

Message from Fr. George for Friday, May 5, 2023



The Myrrh-Bearing Women are the first to learn of the most extraordinary event of all time, which changes the course of history and provides an answer to what has plagued humanity from the beginning. The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ puts an end to death and dying, once and for all. It is not the apostles, nor the other disciples, but the Myrrh-Bearing Women who first learn of the most fundamental event in our faith. As the Kontakion hymn for the Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-Bearers reads, *“In saying Rejoice to the myrrh-bearers, You allayed the lament of the first mother Eve, at Your Resurrection, O Christ our God. And You ordered Your Apostles to proclaim, ‘The Savior has risen from the sepulcher (tomb).’”*

The Myrrh-Bearing Women are faithful and loyal to Christ until His death and beyond. They had ministered to Him out of their own possessions. Following His death, they come to the tomb to anoint His Body with myrrh oils because they love Him. They do not even fear the Jewish leaders or the Roman soldiers who would have been expected to be guarding the tomb. This is why the Lord chose them, and why they are blessed to be the first ones to experience the Resurrection of Christ. Jesus could have revealed His risen self to any one of the Apostles, but He chose the Myrrh-Bearing Women.

Let us consider for a moment what this means for us today. In the Church, women are a fundamental building block of the faith. In the Gospel, the remarkable role of women is highlighted from the very beginning. It is women who have shouldered from the beginning of the Church most of the responsibility for initiating children into the faith. It is, for the most part, women who continue to undertake this task today. It is women who continue to offer themselves, who continue to serve as the hands and feet of Christ throughout our parishes today.



From this point of view, it is not surprising that it was women who were the first to be told of Christ's Resurrection because it was women who went to the tomb. It was women who had the courage to accompany Christ during His arrest and trial. It was women who were present when Christ was crucified. Women did all of this without really knowing for sure how things would turn out. They did all of this without understanding who Christ really was. They did all of this without fully understanding His significance, not only for themselves, but for the entire world, and its salvation. This is the example that the Church provides for us today, for all of us to follow, as well as conveying the privileged place of women in the Church from

the beginning. Let us all be inspired by the Myrrh-Bearing Women but let us especially help our younger women learn more about the female disciples of Christ. The Myrrh-Bearing Women embody the essence of what it means to serve Christ and others. They are the very definition of holiness, of reaching our ultimate potential as persons created in the image and likeness of God. *(From Archdiocese Department of Religious Education)*



Mark
16:1-8

The Myrrh-bearing women have become an icon for all Christian women who wake up early in the morning, pray and work for the family.

† **PATRIARCH DANIEL**

Make A Stand

By Jimmy Osborne

Keep your wits about you,
And expect the unexpected;
Speak for those who have no voice,
And protect the unprotected.

We always have a choice,
To be the ones to make a stand;
To step up and make some noise,
For the silent ones who can't.

Will you fight for what is right,
Be the light, and take command?
Or will you flee into the night,
And hide your head beneath the sand?

And if there ever comes a time,
When I no longer can...
I hope you'll fight for me,
And be the one to make a stand.

Sundays of the Pentecostarion



**Sunday of the
Ressurrection
of the Lord**



**Sunday of the Holy
Apostle Thomas**



**Sunday of the
Myrrhbearing
Women**



**Sunday of
the Paralytic**



**Sunday of the
Samaritan Woman**



**Sunday of the
Blind Man**



**Sunday of the Holy
Fathers of the 1st
Ecumenical Council**



**Sunday of the
Holy Pentecost**



**Sunday of
All Saints**

Fr. George shared the following reflection during his Religious Education class on Sunday and was asked to distribute to parishioners.

Impure thoughts – The Real Struggle

Once there was a woman of ill repute in a city.

She had many lovers.

The governor approached her and said:

“If you promise me that you will behave properly, I will take you for my wife.”

She promised him. He married her and took her to his own home.

The lovers, who still wanted her, said:

“That official has taken her.

If we risk going into the palace, he’ll catch us and punish us, but we’ll get out of that.

