

April 11, 2021
Thomas Sunday, Second Sunday of Pascha



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese Voistinu Voskrese!

Proprs for this Sunday: pp. 175 - 177

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., APR. 11 8:30 A.M.	THOMAS SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY + Joseph Olack , requested by Mary Elizabeth Olack
SUN., APR. 18 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY of the MYRHH-BEARING WOMEN DIVINE LITURGY + Michael & Mary Chapes , requested by son, Michael Chapes

Sunday of Saint Thomas

On the Second Sunday of Pascha the Church celebrates the confirmation of the Resurrection of Christ. Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them on the evening of that first day of the week. Despite the testimony of others that they had seen the Lord, Thomas challenged the reality of the Resurrection until he could see for himself. Eight days later they had again gathered behind locked doors. Thomas, upon seeing the risen Lord for himself cried "My Lord and my God!" Jesus then said to him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." It is not because of historical evidence or miracles that we are called to believe. We are called to believe because we have accepted the grace of God found in the preaching of the Good News.

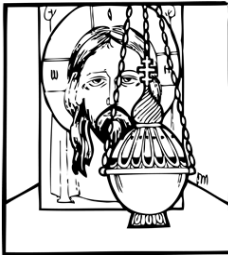
Christ is Risen! ~ Indeed He is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese! ~ Voistinu Voskrese!

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:
April 12: Nathaniel Hersh, April 13: Erik Fetkovich,
April 15: Richard Dzumba, John Simunick, Ray Varga

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:
April 15: Richard & Judy Dzumba, April 16: Francis & Connie Hersh

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins
HOME – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick
Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff
Beaver Elder Care (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Josephine Maruhnich

Epistle Readers April 11: – Reagan Cody – April 18: Joanne Futato
Ushers – Stand in as needed
Troica Holders – April 11: M. Bobanic – April 18: J. Yurosky



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
April 11 - 17, 2021
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
+ Joseph Olack
(In loving memory)
Offered By:
Wife, Mary Elizabeth Olack

*"Christ is risen, and you, O death, are annihilated!
Christ is risen, and the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is risen, and life is liberated!
Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead!
For Christ, having risen from the dead,
is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
To him be glory and power forever and ever!"*



Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!
Хрістось воскресе! Воистину воскресе!
Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!
al-Masīḥ qām! Ḥaqqan qām!
¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡En Verdad ha resucitado!
Foltamadt Krisztus! Valoban Foltamadt!
Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

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."

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

doors
Jesus
rejoiced
Holy
Thomas
mark

locked
peace
Father
Spirit
Twin
finger

fear
disciples
Receive
retained
nails
Messiah

A Note from Father Geoff

Christ is risen!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the second Sunday of Pascha, Christians of both the East and the West commemorate the story of Jesus and Thomas that took place a week after the Resurrection. The other disciples had had the benefit of seeing Jesus and hearing from him a week earlier. But Thomas had not been there and demanded proof.

When Saint Thomas finally had received his evidence, Jesus said to him: "Blessed are those who have *not* seen and yet have come to believe." (John 20:29)

Earlier - *before* the Crucifixion - Jesus had prayed for his disciples. Jesus prayed that they would be holy and remain united. And in that prayer, Jesus said, "I ask not only on behalf of these [the Apostles], but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word." (John 17:20) That's you and me; we believe through the word and witness of the Apostles who left us the Gospels and some of the Epistles. We are those "blessed" ones who "have *not* seen and yet have come to believe."

Over the many centuries since the Resurrection of our Lord it has been that Christians, generation after generation, come to believe through the witness of other Christians. Whether it is the missionary who crosses oceans to bring the Good News to unevangelized people or the simple, faithful parent who witnesses to the power of Jesus Christ in her own home, new believers are brought into the faith by those who have gone before.

How blessed are we who have not seen (at least with our physical eyes) the mystery of Christ's Resurrection, but have come to believe in it! We see instead with the eyes of our Faith. And we have the opportunity to give witness to this Faith in our day-to-day lives.

