



# from Father Anthony

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## Good News for May

*“Christ is Risen from the dead,  
trampling down death by death,  
and upon those in the tombs,  
bestowing life.”*

This hymn sums up in a short verse the answer to life’s greatest questions. It puts everything in perspective and provides the means and the purpose to live through life’s most difficult moments. Not to just get through, but to triumphantly prevail over even the smallest of life’s most irritating challenges. The perspective is both eternal and immediate in its scope. Christ’s resurrection defeats the notion that evil always wins. It may have seemed like it during the humiliation, the derision, the scourging and punishment, and the ultimate sacrifice, ‘death on the cross’. The thief, the centurions, the high priests, were asking Christ to prove that He was God, by coming down from the cross, by ending this humiliation. Failing to do so would prove to them that he was a fake, an imposter. But Christ had His sights set on a bigger prize. Satisfying the idol curiosity of the bystanders who were deriding Him, may have shamed them into believing, but it would have been a distraction from a greater plan.

Having entered into Hades, the Son of Man who is life itself, could not be contained by its gates. These gates are the gates that hold us imprisoned all our life, by keeping us in bondage to fear, hatred, jealousy, envy, lust, pride, selfishness, and greed. They are the gates that hold us locked into a hellish existence separated from God. They are the gates that, once shattered, opened the doors to paradise so that we can once again live in communion and harmony with God.

When Christ vanquished death by death, He also vanquished cynicism, hopelessness, despair, and gave life to faith, hope and love from a pure heart. These are not just idol concepts, theoretical words that work only in Church for a few saintly people. This is good news that is available to every person that will trust God and be willing to follow Him wherever He might lead him or her. God created us and knows our deepest desires and longings. He knows our fears our pains our sorrows. He also knows our joy and wants to share in all of it. The key is faith. Do we believe enough to trust Him, and give our whole life to Him? After all, He gave His whole life for us. It is in living a life of faith that this resurrectional power is apprehended and applied on a daily basis. Nothing can stand in its way, not pain, sorrow, suffering, humiliation, sickness, disease, not even death. Christ can transform and redeem any situation through the power of love that manifests itself on the cross. As we prepare to enter into our new sanctuary, and celebrate our “Door Opening,” let us all take a moment to thank God for His providence, and love and care for our community.

Truly He is Risen!

Fr. Anthony

## Sunday Epistle and Gospel Readings:

	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
May 2	Hebrews 13:7-16	John 5:1-15
May 9	Acts 11:19-30	John 4:5-42
May 16	Acts 16:16-34	John 9:1-38
May 23	Acts 20:16-18, 28-36	John 17:1-13
May 30	Acts 2:1-11	John 7:37-52; 8:12



## Church Etiquette

*Due to several requests for this information, we will be repeating sections of our previous Church Etiquette feature over the next several months.*

### Making the sign of the cross:

You can and should do your cross any time you wish, but particularly there are certain times during the Liturgy when we all do our cross:

- When entering the Nave (sanctuary).
- Whenever we hear the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Whenever we hear the name of the Virgin Mary.
- Whenever we hear the name of our patron saint.
- When we enter the altar area.
- Whenever we cross in front of the altar.

## Parish Family News

### *Good Paradise!*

Congratulations to Andrew Shih on his Chrismation, Sunday, April 23.

*If you have any parish family news (birth, churcing, graduation, award, engagement, marriage, retirement, etc.) that you would like included in a monthly bulletin, please e-mail Jennifer Gess: [jklewis@mindspring.com](mailto:jklewis@mindspring.com)*

## Parish Happenings

### *Sunday School Party*

The end of the year Sunday school party will be at noon on Saturday, June 19th at Andrew Majsztrik's house, 1081 Red Oak Court, Watkinsville. The party will include swimming and potluck

barbeque. All are welcome, including those who don't have children in Sunday school. For directions or all other questions, please contact Christina Dimitriou at 310-12443.

### *Door Opening*

Our Door Opening Celebration will be June 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m., followed by Vespers at 5:00 with his Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. The banquet will begin at 6:30, and will include a live band and Greek dancing. It will be a great evening of rejoicing and celebrating. A Free Will Offering will be received to cover expenses and raise money for the building. If you have out of town guests, we have reserved rooms at the Comfort Inn on Atlanta Highway under St. Philothea. Call (706) 227-9700. The special rate is \$70 per night plus tax and they will release these rooms May 10<sup>th</sup>, so please make reservations by then.

