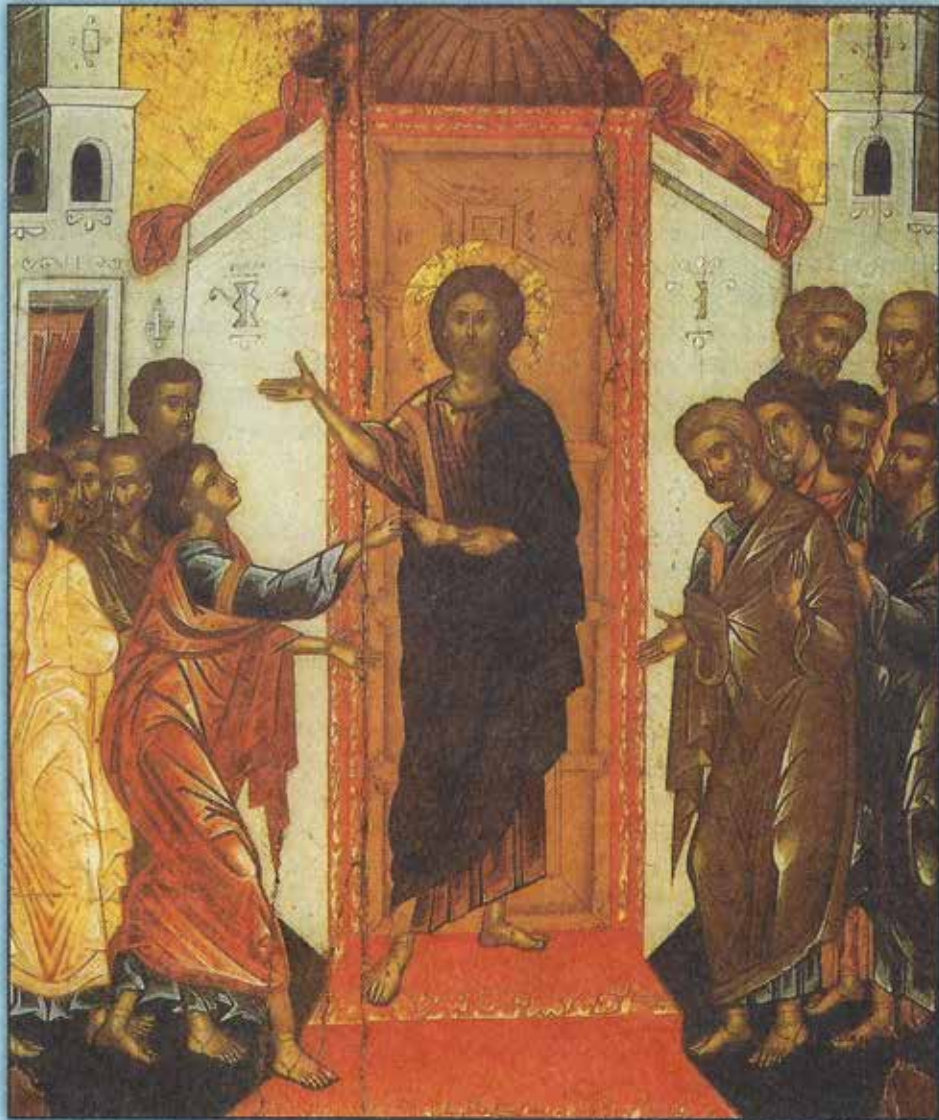


SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS



*Icon of Our Lord's Appearance to Saint Thomas*

## April 19, 2020: Thomas Sunday

Epistle: Acts 5: 12-20

Gospel: Jn. 20: 19-31

<b>Mon., April 20</b>	9:00	+ Louis, Julia, George & Ruth Daniels (Dolly Daniels)
<b>Tues., April 21</b>	9:00	+ Andrew & Julia Evanina (Howard Smith)
<b>Wed., April 22</b>	9:00	+ Harry Smetana (Legate)
<b>Thurs. April 23</b>	9:00	+ Joan Yeck Turko (Brother Bob & Family)
<b>Fri., April 24</b>	9:00	+ Mildred Wondolowski (Cecile Bordlemay)
<b>Sat., April 26</b>	<b>No Divine Liturgies Today</b>	
<b>Sun., April 27</b>	9:00	For Our Parishioners

### 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.

## LITURGICAL NOTES ABOUT THE PASCHAL SEASON



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**Χριστός Ανέστη!**  
**Christ Is Risen!**

Christ Is Risen from the dead, by death  
He has trampled down death, and on  
those in the tombs He has bestowed life.

