the day of Christ's resurrection from the dead, the day of God's judgment and victory predicted by the prophets. The Lord's Day inaugurates the presence and the power of the kingdom to come, already within the life of this present world. That is why every week Christians gather together to worship and celebrate what the Lord has done for His people.

Fittingly, during the week after Pascha (Easter), called Bright Week, the Church celebrates Pascha for eight days. By tradition, babies are named on the eighth day after birth. And from ancient times, Christian baptismal fonts have been built with eight sides, indicating the newly baptized are entering the realm of the Eighth Day, the day of eternal rest (Heb. 4:1-11) in Christ's Heavenly Kingdom.

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

#### Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

Thomas Sunday: Tom Zdrakas

#### Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

May 12: Katina Cacavias

May 14: Jennifer Kangas

#### Anniversaries—Congratulations!

None in the Records

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

### Announcements:

\* As a reminder, there is no kneeling in the Church from the period of Pascha to Pentecost according to the ancient canons.

\* We wish all of our mothers, Godmothers, grandmothers, everyone who is like a mother to us in our lives a very happy and blessed Mother's Day today. God bless you all!

\* After the Vespers this coming Wednesday, we will continue the study of the steps of the "Ladder" with steps 20-23. Please see your email this week for a copy of the reading!

\* The next Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House will be on Tuesday, May 28 from 3:00 to 7:00pm. Come, give blood, and stay for the Great Vespers for Mid-Pentecost at 6:00!

\* We will honor our high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 2 at the end of the Liturgy. Please save the date!

**CHRIST IS RISEN!  
TRULY HE IS RISEN!**

**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!  
ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!**