

## THE STORY OF ST. THOMAS

**E**ach year on the Sunday following the Resurrection, our Church remembers the incident involving St. Thomas, with its remarkable turning of doubt into faith. When Christ was crucified, the apostles fled in fear. For all of them, life had lost its meaning; their hopes and dreams were shattered as the Lord was laid in the tomb. But they came together Sunday evening after the crucifixion, seeking comfort in their sadness.

It was then that the Risen Christ suddenly appeared in their midst. They looked at Him and couldn't believe their eyes. But Jesus spoke to them, showed them His wounds, and convinced them of the reality of His presence. They rejoiced with renewed hope.

But Thomas was not present that evening. Later, when the Apostles told him the good news of the Resurrection, he replied: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails . . . and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

A week passed by. On the Sunday after the Resurrection, once again the apostles were gathered together. This time Thomas was there. In spite of the locked doors, the Risen Christ again suddenly appeared amongst them and greeted them with words of peace. He called Thomas to His side and had him place his fingers in the wounds and see for himself, saying: "Do not be faithless, but believing."

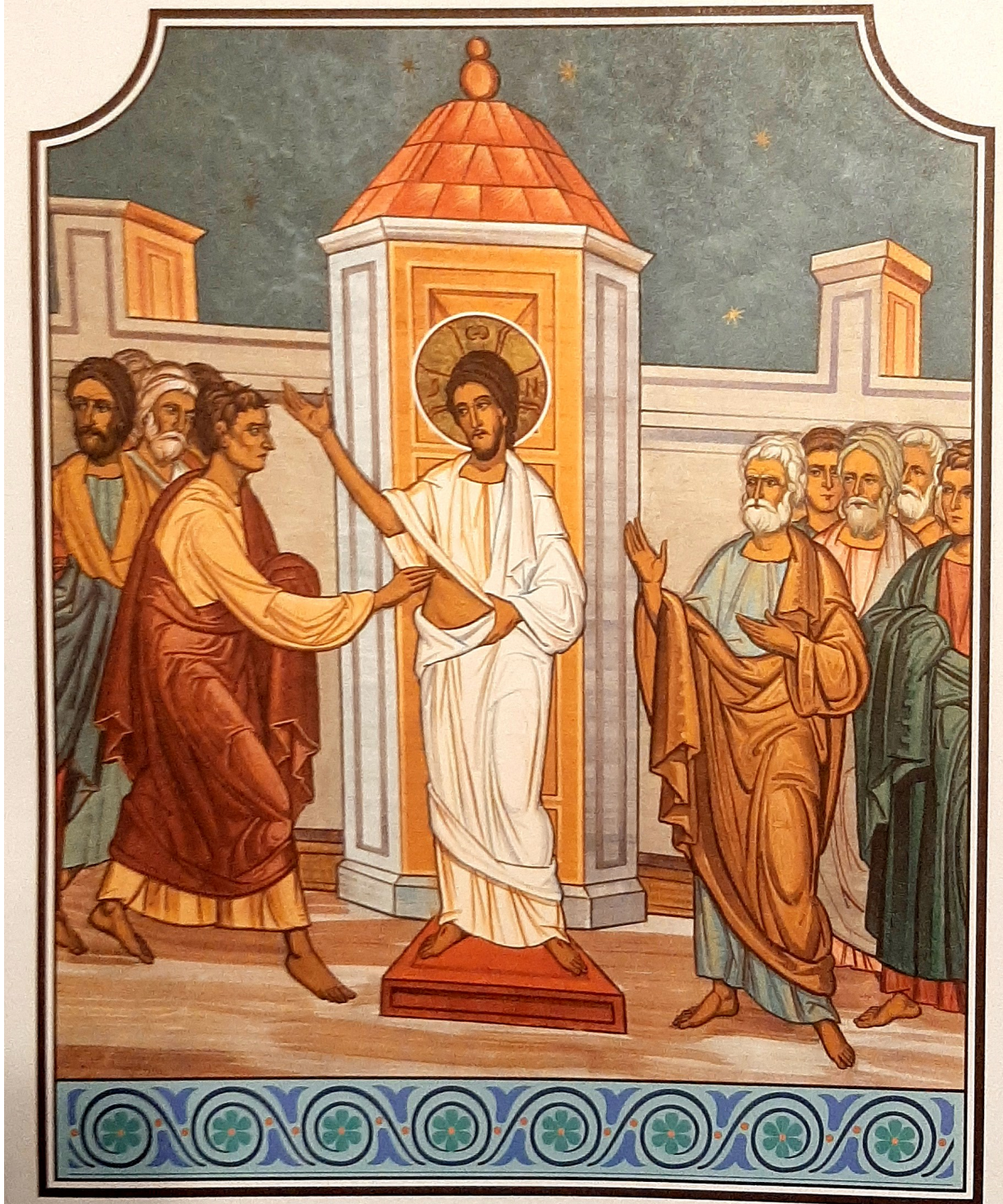
Thomas did as the Lord had asked. Then he fell to his knees and cried out: "My Lord and my God!" His doubts were gone, replaced by a deep and abiding faith. Jesus then responded, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."

