

SUNDAY OF THOMAS

April 23, 2017

Saints Commemorated today: St. George the Great Martyr and Triumphant

EPISTLE READING

Acts 12:1-11

Brethren, about that time, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church.

The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

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.

TROPARION FOR THE SUNDAY OF THOMAS

O Christ God, Thomas explored your vivifying side with an eager hand; and since You had entered the room while the doors were closed He cried out with the other apostles, "You are my Lord and my God!"



**HRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI!
HE IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!**

PHILOPTOCHOS

The Philoptochos meeting will be on Thursday, April 27th at 6:30 P.M. Philoptochos elections to the Philoptochos board will take place on May 25th at 6:30 P.M. Philoptochos Members in good standing that have attended at least 4 meetings and been members for at least one year will be eligible to be on the board. See attached Notice for complete information. I would like to thank everyone that has been supportive of Philoptochos and all Members that have helped to make Philoptochos successful in serving others. With love in Christ, Mary Jo Tirikos

FESTIVAL CHILDREN'S AREA

I'd like to communicate with you regarding the Children's Area during this year's festival.

As we've discussed before, this area is a real challenge for us, because it's been very difficult to recruit enough parishioner volunteers to staff it. We've discussed perhaps not having a kid's area, but always conclude that this is not feasible, because we MUST provide options for the children who come to our event. So even if we can't make a profit in this area, we need to offer it as a service to our guests. Last year we spent over \$700 to pay Notre Dame students to staff it. It's a shame that amount couldn't have gone into our profit, but again, very few of parishioners seem to have the desire or patience to work with the kids. Please note that we now have a tent over this area, so it's much more comfortable during the summer heat. Plus Abigail and Marty Mechtenberg have done a PHENOMENAL job planning, organizing, staffing and majorly funding this area, so I'm hoping this will encourage more parishioners to help staff it during the event this year. So a couple of critical help requests:

1) Please volunteer to help in this area so we don't have to pay to run it. Contact Mary Jo Tirikos to volunteer - mjtirikos@msn.com

2) Donate or loan us outdoor children's games that may be collecting dust in your garage or basement - or that you may want to make specifically for the festival. We have decided NOT to rent games from Burns this year, in order save money, but will instead find or make games for this area over the next few months. Yes, we WILL rent the 2 bounce houses again because they both got LOTS of use last year.

Please bring games to the church office or give to Abigail or Marty Mechtenberg.

Thanks in advance for stepping up with this cause.. It will benefit festival profit and how important is that for our church's biggest fund raiser?! Regards, Spyro Terezis

FESTIVAL AD BOOK

If everyone submits an ad or more the program will be more profitable. Get the ads or customers to Mary Jo Tirikos and she will do the rest. Keep in mind, anyone can put a message in the program such as a memorial or acknowledgement.. We would appreciate assistance on this project if anyone would like to help. This doesn't require physical work unless you are going to a business in person. The help needed would be making some calls to the previous businesses or individuals that placed an ad in the program. If anyone would like to help with the creative design of the program let Mary Jo know. The cover will match our festival theme and poster. The Festival Ad Form is on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Looking forward to serving the Lord and the community at our St. Andrew Festival. Mary Jo Tirikos: mjtirikos@msn.com Ph: 574-258-6032 Fax: 574-217-8284 Cell: 330-881-6032

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

The Adult Bible Study class will on **Wednesdays at 5:15pm** during Lent. If you are a regular attendee and unable to make it to class, please contact Alexis. Thank you.

COFFEE HOUR

Please note that the coffee helpers, *at Father George's direction*, do not start brewing the coffee until Father begins passing out the Antidoron. We thank you for your patience and cooperation.

