



April 11, 2021
THOMAS SUNDAY

Parish Schedule

Apr. 10 (Sat) Divine Liturgy **5:00pm**
Intention of our parish family

Apr. 11 (Sun) THOMAS SUNDAY
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
+Charles Zeleznik req by James and Deborah Balog

April 17 (Sat) Divine Liturgy **5:00pm**
+Susan Sabol req by Raymond Seech

Apr. 18 (Sun) SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
+Teresa Spudik and George Lucas req by family

Our Tithe to our Parish - April 4, 2021 - \$7,548.00

To all those who have been so faithful in your donations, especially during these trying times, we offer a huge Thank You! Our parishioners have been very conscious in the support of our church that allows us to continue to meet our expenses and even the extra items that come up.

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of April 11 thru April 17, for +Nick & Mary Soltis req by family.



Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.



Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, George Bodnar ,
Jude Bodnar, Pamela Seech Dawson, Steve Fekete, Margaret Gegick,
Kevin Ianni, Ted Race, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi,
Joseph Rusinko Sr.

Pope Francis

“To celebrate Easter is to believe once more that God constantly breaks into our personal histories, challenging our “conventions”, those fixed ways of thinking and acting that end up paralyzing us. To celebrate Easter is to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope.”

[Pope Francis, Homily, 31st March 2018](#)

We greet each other during the next forty days with our Paschal greeting:

CHRIST IS RISEN ! (English) INDEED HE IS RISEN !
CHRISTOS VOSKRESE ! (Slavonic) VOISTINNU VOSKRESE !
CHRISTOS ANESTI ! (Greek) ALITHOS ANESTI !



SUNDAY OF ST THOMAS *(con,t)*

God can make good happen ... even out of bad things.

We see many examples of this in the Scriptures. During the Lenten season when we were reading from the Old Testament during the Presanctified Liturgy, we heard the story of Joseph. He was one of twelve brothers ... and out of jealousy, his brothers sold him into slavery. He was taken as a slave into Egypt ... where he eventually gained the favor of Pharaoh and was placed in a very high position. Later when his father and his brothers were suffering during a famine, it was Joseph who was able to save them.

God can take even the wrong things we do and bring good out of them.

Today we hear the story of Thomas ... the disciple who was not present when the risen Christ appeared to his disciples. Thomas refused to believe that the Lord was risen ... until he could see for himself.

The hymns of our Church call his doubt a great gift to the rest of us:

*How wonderful is this doubt of Thomas!
It brought the hearts of believers
to the knowledge of God ...*



The Lord appeared to Thomas and showed him his hands and side ... let him reach out and touch the wounds ... to confirm that this was indeed the same Lord who was crucified and buried.

