



The Prophet Elias Church

Address: 223 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA
95060

Phone: (831) 429-6500

Web: <http://www.propheteliassc.org>

Email: info@propheteliassc.org

Visiting Clergy

Phone: (831) 429-6500

Email: info@propheteliassc.org

Services Schedule

9:00 AM Sunday Orthros

10:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM Sunday School - As announced

12:00 PM Sunday, Fellowship after Divine Liturgy

Bulletin for Sunday, April 19, 2026

Service Schedule

"Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." - John 20:29

Sunday, April 19: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, April 26: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. Angelo Pappas**

Sunday, May 3: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy- **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, May 10: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. Angelo Pappas**

Sunday, May 17: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

Sunday, May 24: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy- **Fr. Angelo Pappas**

Sunday, May 31: 9:00 AM Orthros, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - **Fr. John Takahashi**

PRAYERS FOR ALL IN NEED

+Eric+, +Presvytera Vaso Paris+, Presvytera Naomi (Robin) Takahashi, Father Marin State, David Zomer, Dafina Molman, Harriet Mainis, Maura, Vlad Voinea, Fotini Ballas, Bob Rible, Jim Deamant, Yorgos Hadzis, Connie Mellis, Karen Krilanovich, Inna Shkolnik, Sam Khalil, Lesley, Leola, Dawn Sculley, John Demas, Twan, Athena Wolfe, Evangelia, Marie, Adam Nikolopoulos, Bob Roberts, Selah, Stacy, Evangelia, Helene Doss, Panos Kakaris, Helen Sirakides, Cynthia (Anna) Baldwin-Thanos, Brad Dyer, John, Muriel, Irina Sanchez, Eleni, Maria, Paraskevi, Constantine Mellis, Spiro Mellis, Steve and Alexandra

Call the church office (831) 429-6500 to add the name of someone in need of prayers.

Our News

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

We would like to thank everyone for a beautiful Holy Week and Pascha.

Thank you Father Angelo Pappas and Fr. John Takahashi for your service. Each day was so beautiful, and it was wonderful to be able to go outside for the procession on Friday Evening. Thank you God!

Thank you to those cleaned the inside and outside of the church, who decorated for each special service, who provided the soup so we could break the fast together early Sunday morning and thank you everyone who attended.

It was wonderful to see our church full, with everyone praising our Lord and showing appreciation for all the blessings he has bestowed on our parish.

We had many guests during the week, and we hope you will visit us again soon. We are all one family and the love was felt by all of us. God bless all of you and let His light shine on you.

God-willing we will all be together again next year!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christos Anesti,

I pray you are having a blessed and joyous Pascha. We will have Sunday School on **April 19th**, and our lesson will focus on the Gospel reading from John 20:19–31, on Doubting Thomas.

This passage reminds us of the struggle to believe without seeing and the blessing Christ gives to those who believe through faith.

Our lesson objectives:

- Understand and retell the story of the Apostle Thomas.
- Reflect on why Thomas doubted and how Christ responded with compassion.
- Connect the Gospel to today by identifying signs in our world—acts of love, kindness, creation, and prayer—that help us believe in God even when we cannot see Him.

With Love in Christ,
Angela Santiago
Sunday School Teacher
Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church of Santa Cruz is our parish home. It is the place where we meet God when we partake of the Holy Eucharist – Holy Communion. It is a place for prayers to ask for strength to meet the challenges in our lives. It is where we come together as the Body of Christ. Our church family shares the Orthodox Faith, which is the glue we find nowhere else but within the Church.

But like any parish, we have material needs and operating expenses (utilities, clergy salaries, ect). We must cover these expenses in order to keep our Prophet Elias functioning properly so we are able to worship the Lord.

Stewardship consists of our time, talent, and treasure, and this is where the treasure part of Stewardship becomes so important. It's imperative that we all work together and each do our part to provide and secure our future so we may continue to grow together.

Our stewardship goal for this year has been set to **\$120,000**. Let us pray, hope, and work together to exceed our expectations.

If you would like to become a Steward, please fill out a Commitment Card (scroll down to special announcements to download the PDF file), or email info@propheteliassc.org for more information if you have any questions.

If you would like to make a general donation to Prophet Elias please follow the link below for instructions:

<https://www.propheteliassc.org/about-things-to-know/donate>

Kostas Amberiadis
Stewardship Chairman

THE PHILOPTOCHOS CORNER

Xpistos Anesti!

A big thank you to all of our members for making this Pascha season memorable. They say it takes a village, and this is true of our parish. Every contribution, from making palm crosses, serving fellowship on Palm Sunday, bringing red eggs, to adorning the epitaphio, and so many helping hands reveals what an impact our Philoptochos brings to Prophet Elais.

