

Christ is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

May 5, 2019

(St. Thomas Sunday)

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., May 5th *Memorial at Cross & Grave Blessings*
(Weather Permitting)

Sun., May 12th **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:

Paschal Altar Candles: The following Altar Candle was presented by the following:
In Memory of Jereme Joseph Dudzinski by Dad, Mom & Jacob

Fr. Stephan and Matushka Denise extend warmest festal greetings to all Parishioners and wish to thank all for their Paschal gifts, cards and greetings! Christ is Risen!

Christ Is Risen! What a Paschal Celebration! Well it was overcast, 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!

Matushka Denise weekly updates our Parish website with the bulletin and prayer list, she wanted to know if you have a photo(s) from this year's Pascha you would like to share? If so, please send them to Matushka Denise at pagenealogygirl@gmail.com.

Don't forget to visit our Homebounds over this Paschal season!

Fr. Stephan will be helping his son Jacob relocate to the State of Washington for his new job and will be leaving after Liturgy on May 12th returning late Saturday, May 18th. Fr. Peterson will be available for our pastoral needs (724/483-4441). The Saturday, May 18th Vespers are cancelled.

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, May 12th. 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.

Our monthly Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday, May 14th at 7 pm.

Collection: April 28th: \$2,979.50



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 that 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.