### ***New Pews***

Pews for the new church are being finished. There are samples of the pews in our current church home. If you would like to donate the cost of a finished pew (\$170), please see Fr. Anthony. Thanks again to Paul, Bill, Kurt, & Dean who have worked hard to finish these beautiful pews for us!

### ***Philotochos News***

At the meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>, the following was discussed:

- Meeting attendance
- The current budget and proposed donations
- The door opening
- The garage sale and other fundraising ideas

A reminder to all members that Philotochos meetings will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. The next meeting will be Sunday, May 16.

### ***Morning Glories***

A small but fun group went to the Lyndon House to enjoy the art exhibit. We had a sack-lunch and a crafts session with art educator Madeleine Darnell. We thank her for tickling our artistic bone! Also, thanks go to Miss Georgia for treating us to wonderful deli sandwiches. We hope to return to Lyndon House again to enjoy the upcoming watercolor exhibit.

We wish a speedy and strong recovery to Miss Christine. God has smiled on our faithful sister. Good wishes go out to Miss Francis, Dr. Tony and Bertha who also could not join us this month.

### ***Ionian Village***

Applications are now being accepted for Ionian Village. It is an exceptional program of spiritual and cultural adventure, not to mention all the people you meet and the places you see. Contact Fr. Anthony if you are interested.

### ***Pictures and Video Needed***

To help with our Door Opening we are trying to put together a video to be played during our celebration. If you have any photographs or video of our parish family, please contact Spyridon.

### ***Covered Dish Luncheon***

Again, we will have our monthly covered dish luncheon Sunday, May 2, following the Divine Liturgy. Please bring lenten food to share.

### ***Come Receive the Light***

This weekly national Orthodox radio program can be heard in Athens on Saturday mornings at 9:30a.m. on 970 AM and the North Atlanta area on WLTA 1400 AM. To keep this ministry airing in the Atlanta area, please make donations to: Come Receive the Light- P.O. Box 4960, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33338.

### ***Marietta Festival***

Holy Transfiguration of Marietta will be holding their annual Greek festival May 13-16th at their new facility. Please visit/support our sister parish.

### ***Secretary's Report***

*Highlights from the April 18 Parish Council meeting, submitted by Stacey Cramer:*

- Our Church Building is progressing. The last two weeks though have been disappointing. The Building Committee will take what ever action is necessary to make sure that the building is finished for our door opening.

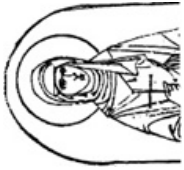
-A new list with names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. of our church families is ready for distribution (May 2).

-A number of new pledges were received last month.

-The Memorial Day fundraiser at OCAF that we were panning to do this year instead of the Festival has been cancelled, so we can concentrate on our Door Opening that week.

### ***Moving Party***

We will be moving from our rented Sanctuary to our new building on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We will need cleaning supplies, trailers, pickup trucks, strong arms and pretty faces. Let's see if we can beat our previous record of 3 hours, 50 minutes!



# St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

May 2004						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
25 <a href="#">The Myrrh Bearers</a> <a href="#">9:00a Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a>	26	27 <a href="#">6:00p OCF D &amp; D, Gess home</a>	28	29	30	1
2 <a href="#">9:00a Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a> <a href="#">12:00p Covered Dish</a>	3	4 <a href="#">Mid-Pentecost</a>	5	6	7	8
9 <a href="#">9:00a Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a> <a href="#">12:00p Parish Council</a>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <a href="#">9:00a Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a> <a href="#">12:00p Philoptochos General Meeting</a>	17	18	19 <a href="#">5:00p Ascension Day Orthros and Divine Liturgy-S</a>	20 <a href="#">SS Constantine and Helen</a>	21	22
23 <a href="#">9:00a Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a>	24	25	26	27	28	29 <a href="#">Moving Day, starting at 9:00 a.m.</a> <a href="#">Saturday of Souls</a>
30 <a href="#">9:00a Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a> <a href="#">4:00p Pentecost, Pan-Orthodox Vespers and Picnic, Atlanta</a>	31 <a href="#">Holy Trinity</a>	1	2	3	4	5

Rev. Fr. Anthony Salzman  
Services held at: Church on the corner of 2nd Street and Barnett Shoals, Downtown Watkinsville GA 30677  
For more information: 706/310-1304



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**Volume 10 – Issue 5  
May 2004**