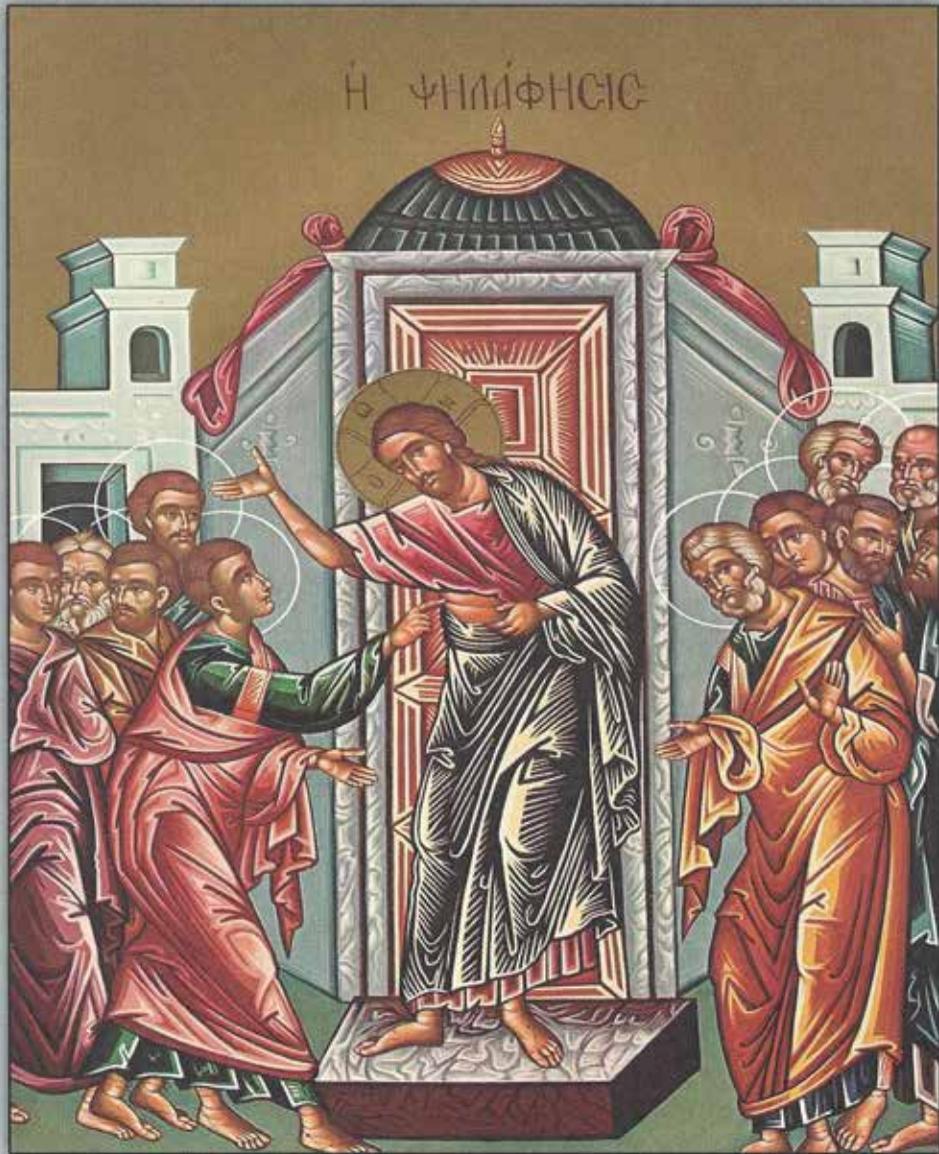


THOMAS SUNDAY



*Icon of Saint Thomas and Christ*

## April 3, 2016: Thomas Sunday

Epistle: Acts 5: 12-20

Gospel: Jn. 20: 19-31

<b>Mon., April 4</b>	8:00	+ Carol Shumek Klikus (Michael Shumek Family)
<b>Tues., April 5</b>	8:00	+ Ann Murty (Daughter)
<b>Wed., April 6</b>	8:00	+ George Beggin (Family)
<b>Thurs., April 7</b>	8:00	+ Spryn & Stracka Family (John Spryn)
<b>Fri., April 8</b>	8:00	+ Deceased of Alex Namiak Family (Rosalie Namiak)
<b>Sat., April 9</b>	<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b> 10:30 Confessions. 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Anna Chaykosky (Roman & Eileen Kushner)	
<b>Sun., April 10</b>	9:00	+ Florence Chomo (St. Cyril's Choir)
	11:30	For Our Parishioners

## Sunday of Saint Thomas

The Sunday after Pascha is called the Sunday of Thomas. The name comes from the gospel that is read on this Sunday. The Gospel begins with Jesus appearing to His Disciples on the evening of His Resurrection.

