

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Pascha, Thomas Sunday, Christ is Risen!



**SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!  
Христосъ воскресе! Воистину воскресе!*

Propers for Pascha: pp. 175 - 180

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., APRIL 7  
8:30 A.M.

**THOMAS SUNDAY, Distribution of the Artos**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ Raymond Ozimok, offered by Phyllis Ozimok

SUN., APRIL 14  
8:30 A.M.

**SUNDAY of the MYRRH-BEARERS**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ John Pinchot, offered by Gene & Trudy Mendenhall

**Antipascha: St. Thomas Sunday** - Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts. This day is also known as "**Antipascha**." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek.



*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*

**Happy Birthday Greetings:**

April 12: Nathaniel Hersh, April 13: Erik Fetkovich,

**Wedding Anniversaries this week:**

None for the week

**Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins**

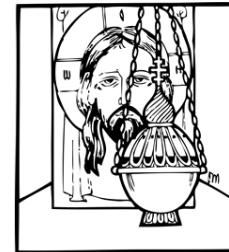
Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan

Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

**Epistle Readers – April 7: Joanne Futato – April 14: Prudy Peya**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – April 7: R. Mudron – April 14: M. Bobanic**



**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP**

April 7 - 13, 2024

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

+ Joseph Olack

*(In Loving Memory)*

Offered By:

Wife, Mary Elizabeth Olack

**Go Tell the World!**

The Father sent his Son, appointing him to become man for the redemption of all men. He willed him to come into the world to suffer – and yet he loved his Son whom he sent to suffer. The Lord is sending his chosen apostles into the world not to the world's joys but to suffer as he himself was sent. Therefore as the Son is loved by the Father and yet is sent to suffer, so also the disciples are loved by the Lord, who nevertheless sends them into the world to suffer.

*(St. Gregory the Great)*

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!  
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!  
Христосъ воскресе! Воистину воскресе!*

## Pirohi Sale This Week

Our next Pirohi sale will be this **Friday, April 12**. Won't you join us for this important tradition for our St. George Church? **Our work days during the week begin at 9:00 AM. Friday, the day of the sale, come any time in the morning to help** (*We start around 6:00 AM*). Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Order your dinner for Friday! Orders should be called in by **Thursdays at noon at (724) 375-6652** or place your order today in the Center.



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## St. George Patronal Feast Day Celebration

Our St. George Patronal Feast Day is on Tuesday, April 23. To celebrate, on the following **Sunday, April 28**, there will be a Sunday Divine Liturgy moved to **10:00 A.M.** followed by a celebration luncheon. The parish family of St. Mary in Ambridge is also invited to attend Liturgy along with staying for the luncheon. We welcome all parishioners and guests to come and honor our Patron, St. George the Great Martyr and to celebrate together as a parish family. A sign-up sheet for the luncheon is in the Narthex.

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## St. George Family Bowling and Fellowship Night

In continuation of our Patronal Feast Day celebration, we will once again have a bowling and fellowship night at Sheffield Bowling Lanes in Aliquippa (*Date, time, and cost to be announced*). Even if you do not wish to bowl or are not able to bowl, you can still join us for fellowship and food. Ricky Dee's Pizza and soft drinks are included in the event. Sheffield Bowling Lanes also has a lounge. So, plan on joining us for this Church family fun event!

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## Choir Paschal Program

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir invites faithful and friends to an inspiring program of Paschal hymns and songs of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord. Presented at St. Elias Byzantine Catholic Church in Munhall, Pa. on **Sunday, April 21**, the program will begin at **3:00 p.m.**, and will feature many beloved and seldom-heard renditions of the triumphant Paschal greeting, "**Christ is Risen! Christos Voskrese!**" A cake-and-coffee reception will follow the program in the Church social hall. Members of the Archeparchial Choir and Father Vitalii Stashkevych, pastor of St. Elias Church, invite everyone to this joyous celebration on **Sunday April 21**. St. Elias Church is located at 4200 Homestead-Duquesne Road, Munhall, PA 15120.

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*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!  
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!*

## A Note from Fr. Christiaan

Dear Parishioners,

Christ is Risen! I am deeply grateful for the support that I received from you all during Holy Week into Easter. Our attendance and participation in our various events were inspiring. Were it not for the volunteerism that is part and part of both the St. George and St. Mary communities, then I would have been overwhelmed during my mid-school year transition into the parishes. So, thank you for so many things.

Due to parishioner leadership, St. George has confronted an issue with the antiquated heating system, and we have an adequate repair that will allow us to use our hall for pirohi and socials. Again, it was parishioner leadership that confronted during Lent the wind destroying some gutter guards, so that a preventive-maintenance solution was proposed to cut away trees that might clog the gutters and therefore eliminate the need worry about refuse on the roof. From decorating the church for Holy Week, setting out the tomb, or preparing paschal foods and liturgical set-ups, meeting with parishioners beforehand, hearing about what services were most important and what the parish customs were from you all directly, helped me prioritize our Holy Week offerings.

The presence of so many parishioners and people associated with our parish for the Pascha services was a welcomed treat. During Holy week, our Divine Liturgy combined with Resurrection Matins on Saturday was surprisingly well attended. Bright week, like for many of you, was for me a return to work (teaching) after a full schedule during Lent. Because of the enthusiasm and attendance for so many services, I left Holy Week and Easter at our parishes feeling an even more joyful experience. Serving a few dedicated parishioners would have been worth the effort, and having so many of you at presanctified and special services was kind of an inspiration for me, since I took it to mean that you have a great love of your parishes and your Byzantine tradition!