Please join us for our next Philoptochos meeting this **Sunday, April 19th** after fellowship. Among other important issues, we will be discussing upcoming elections to our board that take place in May. Please consider joining the board. We make a difference to so many lives with your participation. Also please renew your membership or become a member!

Again I say: **Your voice is important to us!**

Alithos Anesti
Respectfully
Aphrodite

RECYCLING PROGRAM

Alexa Bolas continues to lead our recycling efforts. Please remember to bring your recyclable items when you come to church. If you are unable to bring the recyclable items to church, please call **Alexa (650-868-5015)** to make arrangements for pickup.

Ask neighbors and friends to help out. Any containers that have CA-CRV can be recycled such as:

- **Aluminum cans**
- **Bi-metal cans**
- **Glass bottles: Including wine and liquor bottles**
- **Plastic bottles: including juice**

Please do NOT bring us any other types of plastic containers for our recycling fundraising, ONLY plastic bottles please.

The recycling directly helps the church. Here are some ways it contributed this year:

- New lamp for choir area
- Supplies for the bathrooms and fellowship
- Vacuum cleaner repair
- Donation for new stove

Thank you to all who have brought in recycling.
Together we are making a difference!

DECLUTTER Books/CD/DVD

Also, the Philoptochos declutter fundraiser is back in action!! If you have books, CDs, or DVDs that you no longer want, please tell us what you wish to donate in an email to:

stkatherine@propheteliassc.org or contact Alexa Bolas

Thank you again for supporting St. Katherine Philoptochos philanthropic missions.
Together we are making a difference!

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome to our weekly fellowship at **Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church!** We gather immediately following the liturgy in the church hall upstairs. Whether you are a longtime member of our church or visiting us for the first time, we are glad you are here. Please join us.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Matins Gospel Reading

First Orthros Gospel

The Reading is from Matthew 28:16-20

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen."

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 4th Mode. Psalm 146.5;134.3.

Great is our Lord, and great is his power.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The reading is from Acts of the 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 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."

Gospel Reading

Thomas Sunday

The Reading is from 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 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.

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion of Great and Holy Pascha in the Plagal 1st Mode

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Apolytikion for Thomas Sun. in the Grave Mode

Christ our God, You are the Life that dawned from the grave, though the tomb was sealed. Through closed doors You came to the Apostles. You are the Resurrection of all. And, You renewed us through them with an upright spirit, according to Your great mercy.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal 4th Mode

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

STEWARDSHIP



**PROPHET ELIAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD**

Name _____ Home Phone () _____

Spouse Name _____ Cell () _____

Address _____ Email: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email of letters/bulletins: Yes ____ No ____

Children's Names/Ages _____

COMMITMENT DATE: _____

\$ _____ per week, month, year (circle one)

Please choose method of payment:

Cash Check PayPal Bill Pay

Please contact the Church Office, if any questions: (831) 429-6500

I would like to be contacted by the following Church Ministries:

Adult Religious Education

Epistle Reading

Philoptochos

Altar Service

Fellowship Hour

Stewardship Support

Building/Grounds Maintenance

Festival/Events

Youth Ministry

Carpentry

Fundraising

Visitation to Homebound

Choir/Chanting

Greek Language School

Web/Media Support

Church School for Young Children

Missions & Outreach

Other

Cleaning

Office Work

Cooking

Parish Council

**The Stewardship campaign goal is 100% participation of The Prophet Elias Community.
Please return this Stewardship Commitment Card to the Church Office or Church Narthex.**

JACKSON FOLKFEST **REVAMP THE CAMP**

FUNDRAISER

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YOUTH SINGERS WANTED

to perform in concert

*Talented students in
2nd grade through high school:*

*Do you love to sing?
Do you love our Greek Orthodox hymns?
Join singers from local churches
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Saturday, May 23

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
San Francisco**

The students will sing the youth choir parts
along with other youth and adult singers.
Three Sunday rehearsals.