When it was late that same day, the first day of the week. . . Jesus came and stood in the midst and said to them, "Peace be to you".

. . . And after eight days, his Disciples were again inside and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being closed, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be to you!" (Jn. 20:19-27)

Thomas was not present when Jesus first showed Himself to His Disciples. When the Apostles told Thomas of the Lord's appearance, he said that he would not believe until he saw Jesus Himself. Eight days later, Jesus again appeared and called Thomas to Him and showed His hands and side that Thomas might believe.

The Church remembers this gathering of the Disciples and celebrates Thomas' confession on the eighth day after the feast of The Resurrection. Thomas' brief but pointed affirmation of belief "My Lord and my God,"

(Jn. 20:28) is the title often given to the Icon of St. Thomas. It portrays the greatest confession of anyone in the Gospels. Thomas, who has seen Christ in His earthly existence, now is transformed to see Christ through the eyes of faith.

In the Icon, Christ shows Himself to Thomas. Christ, the dominant figure at the center, initiates the activity in the Icon as He bends toward Thomas and shows him His side. Thomas is

called to see and believe. The remaining Apostles stand as witnesses to the

Risen Lord. This event takes place in the upper room where the Disciples gathered, and the closed doors witness to Christ's entering even though the doors were locked. This Icon is a witness of the Resurrection. It is a witness to us and a call to believe and profess our faith in



Christ, our Lord and our God.

## Our Sincerest Thanks

Our sincerest thanks to all the members of our church who gave of their time and talent to decorate and prepare the church for Holy Week and the celebration of Pascha -- We thank you for all your help. We also thank all those

who helped with the singing. I would thank all the altar servers for all of their help. May God bless all of you for bringing the Risen Christ in our midst. [*Fr. Nestor*]

## Kneeling in Our Church

The Pastoral Guide of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States (the official rule book for our Parishes in all four Eparchies), states in article 464: “Because kneeling is a sign of

penance in the Eastern tradition, the faithful should be discouraged from kneeling during the Paschal [Easter] Season and all Sundays of the year.

## My Church

My Church is composed of people like me. We make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help to fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring

them.

MY CHURCH will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church of noble spirit, if I, who make what it is, am filled with those things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.

[*St. Stephen Cathedral – Phoenix AZ*]

## Interesting Facts About the Bible

1. The first book of the Bible never used the word “apple” when referring to the “forbidden fruit. Some believe it was a grape, fig, pomegranate, or mushroom. (Gen 2:16-17)
2. In 1238, the books of the Bible were separated into chapters by Cardinal Hugo de S. Caro. Verse divisions did not come about until 1551 by Robertus Stephanus.
3. Sacred Scripture is historically accurate. During the time the New Testament was being written, the events of the time were also being reported by a secular Jewish historian by the name of Josephus. A Roman historian named Tacitus also confirmed the events.
4. All of the books of the Bible have been translated into more than 1,200 languages and is the best-selling book in history.
5. The shortest verse in the Scriptures is John 11:35 “Jesus wept.”
6. What came first, the chicken or the egg? The chicken, of course. Solved

in Genesis 1:20-22.

## **Parish Meeting**

There will be a Parish Meeting on Saturday, April 2, 2016 following the 4:00 Divine Liturgy. It is hoped that more people will be able to attend the meeting at this time. Among the topics of this meeting will be an update on the

sale of the Parish School, future plans for the New Hall (kindergarten building), and a possible Pilgrimage on the occasion of the Year of Mercy. All are invited to attend.

## **Easter Dinner: Sviachene**

The traditional annual Easter Dinner - "Sviachene"- sponsored by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will take place at the parish center, 428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton on Sunday, April 10, 2016, beginning at 12:30pm. Dinner will consist of holubchy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, rolls, dessert and beverages. Advance takeouts and table reservations only - no

tickets sold at the door. Takeouts available from 11:30am to 12 noon. Drawing for door prizes including Ukrainian pysanky and a theme basket raffle will be conducted. Admission: \$13.00 adults; \$6.00 children age 6-12; age 5 and under free. For reservations contact Dorothy Fleck at 570 346-4164. No reservations will be accepted after Monday, April 4.

## **Night at the Races**

"Night at the Races" sponsored by the Eureka Hose Co. No. 4 and the Olyphant Girls Softball Association will be held on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Station, 717 E. Grant St. in Olyphant.

Doors open at 5:30 pm with races at 7:00 pm. \$15 tickets include buffet and refreshments. Baskets and raffles for sale. Adults only. For tickets contact Jody at 570-487-1404 or John at 570-383-1406. Seating is limited.