Let’s go round the back and whistle to her. She’ll hear it and come down, and then we’ll be all right.”

But the woman, when she heard them whistling, blocked her ears, bolted the doors and hid herself in the innermost part of the house.



Let me explain the story -

The woman of ill repute is our soul.

Her lovers are our passions.

The governor is Christ.

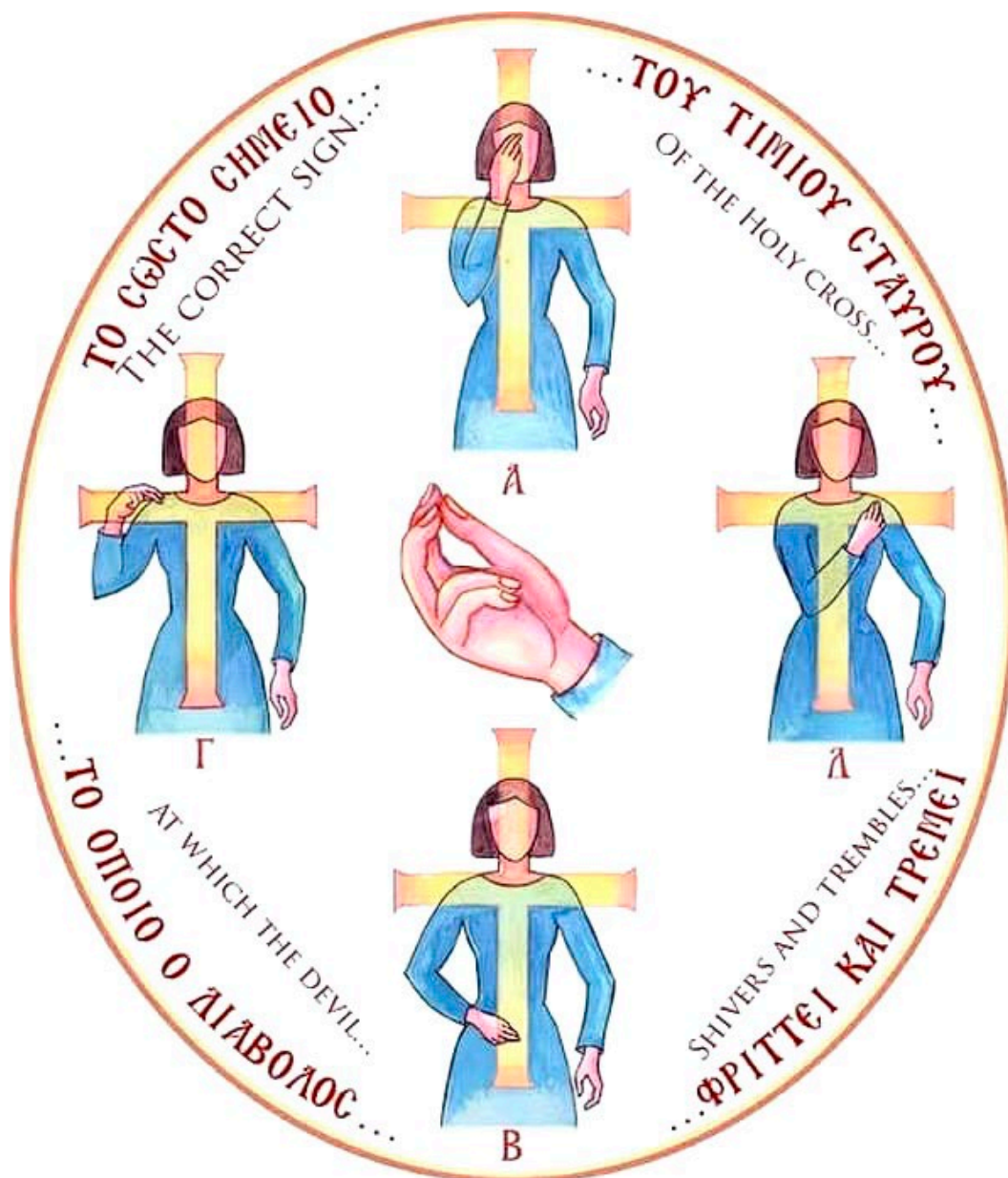
The innermost part of the house is our heavenly dwelling place.

