

Saintly Notes

New Sunday

(Commemoration of St. Thomas the Apostle)

Thomas appears in a few passages in the Gospel of John. In John 11:16, when Lazarus has just died, the disciples are resisting Jesus' decision to return to Judea, where the Jews had previously tried to stone Jesus. Jesus is determined, but Thomas has the last word: "Let us also go, that we might die with him" (NIV).

He also speaks up at The Last Supper in John 14:5. Jesus assures his disciples that they know where he is going, but Thomas protests that they don't know at all. Jesus replies to this and to Philip's requests with a detailed and difficult exposition of his relationship to God the Father.

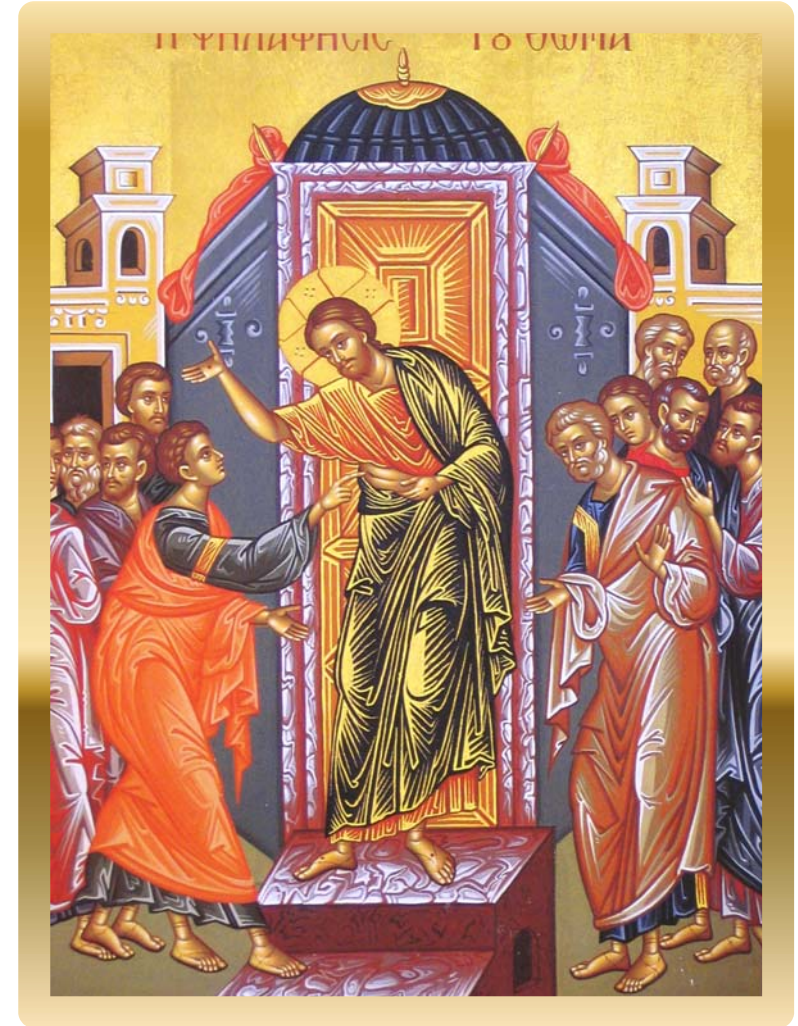
In Thomas's best known appearance in the New Testament, John 20:24-29, he doubts the resurrection of Jesus and demands to feel Jesus' wounds before being convinced. This story is the origin of the term *Doubting Thomas*. After seeing Jesus alive (the Bible never states whether Thomas actually touched Christ's wounds), Thomas professed his faith in Jesus, exclaiming "My Lord and my God!"; on this account he is also called *Thomas the Believer*.

Just as Saints Peter and Paul are said to have brought the fledgling Christianity to Greece and Rome, Saint Mark brought it to Egypt, Saint John to Syria and Asia Minor, Thomas is often said to have taken it eastwards as far as India.