## **St. Joseph Breakfast**

St. Joseph Melkite Church on North St. Francis Cabrini Avenue, West Scranton

, is holding their annual St. Joseph Breakfast, Sunday, April 17, 2016

in the church hall. Adults are \$8.00, \$4.00 children 6-10 and free under 6. Breakfast, consisting of eggs, ham, olives, hash browns, pancakes, bread, juice and hot beverages will be served from 8:00am to 1:00pm . Take-outs

are available during that time. Our special St. Joseph bread will be available in two-loaf packages. Come early for the bread, it is a best seller! Tickets will be available at the door.

## **2016 Women's Day of Prayer: Women as Caregivers: Spiritual, Pastoral and Practical Matters Sunday, April 24, 2016 at St. Vladimir's Church - Scranton**

Once again, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, in partnership with the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate and the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God will be sponsoring the 2016 Women's Day of Prayer. Developed by the members of the Philadelphia Archeparchy's Committee for the Enrichment of Women, the theme for the 2016 Women's Day reflects the Committee's Mission to offer women of all ages an occasion to grow spiritually and deepen their faith; to expand their social consciousness and their understanding of the social issues and problems facing today's women and families; and to nurture their personal development through various opportunities for enrichment.

The Day will begin with Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m. Lunch, a formal program presented in English and a closing ritual will follow. The Day will conclude by 4:00 p.m.

The program will focus upon the pastoral and practical aspects of caring for family members with special needs due to chronic illness, disability and/or advanced age and will be presented within the framework of Sacred Scripture and the values and ideals of Eastern Christian Spirituality. Additionally, suggestions as to how caregivers may provide spiritual, pastoral and practical "self-care" will be offered. Our program will be presented by Sister Joann Sosler, OSBM, Assistant Provincial for Jesus, Lover of Humanity Province of the Order of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, and Ann Stefan-

ic, a parishioner of Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. Sister Joann's presentation will address the pastoral aspects of caregiving. Ms. Stefanic's discussion will focus on the importance for caregivers to be mindful of their need for self-care. Sister Joann holds a certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Her studies for this professional designation have provided her essential skills which enable her to contribute to the biophysical, psycho-spiritual and socio-relational healing of individuals and community. She has gained much practical experience in this area through previous service as chaplain at Jeanes and Abington Hospitals.

Ms. Stefanic has cared lovingly for both her mother (during her mother's later years) and her brother who, throughout his lifetime, struggled with the effects of a chronic, disabling disease. She will offer first-person insight into the rewards and challenges she experienced during her years as caregiver for these members of her family.

We cordially invite you to participate in the 2016 Women's Day of Prayer and to complete a Registration Form. An offering of \$10 is suggested to help defray the cost of lunch. For more information, please contact Sr. Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM, at 215-379-3998. Please plan to attend ... and to bring a friend!

### **Collection Processing Team...**

A special Thank You to everyone who helped process the Holy Week and Easter Collection. The Collection Pro-

cessing Team for the month of April 2016 is Team #4: Tom Matkosky, Ed Stecco, and Joe Smagula.

### **Sunday Collection for March 26 & 27, 2016: \$**

### **Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for April 9 & 10, 2016**

	<b>Altar Boys</b>	<b>Lectors</b>
4:00 pm	Nicholas Chludzinski -- Samuel Sczesniak	Andrew Augustine
9:00 am	John Nasevich -- Michael Roberts	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Jordan Radle -- David Slachtish	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Jesus the Lamb of God*

In Egypt the Passover lamb was slain, in Sion the True Lamb slaughtered. My brothers, let us consider the two lambs, let us see where they bear resemblance and where they differ. Let us weigh and compare their achievements - of the lamb that was the symbol, and of the Lamb that is the Truth. Let us look upon the symbol as a shadow, let us look upon the Truth as the fulfillment. Listen to the simple symbols that concern that Passover, and to the double achievements of this our Passover. With the Passover lamb there took place for the Jewish people an exodus from Egypt, and not an entry. So with the True Lamb there took place for the Gentiles an Exodus from error, and not an entry.

With the Living Lamb there was a further Exodus, too, for the dead from Sheol, as from Egypt. For in Egypt two symbols are depicted, since it reflects both Sheol and Error. With the Passover lamb, Egypt's greed learned to give back, against its wont; With the Living Lamb, Sheol's hunger

gave back the dead, against its nature. With the True Lamb, greedy Error rejected and cast up the Gentiles who were saved; With that Passover lamb, Pharaoh returned the Jewish people whom, like Death, he had held back.

With the Living Lamb, Death has returned the just, who left their graves. With the True Lamb, Satan gave up the Gentiles whom, like Pharaoh, he had held back. In Pharaoh two types were depicted; he was a pointer to both Death and Satan. With the Passover lamb, Egypt was breached and a path stretched out before the Hebrews. With the True Lamb, Satan, having fenced off all paths left free the path that leads to Truth. The True Lamb had trodden out, with that cry which he uttered, the path from the grave for those who lie buried. Praise to the Son, the Lord of symbols who fulfilled every symbol at His Resurrection.

*St. Ephrem the Syrian*

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)