

Christ is Risen! Christos Anesti! Christos Voskrece! Al-Maseeho Qam! Hristos a Inviat!

April 15, 2018

Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20 **Gospel Reading:** John 20:19-31

Next Week: Acts 6:1-7 **Gospel Reading:** Mark 15:43-16:8

*Take time to read the scriptures to prepare your heart and mind for Sunday's Liturgy.

Services Sun., Apr. 22nd **Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women**
(3rd Sunday of Pascha)

Church School **9:15 am**
Hours **9:45 am**
Divine Liturgy **10 am**

Memorial at Cross & Grave Blessings
(Weather Permitting)

Announcements:

Christ Is Risen! What a Paschal Celebration! Okay, the weather wasn't the greatest, but it was a glorious day to celebrate together! And we did! It started with a very busy, busy lent, but we made it! Thank you to **everyone** for all of their love, prayers, generous donations of candy for our kids, of the hardboiled eggs for Pascha and the donation of the time and energy of our tireless paska bakers, the nimble hands that crafted the palm crosses for Palm Sunday, etc., etc. What a display of teamwork! But nothing less than the best from everyone which is our norm! God bless everyone and thank you for everything! Let's keep it going!

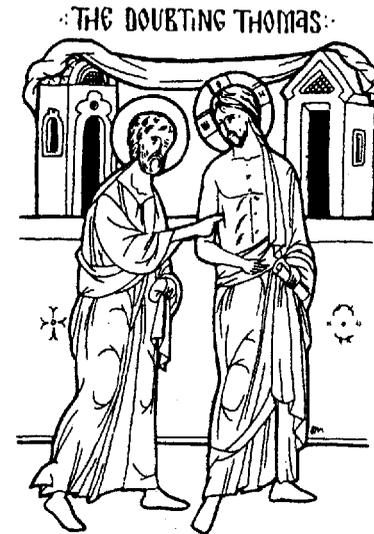
Paschal Altar Candles: The following Altar Candles were presented by the following:

In Memory of Helen Morozek and Chuck Morozek from Larry Morozek and Jody & Michelle Meisner

TODAY, we expect to celebrate the Memorial for our Beloved Departed at the Cross in front of the Church doors following Coffee Hour, weather permitting. A Procession will then proceed to the Belle Vernon Cemetery to bless the graves of family members and former parishioners. Otherwise, the Memorial will be re-scheduled for Sunday, April 22nd and/or April 29th. Also, if anyone has a request for a Paschal Grave Blessing at locations other than Belle Vernon, please let Father Stephan know so arrangements can be made.

We have another Missionary in our Midst! After nearly a 20-year absence from the mission field, Fr. Sam, with God's help and the blessing of Archbishop MELCHISEDEK, is offering his services to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center as a Team Member of a *Mission to Pilot Station, Alaska* in July 2018. The Pilot Station Mission on the Yukon River will participate in the Annual Deanery Youth Camp for young people from rural villages in remote areas of Orthodox Alaska. You can support 'our Missionary' by logging onto the OCMC link that specifies Fr. Sam's trip, missions@ocmc.org, and the clicking on Open Mission Teams. The Pilot Station Mission is at the very bottom of the list. Be sure you check Fr. Sam's name box on the donation form so that your donation will be credited to his account. **Fr. Sam and the youth of Orthodox Alaska thank you in advance for your support!**

Collection: April 1st: \$2,651; April 8th: \$3,886



APOSTLE THOMAS SUNDAY

It is a grave injustice to Apostle Thomas that he is best remembered by most Christians as the one who doubted Christ had reappeared after having been crucified, an event in this holy man's life that has lent his name to a phrase denoting an incredulous person - 'doubting Thomas.' When Jesus appeared before Thomas to display his wounds, he appeared before the entire world in a gesture so dramatic that for all time any Christian who finds himself hesitant can identify with no less than Apostle Thomas himself. This event overshadowed the tremendous missionary accomplishments of a man who had no doubts about pledging his life to the Savior, and who had no misgivings about traveling to distant India to carry the message of Jesus Christ.

In addition to his unbelief where he confirmed the faith in the Resurrection of the Lord, he revealed to the world the wondrous glorification of the Mother of God by his late arrival to her funeral. When he arrived and asked for the tomb of the Most Pure to be opened, the body was not there showing that the Lord had taken His Mother to His heavenly home.

As hardy and as courageous as any of the twelve chosen by the Lord, Thomas accepted without hesitation the challenge of converting a darkly suspicious host of people who lived in India. In this forbidding area he had outdistanced his fellow apostles in firmly establishing Christianity in one of the least spiritual lands on earth. To this day, there stands a shrine in his memory built in ancient times in Malypur and the most common name in the Christian community there happens to be Thomas. The mountain on which the Portuguese installed a beautiful cross in tribute to his work there is appropriately named Mt. St. Thomas.

St. Thomas was an enthusiastic messenger of the Messiah; therefore it was inevitable that he would incur the murderous wrath of one of the lesser tribal kings in India who imprisoned him and had him executed. His feast day is October 6th.