Saint Peter, who was present the day that Saint Thomas saw our risen Lord, would later write, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you." (1 Peter 3:15)

My sisters and brothers, our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ. By his precious blood he has reconciled us to God the Father; by his wounds we are healed; and by his Resurrection he has raised us to new life. Let us, with Saint Thomas, exclaim with joy: "My Lord and my God!"

In the Resurrection,

Fr. Geoff

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”(John 20:27-29)

EASTER EGGS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

I MAY LOOK PRETTY ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT I GOTTA ADMIT, INSIDE I'M A ROTTEN EGG! BUT YOU'RE SO FULL OF LIFE, IT'S BUSTING OUT OF YOU!

I USED TO BE A ROTTEN EGG! BUT JESUS TOOK AWAY MY ROTTENNESS AND GAVE ME NEW LIFE INSIDE!

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. — JOHN 20:31 NIV

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St. Thomas was one of the original Apostles. He was a dedicated follower of Christ. Thomas, unwilling to believe other Apostles had seen the risen Lord, he earned the title "doubting Thomas." On Christ's second apparition, Thomas saw the wounds in our Lord's hands and side and proclaimed, "My Lord and My God."

As the Apostles dispersed, Thomas eventually reached India.

He is the patron saint of architects.

Being like the Apostle Thomas...

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!”

As we “grow in the wisdom and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”, there will come times during which we will question aspects of our Faith. We may question: our faith in God, the Church that we have materialized, the work of the Church, or even our place in the Church. Questioning aspects of our faith affords us the opportunity to seek out answers and to advance in our knowledge of Christ.



Does this questioning imply that we too have become like the Apostle Thomas who doubted the reality of our Savior Jesus Christ? To best answer this question we must first examine the life of Saint Thomas and then reflect upon our own lives in comparison to his.

Although Thomas hesitated and questioned his faith in the Risen Christ, he, upon receiving an answer through touching the wounds of Christ, accepted without hesitation his allegiance to our Savior. Thomas, in fact, traveled farther than any of the twelve, into the land of India where he established the Christian community in Mylapur in Madras. The history of these efforts are preserved in both the Acts of Thomas (a treasured chronicle of Christianity) and the well-established community of Christians in India.

The missionary work of Thomas is characterized by both enthusiasm as well as the strict adherence to the rules of asceticism. He was so successful in his efforts that he eventually spread the message of Christ to the north of Bombay, and even to Ceylon, the pearl of the Orient. On account of this, he was eventually cast into prison and executed.

Now, if we question: our faith in God, the Church that we have materialized, the work of the Church, or even our place in the Church we should as Thomas seek an answer to our question. We should commit ourselves to finding an answer through: turning to Christ in prayer, reading Scripture, reading the Fathers of the Church, and/or asking our Spiritual Father. Upon receiving the answer to our questions, we must as Thomas, affirm our allegiance to Christ and His Church and witness our faith through our attitudes and actions.

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)

Sunday of Saint Thomas

Today is the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of Bright Week. In the Gospel we encounter the incredulity of Thomas. His doubt, however, leads to tremendous faith: "My Lord and My God". After his encounter with the Risen Lord, Thomas is sent with the other eleven to baptize all nations in the name of the Holy Trinity. Doubt followed by a commission to serve Christ illustrates how faith empowers us to serve Christ in unbelievable ways. We ourselves have not seen Christ with our physical eyes nor touched his risen body with our physical hands, yet in the Holy Spirit we have seen and touched and tasted the Word of Life, and so we believe.

On this Sunday of St. Thomas let us examine ourselves. Let us be ready to answer before our own conscience and do what is necessary to change our lives in such a way that people meeting us may look at us and say: Such people we have never seen. There is something about them that we have never seen in anyone. What is it? And we could answer: It is the life of Christ abroad in us. We are His limbs. This is the life of the Spirit in us. We are His temple. Amen.

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)

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SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh

E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

- Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies
- Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the church office
- Holy Mystery of Anointing Ask prior to surgery or serious illness
- Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding
- Religious Education Classes September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
- St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate



Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Христос Воскресе! Воскрину Воскресе!