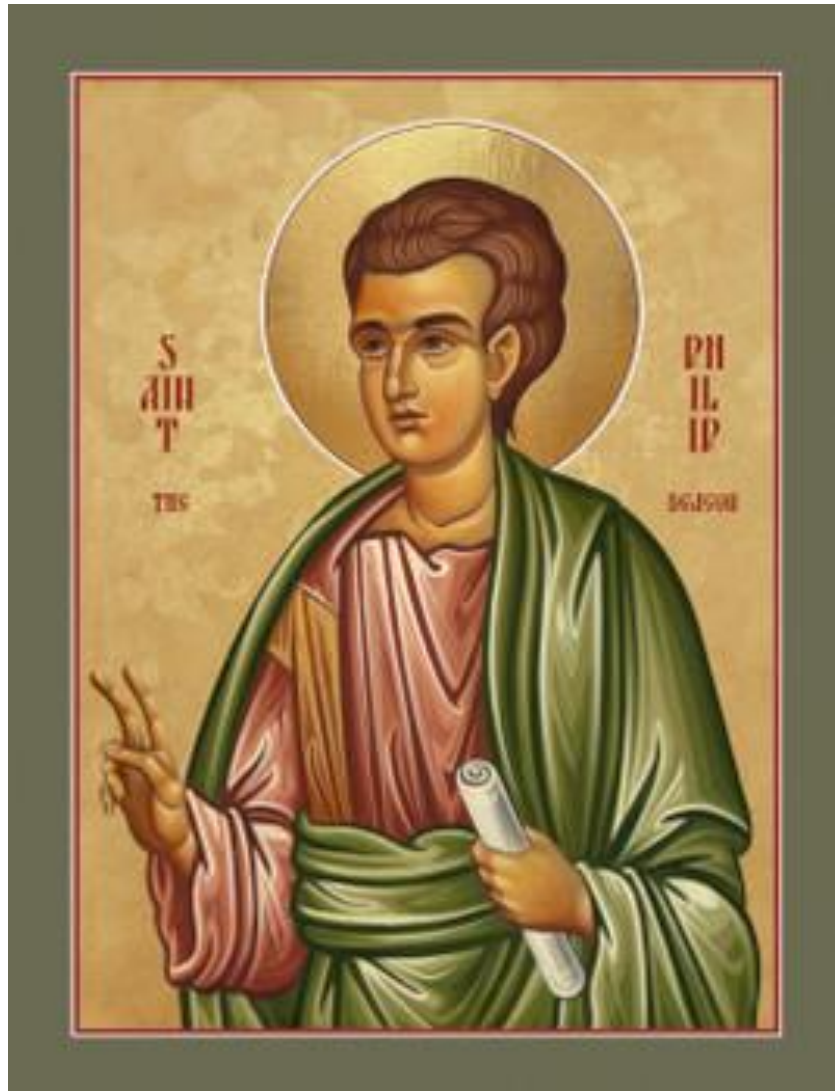


**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**19th Sunday after Pentecost
8 October 2023**

3rd Sunday of St. Luke



St. Thomas the Apostle

THE GOSPELS TELL US LITTLE about Christ's chosen disciples other than their names. A few of them – Peter, John, and Philip – feature in the early chapters of Acts but there is little said about the others.

Thomas is more prominent in John than in the other Gospels. The story of Thomas and the risen Christ in John 20 is one of the most compelling tales in the resurrection Gospels. In Byzantine Churches this passage is read in two sections, as it occurred. At vespers on Pascha we read the story of Thomas' doubts when told that Christ had risen. On the following Sunday – “Thomas Sunday” – we read of his encounter with the risen Christ which evoked his act of faith in Christ as “*My Lord and my God*” (John 20:28).

Non-scriptural tales and writings associated with one or another of the apostles were widely circulated in the first centuries; foremost among them were stories attributed to St. Thomas. The earliest and most widely held concerned Thomas as the Enlightener of India.