We now enter into the long post-Resurrection period of waiting for Pentecost (50 days post Easter) that is outlined in our liturgical book: *The Pentecostarion*. As our families are back to school after Spring break (as am I at both St. Vincent, Latrobe and the Byzantine Seminary in Pittsburgh), we look forward to our Spring combined celebration of the Holy and Great Martyr St. George. Parishioners of St. George have supplied me with relevant details, and I'll be pleased for us this month to have more social time together in our combined April 28<sup>th</sup> celebration at 10:00 AM at St. George to be followed by a luncheon. As the feast properly falls on April 23, we should have an opportunity too to have a vesperal divine liturgy to honor our heavenly patron. Stay tuned for that schedule!

This month at your seminary in Pittsburgh we are also planning on receiving for several days about 16 young men discerning joining the seminary to study. We host a retreat, liturgical, and educational program for them for several days. The fruits of our clergy's labors there are leading to great interest in priestly vocations, as our bulletins have highlighted, ordinations of our men to the diaconate and priesthood!

*Fr. Christiaan*

## ***Thomas Didn't Believe So That All May Believe***

Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. He was the only disciple absent; on his return he heard what had happened but refused to believe it. The Lord came a second time; He offered His side for the disbelieving disciple to touch, held out His hands, and showing the scars of His wounds, healed the wound of his disbelief.

What do you see in these events? Do you really believe that it was by chance that this chosen disciple was absent, then came and heard, heard and doubted, doubted and touched, touched and believed? It was not by chance but in God's providence. In a marvelous way God's mercy arranged that the disbelieving disciple, in touching the wounds of his Master's body, should heal our wounds of disbelief.

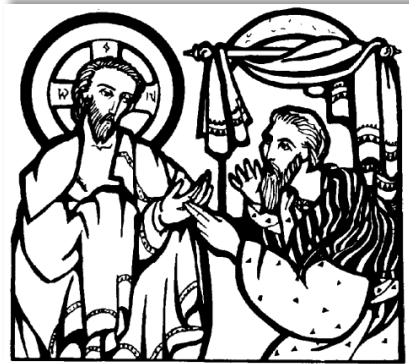
The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples. As he touches Christ and is won over to belief, every doubt is cast aside, and our faith is strengthened. So, the disciple who doubted, then felt Christ's wounds, becomes a witness to the reality of the resurrection.

Touching Christ, he cried out: ***"My Lord and my God."*** Jesus said to him: ***"Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed."*** Paul said: ***"Faith is the guarantee of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen."***

It is clear, then, that faith is the proof of what cannot be seen. What is seen gives knowledge, not faith. When Thomas saw and touched, why was he told: ***"You have believed because you have seen me?"*** Because what he saw and what he believed were different things. God cannot be seen by mortal man. Thomas saw a human being, whom he acknowledged to be God, and said: ***"My Lord and my God."*** Seeing, he believed; looking at one who was true man, he cried out that this was God, the God he could not see.

What follows is reason for great joy: ***"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*** There is here a particular reference to ourselves; we hold in our hearts One we have not seen in the flesh. We are included in these words, but only if we follow up our faith with good works. The true believer practices what he believes. But of those who pay only lip service to faith, Paul has this to say: ***"They profess to know God, but they deny him in their works."*** Therefore, James says: ***"Faith without works is dead."***

*St. Gregory the Great*



***Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed***

## ***The Fruits of Pascha***

During the 50 days which follow Pascha, the liturgical books of the Church are a well-spring of insight and renewal that aids in harvesting the fruit of the Great Fast—a period of nurturing and guidance marked by examples of people of faith answering the call to follow and serve the Risen Christ. The good habits and virtues that have begun to grow during Lent must now be harvested to serve Christ in new ways. In this state of openness to our Lord and His message, now is the time to develop ministries, to create new opportunities for service, and to go wherever Christ calls. Thus, each Sunday that leads to Pentecost contains the theme of missions and evangelism in a special way.

***Come, let us partake of a new drink, not miraculously produced from the barren rock, but from the Fountain of Immortality, springing up from the tomb of Christ, in Him is our firm strength. (Canon of Pascha)***

### **St. Thomas the Apostle PRAYER**

***Almighty and ever living God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with sure and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN***

### **Proper Posture for Prayer During the Easter Season**

During the 50 days of the paschal season, from Resurrection Matins until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost, the proper posture for **all** prayer is to stand rather than to kneel. In Church and at your icon corner at home, there is **NO KNEELING** at any time. Standing is a sign of joy. And what greater joy do we have other than the Resurrection of Christ?

### **The "Glorified-Cross" Designates "Christ Is Risen!"**

Throughout the entire Paschal Period, our Byzantine Catholic Church glorifies the triumphant Cross of Christ. So until Pentecost Sunday all of our Byzantine Crosses (even the ones you wear) should be turned in the reversed manner. Thus, the bottom bar should look as though it's backwards! For the next 50 days, it's the GLORIFIED CROSS instead of the CRUCIFIED CROSS!



# ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 Clinton Street- Aliquippa, PA 15001

**PRIEST: FATHER CHRISTIAAN KAPPES**

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ST. GEORGE CENTER: 724-375-6652

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PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org](http://www.stgeorgebyzantinecatholicchurch.org)

Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik, Dan Pinchot**

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff - Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation ..... Before Liturgies, or by appointment **Holy**

Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the priest

Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Contact the priest prior to surgery or in the event of illness

Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

Pirohi Sales ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate

Opportunities for Stewardship ..... Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month

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*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Христос Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе!*