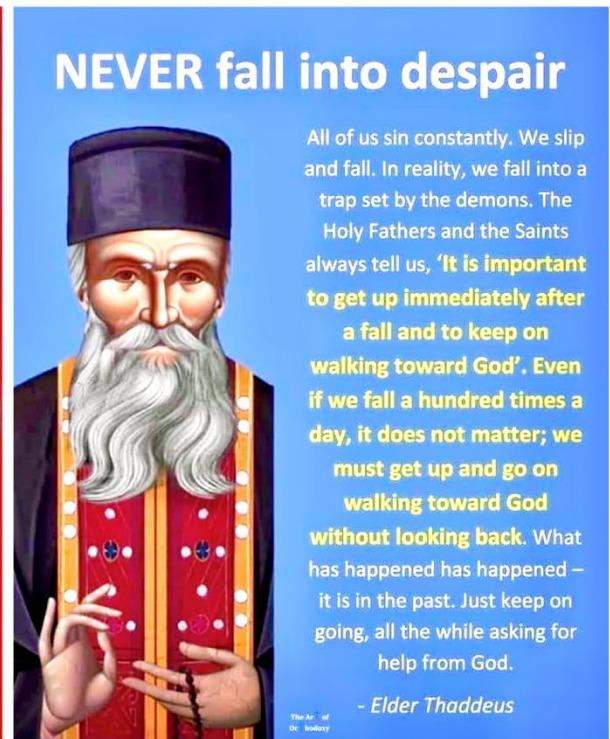
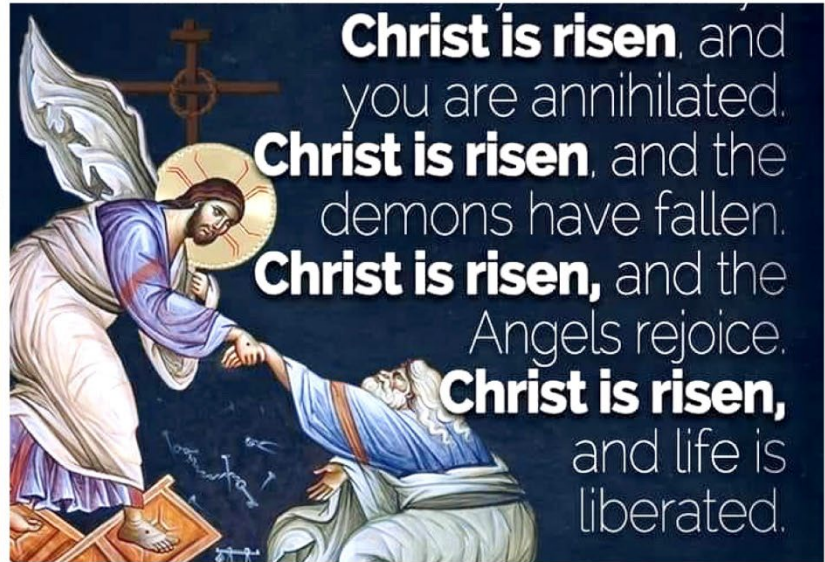
The whistlers are the demons.

But our soul can always find refuge with the Lord.