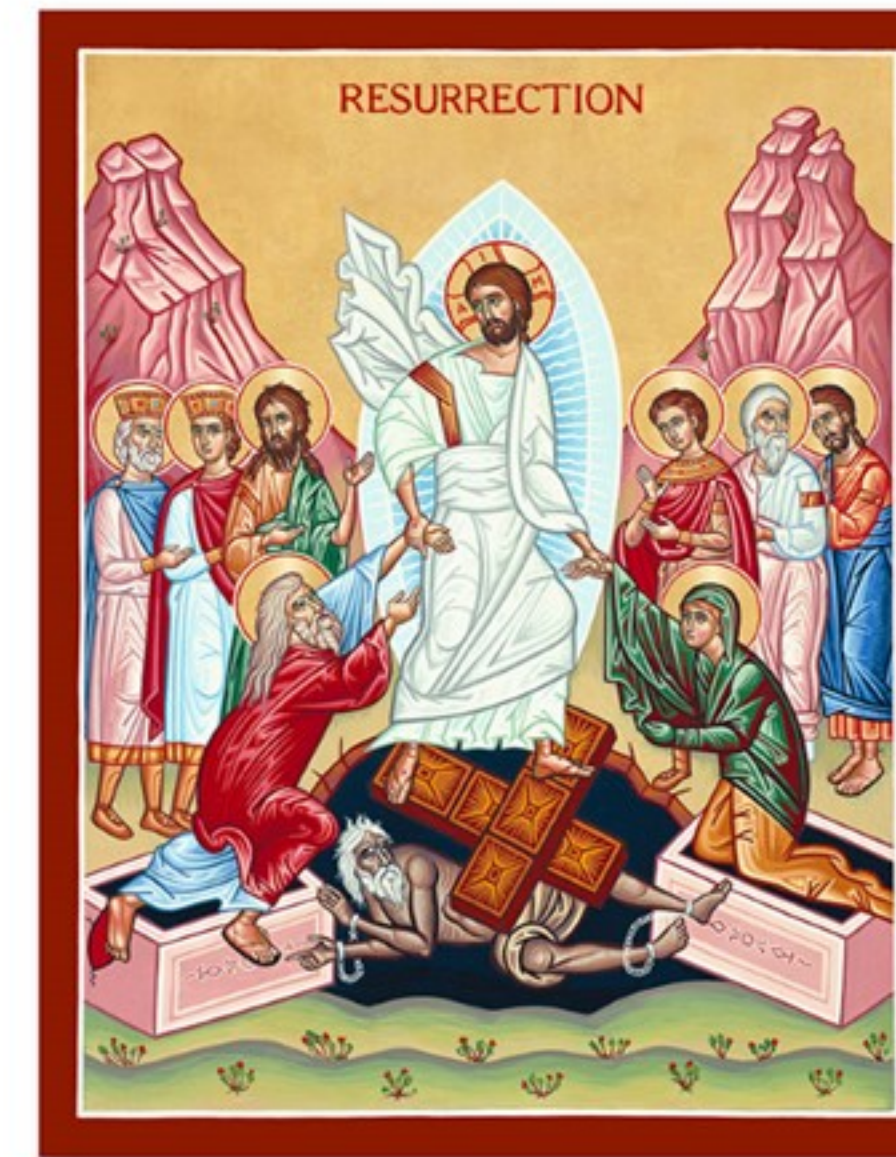
Yes, this doubt is truly wonderful! The doubt of Thomas led to this new confirmation of the Resurrection. Not only Thomas now comes to believe ... be we also strengthened in our faith.

Yes, God can make good things happen ... even from the negative parts of our life. He can write straight even with the crooked lines of our lives.

SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS

After the intensity of the Lenten season and Holy Week, the Paschal season often seems to be rather sedate. We normally do not attend church services as often ... there are not as many special practices that touch our daily living (such as fasting or keeping a more somber lifestyle) ... In fact, outside the church atmosphere, there is very little said about Easter after the day itself.

Some people even speak of feeling a little bit of a “let down” after all the fervor of the Lenten season.



Here is where our Church can speak to us and offer us some guidance in this Paschal season. There is an entire “resurrectional flavor “ that permeates our churches during this season. First of all, the Divine Liturgy is celebrated frequently again ... for it is the Paschal celebration. Every Divine Liturgy is a commemoration and celebration of the “Pascha” of the Lord ... his “Passover” from death to life! The Divine Liturgy is not just the “ordinary” service of our Church; it is truly our way of sharing in the life of the Resurrection.

Hence we continue to stand once again for all our prayers during this season ... there is no more kneeling or prostrations ... as a sign of our being lifted up in the Resurrection. Early Christians not only stood during the fifty days

until Pentecost ... they also stood every Sunday in honor of its being the Day of the Resurrection; they also stood every time that the Divine Liturgy is celebrated. Hence, that is why we stand for the Divine Liturgy throughout the rest of the year.

Notice the Troparia and Kontakia that we sing every Sunday. Their sole theme is the Resurrection. Each Sunday of the year is our weekly return to the Resurrection event ... we drink from its well.

And each of the Sunday Gospel readings after Easter continue to unfold the mystery of the Resurrection. For example, today’s story of the apostle Thomas reinforces the reality of the Resurrection not only for Thomas ... but for all who hear his story.