

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation May 9, 2021



St. Thomas Sunday

Troparion of PASCHA

Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs
bestowing life!

Troparion of Thomas Sunday Tone 2

From the sealed tomb, Thou
didst shine forth, O Life!
Through closed doors Thou
didst come to Thy disciples, O
Christ God! Renew in us,
through them, an upright spirit,
by the greatness of Thy mercy,
O Resurrection of all!

Sentenced to Immortality

Man sentenced God to death;
by His Resurrection, He
sentenced Man to immortality. In
return for a beating, He gives
an embrace; for abuse, a blessing;
for death, immortality. Man never
showed so much hate for God as
when he crucified Him; and God
never showed more love for man
than when he arose. Man even
wanted to reduce God to a mortal,
but God by His Resurrection
made man immortal. The crucified
God is Risen and has killed death.
Death is no more. Immortality
has surrounded man and all the
worlds.

— Blessed Justin (Popovich)



PASCHA CHRIST IS RISEN

Deus rescucitore
Cristo está recusitado
Krisztus Föltámadt
Christ est ressuscit
Christi Ungia
Krisztus er upatiginn
المسيح قام
Χριστός 'Ανέστη
CHRYSYTI RAIGAS
Hristos a Inviat
Cristo Resorto
Christus prisihele
Христос кyxвyты
CHRISTUS RESURREXIT
Christ is risen
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حضرت عیسیٰ انظار ہیں
Christus ist auferstanden
Jezus Chrystus Zmatwychwstal
Christus prisihele
Христос 'Ανέστη
CHRYSYTI RAIGAS
Hristos a Inviat
Cristo Resorto
Christus prisihele
Христос кyxвyты
CHRISTUS RESURREXIT
Christ is risen
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Announcements and Activities

Radonitsa— we will not serve Liturgy, as Fr. Lawrence needs to take Holy Communion to someone. But those who wish to meet Fr. Lawrence at the Santa Maria Cemetery, at 8AM, may join him in a panichida for our departed loved ones..

Great Vespers—Saturday, at 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy – Sunday, at 10AM

Coffee Hours— This week's Coffee Hour is being replaced by coffee and cookies, as it is Mothers Day. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Tricia, Kirk and Katherine.

Janie Emilane's funeral— we did the funeral service for Janie on Thursday. The service was streamed and is posted on our youtube site. The funeral was very paschal in character: in Janie's own final words: "It's time to go."

Parish Council— next Sunday, after Coffee Hour.

Pray for... Hierarch Nikolai (Soraich)—battling Samir's friend, **Johnny, who has been improving in the battle to save his sight. Anna J.**, who is battling health issues related to her bone marrow transplant and battle with Lyme Disease. are battling health issues. **Zoya**, who lives in Russia and is suffering from the covid virus. **Brian**, Sunday's brother. **George and Alex**, health problems. **Reposed Darrel**, Kyle's father. **Diane F. recovering from Surgery. Erika and Family. And, finally, all those who have lost their lives or are suffering as a result of the current Pandemic (which has been growing in numbers across the country and in the world), wildfires, hurricanes, and civil unrest. Jerry—Reposed. Don, Judy, Paul, Thomas, Marcella, Paul Reposed, friends of Karen and Scott T.; Donald, reposed, a relative of Stephen and Luci F Macrina**— a friend of Mike L. **Archimandrite Alexander**— Fr. Lawrence's long-time father confessor. **Kerrie Photine**—recent surgery, **Karen**—battling health issues. **Mitered Archpriest Basil**— a longtime Friend of Father's, newly reposed. **Newly reposed Emila and reposed Vadim.**

Concerning Thomas Sunday:

Today is the Apostle Thomas's day. You remember that the Lord appeared to him in a special way. Ten of the disciples were together when the Lord, having conquered death, came to them and said "Peace be with you". These were precious words. He brought peace into human souls, that peace which also comes to us now. He stood talking to them and sent them out to preach the word of God. However, one of them, Thomas, was not present. When he arrived, the others all rushed to him, saying, "Brother Thomas, we have seen the Lord, we have seen Him alive, we touched Him!" Then Thomas felt such pain in his heart, felt so hurt that he said, "I don't believe it, I don't!" (even though ten people - his brethren - were telling him so). He declared "Unless I touch His wounds with my own hands, unless I feel His newly resurrected body, I will not believe it."

Some time later the disciples had met again, locking the doors from fear of persecution, when suddenly a familiar voice rang out again, the voice of Jesus: "Peace be with you!" And there He was, standing among them. The first to whom He turned was Thomas. Jesus said "Thomas, give me your hand, touch my wounds, verify them and make sure." But of course Thomas did not try to: as soon as he saw the Lord, he was overwhelmed and fell before Him in tears, crying "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him "Because you have seen, you believed. But blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Whom is He talking about? Why, you and me. We did not see the Lord during His earthly life, but we see Him with our spiritual eyes. He is alive amongst us and we have no need to touch Him. How many saw Him with their own eyes, heard Him speak, followed Him along the streets - and did not believe, because their hearts did not respond to Christ's call. We, however, have responded. Though we are weak and powerless, though we are very different, we have come to the Lord saying "My Lord and my God."

It is true that we seem to sense the Lord's presence, as everything around us is from Him and all of it is His. I remember a scholar who spent many years studying flowers, trees and herbs - all kinds of plants and animals. He made notes on everything and drew up long lists, which even now, thirty years later, are used throughout the world. Finally, when he had finished his work with the list of living things, he said "God has been near me. I have sensed Him in His creations." Indeed, the sun above us is the eye of God, the wind's breath is God's voice, all the laws of this world are God's laws, all the reverses and changes of our fate are also from the Lord. We see and sense Him in prayer, in the Holy Scriptures and in the sacraments. When the sacred Cup is brought to us - it is the real and living Lord who is present here, in this church, as He is in all the churches of the earth. He is present not only in churches, but in all the places where people pray to Him - in the far North, in deserts and in the mountains, as well as in populous towns where millions are crowded together: everywhere there are souls turning to the Lord. They see Him and feel His presence, for they are a hundred times happier and more blessed than those who lived two thousand years ago. The Lord is with us here, living, resurrected and giving us His blessing - and we, together with His apostle Thomas, bow before Him, saying "Lord, you stand alive before me, my Lord and my God."

Amen.

(taken from *Awake to Life*, by Fr. Alexander Men)

*Translated from **Bulgakov's Handbook**, by Archpriest Eugene Tarris)*

"There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives" (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)