The Sign of the Cross

“And thus, inasmuch as the sign of the Cross is great and fearful, every Christian has the duty to make it with fear and trembling, with reverence and heedfulness, and not simply, and not as it happens, simply out of habit and carelessly; for according to the degree of the reverence which one has towards the Cross, he receives corresponding power and help from God.” (St. Symeon the New Theologian)

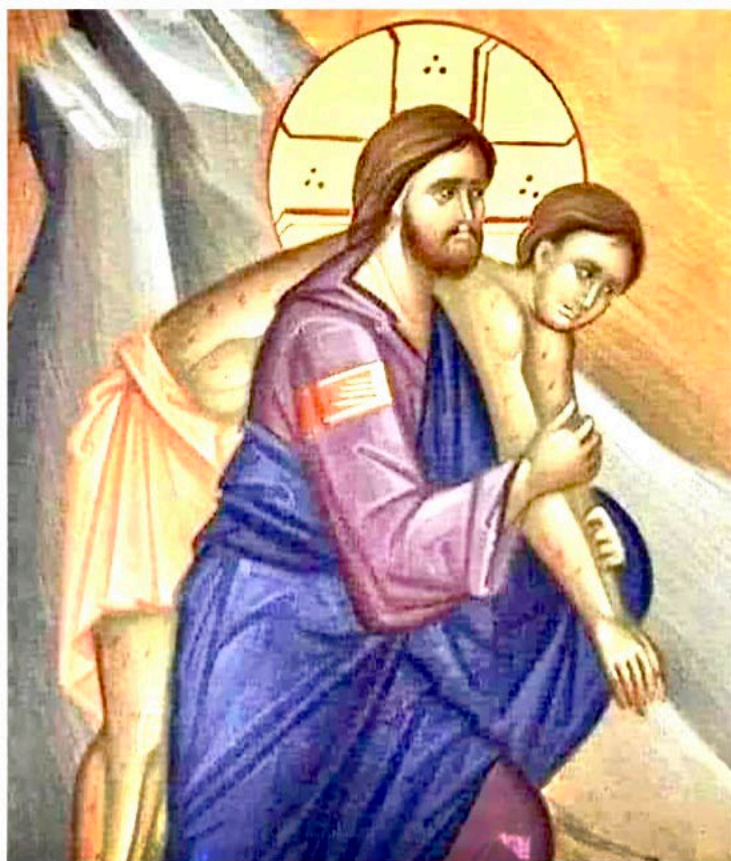




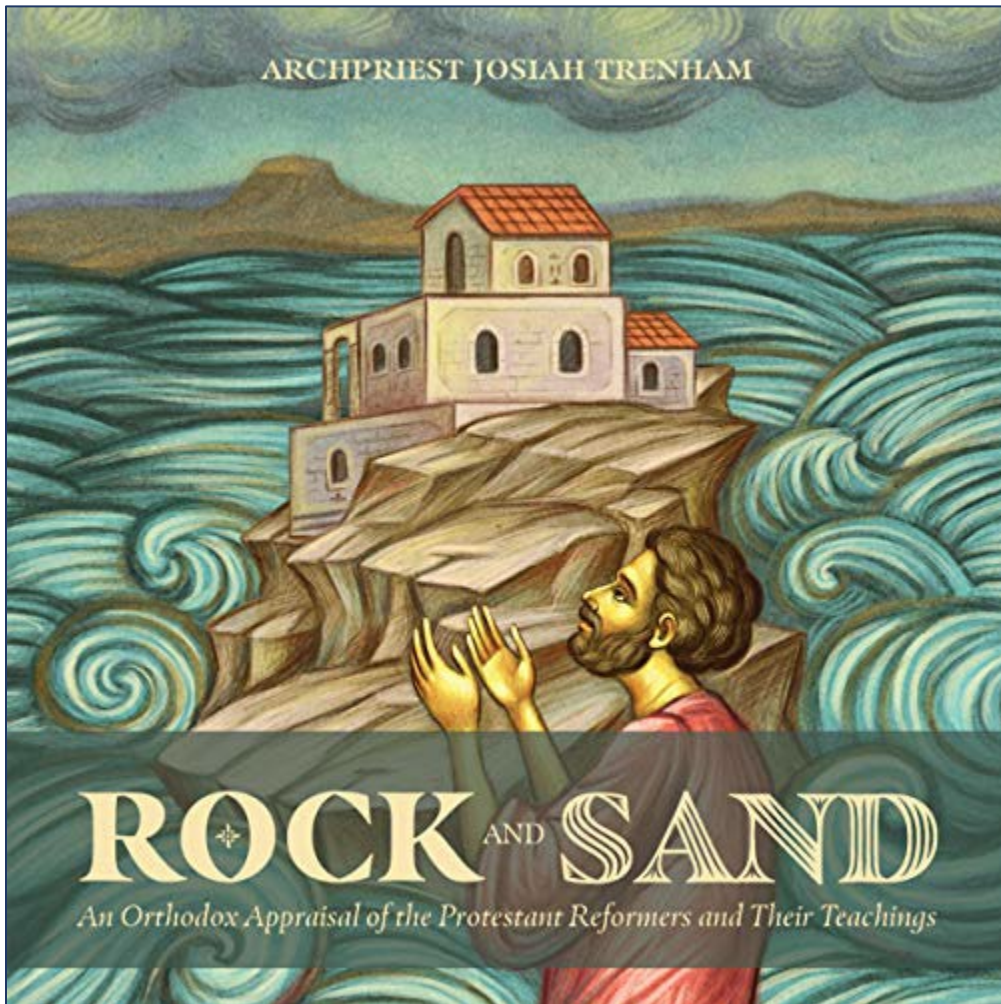


**O Lord, grant that I who
am inspired by Thy mercy
may be freed from the
snares of the world so that
I might safely enter the
harbor of life.**

St. Ephraim the Syrian



Adult Religious Education Reading Schedule



Sunday, May 7: Chapter 7 – The Church of England

Sunday, May 14: Mother's Day Luncheon (no class)

Sunday, May 21*: Chapter 8 – The Catholic Counter Reformation

Sunday, May 28: Memorial Day Weekend (no class)

Last Day of 2022-2023 classes is May 21st. Graduates Sunday is June 4th.

You are cordially invited to attend a
SPECIAL "PATH TO THE FUTURE" LUNCHEON
 spearheaded by Helen A. Carlos, HCHC Trustee

*To create a Fund to Benefit and Support Loan Debt of Students
 from the METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA attending
 Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*

**SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023
 KARTOS BALLROOM**

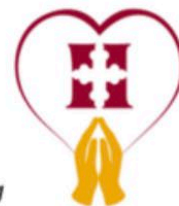
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY

**HONORED GUEST
 George M. Cantonis, President HCHC**

Lunch will be catered by Proof of the Pudding

Adults - \$40 Children under 12 - \$15

