

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023

THOMAS SUNDAY

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, April 16: Thomas Sunday

10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

for Catherine Warhola on her birthday, by Theresa Carr

4pm Confessions and 5pm Divine Liturgy through Campus Ministry

Monday, April 17: 10am Confessions through Campus Ministry

6pm Confession, 7pm Daily Vespers

Friday, April 21: 6pm Confession, 7pm Divine Liturgy

Saturday, April 22: 6pm Confession, 7pm Great Vespers

Sunday, April 23: Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers and St. George the Great-Martyr

10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

for the deceased George Bacasa, Carr, Merem, and all Georges, by Theresa Carr

4pm Confessions and 5pm Divine Liturgy through Campus Ministry

Confessions are available before Divine Liturgy. All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of church and leave it in the sacristy.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY: The advancement and increase of the Church after the resurrection was directly attributable to the testimony and the PROFESSION OF FAITH of the apostles and the early Christians. The incident about Thomas' disbelief and then his subsequent expression of complete faith recorded in today's gospel should impel all of us to stifle any dubious inclinations about the risen Christ and to proclaim: "Indeed, He is risen!"

ARCHEPARCHIAL CHOIR CONCERT TODAY AT 2PM IN THE CHURCH: ALL ARE WELCOME ~ Thank you to those who are helping with the setup and reception!

ANTIPASCHAL SUNDAY BEING OBSERVED TODAY..... The second Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Pasch is called the Antipasch which means "instead of the Pasch," and every Sunday is exactly that: a specific renewal of this same celebration. Today we renew the commemoration of the resurrection for the first time, and this Sunday, therefore, is referred to as New Sunday. The theme for today is the PROFESSION OF FAITH in the risen Jesus. The apostles met one Sunday after the resurrection event in that same "upper room" where Jesus had eaten the Passover Meal on the evening of Great Thursday. It was within the context of this sacred Jewish ritual that Jesus performed "the Breaking of the Bread"—the first Eucharist. Ever since antiquity, this particular meal has been called The Mystical Supper, for Jesus gave the apostles His real Body and precious Blood in this great sacramental Mystery. Moreover, He gave them the power to reenact this sacred rite since He commissioned them to be the first priests ordained after the image of His own High Priesthood. Thus, Christ's priests would provide the Eucharist for His faithful followers in perpetuity. It is significant that the apostles met on a Sunday, the traditional day for the eucharistic celebration. Jesus appeared among them, greeting them with "Peace!" ("Shalom!"), and He gave them the "gift of the Holy Spirit." This same experience is ours every Sunday at the Divine Liturgy. His REAL PRESENCE among us is in the Divine Eucharist. The Eucharist is the mystery—the sacrament—through which we demonstrate our profession of faith in the actual presence of Jesus among us. This is our act of faith!

Important note regarding Liturgy intentions: If you are requesting a Divine Liturgy for the deceased, please note if the date requested is the anniversary of their death. If for the living, please specify if it is for a birthday, anniversary, etc. This will help schedule the Liturgy as accurately as possible, and will let Father know which setting to use. Thank you.

1ST READING: Acts 5:12-20 (Section 14)

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Then the high priest rose up and all his companions, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and, filled with jealousy, laid hands upon the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night, the angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, led them out, and said, "Go and take your place in the temple area, and tell the people everything about this life."

~~~~~The Holy Evangelist Luke tells us in this passage that is taken from The Acts of the Holy Apostles how the young Church increased and grew after the resurrection event. Many wonders and amazing cures were occurring through the apostles' ministries, and more and more people who now believed in the risen Lord Jesus continued to join them. The apostles did as the Savior had commanded them to do, and they openly and publicly **PROFESSED THEIR FAITH**. The High priest and his supporters from the Sadducean Party, however, arrested the apostles out of jealousy because they were preaching in the Temple about the resurrected Jesus. Nevertheless, while the apostles were in prison, an angel appeared to them during the night and led them out of jail, instructing them: "Tell all the people about this New Life!" As we now renew our celebration of the paschal-resurrectional event for this first time on this Sunday, the Church commands us to do the very same thing: **PROFESS OUR FAITH** in the resurrected Lord Jesus, and tell all people in today's modern world about this New Life to which we now have access through the victorious Redeemer!

## GOSPEL: John 20:19-31 (Section 65)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples\* were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."○

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of [his] disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

~~~~~This second Sunday after Jesus' new passover is called Thomas Sunday. This name is derived from today's holy gospel pericope in which the Holy Evangelist John recounts for us what happened in the evening on the day of the resurrection itself. The apostles had met together with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. While they were thus gathered, the risen Jesus appeared to them; and in plain sight of all, He greeted them saying, "Peace be with you!" He showed the stunned apostles His hands and His wounded side, and when they were assured that it really was the living Lord, they were simply overjoyed! Jesus then breathed upon the apostles, giving them the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive or retain people's sins. One of the apostles, Thomas who was called "the twin," was not with the other ten when Jesus appeared to them on that Sunday evening. The others kept telling them that it was, indeed, Jesus Who had appeared to them, but Thomas would not believe their testimony. He himself would have to see the nail imprints in Jesus' hands and put his own finger into the nail wounds as well as into Jesus' side that had been pierced with a spear. So eight days later on the Sunday following the resurrection, Jesus appeared again in the same place to the apostles. The Lord singled-out Thomas in order that all doubt would be dispelled and be replaced by belief in Himself as the risen Redeemer. Unlike Thomas, we didn't have the opportunity to see the risen Savior physically. However, through our **PROFESSION OF FAITH**, we do believe with certitude in His holy pasch and His radiant resurrection. We put aside all doubt, cynicism, and skepticism as we make the acclamation: "Indeed, He is risen!" It becomes our task as modern-day believers in Jesus' actual physical resurrection to demonstrate and profess this belief to the entire world!