PROSFORO COMMITTEE

Jesus is the Bread of Life Who offers Himself for our salvation. "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood you have no life in you; he who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:53-54). **We are in need of parishioners willing to join the Prosforo Committee. Generally it means making the Prosforo for two Sundays during the year and occasionally making extra for weekday Liturgies. Please contact the office if you are able to volunteer. Thank you.**

DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Discretionary Fund is to assist families that face financial crisis, students that need financial aid, single moms, philanthropic institutions in this city and overseas, people with catastrophic illnesses, and missions for the Archdiocese, etc. Thank you for your support. If you would like to help please contact Father George or make donations payable to the Discretionary Fund.

BULLETIN FLYERS

We will no longer be including flyers in the weekly bulletin. They are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. This week there are flyers for: **Festival Ad Book, Apollo Dance Troupe, Direct (Auto) Debit forms.** Please take what you need.

REQUEST FOR TRANSFERRING PARISHIONERS

We are blessed to welcome new parishioners to Saint Andrews. We ask that you pick up a welcome packet from the table in the Fellowship Hall. You should call the office and schedule an appointment with Father prior to beginning to receive the Sacraments. *We also ask transferring parishioners to follow the Uniform Parish*

Regulations, Art 18, Sec 2: "A parishioner wishing to move from one Parish to another must present a letter of transfer from the Priest of the Parish from which he or she is moving stating that he or she is in good standing."

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

There should be NO talking in the Narthex during the Divine Liturgy. (No one should be congregating in the hallways or Fellowship Hall). It is completely disrespectful to God and to the worship service of our Church.

Please remember to dress appropriately and modestly for church services. There is no chewing gum, talking or crossing your legs in church. Everyone should arrive on time for the Liturgy. Do not leave trash (bulletins, paper, etc) in the pews. It is considered disrespectful for anyone attending Orthodox Christian services to cross their legs during service, chew gum or come in late. Also women who are planning on taking Communion should not wear lipstick or should remove it before going up for Communion.

TURN OFF CELL PHONES. Thank you.

A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

People of different religious affiliation or tradition who behave in a respectful manner are always welcome at the liturgical services of our Holy Orthodox Church but **ONLY MEMBERS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH who share a common faith and practice a specific spiritual discipline may participate in the Church's sacraments and receive Holy Communion at the Orthodox Divine Liturgy. The Greek Orthodox Church has a closed communion and no intercommunion with any other Christian body.** We are blessed by your presence with us and thank you for your understanding. May God bless you always.

A NOTE TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS PLEASE NOTE: The proper preparation for receiving Holy Communion is: 1) prayer; 2) keeping the fast throughout the year (Wednesdays, Fridays, Great Lent, fast of the Holy Apostles, fast of the Dormition and the Christmas Fast, etc); and 3) most important, participating in the Sacrament of Holy Confession and Repentance. **ALSO follow these guidelines as you approach for Holy Communion: Take the red cloth from the person before you and place it under your chin. Say your baptismal name. Open your mouth wide and receive the Holy Spoon in your mouth, lower your lips on the Holy Communion spoon and carefully remove the Holy Eucharist so that there is nothing left. After partaking of the Sacrament blot your lips and hand the red cloth to the person behind you. Receive one piece of antidoron, return to your seat and read the post communion prayer. Lipstick, lip gloss, lip balm, etc, should be removed prior to approaching the chalice. Receiving the precious Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ should not be treated like a fast food service. You should come on time for the Divine Liturgy (that means at the beginning) and not leave until the completion of the service. This means that every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. It follows that if anyone eats the Lord's bread or drinks from his cup in a way that dishonors him, he is guilty of sin against the Lord's body and blood. So then, everyone should examine himself first, and then eat the bread and drink from the cup. For if he does not recognize the meaning of the Lord's body when he eats the bread and drinks from the cup, he brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks. That is why many of you are sick and weak, and several have died. If we would examine ourselves first, we would not come under God's judgment. But we are judged and punished by the Lord, so that we shall not be condemned together with the world. (1 Corinthians 11:26-32).**

At the time of communion, please allow families with infants to approach first, followed by the children and then the adults. Thank you.