Info: Voula Brown
408-426-7630 or voula@garlic.com

OR

Eva Canellos
650-400-1610 or cecanellos@aol.com

***Don't miss this wonderful opportunity
to sing the beautiful music of our church!***



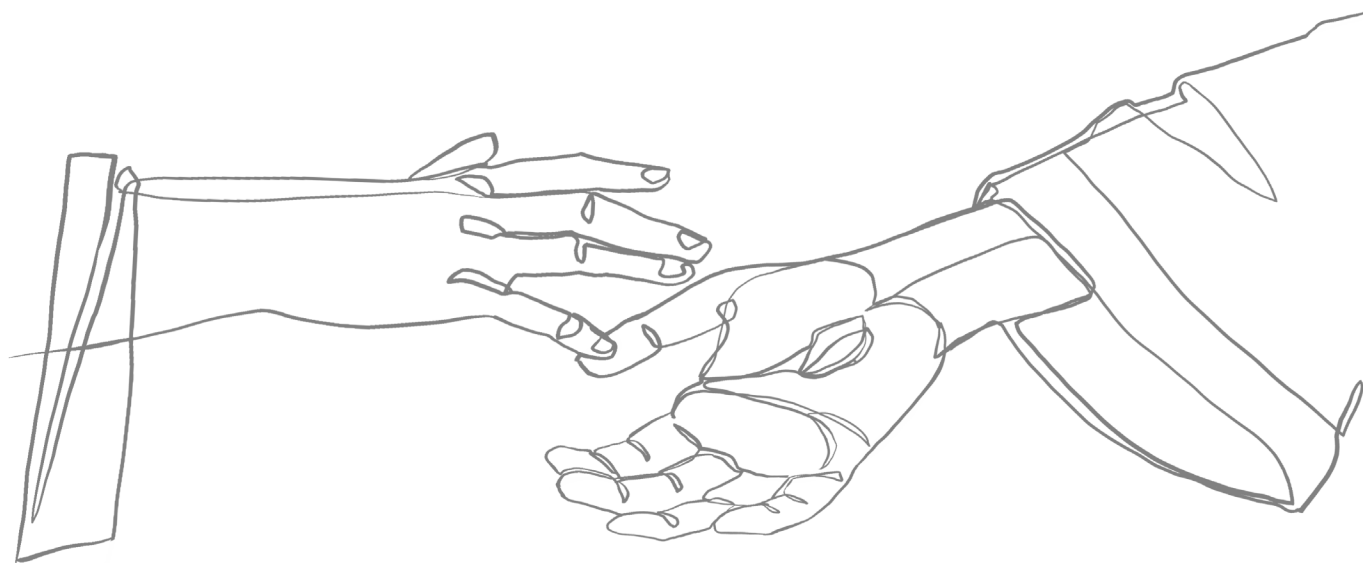
DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING - *John 20:19-31*

“Thomas, Doubt and Faith”

Fr. George Parsenios



The doubt of St. Thomas provides a powerful lesson in discipleship, but not for the reasons that one might think. Thomas was not with the other disciples when they saw the risen Lord, and he insisted on seeing the wounds of Christ before he would believe that Jesus had been resurrected. Because he hesitated, Thomas is famously called “Doubting Thomas,” and his faith is considered weak. But is this the correct way to view him? St. Romanos the Melodist urges us to see something different in Thomas. According to Romanos, if Thomas doubted what the disciples said, it was not because he failed, but because they did. His doubt was produced by their fragile and feeble witness. Although they told him that Jesus was risen, they did not act like Jesus was risen. Instead of having a bold and confident faith, they were still cowering in the upper room. Instead of bravely proclaiming the message of new life, they were

hiding under the fear of death. Why would Thomas believe anything they said? The same is true for us. Think for a moment of the people who inspired you to take your faith seriously. They didn't just talk about their faith. They lived it. In the same way that Thomas watched how the disciples behaved, our children are also watching us. If they see that we sacrifice for our faith, they will learn to do the same. If they see that we share our abundance with those who lack, they will imitate our kindness. If they see that we treasure the Sunday Divine Liturgy, they will treasure it as well and orient their week around it. Fortified with this knowledge, let us proclaim not only with our words, but with everything we do: **Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!**

Fr. George Parsenios is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. www.hchc.edu



Diakonia is made possible by a generous grant from Leadership 100

Scan for today's service text

bit.ly/parishtexts



FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK: *homooousios* (ὁμοούσιος)

What is “consubstantial?”

Fr. George Parsenios



When applied to Christ in the Nicene Creed, the term *ὁμοούσιος/homooousios* means that Jesus shares the same essence or substance (ousia) as God. The term is translated into English either as “consubstantial,” or “of one essence,” and the

concept was an important tool in fighting the Arian heresy. The Arians taught that

Jesus was not truly God. He was a special person, even a superior person, but Jesus was inferior to God. Jesus was not immortal, they said, nor sinless, nor uncreated.

Being immortal and sinless and uncreated are the qualities of the divine nature (*ousia*), but the Arians insisted that Jesus shared only in the human nature, which is mortal and created. The term *homooousios* was directed precisely at opposing this heresy, as a way to insist that Jesus is fully God. But *homooousios* was a controversial word. It is the one word in the Creed that is not Scriptural, and so it was opposed even by some Orthodox theologians who hoped to build a Creed that was entirely based on biblical language. But *homooousios* was selected because it emphatically claims that Jesus shares fully in the divine nature. Jesus possesses whatever makes God to be God. He is *homooousios* with the Father.

THIS WEEK'S LOOK AT CHURCH HISTORY

The Ladies Philoptochos Society



As Greek Orthodox immigrants arrived in the US in the late 1800s, women’s clubs formed in our churches to welcome and assist them. In 1931, during the Great Depression, Archbishop Athenagoras founded a charitable organization, naming it the Ladies Philoptochos Society, to provide the community with music, educational lectures, and performances.