*The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.*

## ABOUT COMMUNION

*We are happy that you have joined us today. Indeed, we pray for the "unity of the Faith" for the day when all of Christianity are united as ONE and can share a common Chalice. However, this is not the case as yet. Please note that Holy Communion, the actual Body & Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, is only for Members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and confession, & arrived before the Gospel reading. However, everyone is welcome to partake of the blessed bread and receive a blessing from the pastor at the dismissal. If you are interested, you may inquire with the pastor how you can become a member.*

*If you are a guest or otherwise not a regular communicant, please give your baptismal name when receiving.*





# St. Anthony The Great Antiochian Orthodox Church

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## WELCOME TO ST. ANTHONY'S

Where people from around the world come together to serve God and our community. We are glad you are worshipping with us today! This Church is one community of many in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The Church of Antioch belongs to two thousand years of evangelization, teaching, history, and tradition which expresses the continued commitment of its members to the Orthodox Christian faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

St. Anthony Church is a Pan-Orthodox community, under the omophorion of His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X within the Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. If you are a first time visitor, please fill out the guest form located on the literature table. We want you to feel at home in prayer and worship. Please submit your names to the ushers and introduce yourself to Fr. Elia at the end of the service so he may welcome you personally.

Following services, please join us for sharing of fellowship, coffee, and food.

## DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024

### NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

### SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

### GERMANOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; EPIPHANIOS, BISHOP OF CYPRUS

*The Priest begins Divine Liturgy with "Blessed is the Kingdom" and the choir responds "Amen." Bearing the Paschal Candle, the Priest then leads the singing of the Paschal Apolytikion and censes the west side of the Altar Table.*

**Priest:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

*~ The Choir then sings this twice, and the Liturgy continues with the Great Litany.*

#### THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

**Refrain:** Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. **(Refrain)**

Glory... Both now... **(Refrain)**

#### THE SECOND ANTIPHON

May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

**Refrain:** Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee. **(Refrain)**

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. **(Refrain)**

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

#### THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

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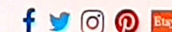
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# PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE + 2024

JUNE 12TH-15TH

## FAMILY AS ICON

HOSTED BY ST. STEPHEN CHURCH  
HIRAM, GEORGIA

GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
DR. PHILIP MAMALAKIS



SPEAKER:  
FR. JOHN OLIVER



SPEAKER:  
FR. JAMES GUIRGUIS



As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire. (*Refrain*)  
So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad. (*Refrain*)  
This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein. (*Refrain*)  
~ After the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the following:

### THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

~ After the Little Entrance (*Eisodos*), sing these hymns in the following order.

### APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

~ Do NOT sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple

### KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

### THE EPISTLE

*Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good.*

#### **The Reading from the Acts of the Holy 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 with one accord in Solomon's porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. 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 cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they laid their hands on 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 GOSPEL

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

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 to 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 to 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 May 12, 2024 Liturgy Variables 3 Thomas Sunday Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be to 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, "Thomas, you have 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.

**MEGALYNARION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE ONE**


O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee.

**KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THOMAS SUNDAY (Psalm 147:1)**

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion. Alleluia.


~ Instead of "We have seen the true light," sing "Christ is Risen" ONCE.

**Announcements**

	<b>May 12</b>	<b>Epistle Readers</b>	
	<b>May 19</b>	<b>Subdeacon Jean</b>	<b>Acts of the Holy Apostles. (5:12-20)</b>
	<b>May 26</b>	<b>Jenny Riter</b>	<b>Acts of the Holy Apostles. (6:1-7)</b>
	<b>June 2</b>	<b>Samuel Jacobs</b>	<b>Acts of the Holy Apostles. (9:32-42)</b>
		<b>Subdeacon Adrian</b>	



<b>English</b>	<b>Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!</b>
<b>Arabic</b>	<b>AL MASEEH QAM! HAQQAN QAM!</b>
<b>Greek</b>	<b>Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!</b>
<b>Ethiopian</b>	<b>Yasous Taustwal! Aown Tasous Tanastwal!</b>
<b>French</b>	<b>Christ est ressuscite! En verite il est ressuscite!</b>
<b>Hebrew</b>	<b>Ha Mashiyach qam! Ken hoo qam!</b>
<b>Swahili</b>	<b>Christos ma fa-fuka! Qualey ma fa-fuka</b>
<b>Romanian</b>	<b>Christos a Inviati! Adeverat a Inviati!</b>
<b>Eritrean-Tigre</b>	<b>Christos tensiou! Bahake tensiou!</b>
<b>Russian</b>	<b>Khristos voskres! - Voistinu voskres!</b>
<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!</b>

 **Mother's Day Celebration Today**  
 Join us after the service for a special surprise and flowers from the kids  
 ~No Sunday School due to the celebration; sorry for the inconvenience~

**FOOD FOR THE NEEDY (Basket in the Foyer)**

**Please remember to bring non-perishable food as you attend church services.**

**It will be distributed to the needy within the local community.**

**Thank you!**

**Steadfastness Despite Persecution**

*By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen! My beloved, today we have a great feast and a great saint – St. George, the most popular saint in the Christian world. St. George was a great martyr. He was persecuted so much, but he remained steadfast according to his faith. Many of the faithful, since I came to North America, ask me about persecution. They ask how Christians can face persecution. I heard from them that there is persecution even in this society. It is not easy for Christians to face all the challenges of their society. I told them some stories from our experience during the last few years in the Middle East, just to remind them that our God is present and alive. He supports us and encourages us to overcome all kinds of persecution. It is by His grace, not by our strength. In one story, in 2013, two young kids were kidnapped. We have a Christian village in my old archdiocese which was invaded and attacked. The kids were 13 and 14 years old. Thank God, we had them released. One of them told me that he was so fearful, trembling. They tried to persecute him with different kinds of violence. At last, they put him in a wooden box, like a tomb. They burned him with cigarettes, put a knife against his neck, and asked him to deny Christ. But then, he felt courage, but he didn't know how and from where. He told me that he was ready to challenge them. He told them, "You can kill me, persecute me, do whatever you want. I am a Christian. I was born a Christian. I will not deny my Christ." He was amazed, asking me how he could have gotten all this strength and encouragement. So, I opened the gospel, and read him what our Christ said to His disciples: When you are taken to be judged, do not think about what you have to say or what to answer; the Holy Spirit will talk through you and be with you (cf. Luke 12:11-12). On this great feast of St. George, let us remember that our God is with us. As we chanted throughout Lent, "God is with us," let us put our feeling and thinking with him. Let us trust Him and He will help us, support us, and give us whatever we need to face all challenges. In society, we face values that are against our gospel. We, as Christians, cannot accept them. Let us ask God to inspire us and give us the best way to face these challenges and to deal with them. What we need first is not to fear, but to have courage because God is with us. We say, "Christ is risen" and "Indeed, He is risen." That means He is alive, and He is with us. Let us open our hearts to Him to overcome not just some challenges and some persecutions, but to overcome the whole world. Amen. His Eminence delivered this sermon at St. George Church of Houston, Texas on Renewal (Bright) Monday, May 6, 2024, the celebration of St. George the Great-martyr.

