

## SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS



*Icon of Christ and Saint Thomas*

## April 24, 2022: Thomas Sunday

Epistle: Acts 5: 12-20

Gospel: Jn. 20: 19-31

**Mon., April 25** 9:00 + Souls in Purgatory

**Tues., April 26** 9:00 + Bill Davis (Wife, Michaelene)

**Wed., April 27** 9:00 + Donna Gula (Gloria Jablonski)

**Thurs., April 28** 9:00 + Joseph Berta (Lauren Telep)

**Fri., April 29** **No Divine Liturgy Today**

**Sat., April 30** **No Morning Divine Liturgy**

2:00 **Confessions**

4:00 pm For Our Parishioners

**Sun., May 1**

**Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers**

10:30 + Mildred Gongliewski (St. Cyril's Choir);  
Moleben to the Mother of God



## 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 be-

ing 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

*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.

## 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.

## EXCERP FROM OUR CATECHISM: CHRIST OUR PASCHA *THE RESURRECTION*

By the miraculous raising of Jairus’ daughter (see Lk. 8:41-42, 49-56), the raising of the widow’s son in Nain (see Lk. 7:11-18), and the raising of his friend Lazarus (see Jn. 11:1-57), Christ gradually prepares the apostles for his own Resurrection. Christ refers to human death as sleep: “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping” (Mt. 9:24). Death is not the end of life but a *falling asleep*; humankind is not dead, it has *fallen asleep*. The Church also

refers to Christ’s death in the same way: “In the flesh you fell asleep as a mere mortal.” St. John of Damascus unveils the meaning of Christ’s death: “Although he died as man and his holy soul was severed from his immaculate body, yet his divinity remained inseparable from both, I mean, from his soul and his body.” The death of Christ is life-giving: Christ himself permitted death to hold him, so that he might conquer it, and grant new life. (#229)

## **THE GREAT CONFUSION: “SPECTATOR” OR “PARTICIPANT”**

It seems that when people go to a sporting event, a football, basketball, or baseball game where they are supposed to be spectators, they act like participants.

**BUT...**

When they go to church, where they are supposed to be participants, they instead act like spectators.

YOU may think this is funny and that perhaps this statement is meant to be a joke. It Is Not!

You must Participate in church and let

God Participate in Your Life.

Imagine half the members of your favorite team choosing to sit and watch the game instead of playing in it – Crazy, Yes? How much more ridiculous is it that men, women, boys, girls who have been baptized, confirmed, blessed, saved by the blood of our Lord, VIEW Church as merely an occasional spectator event.

**IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW  
TO PARTICIPATE, SIMPLY ASK,  
SOMEONE WILL HELP!**

## **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.

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE**

Heavenly Father, Your Son taught us “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God.” We fervently pray in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that you inspire men to become peacemakers. May mankind

seek reconciliation and peace as is Your Will in this world. May tranquility be restored to all nations and especially Ukraine.

God, Our Father, we beseech You to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded,



and accept the souls of the dearly departed into Your heavenly kingdom. May the Most Holy Mother of God extend Her Mantle of Protection over

Ukraine and the whole world. May each of us always live our lives as instruments of Your peace, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **MOTHER'S DAY/SPRING FLOWERS**

Our Spring Flower Fundraiser continues: partnering with Jerry's For All Seasons, we are taking orders for hanging baskets. Purchase a voucher for \$20 and select your basket from the wide variety available. Order forms can be found in the church vestibule (note: the due date is incorrect on the form). Orders are due by Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Or, call Jule (570)



357-6171, or Michaelene (570) 209-2026 to order by phone. Payment is required at the time of ordering. Please make checks payable to "St. Cyril's Church." Hanging baskets can be picked up from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 7<sup>th</sup> at Jerry's For All Seasons, 201 Jessup St., Dunmore, PA. (The earlier you go, the more choices you will have.)

## **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Please keep our Maintenance Man, Victor Minajew in your prayers. Victor was admitted to the hospital this past week and will be out of work for a few weeks. Dino Szymanski will continue to work

and upkeep our buildings and properties. Anyone who wishes to can send a "Get Well" card to Victor at 653 E. Pine St., Olyphant, PA 18447.

## **BOOKS APPÉTIT 2022**

This year, the Valley Community Library will be holding its 17th annual Books Appétit fundraiser on Thursday, April 28, at 6:00 P.M. This year's Books Appétit is sponsored by Bernard A. Fagnani LLC.

The event is held inside the library, where food and drinks are donated by local restaurants are served among the stacks. Check out our huge assortment of raffle baskets and have fun with friends at the library!

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. They are available to purchase in the library or online at Eventbrite.

The Staff and Volunteers are so excited for this year's event, as this is the first time since 2019 that we are having our fundraiser in-person again. Last year's event was virtual due to Covid-19, and we missed seeing

everyone the night of event. We can't wait to see everyone on Thursday, April 28 for lots of food and fun!

Wine will be provided by this year's special guest, Maiolatesi Wine Cellars, and beer by Last Minute Brewing.

All proceeds from Books Appétit benefit Valley Community Library. The library will close at 3:00 p.m. on April 28th to prepare for the event.

## **PRE-RUMMAGE SALE SET UP FOR THE 12TH ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE ON JUNE 10TH AND 11TH 2022\***

Yes, it is that time of year again!!! Preparation for the rummage/furniture sale in June 2022. Everything will be 50% off the ticketed price, on everything inside St. Cyril's School gym. But we need to reorganize and tweak the tables and shelves already set up with merchandise. Make sure all items do have a sale ticket on them etc... During the sale, the items will be tallied, and then take 50% off the ticket price for the final sale.

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, April 26th, and Wednesday, April 27th, 2022 starting at 9:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We are asking volunteers to come and lend a helping hand. Everything will be ready for the sale, ASAP. We need to sell all the old merchandise and make room for items for the Fall 2022 Sale.

Donations dropped off NOW, will be held for the September Sale 2022. Call Lauren Telep, cell 646-241-9443 or Father Nestor at 570-291-4451.

*\* Update: Jessup's St. Ulbaldo Race and Carnival Events are taking place On May 27th and May 28th, Memorial Day Weekend, along with College Graduations. It was best to change the date and not have a conflict with the events in Jessup and graduations.*

## **COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...**

The Collection Processing Team for Joseph Smagula and Ron Barkofsky. the month of April 2022 is Team #4:

**Sunday Collection for April 15 - 17, 2022: \$**

## **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church**

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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!