

THOMAS SUNDAY  
FEAST OF SAINT GEORGE THE MARTYR



*Icon of Saint George -- April 23rd*

## April 23, 2017: Thomas Sunday

Epistle: Acts. 5: 12-20

Gospel: Jn. 20: 19-31

<b>Mon., April 24</b>	8:00	+ Anthony & Jean Kuruszko (Jadwiga & Michael Bak)
<b>Tues., April 25</b>	<b>No Divine Liturgy Today</b>	
<b>Wed., April 26</b>	<b>No Divine Liturgy Today</b>	
<b>Thurs. April 27</b>	8:00	+ Michael Evanina (Nephew Howard)
<b>Fri. April 28</b>	8:00	+ Patrick Marcinko Jr. (Dolly Daniels)
<b>Sat., April 29</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy.</b> 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Helen Wartko (Fred & Shirley Jacobs)	
<b>Sun., April 30</b>	9:00	For Our Parishioners 11:30 + Michael Augustine (Muchisky Brothers Joseph, Paul, Mark & Dave)

## Sunday of Saint Thomas

The Sunday after Pascha is called the Sunday of Thomas. The name comes from the gospel that is read on this Sunday. The Gospel begins with Jesus appearing to His Disciples on the evening of His Resurrection.

When it was late that same day, the first day of the week. . . Jesus came and stood in the midst and said to them, "Peace be to you".

...And after eight days, his Disciples were again inside and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being closed, and stood in their midst and said,

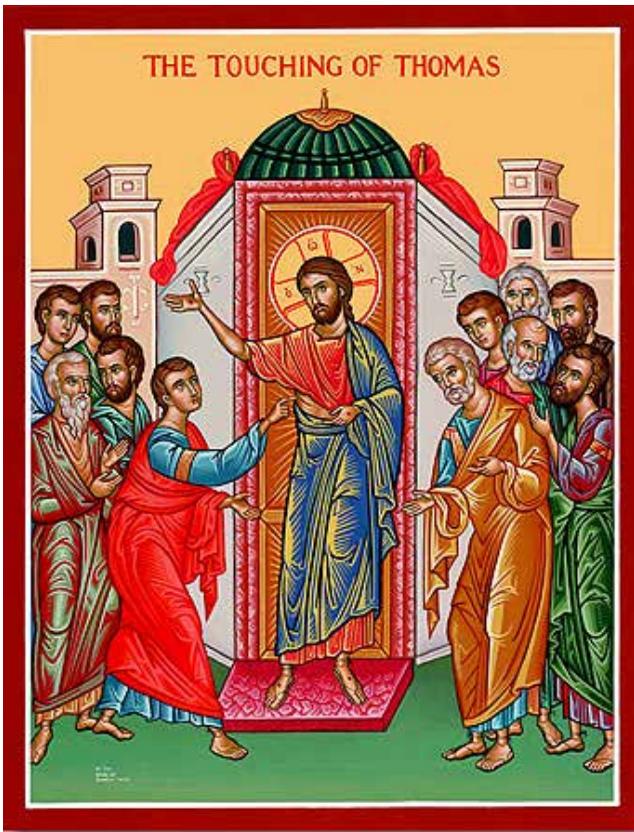
"Peace be to you!" (Jn. 20:19-27)

Thomas was not present when Jesus first showed Himself to His Disciples. When the Apostles told Thomas of the Lord's appearance, he said that he would not believe until he saw Jesus Himself. Eight days later, Jesus again appeared and called Thomas to Him and showed His hands and side that Thomas might believe.

The Church remembers this gathering of the Disciples and celebrates Thomas' confession on the eighth day after the feast of The Resurrection. Thomas' brief

but pointed affirmation of belief “My Lord and my God,” (Jn. 20:28) is the title often given to the Icon of St. Thomas. It portrays the greatest confession of anyone in the Gospels. Thomas, who has seen Christ in His earthly existence, now is transformed to see Christ through the eyes of faith.

In the Icon, Christ shows Himself to Thomas. Christ, the dominant figure at the center, initiates the activity in the Icon as He bends toward Thomas and shows him His side.



Thomas is called to see and believe. The remaining Apostles stand as witnesses to the Risen Lord. This event takes place in the upper room where the Disciples gathered, and the closed doors witness to Christ's entering even though the doors were locked. This Icon is a witness of the

Resurrection. It is a witness to us and a call to believe and profess our faith in Christ, our Lord and our God.

