

SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

REV. FR. GREGORY BRUNER: DEAN

(779) 875-1084 | FRGBRUNER@GMAIL.COM

738 GLENWOOD ROAD, ROSSFORD, OHIO 43460 | [HTTP://WWW.STGEORGEROSSFORD.ORG](http://www.stgeorgerossford.org)

April 26th, 2020

2nd Second after Pascha - Tone 1
St. Thomas Sunday / Antipascha
Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea



From the Fathers...

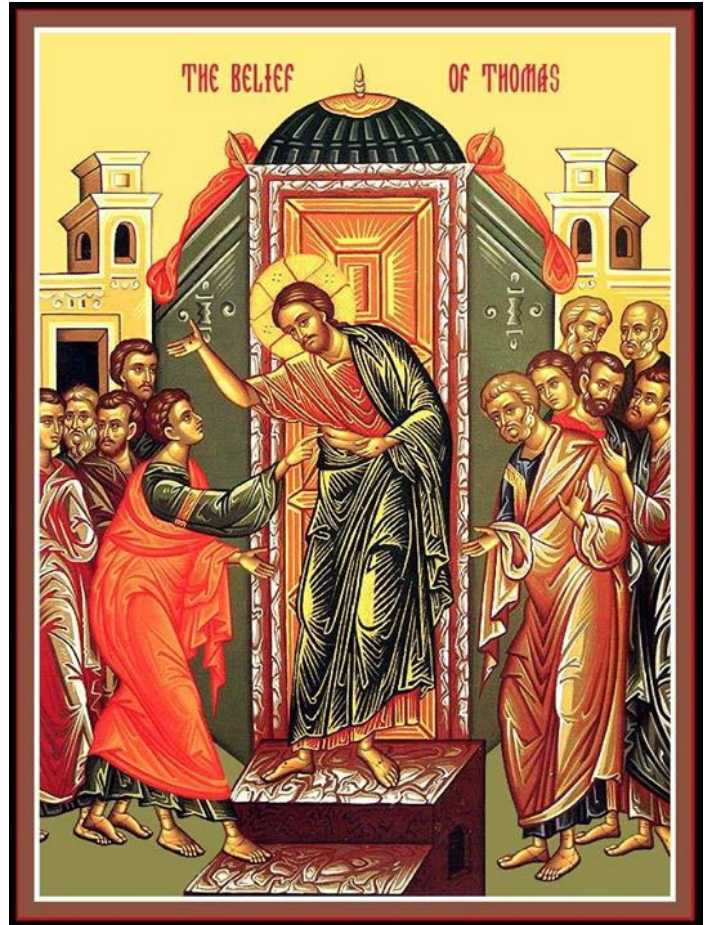
"Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave."

- St. John Chrysostom



Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



Eight days after Thy Resurrection, O Lord,/ Thou camest to Thine Apostles/ proclaiming: "Peace be with you all!"/ To the doubting Disciple, Thou didst show Thy hands and side./ He believed and cried to Thee:// "My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!"

Thomas, called the Twin, was not with the Disciples, O Christ,/ when Thou camest to them through closed doors./ Therefore he doubted their word./ Thou didst not reject him for his faithlessness./ When he saw Thy side and the wounds in Thy hands and feet,/ his faith was made certain./ Having touched and seen,/ he confessed Thee to be truly God, not only man, // crying: "My Lord and my God, glory to Thee!"

After Thy rising, O Lord,/ though the doors were shut, / Thou didst come to thine assembled Disciples,/ and didst grant them peace./ Even Thomas believed, seeing Thy hands and side;/ and he confessed Thee as Lord and God, // Who savest those who hope in Thee, O Lover of man! (*Stichera of Lord, I Call*)

A PARISH OF THE BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Pentecostarion Troparion in Tone 7

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!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Pentecostarion Kontakion in Tone 8

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, / when Thou didst come to Thy Apostles through closed doors. // He cried out with all: "Thou art my Lord and my God!"

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

And 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.

Sunday, April 26th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

Antipascha—2nd Sunday of Pascha

St. Thomas Sunday

Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea

Acts 5:12-20, John 20:19-31

Monday, April 27th

Hieromartyr Simeon, the kinsman of the Lord

St. Eulogius, the Hospitable, of Constantinople

Acts 3:19-26, John 2:1-11

Tuesday, April 28th

Day of Rejoicing (Radonitsa)

Apostles Jason and Sosipater of the Seventy

Acts 4:1-10, John 3:16-21

Wednesday, April 29th

Nine Martyrs at Cyzicus

Ven. Menmon the Wonderworker

Acts 4:13-22, John 5:17-24

Thursday, April 30th

Holy Apostle James, brother of St. John the Theologian

St. Nonatus, Bishop of Euroea in Epirus

Acts 4:23-31, Acts 12:1-11

John 5:24-30, Luke 5:1-11

Friday, May 1st

Prophet Jeremiah

Martyr Bata the Persian

Rt. Blv. Tamar, Queen of Georgia

Acts 5:1-11, John 5:30-6:2

Saturday, May 2nd

5:00 PM Great Vespers (Livestream)