The Philoptochos Society was crucial to raising funds for the purchase of the Ruppert Estate just 60 miles up the Hudson River from New York City, which became St. Basil Academy. The Academy assists children and families in need, supported by the fundraising efforts of Philoptochos.

At the local and national level, the organization serves as the Church’s philanthropic ministry to the poor and needy. Philoptochos focuses on providing food, medicine and clothing to people affected by natural disasters. Philoptochos fundraising campaigns assist the elderly and marginalized. In 1974, financial and moral support was provided to victims of the invasion of Cyprus. With over 400 parish chapters throughout the Archdiocese, Philoptochos provides millions of dollars each year to local and national philanthropic organizations and causes.



FAITH IN ACTION

Create Autism Awareness in Your Parish



The *What I Wish You Knew Series* is written from the voice of an autistic person to help parishioners better understand common autistic experiences to create more welcoming communities where everyone is valued.

ANSWERING CHRIST'S CALL From Awareness to Action

Building Peer Relationships

Every person is created in the image of the Holy Trinity, and we imitate the Trinity when we experience loving relationships. Peer relationships can be challenging when neurological differences exist. Here are a few suggestions to create understanding, remove fear, and foster peer connections amongst autistic and non-autistic youth.

What I Wish You Knew: To My Peers

- **Unique perception:** I probably notice different things than you, but I love to learn.
- **I have talents:** I have a disability, but I also have many abilities and gifts.
- **Invite me:** I want to be included in activities, but I don't assume I'm invited. Please invite me to youth activities, parties, events.
- **I like structure:** It's easier for me to relate to you when there's a structured activity like a game or a shared project we can enjoy together.
- **Favorite Topics:** Some of my interests are so fun to me that I want to know everything about them. Ask me about things I love. I like to listen to your areas of interest, too.
- **Eye contact:** I may not be able to look directly into your eyes when you are talking. That doesn't mean I'm not listening or that I don't care about what you are saying.

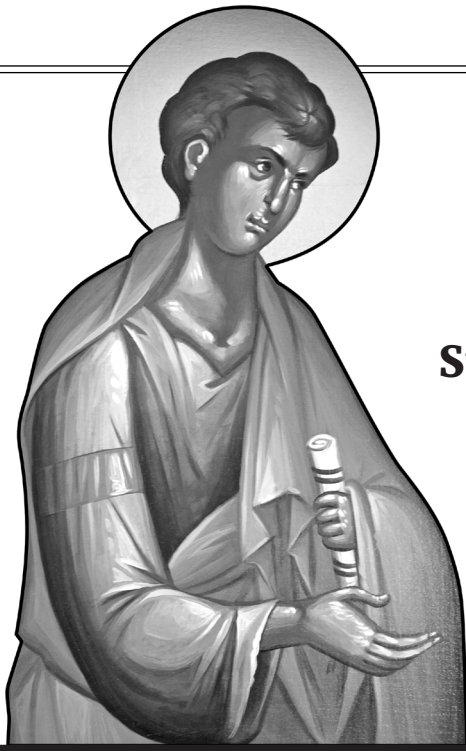
- **Understand my movements:** My behaviors are a form of communication. If I move away, please give me space. If I sound happy but don't have words, it's my way of showing I care. Sometimes I must soothe myself to pay attention. I may rock, sway, or make sounds you don't understand. I'm just calming myself.
- **Be kind:** Even if I struggle to use words, that doesn't mean that I cannot understand or feel your words and attitudes.
- **Understand my communication:** If I have a difficult time, cry out, or get upset, don't be afraid. Sometimes I don't have words to express my pain or frustration. I'm honest and forthright, but I don't intend to hurt anyone's feelings.
- **Understand my sensitivities:** I may be sensitive to sounds, lights, changes of routine, or having to sit in a space that is new to me. Ask me if I'm comfortable holding hands or hugging. I may be sensitive to different types of physical touch.



See the entire list. Scan the code or use the URL below:
<https://bit.ly/4cp01ZI>



Just For Kids!
 (...and the young at heart)



Sunday of Thomas

When Jesus rose from the dead, Thomas was not there. He did not believe the others. He said he needed to see and touch Jesus' wounds. A week later, Jesus came again. This time, Thomas was there. Jesus showed him His hands and side. Thomas believed and said, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas is called "Doubting Thomas," but he became very strong in faith. He loved Jesus deeply. He later traveled far to teach others about Jesus. Thomas lived a life of faith and courage.

WORD SEARCH

Find these words:

- DOUBT
- BELIEVE
- TOUCH
- DISCIPLES
- APOSTLES
- PASSOVER
- NAILS
- RESURRECTION
- PEACE
- THOMAS

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