## Our Sincerest Thanks

Our sincerest thanks to all the members of our church who gave of their time and talent to decorate and prepare the church for Holy Week and the celebration of Pascha -- We thank you for all your help.

We also thank all those who helped with the singing. I would thank all the altar servers for all of their help. May God bless all of you for bringing the Risen Christ in our midst. [*Fr. Nestor*]

## Liturgical Notes About the Paschal Season

*This period of great festivity and joy finds its liturgical expression in the following manner:*

**Easter Greeting** - we greet each other with the Paschal salutation, "Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!" for 40 days, until Ascension Day.

**No Kneeling** - Please remember that here is NO kneeling during the entire Easter Season - from Easter Sunday until the Ascension (May 25). Kneeling has been our position of prayer during the Holy Season of the Great Fast (Lent) as the expression of our humility and our repentance.

**The Paschal Troparion** - "Christ is risen from the dead" is sung or said at the beginning or end of all prayers until the Eve of Ascension.

**The Paschal Artos Bread** - "Artos" is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. The Artos is blessed on Easter Sunday after the Ambon Prayer which is said at the end of the Liturgy. It remains on a table before the Iconostasis throughout Bright Week. It is customary, to kiss the Artos, as a way of greeting the Risen Christ. On Thomas Sunday (i.e. the Sunday after Easter), the Artos bread is distributed after the Liturgy. The Artos reminds the faithful that Christ came from Heaven to Earth, took on a human body, suffered for us, was crucified, and on the third day arose from the dead to be with us always to the end of the world. Our Lord said of Himself: "I am the living bread who came down from Heaven"(John 6:51)

## Chicago New Bishop Announcement

The hierarchy, clergy, religious and faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in USA joyfully rejoice with the good news of the Holy Father Pope Francis' appointment of the Most Reverend Venedykt (Valery) Aleksyichuk, M.S.U., as the Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saint Nicholas in Chicago. Bishop Aleksyichuk has up until now served as Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv, Ukraine. He will be the 5th Bishop of St.

Nicholas Eparchy, succeeding the Most Rev. Richard Seminack, an American born bishop who served the St. Nicholas Eparchy for 13 years until his death on August 16th, 2016 from illness. The St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy includes most of central and western USA, including Hawaii and Alaska.

Most Rev. Venedykt Aleksyichuk, M.S.U., was born in Ukraine on January 16th, 1968 and is a Ukrainian Studite

monk. He was ordained a priest in Lviv, Ukraine twenty-five years ago and as a Bishop on September 5th, 2010. Bishop Venedykt Aleksiychuk will be installed as the Bishop of St. Nicholas Eparchy in the coming months. Let us ask offer prayers of thanksgiving to Almighty

God for the blessing of a new chief shepherd for the St. Nicholas Eparchy. Let us offer prayers for Bishop Venedykt as he joyfully undertakes this new journey, under the protection and guidance of the Mother of God.

## My Church

My Church is composed of people like me. We make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help to fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

MY CHURCH will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church of noble spirit, if I, who make what it is, am filled with those things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.

[*St. Stephen Cathedral – Phoenix AZ*]

## Interesting Facts About the Bible

1. The first book of the Bible never used the word “apple” when referring to the “forbidden fruit. Some believe it was a grape, fig, pomegranate, or mushroom. (Gen 2:16-17)
2. In 1238, the books of the Bible were separated into chapters by Cardinal Hugo de S. Caro. Verse divisions did not come about until 1551 by Robertus Stephanus.
3. Sacred Scripture is historically accurate. During the time the New Testament was being written, the events of

- the time were also being reported by a secular Jewish historian by the name of Josephus. A Roman historian named Tacitus also confirmed the events.
4. All of the books of the Bible have been translated into more than 1,200 languages and is the best-selling book in history.
5. The shortest verse in the Scriptures is John 11:35 “Jesus wept.”
6. What came first, the chicken or the egg? The chicken, of course. Solved in Genesis 1:20-22.

## **Church Community Project**

The “Food and Clothing Collection, our Church Community Project for 2017 was very successful. We thank all the parishioners who donated food, clothing and their time for the specific event. The food was delivered to the Jessup Food Pantry at St. Michael’s Church, 316 First Ave., Jessup, (570-489-9963) which is The Jessup Bread Basket of NEPA for the Mid-Valley area. 2 car-loads of the food were deliveries on March 29 to the Jessup Food Bank by Lauren Telep, Michaelene Davies and Jan Granza.