The Church beyond the Empire

While the Acts of the Apostles details the spread of the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire, we know that at the same time Christ was being preached to Jews and Gentiles beyond the borders of the empire: specifically, to the East, in Osrhoene (Mesopotamia), Parthia and Persia and as far as India, especially where Jewish colonies could be found.

Traders traveling by caravan or ship were common in the Middle East in the time of Christ. The Greek historian Strabo (64 BC-AD 24) writes of as many as 120 ships sailing through the Red Sea to India every year. St Thomas reportedly sailed to India in ad 52 in one of these ships in the company of a merchant.

Jewish merchants had settled in towns along the Old Silk Road and in the coastal cities of India as far back as the Babylonian captivity in the sixth century bc. After the destruction of the Jerusalem temple in AD 70 even more Jews fled Palestine and settled in the established Jewish colonies. It was among them that St Thomas would have a lasting success.

Jews had a thriving colony on the Malabar (west) coast of India. They settled in Muziris, the center of the Chera dynasty, near Cochin, where an ancient synagogue may still be seen. According to local tradition St Thomas and his companions organized a number of communities along this southwestern coast of India. There are still several churches in modern-day Kerala, home of the ***St. Thomas Christians***, which claim to have been founded by St Thomas.

After several years the apostle undertook a missionary journey to the Coromandel (eastern) Coast where he converted, among others, the wife and son of the prefect of Mylapore, near Madras. The prefect charged Thomas with bewitching them and had Thomas imprisoned. He was tortured and then executed by being pierced with spears in AD 72. The place of his execution outside Mylapore is revered as St Thomas' Mount to this day.

At first the body of St Thomas was enshrined in Mylapore, where miracles were associated with its presence. In ad 232 the bulk of the relics were brought from India to Edessa, the Syriac Christian center at the edge of the Roman Empire. A shrine was erected to house these relics which attracted the attention of the pilgrim-nun Egeria who visited it in the 380s. She described her visit in a letter she sent to her convent in Spain:

“We arrived at Edessa in the Name of Christ our God, and, on our arrival, we straightway repaired to the church and memorial of Saint Thomas. There, according to custom, prayers were made and the other things that were customary in the holy places were done; we read also some things concerning Saint Thomas himself. The church there is very great, very beautiful and of new construction, well worthy to be the house of God, and as there was much that I desired to see, it was necessary for me to make a three days' stay there.”

St Ephrem the Syrian, who wrote several poetic hymns in the apostle's honor, has Satan bewail the powerful presence of Thomas' relics in Edessa:

“I stirred up Death to slay the Apostles, that by their death I might escape their blows. But harder still am I now stricken: the Apostle I slew in India has overtaken me in Edessa. ... I went there and he was there. I found him both here and there, to my grief.”

The shrine was destroyed by the Zengids, a Turkish tribe who conquered Edessa in 1144. The relics were taken to Patmos, Greece and Ortono, in the Abruzzo region near Rome, where they still remain.

St Thomas' Writings?

Several early texts are connected with St Thomas:

The Acts of Thomas (c. 180-230)— an early third-century Syriac work that tells the story of his missions in India. It is generally accepted as in line with the proven history of the day.

The Infancy Gospel of Thomas – written about the same time, this work contains a fanciful rendering of Jesus' early years focused on prodigies and magic tricks He performs on His teacher and other children.

The Gospel of Thomas – the time of its composition unknown, this work was discovered in Greek and Coptic translations in the modern era. It presents “sayings” of Jesus that reflect a kind of Gnostic philosophy which circulated in Egypt in the early Christian era.

While TV commentators speculate wonderingly about these “suppressed” sayings of the Lord, a more reliable evaluation of them comes from the fourth-century Father, St Cyril of Jerusalem: “Let none read The Gospel according to Thomas, for it is the work, not of one of the twelve apostles, but one of Mani’s three wicked disciples” (Catechesis 5).

