

April 16, 2023

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!
Хрісто́сь воскресе! Воистину воскресе!*

Propers for this Sunday: pp. 175 - 180

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., APRIL 16

8:30 A.M.

THOMAS SUNDAY

DIVINE LITURGY, *distribution of Artos*

+ Ann Laffiay, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

SUN., APRIL 23

*10:00 A.M.

SUNDAY of the MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN,
ST. GEORGE the GREAT MARTYR HOLY DAY

DIVINE LITURGY, *Patronal Feast Day Luncheon following*
For the Parishioners

Today: St. Thomas Sunday

On this Sunday our Holy Church focuses on the Apostle Thomas' vision of Christ. We hear St. Thomas cry out: "My Lord and my God!" At the end of the Sunday Divine Liturgy the Prayer for the Breaking of the Artos (Pascha Bread) will take place. Following the Divine Liturgy, please come forward for the distribution of the Artos and Festal Anointing-Mirovanije.

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Happy Birthday Greetings:

None for the week

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, Mary Salamon

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

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

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

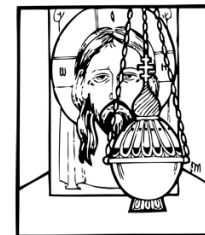
Epistle Readers – April 16: Prudy Peya – April 23: Joanne Futato

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – April: 16: R. Mudron – April 23: M. Bobanic

If you would like to be a Troica Holder, please see one of them following Liturgy.

We could always use the help!



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

April 16 - 22, 2023

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Art Todd

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Mary Salamon



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.

St. George Patronal Feast Day Celebration NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, April 23 will be our Patronal Feast Day. There will be a joint parishes Divine Liturgy, at 10:00 A.M. **This will be the only Liturgy next Sunday for both parishes.** A luncheon will follow. The parish family of St. Mary in Ambridge is also invited to attend Liturgy along with staying for the breakfast/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. Sign up today.

*Sign up for
both events
TODAY so
we are able
to prepare.*

St. George Family Bowling and Fellowship Night

In continuation of our Patronal Feast Day week, there will also be a bowling and fellowship night tentatively set for the evening of Thursday, April 27 at Sheffield Bowling Lanes in Aliquippa (*Time 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. Sheffield Bowling Lanes has a lounge and Ricky Dee's Pizza which you can order from and bring to the lanes. So plan on joining us for this Church family fun event!

It's St. George Flea Market Time!

We will again be having a Flea Market here at St. George Church this summer, date to be announced. Consider donating items you no longer need to our flea market. Items can be brought to the Center every Saturday from 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. You may also bring items on Sunday when you come to Church. Ask family and friends to consider donating items to our Flea Market. Thank you!

Clean Up Day in Aliquippa - April 22

The City of Aliquippa will be holding an Earth Day/Great American Clean Up of PA Event on Saturday, April 22 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The city is looking for neighborhood volunteers and groups to participate in a city-wide clean-up day. To register and receive supplies for a clean-up crew, call 724-375-5188. Waste Management is providing 3 dumpsters for residents to use, located at 215 Franklin, 305 Main Ave (Old Fire Station in West Aliquippa) and 1499 Kennedy. Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople has said, "The protection of the natural environment and respect for our fellow man are two sides of the same coin." And Pope Benedict XIV, of blessed memory, said, "the environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, toward future generations, and towards humanity as a whole."

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

A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The person and work of Jesus - throughout his three years of ministry on earth before his Passion, Death and Resurrection - were often an enigma, a puzzle, a mystery. He seemed to sometimes turn common sense on its head. The sick are not necessarily sick because of their sin (see John 9); the wealthy are not wealthy because of good standing with God (see Luke 18.18-30). Other times, he seemed to take the divinely-given Old Testament Law, and make it even *more* strict, *more* difficult (see Matthew 5.21-48). "Turn the other cheek," "Love your enemies," "Forgive seventy times seven times," "Whoever would be great must be the servant of all."

For the disciples, this was often puzzling. Even when Jesus, multiple times, predicted his death and resurrection, they were baffled. At the Last Supper, Jesus told Peter, "what I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." (John 13.7) In light of the Resurrection, however, everything about Jesus, his work, and his teaching, begins to make sense. Saint Oscar Romero, the archbishop and martyr of El Salvador, explained it this way:

"As long as Christ had not risen, the minds of the disciples were missing a key. There was no way to explain the behavior, the doctrine, the miracles, and all the marvelous works of the Redeemer without the resurrection. Everything about Christ remained a mystery until the moment that he had often announced, 'My hour has arrived' (John 17:1)..."