## 2024 PLEDGE DRIVE

The Pledge Form for 2024 is available for you, please sign one and turn it in ASAP

Thank you to the following Parishioners  
who already signed their pledge card

Fr. Elia & Kh Odette Shalhoub  
Deborah Abdo Dambrosio  
John & Vicky Abodeeli  
Alexander Alvarez  
Kevin Michael Brown  
Michealle Carey  
Jeffrey & Holly Dick  
Ionica Dragu  
Stephanie Enstice  
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Bill Jackson  
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Ethan Packey  
Susan Perers  
Tristan & Jennifer Riter  
Dr. Paul Alex & Bobbi Skaff  
Patricia Smith  
Priscilla Spinola  
Debbie Thieme  
Isaac Vaughn  
Yuliya Warner  
Stella White

**Total Pledges for 2024 from 28 pledges so far close to \$97,570**

**(Our Goal for 2024 is \$100,000.00)**

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IF YOU HAVEN'T SUBMITTED THE ASSESSMENT MONEY YET,  
PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS YOU CAN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



**Today's bulletin was drafted by Ceara Jacobs.  
Thank you for your help.**

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR IS SPONSORED BY AMEN



*Congratulations  
Father Elia  
on your  
44th Ordination  
Anniversary!  
May God grant you  
many years  
and support you  
in your service!*

To all who participated in the  
Holy Week Services:  
visitors, parishioners, chanters,  
readers, and choir.  
Thank you for your time,  
talent and continuous support!

Please remember to bring your  
Food for Hungry People  
coin boxes to Church.  
Thank you for supporting this ministry.



**MAY 12TH THOMAS SUNDAY  
BELOVED IN CHRIST  
CHRIST IS RISEN**

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the beauty of our Great Lent and Holy Week Services. Many parishioners and visitors commented on how much they enjoyed the services.

We have just finished celebrating Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha. If we have learned anything from the past 40 + days, it is this: Great Lent is an example of how we are called to live our lives as Orthodox Christians. It also points to the joy of celebrating Pascha everyday of our lives, "For Christ God has brought us from death to life, and from earth to heaven."

Do not allow Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha to become a faint memory.

"Enjoy ye all the feast of faith; receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness."

(From the Sermon of Saint John Chrysostom, read at Pascha)

In the Risen Lord,

*Fr. Elia Shalhoub*

**Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor**



*Please pray for the healing of* Father Elia and Kh. Odette, Debbie Thieme, Adriana Theodoropoulos, Lori Sorensen, Ethan Packey, Michealle and Tyrone Carey, Beverly Delida, Alix Hall, Nina and Diogo Penas, Beth Manzini, John Archambeau, Alex & Soula.



SUNDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> 2024

## 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.

## EPIPHANIOS, BISHOP OF CYPRUS

Saint Epiphanius was born about 310 in Besanduc, a village of Palestine, of Jewish parents who were poor and tillers of the soil. In his youth he came to faith in Christ and was baptized with his sister, after which he distributed all he had to the poor and became a monk, being a younger contemporary of Saint Hilarion the Great (see Oct. 21), whom he knew.

He also visited the renowned monks of Egypt to learn their ways. Because the fame of his virtue had spread, many in Egypt desired to make him a bishop; when he learned of this, he fled, returning to Palestine.