+ + + + + + +

*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. 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)

## 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.

## **LAZINESS WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE**

“In ancient times, a king had his men place a boulder on a roadway. He then hid in the bushes, and watched to see if anyone would move the boulder out of the way. Some of the king’s wealthiest merchants and courtiers passed by and simply walked around it.

Many people blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none of them did anything about getting the stone removed.

One day, a peasant came along

carrying vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to push the stone out of the way. After much pushing and straining, he finally managed.

After the peasant went back to pick up his vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and note from the King explaining that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the road.”

## **THE WOODEN BOWL**

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year-old grandson. The old man’s hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather’s shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled onto the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. “We must do something about Grandfather,” said the son. I’ve had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor. So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since

Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl.

When the family glanced in Grandfather’s direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, “What are you making?” Just as sweetly, the boy he responded, “Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food when I grow up.” The four-year-old smiled and went back to work. The words so struck the parents that

they were speechless. The tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently lead him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days, he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth spoiled.

Children are remarkably perceptive. Their eyes ever observe, their ears ever listen, and their minds ever process the messages they absorb. If they see us patiently provide a happy home atmosphere for family members, they will imitate that attitude for the rest of their lives. The wise parent realizes that every day the building blocks are being laid for the child's future. Let us be wise builders.

## LITURGICAL SERVICES ONLINE

In all my years as a priest, this is the first time that I have celebrated the Great Fast, Holy Week and Easter without the people of God in God's house. Regardless of the restrictions of this time due to the COVID-19 plague, I continue to pray and offer services for you every day. Please remember, that while we cannot be filling our beautiful Church together, we can still worship together, by you joining our live-streaming services on Facebook or through a link on our website <https://stcyrils.weconnect.com> on YouTube.

- To make your online worship experience an expression of our "Church of the Home," please consider the following:
- Watch the services in a special place, such as in your icon corner

or the prayer space of your home.

- Prepare yourself as if you were going to Church, perhaps even dressing as you usually do for a service at the Church.
- Turn off distractions such as other media and your phone.
- Most importantly, tune in spiritually as participants, not just observers. This is still your Church!

The responses to our streaming Holy Week and Easter services have been overwhelmingly positive. I also thank all of you who have continued your financial support of our Parish. Your offerings do not go unnoticed but instead are greatly appreciated. May the Risen Lord bless all of you!

## REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH

### PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISH



DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED TIME, EVERYONE IS ENDURING HARDSHIPS.

PARISHES, WITH NO WEEKLY COLLECTIONS AND CANCELLED FUNDRAISERS, ARE ALSO EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS AND HAVE A DESPERATE NEED OF FUNDS TO PAY THEIR REGULAR BILLS AND MEET THEIR PARISH EXPENSES.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH BY MAILING YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH UNTIL PUBLIC LITURGICAL SERVICES RESUME.

During these challenging days of this coronavirus plague, it's important that we practice social distancing and encourage one another to stay healthy. It is also important to mail your weekly offerings to our Parish until

public services are resumed. With your sacrificial giving we will be able to pay our bills and continue our mission during this challenging period. Thanks for your generosity!

## ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion means uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshipping Him in His Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend the Divine Liturgy. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and

help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily. When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the following prayer:

*"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen."*

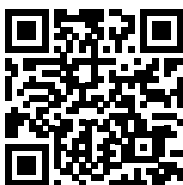
## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: [stcyrils.weconnect.com](http://stcyrils.weconnect.com)

E-Mail: [sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net](mailto:sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net)



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *The Good News within Our Heart*

Once, a famous violinist came out on the stage and made the unfortunate discovery that there was something wrong with his violin. He looked for a second and then saw that it was not his famous and valuable one. He felt paralyzed for a moment, then turned to his audience and told them, "Ladies and gentlemen: I will show you that the music is not in the instrument but in the heart."

He played as he had never played before and the music poured forth until the audience was overcome with enthusiasm and the applause almost lifted the roof off the building. Indeed, the man had revealed to them that the music was not in the machine but in his own heart.

Today, the joy of the Resurrection is still within our hearts. And, we must take to heart

the words that Our Lord spoke to His disciples when He appeared to them after His resurrection: "As the Father sent Me, so I send you ..." (John 20:21) Indeed, the Lord Himself sends us, like the apostles, to proclaim to the world that "He is risen!"

We proclaim Our Lord's resurrection not just in hymns and inspired songs, but by the very manner in which we live our lives. "Get rid of all bitterness, all anger, harsh words, slander and malice of every kind," says Saint Paul. "In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate and forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ!" (Ephesians 4:32) May the joy of the resurrection remain within our hearts every day of the year!