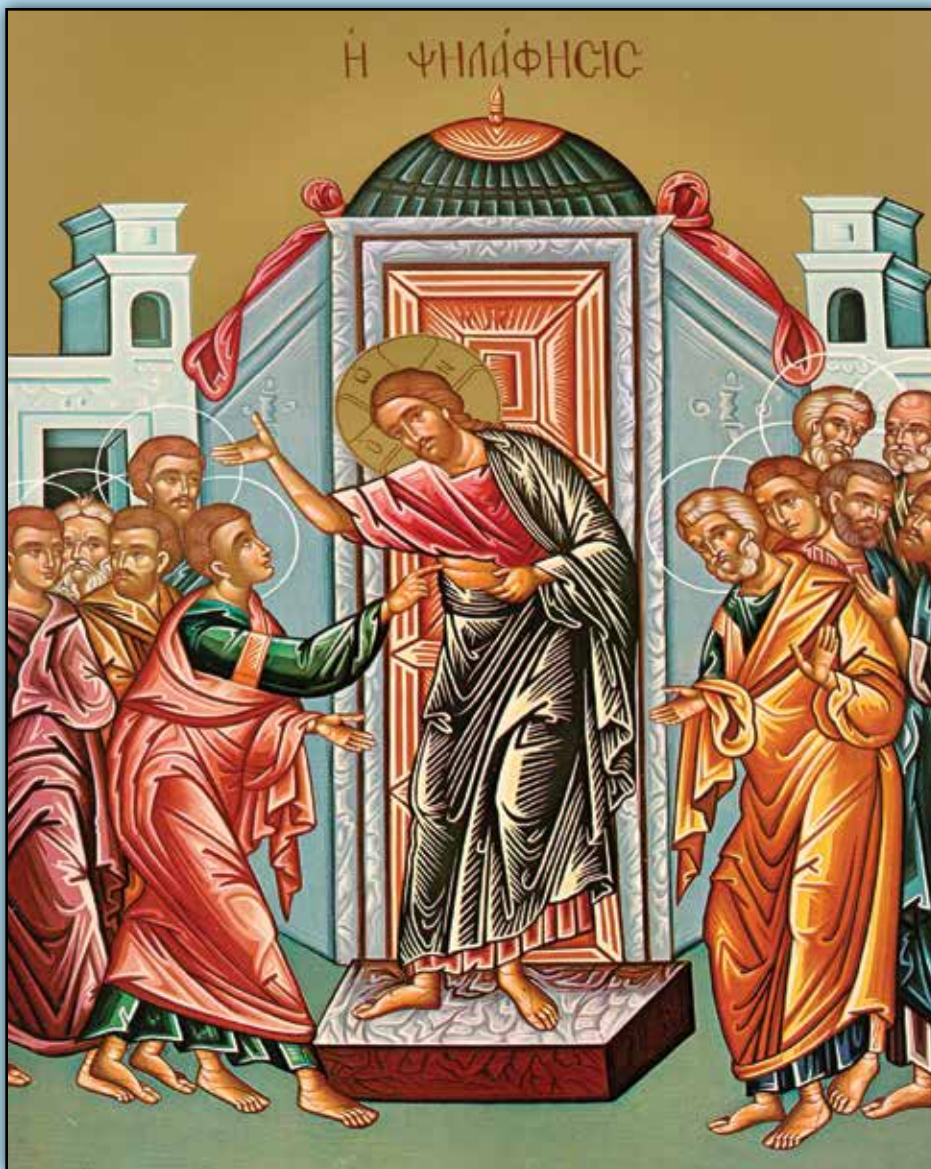


THOMAS SUNDAY



Icon of Saint Thomas and Christ

April 16, 2023: Thomas Sunday

Epistle: Acts 5: 12-20

Gospel: Jn. 20: 19-31

Mon., April 17	9:00	+ Mickey Klapatch (Frank & Susan Lesnefsky)
Tues., April 18	9:00	+ Joe Smagula (Bill & Jane Granza)
Wed., April 19	9:00	+ Gene & Gloria Hughes (Son Gene & Daughter-In-Law, Andrea & Daughter, Lynn)
Thurs., April 20	9:00	Health of Mary Patricia Brown (Howard Smith)
Fri. April 21	9:00	+ Nancy Trygar (Linda & Tom Geroulo)
Sat., April 22	No Morning Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm For Our Parishioners	
Sun., April 23	Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers 10:30 + Anna Mae Krisanda (Andrew & Maryanna Krisanda)	



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

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 en-

tire 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.

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.

OUR CONDOLENCES

In your Christian Charity, please remember in your prayers the soul of + **Dolores Kuzmick** who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, April 7th. + **Dolores**

was buried from St. Cyril's on Friday, April 14th. May her memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

LENTEN FUNDRAISER REPORT

We had a very successful Lenten Food Sale this year. The amount earned for our parish is **\$4,883**. Thank you to everyone who baked, cooked, helped in any way, and, of course, purchased

and enjoyed the food. In addition, the Lenten Flower Sale earned **\$302.54** for the parish. TOTAL for the LENTEN FUNDRAISER is: **\$5,185.54**.