But after a time he learned that the bishops there also intended to consecrate him to a widowed bishopric, and he fled to Cyprus.

In Paphos he met Saint Hilarion, who told him to go to Constantia, a city of Cyprus also called Salamis. Epiphanius answered that he preferred to take ship for Gaza, which, despite Saint Hilarion's admonitions, he did. But a contrary wind brought the ship to Constantia where, by the providence of God, Epiphanius fell into the hands of bishops who had come together to elect a successor to the newly-departed Bishop of Constantia, and the venerable Epiphanius was at last constrained to be consecrated, about the year 367. He was fluent in Hebrew, Egyptian, Syriac, Greek, and Latin, and because of this he was



called "Five-tongued." He had the gift of working miracles, and was held in such reverence by all, that although he was a known enemy of heresy, he was well nigh the only eminent bishop that the Arians did not dare to drive into exile when the Emperor Valens persecuted the Orthodox about the year 371. Having tended his flock in a manner pleasing to God, and guarded it undefiled from every heresy, he reposed about the year 403, having lived for ninety-three years. Among his sacred writings, the one that is held in special esteem is the Panarion (from the Latin Panarium, that is, "Bread-box,") containing the proofs of the truth of the Faith, and an examination of eighty heresies.

## GERMANOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Saint Germanos, who was from Constantinople, was born to an illustrious family, the son of Justinian the Patrician. First he became Metropolitan of Cyzicus; in 715 he was elevated to the throne of Constantinople; but because of his courageous resistance to Leo the Isaurian's impious decree which inaugurated the war upon the holy icons, he was exiled from his throne in 715. He lived the rest of his life in privacy, and reposed about 740, full of days. The fore-most of his writings is that which deals with the Six Ecumenical Councils. He wrote many hymns also, as is apparent from the titles of many stichera and idiomela, among which are those for the Feast of the Meeting in the Temple.

### The Apostle Thomas Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

People often refer to the Apostle Thomas as "doubting," not really considering the depth and the height of the "doubt" of this holy apostle. But let us look more carefully at this man. Was his doubt the same as that of the Judeans who yelled about the Savior Whom they crucified, "Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him." (Matthew 27:42); or was it similar to that which we hear from our contemporaries: "If there is God, let Him show Himself to all, and we will believe in Him and live happily ever after"? We know about his faithfulness and sacrificial love for his Teacher. After following the Savior for three years, Thomas understood very well the danger Christ faced from the scribes and the Pharisees. The other disciples also understood it very well; that is why when the Savior decided to go to Jerusalem, the apostles tried to talk Him out of it, warning Him of the danger (John 11:8). But it was St. Thomas who said, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him" (John 11:16). One does not often hear such words from a doubter! After the Ascension of the Savior, the Apostle Thomas, according to the Church Tradition, went to preach the Gospel in one of the furthest and most difficult to reach places of the ancient world—India, where he was tortured and killed for Christ. A week after the Resurrection, when the Savior came to His disciples and Thomas was with them, the holy apostle needed only a push, only a step, in order for this disciple who so selflessly loved his Teacher to realize to Whom he had devoted his life. "My Lord and my God!" exclaimed Thomas, who only a minute earlier had been understandably doubting the accounts of his brethren. "My Lord and my God!" exclaimed Thomas from the bottom of his loving heart. To such a person as Thomas God comes. This is the kind of person that He allows to touch Himself! In His desire to save people, Christ suffered everything: mocking and scourging, torture and shameful death, and even others poking at His wounds with their fingers after His glorious resurrection. If He is awaited, Christ will even go through closed doors (John 20:26). But what will He hear having entered our heart? Will He hear from us the words "my Lord and my God" or will He only receive mocking and scourging? Will we worship Him, as did St. Thomas, or will we crucify Him with our lack of repentance and hurl the rocks of our sins at Him? Lord, through the prayers of the holy Apostle Thomas, give us faith and help our unbelief (Mark 9:24)!