New Sunday

(Commemoration of St. Thomas the Apostle)

April 26, 2009





New Sunday

(Commemoration of St. Thomas the Apostle)

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

April 26, 2009

The Saints Whom We Remember Today

Hieromartyr Basil, bishop of Amasea; Venerable Glaphyra and George;
Stephen, bishop of Perm; Ioanikios of Devitch

This Week's Schedule

Today: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy
Monday: Church Office Closed
Wednesday: 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Vespers
Thursday: 7:00p Building Committee
Saturday: 1:00p Baptism; 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

Third Antiphon

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

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

Verse: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.
(Refrain)

Verse: So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad. (Refrain)

Verse: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.
(Refrain)

Entrance Hymn

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord from the springs of Israel. O Son of

God, who didst rise from the dead, save us, who sing unto Thee. Alleluia.

Troparion

for St. Thomas—Tone 7

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Light. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

Kontakion

for Pascha—Tone 8

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Acts 6:1–7

Gospel: Mark 15:43—16:8

Alegalynarion

Tone 1

O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee.

Communion Hymn

Tone 4

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion. Alleluia.

Post-Communion Hymn

Christ is Risen from the dead, . . .

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Matthew Wynne, Del Dillard, Noah Keim, Micah Keim, Johannes Kibret, Nicholas Kliewer, Roger Jones.

Special Attention

- **Food for the Hungry Collection Boxes in the Narthex.** He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done. (Proverbs 19:17). You may bring your full boxes to the church and give them to either an usher or greeter who will make sure that they are counted toward our

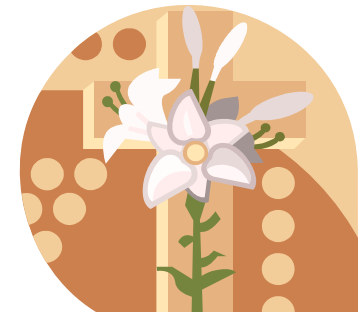
overall parish Food for the Hungry total.

- **Thank You to All.** On behalf of our entire parish, I want to thank all of the people who helped to make this Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha so meaningful and beautiful. A special thank you to our clergy, Fr. Philip, and Deacon David, our readers and chanters, Subdeacon David, our choir, our altar servers, the St. Thekla Women, our flower coordinator, Andrea Haynes, our greeters, and our parking directors. All of these people worked very hard and long to make our celebration of Pascha beautiful. May God grant you all many, many, many years.

Fr. Nicholas

- **Special Pascha Offering.** The Pascha offering this year will be used to begin a special fund for the Pantocrator Icon that will be written in the dome of our new nave. The offering will be placed in the Building Fund and designated for the dome icon. Pascha envelopes are available on the narthex table.

Christ is Risen!



Truly, He is Risen!

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenion:

Great is the Lord, and great is His power.

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

†**Epistle: Acts 5:12–20 (RSV)**

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested 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 and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

†**Gospel: John 20:19–31 (RSV)**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them 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. Jesus said to them again, "Peace

be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I 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; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the 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.

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenion:

Great is the Lord, and great is His power.

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

†**Epistle: Acts 5:12–20 (RSV)**

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested 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 and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

†**Gospel: John 20:19–31 (RSV)**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them 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. Jesus said to them again, "Peace

be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I 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; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the 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.

A Word from Our Fathers

“While standing in church one must listen attentively to the church chanting and reading, and whoever is able, must not stop saying the Prayer of Jesus, especially when the church reading is bad or incomprehensible.”

(St. Ambrose of Optina)

“The church is for us an earthly heaven where God Himself abides and looks upon those standing there. Therefore, we must stand orderly in church, with great reverence. Let us love the church and let us be zealous towards it.

It is a comfort and consolation for us in time of sorrows and of joys.”

(St. Hilarion of Optina)

A Word from Our Fathers

“While standing in church one must listen attentively to the church chanting and reading, and whoever is able, must not stop saying the Prayer of Jesus, especially when the church reading is bad or incomprehensible.”

(St. Ambrose of Optina)

“The church is for us an earthly heaven where God Himself abides and looks upon those standing there. Therefore, we must stand orderly in church, with great reverence. Let us love the church and let us be zealous towards it.

It is a comfort and consolation for us in time of sorrows and of joys.”

(St. Hilarion of Optina)