St Thomas Christians Today

St. Thomas’ missions, being outside the Roman Empire, formed part of the Church of the East. Over time they adopted the liturgy of Edessa, the Syriac Christian center. To this day St Thomas Christians consider their Churches “Syrian.”

From the fourth century until the sixteenth the St Thomas Christians received Persian and Assyrian bishops from the Church of the East as their spiritual fathers. An Indian archdeacon administered the day to day affairs of the community. Portuguese colonizers in the sixteenth century ousted the bishops and the archdeacon, replacing them with a Portuguese Latin bishop, beginning a long period of extreme latinization lasting to the time of Vatican II. Since then the Syro- Malabar Catholics have slowly begun recovering aspects of their West Syrian heritage.

About one third of the Thomas Christians refused to accept the Latin hierarchy and turned to the Syriac Patriarch of Antioch for bishops. Since then some Thomas Christians observe a form of their traditional East Syrian rite of Edessa (Church of the East, Syro-Malabar Catholics) while others follow the West Syrian rite of Antioch (Malankara Syrian Orthodox, Syro-Malankara Catholics and the Mar Thoma Church, a reformed Orthodox group which adopted some Anglican practices during the British rule of India).

Each of these Churches has at least one diocese in the United States today.

A poster for a "Fall Dance for Life" event. The background is orange with autumn leaves and pumpkins. The text is in various colors and fonts, including yellow, white, and red. The event is presented by Augusta Spirit and Truth Young Adult Ministry. The date is Saturday, October 28, from 7 to 10 pm. The ticket prices are \$10 before Oct 13th, \$15 after Oct 13th, and \$20 at the door. The location is St. Mary on the Hill Parish Hall. The poster also mentions that 100% of proceeds go to benefit Pregnant Choices.

Augusta Spirit and Truth Young Adult Ministry Presents

FALL DANCE FOR LIFE

Saturday October 28
7 - 10 pm

Come support a pro-life cause! 18+ are welcome

Tickets:	\$10 BEFORE Oct 13th	Wear your best Halloween costume! Winner gets a prize! Location: St. Mary on the Hill Parish Hall
	\$15 AFTER Oct 13th	
	\$20 at the door	

Call/Text to purchase tickets: 706.267.3352
Or email catholicaugustanewsletter@gmail.com.
Tickets are limited.

100% of proceeds go to benefit Pregnant Choices!



Calling ALL Fathers and Sons

Trail Life USA is a church-based, Christ-centered, boy-focused mentoring and discipleship journey that speaks to the heart of a boy.

Trail Life

Our Motto is Walk Worthy

JOIN US *Thursdays at 6:30pm*
in St. Teresa of Avila's Ed Building
Rooms 3-4

 GA2011Troopmaster@gmail.com
TrailLifeUSA.com



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS JFK Assembly 180 will be having a complete online fundraiser through Double Good to benefit Guitars for Vets from Oct. 19 at 5 p.m. to Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. This is a 12-week program that teaches veterans who have issues with PTSD or other combat-related injuries, mental health issues, or sexual trauma to play guitar as a mode of healing. At the end of the program, the graduate receives a guitar of their own. The guitars are priced at around \$210 per guitar not to mention the material that comes along with it.



<https://popup.doublegood.com/s/lwta6670>

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS are doing their annual Catholic Citizens Essay Contest. The Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest is open to all Catholic students — in public, private or parochial schools — in grades 8-12 during the current school year. Contestants must write from 500 to 750 words on this topic: How can the Church evangelize in the digital age? The deadline for entry is the 29th of October. There are monetary awards. If interested, see Fr. Michael for an application.

