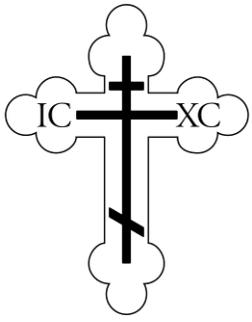
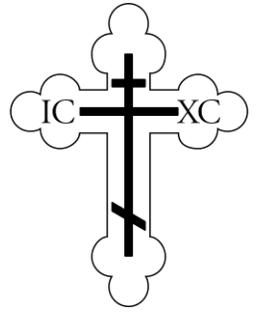


Protection of the Virgin Mary



Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays
Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays
Confessions are heard before or
after Vespers or by appointment.

**Welcome visitors!
Please join us in
the parish hall after
Divine Liturgy for
coffee hour.**

May 5, 2019 Thomas Sunday

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” The Slavonic inscription is, “The Belief of Thomas.” When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as “Antipascha.” This does not mean “opposed to Pascha,” but “in place of Pascha.” Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection. Sunday is called “Resurrection” in Russian, and “the Lord’s Day” in Greek.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 7 – Troparion of Thomas Sunday

From the sealed tomb, You shone forth, O Life!

Through closed doors You came to Your Disciples, O Christ God.

Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit,//

by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!

Tone 8 – Kontakion of Thomas Sunday

Thomas touched Your life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God,

when You came to Your Apostles through closed doors.

He cried out with all: “You are my Lord and my God!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 5.12-20

At that time, through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.

But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”

Gospel: John 20.19-31

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were

assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Anthony Leone
David Envall
Anatol Meuch

Ev.Mem. Ilya Bozich ('13)
Timothy Chechovsky ('43)

Health &	Gilbert	Brittany
Salvation:	Carol	Jennifer
Protopr. George	Peter	David
Mat. Anna	Janie	Chris
Archpr. Peter	Tom	Benjamin
Archpr. John	Elizabeth	Juliana
Pr. John	Tina	Joseph
Pr. Christopher	Adam	Cathy
Mat. Jennifer	Myah	Laurie
Andrew	Margaret	Lennox
Gideon	Diane	Linda
Kevin	Madelin	Laila
Jon	Villian	Richard
Tanya	Deborah	Paula
Kimberly	Claudia	Christopher
Gail	John	Brian
William	Carisa	Jennifer
Jovan	Natalia	Kevin
Charles	Elizabeth	Barbara
Barbara	Tom	Thomas
Theodore	Paul	Allyson
Michael	Alexander	Joseph
Julia	Darlene	Daniel
Warren	Kristin	Albert
Loretta	Mitchel	Kenneth

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

From now until Ascension, instead of "It is Truly Meet..." we sing "The angel cried..." and instead of "We have seen the true light..." we sing "Christ is risen..."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **Pascha Bake Sale** raised \$2,437 for the Church. Thank you to all the ladies who baked!

Please help yourselves to the **Pascha flowers**. Start with one pot per family until everyone has had a chance.

The O-Club would like to thank everyone who donated, assisted, or attended the **Trivia Night** on Friday for Meals on Wheels. It was a very fun evening! We are still settling expenses and will report a final total in next week's bulletin.

Beginning **next Wednesday, May 15**, we will no longer have Fellowship Night. Instead, we will have a 1-hour **Wednesday night Bible Study** with dessert beginning @ 7pm. Anyone who thinks they might be interested in participating should come next Wednesday to an introductory session. After that, we will begin reading Genesis together.

Faith Enrichment will pick up on Thursday, May 16 and continue every other Thursday as usual.

