



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

### Sunday, April 19, 2026

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Sunday of Thomas

St. Pafnutius the Hieromartyr

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

Mode of the Week: Festal / της Γιορτής

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

Today, April 19	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Thomas Sunday Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 1:00pm Bible Study & Youth Greek School
Wednesday, April 22	5:30pm Great Vespers for the Feast Day of St. George the Trophy-Bearer 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class
Thursday, April 23	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. George the Trophy-Bearer 5:00pm Men's Brotherhood Meeting in the Parish House 6:45pm Parish Council Meeting
Saturday, April 25	3:30pm Holy Baptism of Noah Milligan 5:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, April 26	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 1:00pm Youth Greek School
Wednesday, April 29	5:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class
Thursday, April 30	10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste & See in Downtown Macon
Saturday, May 2	11:00am Spring Fling & Youth/Philoptochos Yard Sale (until 7:00pm)
Sunday, May 3	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
Saturday, May 9	5:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, May 10	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship following the Divine Liturgy 1:00pm Youth Greek School
Wednesday, May 13	5:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class
Thursday, March 14	10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Downtown Macon 6:45pm Parish Council Meeting

**Upcoming Epistle Readers** (4/26) Haris Sorovigas, Nicholas True; (5/3) George Saratsiotis, Caroline Saratsiotis  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (4/26) Maria Spicer; (5/3) Kathy Patras; (5/10) Jim Lekas; (5/17) Kostas I.  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (4/22) Maria S.; (4/23) OPEN; (4/25) Erick + Cheryl S.; (4/26) Sarah, Haris (4/29) Maria S.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (4/23) Cristina L; (4/26) David Z.; (5/3) Cristina L; (5/10) Kostas I; (5/17) David Z  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (4/26) Haris Sorovigas; (5/3) Eleni Adams; (5/10) Cristina + Sofia Lekas; (5/17) Maria B + Joanna

### 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.*

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Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκεῖναις, 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 οὐσα 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)

Thomas Sunday

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, κἀγὼ 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· 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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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 19, 2026

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Benette, Jim Lekas

Video: Cristina L.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Helen Tongol (Greek); Cheryl Schwartzkopf (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Toula Tsamolias

PC Member On-Duty: Kostas Iakovidis



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Second Sunday of Pascha: Thomas Sunday (Κυριακή του Θωμά)

On the evening of the Sunday after Passover, while the disciples were gathered behind closed doors in fear, Christ miraculously appeared among them, greeting them, "Peace be unto you." He showed them His hands, feet, and side, and even ate before them, confirming His bodily Resurrection. However, Thomas, who had not been present, refused to believe, insisting he must see and touch Christ's wounds himself. Eight days later, Christ again appeared to the disciples, this time with Thomas present. He invited Thomas to touch His wounds and urged him to believe. Confronted with the risen Lord, Thomas confessed, "My Lord and my God," proclaiming both Christ's humanity and divinity. This day is called Anti-Pascha, meaning "in place of Pascha," as it marks the first Sunday after Pascha. From this day forward, every Sunday is dedicated to the celebration of the Resurrection.

+ The Hieromartyr Pafnutius (Παφνούτιος) of Jerusalem and 546 martyred along with him (+284)

+ The Holy Martyrs Theodore (Θεόδωρος) of Perga and his mother, Philippa (Φιλίππα) (+138)

+ The Holy Martyrs Socrates (Σωκράτης) and Dionysius (Διονύσιος) (+138)

+ Our Devout Father George (Γεώργιος) the Confessor, Bishop of Pissidia (+741)

+ Our Father among the Saints Tryphon (Τρύφων), Archbishop of Constantinople (+931)

+ The Holy Glorious Monastic Martyr Agathangelos (Αγαθάγγελος) of Esphigmenou on Mount Athos (+1819)

+ Devout Symeon (Συμεών) the Barefoot, abbot of Philotheou on Mount Athos (+1594)

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 ἡριστάμενος.

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 (Ἐὶ καὶ ἐν τάρῳ, 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 Commemorations, Fasting Guidance and Scripture Readings:

Sunday, April 19: Thomas Sunday

Fast Free

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

Monday, April 20: St. Theodore the Trichinas

Fast Free

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

Tuesday, April 21: St. Januarius and those with him

Fast Free

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

Wednesday, April 22: St. Theodore of Sykeon

Wine + Oil

Acts 4:13-22; John 5:17-24

Thursday, April 23: St. George the Trophy-Bearer

Fast Free

Luke 21:12-19; Acts 12:1-11; John 15:17-27, 16:1-2

Friday, April 24: St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker

Wine + Oil

Acts 5:1-11; John 5:30-47, 6:1-2

Saturday, April 25: St. Mark the Apostle and Evangelist

Fast Free

I Peter 5:6-14; Luke 10:16-21

### 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, Brian, 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:

Kalliopi (+March 7), Irene (+March 8), Marion (+March 24), Brian (+April 13)

### Prayers for expecting mothers:

Amanda, Kémie (baby born 4/8), 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, Debbie, Deia, Gabrielle, Gavin, Grayson, Hannah, Jessica, John, José, Kyle, Macayla, Maegan, Mary Emma, Nate, Noah, 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:

The Hymnographers of the Church point out this reality about St. Thomas touching the side of Christ (from the sixth ode of the canon of Orthros): "When fearfully Thomas put his hand in Your awesome and wondrous life-bringing side, with trembling hand he perceived in You both Your operations, O Christ, two natures, God and man, unconfused yet united; and believing with fervor he cried

aloud, saying, "Jesus, You are Lord, God exalted over all; You, our fathers' God and ours, for evermore are blessed."

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

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

April 19: Thomas Roden, Tom Zdrakas

April 23: George Cazacu, Ben George Davis, George Drakopoulos, George Gordy, Reagan Habib, Norberto Geore Hernandez, George Iakovidis, Jace George Johnson, Georgia Karras, George Lane, Tennessee George Morris, George Saratsiotis, Georgia Saratsiotis, George Stefanis, Richard George Stewart, Georgios Tarasidis, George Tserpelis, Georgia Tserpelis

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

### Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

April 19: Georgia Karras

April 21: Sofia Danforth, Antigone Michalakis, Christine Sproue, Mina Stewart

April 24: Tony Bennette

April 25: Elizabeth Saratsiotis

### Anniversaries—Congratulations!

April 24: Maegan & Billy Hughes

April 25: Maria & Greg Spicer

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

### Announcements:

\* **Thank you** to everyone who contributed during Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha. Whether you prepared a meal, adorned icons, organized handouts in the pews, picked up trash or helped in any other way, your time and talents were truly appreciated.

\* 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!

\* The **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will begin anew this coming 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 next Thursday, April 30 at 10:00am at Taste and See in Macon.

\* **Spring Fling** will be on Saturday, **May 2nd**. We will be setting up the Friday before after work. Please mark your calendars. We are asking all GOYANS, Young Adults & NSYA to please sign up to work this event (see link in Father's Bulletin email).

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

\* **Men's Brotherhood** will be having a meeting in the Parish House this coming Thursday at 5:00pm. The topic will be about Modern Masculinity and the Church.

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