St. Athanasius the Great, Patriarch of Alexandria

St. Boris, in baptism Michael, Prince of Bulgaria

Translation of Relics of Passionbearers Boris and Gleb

Acts 5:21-33, John 6:14-27

Sunday, May 3rd

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream)

3rd Sunday of Pascha—Holy Myrrbearing Women

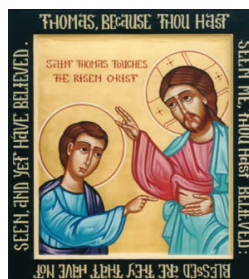
Martyrs Timothy the Reader and his wife Maura in Egypt

Ven. Theodosius, Abbot of the Kiev Caves Monastery

Acts 6:1-7, Mark 15:43-16:8



Thomas the Apostle



Thomas will flee in fear when his Master suffers and dies. But like his fellow apostle Peter, he will find that Jesus' love never fails, even when his own courage fails miserably.

We first meet Thomas when Jesus calls the twelve to follow Him, warning them of persecution and tribulation to come, and telling them they must

depend on God for their sustenance. Thomas, like the other eleven, accepts this demanding responsibility. That in itself shows their love and loyalty to Christ. So many others abandon Jesus after hearing the "hard sayings" that He asks the twelve, in John 6:67, "Will you also go away?"

Thomas shows his good intentions at another significant moment. When Jesus tells the apostles (John 11: 7) that he plans to return to Judea and Jerusalem, they remind Him that the people there recently wanted to stone Him. They ask incredulously, "Are You going there again?" Only Thomas, out of the whole group, pledges his loyalty and urges the others to be loyal by saying, "Let us go also, that we may die with Him." His impulse is to overcome fear and be true to his Lord. But of course, Thomas will not live up to his well-meaning words any more than Peter will fulfill his promise to accompany Christ to prison and to death.

Thomas is mentioned again in John 20:24-29, eight days after Christ has appeared to the other apostles. We are not told why Thomas wasn't present at Christ's first appearance, just as we don't know who his twin was, though he is called "the Twin." We do know that when the others tell him they have seen Christ he is skeptical, and announces that he requires graphic physical proof if he is to believe.

For eight days Thomas has to wait to see Christ, and during those long days he is not buoyed by the hope and certainty of the others who have already seen Him. Yet Thomas waits. He is rewarded by Christ's act of deep love. The Lord gives him permission to "reach your hand here and put in into My side." By saying this, Christ gives Thomas what he personally needs to confirm his faith. It is this act of loving understanding, rather than any actual touching, that empowers Thomas to proclaim, "My Lord and My God!"

History tells us that Thomas, having been shown such love and understanding of his personal need, grew into a great apostle. He traveled far, probably farther than any other apostle, to preach and teach. He was a great builder of churches and is called the patron saint of architects.

Mary Magdalene needed only to hear the Lord say her name, that morning at the tomb, to know Him (John 20:16). Thomas needed much more. Christ fulfilled each of their needs, and they went on to be His powerful witnesses far beyond Palestine. That's what can happen to needy people when they respond sincerely to the One who, as our prayers tell us, knows what we need even before we ask.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Guidance for COVID-19

Livestream Services

All of these services will be **live streamed on Facebook** and finished recordings will be **uploaded to YouTube**. **Like, Share, Subscribe** to both to be notified when new postings are available. The schedule is also available online at our website.

When the "all clear" is given, the Archbishop will designate a Sunday on which we will celebrate in full Paschal Matins and Liturgy, regardless of what time of year it actually is.

Attendance at Services

Attendance at services is **limited only to those who need to be there**: the priest, a server, a reader, and a chanter. By directive of the Holy Synod there are signs on the entrances to both the church and the hall indicating that "no one may enter the building without the express blessing of the parish priest, due to the Covid-19 pandemic".

Confessions and Visitations

By directive of the Holy Synod, a blessing has been extended to forgo confession at this time. Due to restrictions put in place by hospitals, visitations are limited only to those who are very sick or dying.

Bulletin Sponsors

Bulletin sponsorships are still available, even in our current digital world. Sponsorships can be emailed directly to Fr. Gregory and can be paid online through tithe.ly on our website.

Stewardship

We encourage you to continue giving your regular offerings during this time. Please review our new online giving option now available on our website!

Heartbeat of Toledo

Heartbeat of Toledo has been forced to cancel their upcoming fundraiser in April and have been hit particularly hard with the recent economic downturn. Donation can be sent to the church and made out to St. George Cathedral (memo line "Heartbeat of Toledo").

New Look for stgeorgerossford.org

Have you seen our new website? After many months of diligent work, the new website is finally live. Please take time to take a look and explore the new features. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Prayer Calendar

The Quarterly prayer calendar is now available online at: www.stgeorgerossford.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Prayer-Calendar-Q2.pdf

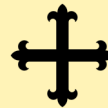
We are praying for...

Health and Well-Being:

Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

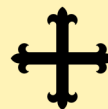
Catechumens:

Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



Sanctuary Lamp

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! The sanctuary lamp is lit today for Jim and Sarah Allen in appreciation of all their work during Holy Week and Bright Week. The services would not have been possible without you!



Celebrations

Birthdays:

Cy Costoff (5/1)