Upcoming Calendar

Oct 9-13 – Annual Clergy Conference

Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
32	13 August 2023	133.81
37	20 August 2023	146.22
39	27 August 2023	21.00
29	3 September 2023	511.50
40	10 September 2023	618.00
31	17 September 2023	75.00
31	24 September 2023	0.00
27	1 October 2023	60.00

Divine Liturgy Intentions:

For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. John Azar, Fr. James Graham, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, Mandie, Nick Baiad, Charlie & Kathleen Barnette, Alfonso de la Vega, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Dominic Bottino

Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8:00AM, The Third Hour

Friday – 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday – 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

JOIN US IN PRAYING the 3rd Hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8am. This is a short prayer service from our version of the Liturgy of the Hours. It lasts less than 20 minutes or so. Come join us!

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN –Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 2)



When you des - cend - ed to Death, O Im - mor - tal



Life, You put Ha-des to death by the splen - dor of



Your Di-vin - i - ty, and when You raised the dead



from be - low the earth, all the Hea - ven - ly Po - wers



cried out to You: O Gi - ver of Life, Christ our God,



glo - ry to You!

Prokimenon

Reader: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

All: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

Reader: The Lord has chastised me through his teaching, yet he has not delivered me to death.

All: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

Reader: My strength and my courage is the Lord,

All: And he has been my Savior.

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	Philippians 2:12-16	Luke 9:18-22
Tuesday:	Philippians 2:16-23	Luke 9:23-27
Wednesday:	Philippians 2:24-30	Luke 9:44-50
Thursday:	Philippians 3:1-8	Luke 9:49-55
Friday:	Philippians 3:8-19	Luke 10:1-15
Saturday:	2 nd Cor 1:8-11	Luke 7:1-10

Saints of the Week:

Oct. 8: Our Venerable Mother Pelagia
Oct. 9: Holy Apostle James; our Holy Father Andronicus and his wife Athanasia
Oct. 10: Holy Martyrs Eulampius and Eulampia
Oct. 11: Holy Apostle Philip, our Venerable Father Theophane, Bishop of Nicea
Oct. 12: Holy Martyrs Probus, Tarachus and Andronicus, Symeon the New Theologian
Oct. 13: Holy Martyrs Carpus, Pappylas and Agathonicus
Oct. 14: Holy Martyrs Nazarius, Gervasius, Protasius & Celsus, and our Holy Father Cosmas, Bishop of Maiuma
Oct. 15: Holy Martyr Lucian

Word Search

N	J	X	X	N	R	R	D	D	E	M	N	V	S
I	V	T	E	T	O	E	G	B	D	A	V	S	H
A	X	T	E	Q	H	S	U	S	E	J	B	N	S
N	A	H	F	C	Z	G	L	O	R	I	F	Y	H
G	L	H	U	T	M	Z	Y	J	W	I	D	O	W
J	J	O	D	O	D	Y	D	P	E	E	W	A	J
R	T	A	T	M	N	W	O	T	X	Y	E	X	S
O	E	H	L	E	E	Q	D	I	A	Q	W	O	Z
D	E	K	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	M	R
R	M	V	T	G	K	S	F	M	V	I	B	G	K
L	T	F	T	B	D	W	O	R	C	R	X	C	Q
P	E	S	I	R	A	S	O	R	R	Y	P	S	G
Z	M	Y	J	G	C	A	R	R	I	E	D	L	H
S	T	R	E	T	C	H	E	R	S	R	J	Z	T

Arise
Carried
Crowd
Dead
Disciples
Gate
Glorify
Jesus
Mother

Nain
Son
Sorry
Stretcher
Touched
Town
Weep
Widow

Parish Information:

Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD
Pastor

abounamike@aol.com

Knights of Columbus
JFK Council

1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm
Most Holy Trinity

4th Degree Assembly
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm
St. Ignatios

Publicans Prayer Group
Postponed until Further Notice

New Parishioners:
Please register with Fr. Michael.

Mystery of Holy Confession
Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

Mystery of Christian Initiation
Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

Mystery of Holy Crowning
Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael
at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

Mystery of Holy Anointing
Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** at 1-800-479-5910.