PYSANKY CLASSES

Once again this year, Pysanky Classes were held in the Parish Hall. Thanks to Tammy Budnovitch and Sonia Maslar

a total of \$900.00 was raised for the Church.

KEEP OLYPHANT CLEAN

Once again, Olyphant is looking for volunteers on April 22, 2023, Saturday for the 2nd "Let's help keep Olyphant clean!" throughout the borough, even your own neighborhood. For

additional information contact Mayor Jonathan Sedlak at olyphantmayor@gmail.com or the borough building at 570-489-2135. We welcome Community service (Mid-Valley

sports teams, etc...) for all ages, Boy Scouts, Olyphant Police and Firemen, and church and neighborhood groups.

Starting at 10:00 a.m. to noon. on Earth Day!!

BOOKS APPÉTIT FUNDRAISING EVENT

Valley Community Library will hold its annual Books Appétit fundraising event on Thursday, April 27, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Featuring food donated by local restaurants, drinks, and raffle baskets. Join us for a fun night at the library! This event is for individuals 21 and older.



the Valley Community Library. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online or in person at the library.

The library will close at 2:00 p.m. on April 27 to prepare for the event.

Valley Community Library, which is a member of the Lackawanna County Library System, is located at 739 River St., Peckville, and serves residents in the Boroughs of Archbald, Blakely, Dickson City, Jessup, Throop, and Olyphant. The library is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wine will be provided by Case Quattro and beer will be provided by Breaker Brewing Company. Live music will also be performed by John Andreoli.

Event tickets cost \$30 per person in advance or \$35 at the door. All proceeds from “Books Appétit” benefit

VFW #6082 PASTA & MEATBALL DINNER FUNDRAISER

The fundraiser for the VFW Shop-Davey Post 6082 will be Sunday, April 30, 2023. The “Pasta and Meatball Dinner” for Sitting In or Take-out at

The Post House, 123 Electric Street, Peckville, PA., is Open to the public. Starts at 11:00 a.m. and until 3:00 p.m. or is sold out. Dinner Tickets are

\$11.00 each. Peter Puhulla Sr. is the eligible to join the VFW.
commander, the person to contact if

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team Barkofsky, Steve & Jeannie Cucura.
for the month of April 2023: Ron

Sunday Collection for April 7 - 9, 2023: \$

PRE-CANA WORKSHOP

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church is pleased to present a marriage preparation workshop, "Entering the Holy Mystery of Marriage", to take place on Saturday, April 22, 2023 with a follow-up session for each couple on May 6th via Zoom. The program focuses on various aspects of marriage, both spiritual and practical, and provides each person an opportunity for greater understanding of one's partner and a means to strengthen one's relationship.

In addition to various presentations and exercises, each couple will be given the opportunity to take the Catholic version of a premarital questionnaire called F.A.C.E.T. (Foundations Applied Conversation and Education Tool). The F.A.C.E.T. inventory provides participants with a computer-generated profile of

unique couple issues, challenges, strengths and realities to be discussed prior to marriage. The F.A.C.E.T. results for each couple involved will be presented to them by a Pastoral Counselor trained in the use of this tool in a subsequent 30 minute private session on May 6, 2023.

Each attending couple must commit to participating in all the sessions on April 22, 2023 as well as the 30 minute private meeting on May 6th, 2023 via Zoom.

The workshop will be held at: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1204 Valley Road, Melrose Park, PA 19027

The total cost per couple will be \$170 which includes materials, lunch and refreshments.

For more information call 215-635-1627 or email A.B.V.M@verizon.net.

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Our Exodus, Our Passover

We have been released not from physical but from spiritual bondage. We have been freed not from earthly labor but from worldly defilement. Our flight has not been from Egyptian taskmasters, nor from a godless and savage tyrant who is nonetheless a human being like ourselves, but from wicked and unclean demons who urge us to sin and from their commander, who is Satan himself.

We have passed through the sea of this present life with its pleasures and idle distractions. We have eaten spiritual manna, the bread from heaven which gives life to the world. We have drunk water from the rock, for we have found our delight in the spiritual stream flowing from Christ. By the grace of holy baptism we have crossed the Jordan and entered the land promised to the saints and worthy of them, the land the Savior himself

spoke of when He said: "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the land."

Therefore, in honor of a new happening a new hymn should be sung by the Lord's kingdom, that is, by those subject to Him and governed by Him. A hymn should be sung, worthy praise should be given, not only in the land of the Jews but from one end of the earth to the other; in other words, everywhere in the world. Of old God was known in Judaea and His name was great only in Israel, but now that we have been called by Christ to the knowledge of the truth and His glory fills all heaven and earth, fulfilling the prophecy of the Psalmist: "The whole earth shall be full of his glory."

St. Cyril of Alexandria

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com**