



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



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

### Sunday, April 27, 2025

Sunday of Thomas

St. Simeon, Bishop of Jerusalem

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

Mode of the Week: Festal / της Εορτής

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

Today, April 27

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Thomas  
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion  
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
Youth Greek School/Bible Study

Tuesday, April 29

11:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon  
7:00pm Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 30

5:30pm Vespers

Thursday, May 1

7:00pm Young Adult Get-Together (at Fr. Theodore's House)

Saturday, May 3

3:45pm Intro to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom  
5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 4

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  
Philoptochos Elections in the Parish House  
12:45pm Adult Greek School

Tuesday, May 6

11:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon

Wednesday, May 7

5:30pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. John the Theologian

Saturday, May 10

3:45pm Byzantine Chant Class in the Library  
5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 11

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Paralytic (Mother's Day)  
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion  
40-day Memorial for Mike Nicholas at the end of the Liturgy  
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
12:45pm Youth Greek School/Bible Study

Tuesday, May 13

5:00pm Orthros  
6:00pm Divine Liturgy on the Eve of Mid-Pentecost

Saturday, May 17

5:00pm Readers Vespers in the Chapel

Sunday, May 18

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman  
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion (final Sunday)  
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
12:45pm Adult Greek School

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (5/4) Pete Tsamolias, Caroline Saratsiotis; (5/11) Helen Troupos, Cleo Bennette  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (5/4) Jim Lekas; (5/11) John Apostolou; (5/18) Maria Spicer; (5/25) Sarah D.  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (4/30) Charles G.; (5/3) Erick+Cheryl S.; (5/4) Sarah D.; (5/7) Tassie C.; (5/10) Charles G.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (5/4) Joanna P.; (5/11) David Z.; (5/13) Cristina L.; (5/18) Harry B.; (5/21) OPEN  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (5/4) Eleni Adams; (5/11) Maria McCluskey; (5/18) 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

Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ  
ἰσχὺς αὐτοῦ.

Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθὸς  
Κύριος.

+++

Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις, διὰ τῶν χειρῶν  
τῶν ἀποστόλων ἐγίνετο 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  
κραβάττων, ἵνα ἐρχομένου Πέτρου κἂν  
ἡ σκιά ἐπισκιάσῃ τινὶ αὐτῶν. συνήρχετο  
δὲ καὶ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν πέριξ πόλεων εἰς  
Ἱερουσαλὴμ 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 ἦνοιξε τὰς θύρας τῆς  
φυλακῆς, ἐξαγαγὼν τε αὐτοὺς εἶπε·  
πορεύεσθε, καὶ σταθέντες λαλεῖτε ἐν τῷ  
ιερῷ 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.

+++

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

+++

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)

Thomas Sunday

Οὐσῆς 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· εἰρήνῃ  
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· εἰρήνῃ ὑμῖν.  
καθὼς ἀπέσταλκέ με ὁ πατήρ, κἀγὼ πέμπω  
ὑμᾶς. καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐνεφύσησε καὶ λέγει  
αὐτοῖς· λάβετε Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον· ἅν τινων  
ἄφῃτε τὰς ἁμαρτίας, ἀφίενται αὐτοῖς, ἅν  
τινων κρατῇτε, κεκράτηνται. Θωμᾶς δὲ εἰς  
ἐκ τῶν δώδεκα, ὁ λεγόμενος Δίδυμος, οὐκ  
ἦν μετ’ αὐτῶν ὅτε ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς. ἔλεγον  
οὖν αὐτῷ οἱ ἄλλοι μαθηταί· 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· εἰρήνῃ ὑμῖν. εἶτα λέγει τῷ Θωμᾷ·  
φέρε τὸν δάκτυλόν σου ὧδε καὶ ἴδε τὰς  
χεῖράς μου, καὶ φέρε τὴν χεῖρά σου καὶ βάλε  
εἰς τὴν πλευράν 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.

# HOLY CROSS

## 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 27, 2025

**Ushers on Duty:** Cleo Bennette, Charles Glotzbach

**Video:** Gray Y.

**Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

**Epistle Readers:** Aleca Hortman (Greek); Charles Glotzbach (English)

**Fellowship Host (Thank You!):** Despina Passias

**PC Member On-Duty:** Chad Ridley



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Second Sunday of Pascha: The Handling of the Body of the Lord by Thomas (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). 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.