On March 27 and 28th the volunteers delivered 7 carloads/ truckload of Clothes, that were collected over the week-end from the parishioners. They

were delivered to the United Neighborhood Centers (UNC) of Northeastern Penna. 410 Olive Street, Scranton. This is the 3rd year of collecting clothes for UNC.

We thank Parishioners John J. Turko, Kenny Kosakevitch, Michaelene Davis, Lauren Telep, and Jane Granza who helped to delivered the clothes on 3/27/2017 to United Neighborhood Centers of Scranton. Victor Minajew and Lauren made a 2nd delivery on March 28th.

All venues were very thankful for generosity as we “Pay it forward” to the community.

## **Fish Dinner**

Our parish realized a profit of \$ 1,085.86 from our recent fish dinner. A heartfelt thank you goes out to:

All who purchased tickets, Those who made monetary donations, John Turko for the admission tickets, Jo-

seph Kutsop for the cole slaw donation, Anonymous donor of the dinner rolls, Parish bakers for the delicious desserts, All volunteers who helped in any way.

Once again THANK YOU to all.

## **St. Cyril’s Day at the Ball Park???**

The idea has come up about possibly having a St. Cyril’s Day at PNC Field for a Railriders game. This will be pursued if there is enough Parish interest. If you

are interested, please let Father Nestor know by e-mail ([sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net](mailto:sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net)) or by phone (570-489-2271).

## **Easter Dinner “Sviachene” Celebration**

Father Myron Myronyuk and his Parish Family of Scranton’s Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will conduct their annual Easter Dinner “Sviachene” celebration on Sunday, April 30, 2017, beginning at 12:30pm in the Parish Center at 428 North Seventh Avenue. Dinner will consist of borshch, holubchy, pyrohy, ham, kobasa, horseradish, rye

bread, dessert and beverages. Takeouts available from 11:30am to 12 noon. Door prizes will be awarded along with a theme basket raffle. Admission: \$13.00 adults; \$8.00 children age 6-12; age 5 and under free. For reservations contact Maria Black at 570 503-1514. Advance reservations only - no tickets at the door. Reservation deadline is Monday, April 24.

## **St. Mary’s International Dinner Club**

ST. MARY’S BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH DINNER CLUB, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. will feature La Cena Italiana on May 11, 2017. The menu will start with Pasta e Fagioli Soup and the Entrée will be a Boneless Chicken Breast topped with Eggplant, Prosciutto & Provolone Cheeses and Fresh

Marinara Sauce, Pasta Primavera and for dessert an Italian Ricotta Pie. Coffee, Tea, Soda, and Water is available. Seatings are at 5:30 or 6:30pm and the price is only \$20.00 per person. Reservations can be made by calling 570-343-5151 no later than Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Collection Processing Team...**

The Collection Processing Team for the month of April 2017 is Team #4: Tom

Matkosky, Ed Stecco, and Joe Smagula.

## **Sunday Collection for April 15 & 16, 2017: \$**

### **Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for April 29 & 30, 2017**

	<b>Altar Boys</b>	<b>Lectors</b>
4:00 pm	Nicholas Borowski -- Brett Lowe	Bill Vervan
9:00 am	Patrick Marcinko -- John Nasevich	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Samuel Sczesniak -- Thomas Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Fight the Good Fight of Faith*

"Let us celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." ... Elsewhere the Apostle says: "Let us run with fidelity the race that has been set before us, with our eyes on Jesus, the origin and the goal of our faith."

So a man who openly despises the accolades of this world and rejects all earthly glory must also practice self-denial. Such self-denial means that you never seek your own will but God's, using God's will as a sure guide; it also means possessing nothing apart from what is held in common.

In this way it will be easier for you to carry out your superior's commands promptly, in joy and in hope; this is required of Christ's servants who are redeemed for service to the brethren. For this is what the Lord wants when He says: Whoever wishes to be first and great among you must be the last of all and a servant to all.

Our service of mankind must be given freely. One who is in such a position must be subject to everyone

and serve his brothers as if he were paying off a debt.

Moreover, those who are in charge should work harder than the others and conduct themselves with greater submission than their own subjects. Their lives should serve as a visible example of what service means, and they should remember that those who are committed to their trust are held in trust from God.

Those, then, who are in a position of authority must look after their brothers as conscientious teachers look after the young children who have been handed over to them by their parents.

If both disciples and masters have this loving relationship, then subjects will be happy to obey whatever is commanded, while superiors will be delighted to lead their brothers to perfection. If you try to outdo one another in showing respect, your life on earth will be like that of the angels.

*St. Gregory of Nyssa*

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