RSVP by Sunday, May 7, 2023



*The kick off of this inaugural event will be held at the Atlanta Annunciation Cathedral
 and will rotate annually throughout the Parishes of the Metropolis of Atlanta.*

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

(All levels include acknowledgement in promotional materials)

<u>Saint Helen</u> \$50,000 Two (2) tables of 10	<u>Saint Elisabeth</u> \$10,000 Reserved seats for 8	<u>Saint Monica</u> \$1,000 Reserved seats for 4
<u>Saint Anna</u> \$25,000 One (1) table of 10	<u>Saint Barbara</u> \$5,000 Reserved seats for 6	<u>Saint Photini</u> \$500 Reserved seats for 2

HONORING LOVED ONES

On this Mother's Day, remember or honor the special women in your life with a donation to the "PATH TO THE FUTURE" Fund.

<u>Saint Sophia</u> \$250.00	<u>Hope</u> \$100.00	<u>Faith</u> \$50	<u>Love</u> \$25
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OUR SUPPORT IS VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA!

*TO SUPPORT OUR HCHC STUDENTS THROUGH A SPONSORSHIP,
 HONORING A LOVED ONE, OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS TO PLEASE [SCAN OR](#)
[CLICK HERE](#) FOR RESERVATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP DETAILS.*



*Come join, celebrate and honor your Mother or any beloved women this
 Mother's Day by supporting our HCHC.*

This past Sunday, Fr. George shared that although we are hosting our parish Mother's Day Luncheon on May 14th and cannot attend the Cathedral's luncheon, we still have an opportunity to support our Hellenic College Holy Cross students by offering donations to the Cathedral's fundraiser. Click here if you wish to support. Thank you!