- + The Holy Hieromartyr Simeon (Συμεών), Bishop of Jerusalem, the kinsman of the Lord (+107)
- + The Devout Father John (Ιωάννης) the Confessor, Abbot of the Monastery of the Pure (+839)
- + The Holy Martyr Publius (Ποπλίων)
- + The Devout Evlogios (Ευλόγιος), the Inn-Keeper (+6<sup>th</sup> Century)
- + The Holy Martyr Lollion (Λολλίων) the Younger

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 του μνήματος, 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 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 hymnal on pg. 274)

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### This Week's Daily

#### Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

**Sunday, April 27: Thomas Sunday—No Fasting:**

Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 5:12-20; John 20:19-31

**Monday, April 28—No Fasting:**

Acts 3:19-26; John 2:1-11

**Tuesday, April 29—No Fasting:**

Acts 4:1-10; John 3:16-21

**Wednesday, April 30—Wine+Oil:**

Acts 12:1-11; Luke 9:1-6

**Thursday, May 1—No Fasting:**

Acts 4:23-31; John 5:24-30

**Friday, May 2—Wine+Oil:**

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

**Saturday, May 3—No Fasting:**

Acts 5:21-32; John 6:14-27

### Prayer Requests:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Mike, Panteleimon, Kassiani, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, Betty, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Brian, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian, Paul, Lucas, Leo, Nicholas, Kevin, Andy, Karen, Vera, Adam, Debbie, Alberto, Sadith, Richelle, Marion, Paul, George, Christina, Eric

### Prayers for those recently reposed:

Alex (+March 15), John (+March 10), Michael (+April 1), Chaplean (+April 2), Tony (+April 6)

### Prayers for expecting mothers:

Christina, Heather, Julieta, Kalie

### Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aleksander Zajac

### Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Alexander, Bobbie, Dakota, Hannah, Jessica, Mary Elizabeth, Mary Emma, Nate, Sebastian, Sophia, Susan, Tammy and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

### Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

**St. Basil the Great** inviting us to live each day like that of the angelic hosts: "Disciplined piety feeds the soul on holy thoughts. What can be more blessed than to imitate on earth the chorus of the angels; to begin the opening day with prayer, honoring the Creator with hymns and songs; and when the sun is up to turn to work, always accompanied by prayer, and to season one's labors with singing? Cheerfulness and freedom from sorrow are the gifts which the soul received from the singing of hymns." Furthermore, **St. Theophan the Recluse** points out: Psalms, hymns and Church songs are spiritually inspired outbursts of feeling towards God. The Spirit of God filled His elect, and they expressed the plenitude of their feelings in songs. He who sings them as they should be sung enters again into the feelings which the author experienced when he originally wrote them. Being filled by these feelings, he draws near to the state wherein he is able to receive the grace of the Spirit, and to adapt himself to it."

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

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

Thomas Sunday: Thomas Roden, Tom Zdrakas

April 29: Wyatt "Jason" Morris

April 30: Mina Stewart

**Birthdays—Happy Birthday!**

April 29: George Lane, Maria Murphy, Eleni Saratsiotis

April 30: Despina Passias

May 1: Taylor Zoumberis

May 3: Dragos Filimon, Tennessee Morris, Mary Klaire Zoumberis

**Anniversaries—Congratulations!**

April 28: Ray and Helen 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/Βασιλεῦ 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!

\* **Thank you** to all who assisted with the Spring Fling!

\* If you would like to help take **flowers off of the Kouvouklion** (Epitaphio), this will be done after the Divine Liturgy today. Thank you!

\* The **Orthodox Book Study** will resume this week on Tuesday at 11:00am at Taste and See in Macon. We will be discussing the next section of our book on "Celibacy, Marriage, and the Heart's Desire for God." All are welcome to join, even if you don't have the book!

\* There will be a **Young Adult Get-Together** this coming Thursday, May 1 at 7:00pm at Fr. Theodore and Presvytera Stacey's house. We will be having some grill-out food and also use the firepit, learning more about the proper disposal of blessed items.

\* The **Metropolis Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Conference** will be taking place in Charleston, South Carolina from June 11-15. More details can be found at clergylaity2025.org. Please let Fr. Theodore know if you are planning on attending.

\* If you are interested in assisting with **transporting** those who can not drive themselves to Church for the Divine Services, please contact Fr. Theodore.

\* If you would like to make a financial contribution towards **liturgical needs** (for example, communion wine, incense, etc.) this can be done at holycrossga.org/stewardship. Thank you!

**Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!**

**Αληθώς Ανέστη! Truly He is Risen!**