

**23 April 2017**  
**SUNDAY OF THOMAS, THE APOSTLE**  
**FEAST OF ST GEORGE, THE GREAT-MARTYR**

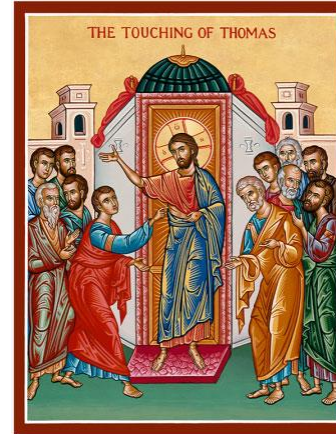
**Liturgical Schedule**

- 22 Apr (Sat) **Divine Liturgy** 5:00 pm  
 +Francis Barry req by Marian Barry
- 23 Apr (Sun) **Thomas Sunday**  
**Feast of St George, the Great-Martyr**  
**ECF Classes** 9:00 am  
**Divine Liturgy** 10:30 am  
 +Clarence Badar req by Norman & Eileen Heinack
- 24 Apr (Mon) **Divine Liturgy** 8:30 am  
 +Marie Klotz req by Mickey & Arlene Dzura
- 26 Apr (Wed) **Divine Liturgy** 8:30 am
- 28 Apr (Fri) **Divine Liturgy** 8:30 am
- 29 Apr (Sat) **Divine Liturgy** 5:00pm  
 +John Haas req by Steve & Judi Muchoney
- 30 Apr (Sun) **Sunday of the Ointment-bearing Women**  
**ECF Classes (Final ECF Class)** 9:00 am  
**Divine Liturgy** 10:30 am  
 David Huzinec req by John & Mary Hresko

**Our Tithe to Our Parish**

<b>Pascha (Easter)</b> .....	<b>\$8347.00</b>
<b>Pirohy Project</b> .....	<b>\$5147.00</b>

**SUNDAY OF THOMAS**



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 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.

The doubt of Thomas led to this new confirmation of the Resurrection. Not only Thomas now comes to believe ... but we also are 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.

## PARISH BRUNCH



Once again we would like to gather together as a parish family after the feast of Pascha. We would like to invite all of our parish to celebrate the recent accomplishments in our parish at a brunch after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 30.

The Pirohy Project will wrap up soon until next fall, and as you will notice, it is certainly the largest profit we have made in recent times. Many thanks to all those involved. The ECF year is coming to a close and the Ham Bingo was a great success. So many people are involved to make these projects such wonderful events in our parish.

In addition, there are so many folks who quietly help out behind the scenes, many of whom work diligently but look for no public acknowledgement. We also remember those who attentively assist with our liturgical services, making them the spiritually uplifting times that they are. Our parish is so richly blessed to have such wonderful people as all those mentioned above.

The brunch is a way to thank everyone for all the little and big things they do to make our parish great. We have so much to be thankful for in our vibrant faith community. Please join us for this catered meal to engage in fellowship and to recognize what makes St. Stephen's so special. Keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet so we know how many to plan for.



The Sanctuary Lamp burns before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of April 23-29 for +Stephen Heinack (req by Norman Heinack).

## BUS TRIP TO AMISH COUNTRY

Our parish is looking to organize a spring bus trip to the Amish Country in Ohio. It is a beautiful time to visit this peaceful and beautiful place, filled with picturesque farm and other rural scenes, plenty of buggies along the roads, great places for shopping and, of course, good Amish cooking!



The date for this trip is **Tuesday, 23 May**, departing from St. Stephen's at 7:00 am and returning that evening. Cost of the trip is only \$30.00 per person to cover the bus trip. The bus had a restroom, however a rest stop will be included on the trip.

If you plan on purchasing cheese at Walnut Creek, please take a small cooler with ice packs.

There is a brochure describing the itinerary for the day, and it may be found at the entrance of the church. Deadline for checks made out to St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church is Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please give payments to Ann or Mike Andrejcak... ***please do not put in the collection basket***. Bus deposit has been remitted to Sun Coach Lines with a balance due in May. If you have any questions, please call Ann at 724-863-2368.

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***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.***

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Rosella Busko, Marian Campbell, Ted Druga, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Fran Mogush, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko, Maia Rusinko, Ed Suzina, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Cecelia Stephen, Margaret Weber, John Veron Sr.



**MOUNT MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER  
UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**CANDLELIGHT DINNER FOR MARRIED COUPLES**

With Pastor Ken and Thelma Walls  
Dinner, Music and Presentation  
Thurs., Apr. 27, 2017, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.  
Offering: \$60/per couple  
Registration Due: Apr. 21, 2017



*Experience a lovely evening of music, dining and a heartwarming presentation in the atmosphere of a former 1903 Coal Baron's home.*

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**Listening in on Pope Francis ... "The Women at the Cross"**

Unlike the disciples, the women are present – just as they had been present as the Master breathed his last on the cross, and then, with Joseph of Arimathea, as he was laid in the tomb. Two women who did not run away, who remained steadfast, who faced life as it is and who knew the bitter taste of injustice. We see them there, before the tomb, filled with grief but equally incapable of accepting that things must always end this way.

If we try to imagine this scene, we can see in the faces of those women any number of other faces: the faces of mothers and grandmothers, of children and young people who bear the grievous burden of injustice and brutality. In their faces we can see reflected all those who, walking the streets of our cities, feel the pain of dire poverty, the sorrow born of exploitation and human trafficking. We can also see the faces of those who are greeted with contempt because they are immigrants, deprived of country, house and family. We see faces whose eyes bespeak loneliness and abandonment, because their hands are creased with wrinkles.

In their grief, those two women reflect the faces of all those who, walking the streets of our cities, behold human dignity crucified.