"Redemption is necessary, and it comes only by the light of the dying Christ. But the mystery becomes even more obscure when Christ ends up dead on the cross. So ends the life of the just man! Is it worthwhile being good and ending up crucified? ... Could not God send an army of angels to do away with all the persecutors of God and his church? Such questions reveal the small-mindedness of those who want to fix the world's problems by using violence. [i.e. by using the world's methods] Instead they should reflect as John did at the tomb of the risen Christ, and finally understand. For now Christ has risen; now his enemies have fled in terror. Some tried to silence the voice of the resurrection by scheming: 'We'll tell the people that while you guards were sleeping, they stole the body away.' (Matt. 28.13). But who can cover the sun with a finger? The resurrection is a sun that is already shining. (Homily, April 15, 1979)

My dear friends in Christ: by the light of the Resurrection, the Kingdom of God has already been inaugurated; it has already come into the world. And you and I, brothers and sisters, are a part of this kingdom. In light of the Resurrection, our destiny and the destiny of the world is sure. Now all that remains is for us to spread the Good News of this kingdom far and wide.

For "who can cover the sun with a finger?" Glory to his Resurrection!

In Christ,

Fr. Geoff

The Sunday of Saint Thomas the Apostle

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."



After His Resurrection, Our Lord appeared many times to His Disciples. As we heard in today's Gospel Reading (John 20:19-31) He miraculously entered a locked room, and showed them His wounds. Then He ate and drank with them, proving that He was not a ghost or a phantom, but that He was really Jesus the Christ, in the flesh.

St. Thomas was not with the rest of the Disciples in the room. When he returned, the others excitedly told him that Jesus had visited them. Thomas doubted their story - the bodily resurrection of Christ.

So the Lord appeared again, and invited Thomas to put his fingers in His side and touch the wounds made by the nails. Thomas did, and after seeing (and feeling) for himself, he finally believed. He cried out: "My Lord and my God!" and fell at Christ's feet. Christ told Thomas that He was glad that Thomas no longer doubted, but also lamented: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Our Risen Lord uses Thomas' doubt to teach both the Disciples and us that we don't need to physically touch Him to have faith. But upon hearing of Christ, we can be spiritually moved by His presence to follow Him, and trust in His promise that all people will be raised on the day He appoints for judgment, and know either the eternal joy of being reunited with God or the torment of being without Him.

St. Peter heard and understood, as he writes to his flock (I Peter 1:8): "You did not see Him, yet you loved Him; and still without seeing Him you are filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls."

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)

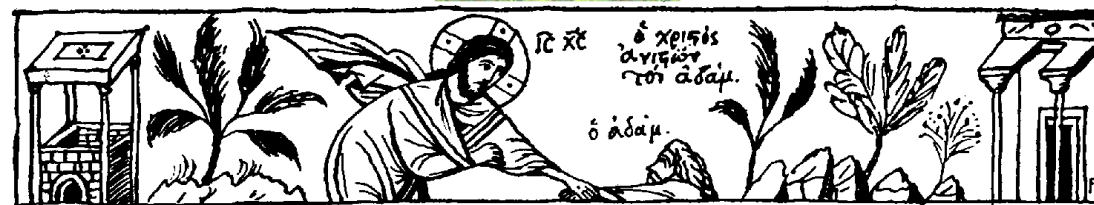
Go Tell the World!

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)

Free Lecture on the Byzantine Liturgy in Constantinople

The Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh announces its 23rd annual Ss. Cyril & Methodius Lecture on **May 10 at 7:00 PM**. This year's lecturer is **Fr. John F. Baldovin, S.J.** and is titled "**Making the City a Church: Liturgical Processions in Constantinople from the Sixth to Tenth Centuries.**" The Lecture this year will be livestreamed online at [youtube.com/c/ByzantineCatholicSeminary](https://www.youtube.com/c/ByzantineCatholicSeminary). Fr. Baldovin is Professor of Historical and Liturgical Theology at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. He is a member of the USA-East province of the Society of Jesus and received his PhD from Yale. He is a past president of the North American Academy of Liturgy and is the author of numerous publications.



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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

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



Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the pastor

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

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

Pirohi Sales 2nd Friday of each month

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

Opportunities for StewardshipChurch and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2nd week of each month.

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