The PTVM **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 1** at the Summertree Golf Course in Crown Point. This is a major fundraiser. The proceeds will benefit our Church's building and repair fund and be used to develop charitable and educational projects in our community! Please consider sponsoring a hole (\$125), or making a monetary or prize donation. Golfers need to RSVP as soon as possible so we have an accurate count for the banquet. Those wishing to purchase tickets or to help in any way, including preparing desserts or appetizers ahead of time, please see Rich or Linda Svihra or Lara Richards. Thanks in advance! – The Golf Committee

Mark your calendars:

May 8: **Hall Committee** meeting @ 6pm
Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm

May 15: **Bible Study** @ 7pm

May 16: **Faith Enrichment** @ 10am

May 18: Annual **cemetery grounds clean-up** @ 9am

May 25: **Feeding the Flock** at First Presbyterian in Merrillville

May 27: Memorial Day **Grave Blessings** beginning at St. Mary's Cemetery @ 9am

Jun 1: Annual **Golf Outing** at Summertree in Crown Point

Last Week's Offerings to the Lord: \$2,826

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon Pascha 2019

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Monastics,
Distinguished Stewards, and the entire family of the Orthodox
Church in America:

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

Let no one fear death

For the Savior's death has set us free.

With these words, and the other powerful and inspiring words of his paschal homily, Saint John Chrysostom reminds us of that which Christ has accomplished on this bright and glorious feast of Holy Pascha: the conquering of death, the revelation of the universal Kingdom, and the reign of eternal life. Death has lost its sting and hades has been abolished, mocked, and slain. Christ is risen and life reigns.

Let no one fear death

For the Savior's death has set us free.

Life reigns and yet, on this bright and saving day, Saint John does not say that it is the Savior's resurrection that has set us free but rather His death that has done so. We manifest this reality by unceasingly singing that Christ has trampled down death by His death. It is precisely by his voluntary death upon the Cross that Christ now lifts all things unto Himself, as the resurrection icon indicates by depicting the Lord raising Adam and Eve—the whole human race—out of hades with His hands outstretched in the form of a cross.

Let no one fear death

For the Savior's death has set us free.

Yet, as we know too well, our existence remains full of corruption, illness, and passion, and ends in physical death. So, in what way have we been set free by the Savior's death? We are set free because, though we suffer, though we endure illness, though we die, we need not fear death. Death is no longer a dark abyss of nothingness, but rather becomes the very place where we behold the risen Lord in all His glory, a glory that today pierces even to the depths of hades. We are free because the grave is no longer our final dwelling place but has become an entrance into another life which is eternal, an entrance into the life which Christ Himself has given to us, 'to those in the tombs.'

In this new life, we not only come before the presence of the Lord but we gain Him for ourselves. As the Apostle Paul cries out: For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain (Philippians 1:21). If we have Christ, we live in Him and our physical death is merely the final veil to true and authentic communion with Him. How could one fear this? What we experience on the bright and radiant day of Pascha is not simply an external light and a passing jubilation but a transformation of our fear, our pain, and our sorrow into a taste of the freedom of everlasting life.

To be free, we need to gain Christ, not in a philosophical or abstract manner, but through our concrete participation in His death and His resurrection: Yesterday, O Christ, I was buried with Thee, and today I rise again with Thee, in Thy rising. By our baptism, all the painful realities of our existence—illness, despair, corruption, and death—are buried in Christ and we rise with Him who has voluntarily borne our human weakness, voluntarily endured our suffering, and voluntarily died. But by so doing, He has, with Himself, lifted up to life eternal all those who become His Body through communion with Him.

Christ is risen and not one dead remains in the grave.

The resurrection is universal—it is bestowed on all of humanity and all of creation—and therefore you and I are now free to enter into that experience in a very real way. But we need to receive that experience in the very same manner in which the Apostles received and transmitted it: That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. (I John 1:1-4).

Today, all of us—both those who have fasted and those who have disregarded the fast, both the rich and the poor, both the sober and heedless, both the sick and the healthy, both the stable and the confused—are offered this life. It is now our turn to make this joy complete by casting off the fear of death, by voluntarily dying to ourselves and living for others, by burying our passionate desires in the tomb of love, by holding back from rebuking others and by spreading our cloak over those who are falling, by rejoicing with those that rejoice and weeping with those that weep, by suffering with the sick and mourning with sinners, and by strengthening those who repent. In so doing, we will indeed enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast, receive our recompense, and enter into the joy of the Lord.

Christ is Risen!

+ Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Glory to God for all things!