The Communion Prayer is located in the Divine Liturgy Books on page 40 (old edition) and 66 (new edition). Everyone is encouraged to participate in the reciting of the Communion Prayer together.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Please remember to check the ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR when scheduling activities. They should **not** be scheduled during service times. This is disrespectful to God and unacceptable. Thank you.

REMINDER FOR PARENTS

For the convenience of parents with crying children, a "cry room" is located off the Narthex for your use.

ATTENTION PARENTS: PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE NOT WANDERING AROUND THE CHURCH DURING SERVICES. THIS IS VERY DISRUPTIVE TO EVERYONE. THANK YOU!

ST. NEKTARIOS CHAPEL

Please remember that although the St. Nektarios Chapel does not have an Iconostasis, the altar is still the altar and as in the main church only the priest should be in the altar. When Metropolitan Iakovos

consecrated the church of St. Andrew he also consecrated the Chapel and it should be treated with the same respect and reverence. Please consider all of the raised area in the Chapel the altar and do not enter it or touch anything on the altar table. Thank you.

YOUR PRAYERS HELP...

“...I was sick and you visited Me...” St. Matthew 25:36. “Holy Father, Physician of our souls and bodies have mercy, forgive and heal thy servants.” The following brothers and sisters in Christ need your constant prayers and love, *recovering at home or ill at home/hospital*: Artemis Hoke (home), Rose Rorres (home), Anna Efthimiou (home), Jim Zeinis (home), Anthoula Pefanis (home), Tom Allen (home), Nick Limberopoulos.

In nursing homes or home bound: Diana Katsanis (Golden View), Esther Magrames (Waterford), Mary Manos (Wellbrooke), Phyllis Leonakis (Wellbrooke), Amelia Morris (Miller's Merry Manor, Walkerton), Joan Rekos (Signature), and Telesila Yustwan (home).

Today's **Ushers** are: Manolis Anagnostou, George Mighion, Chris Strafford, Pete Arvan, Mike Chronopoulos. If you are not serving in the pangari today, you should join everyone in the Sanctuary. Thank you.

Today's **Epistle Lesson** will be read by **an Altar Boy**.

Maria Giannakakis prepared Prosforo for this morning. May our God grant you spiritual joy always.

The Coffee Hour was lovingly prepared for our entire community by. We thank you for your love and generosity.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, April 26 Adult Bible Study 5:30pm

Sunday, April 30 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers
9:00 Orthros
10:00 Divine Liturgy

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, May 1 Orthros 9am
Vespers 4:30pm

Tuesday, May 2 St. George
9:00 Orthros
10:00 Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, May 3 Paraklesis to St. Nektarios 9am
Vespers 4:30pm
Adult Bible Study 5:30pm

Friday, May 5 Paraklesis to Theotokos 10am **at Holy Dormition Chapel**
Vespers 4:30pm

Saturday, May 6 Great Vespers 5pm

Sunday, May 7 Sunday of the Paralytic
9:00 Orthros
10:00 Divine Liturgy
Spring Parish Assembly following Liturgy

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 9-11, 2017

Greek Festival

22017 Financial Report
(Does not include Festival)

Apr 17 Income	Apr 17 Expenses	Monthly Balance	Apr 16 Income	Apr 16 Expenses	Apr 16 Balance
\$26,301.66	\$20,712.64	\$5,589.02	\$29,884.30	\$28,369.82	\$1,514.48

YTD Income	YTD Expense	YTD Balance	16 YTD Inc	16 YTD Ex	16 YTD Bal
\$108,224.44	\$109,940.35	--\$1,715.91	\$98,604.20	\$110,730.14	--\$12,125.94

Stewardship Report

Apr Pledge Income	Apr Pledge Goal	Difference goal/income	YTD Pledge Inc	YTD Pledge Goal	Difference goal/income
\$10,863.00	\$28,500.00	--\$17,637.00	\$63,864.00	\$103,000.00	--\$39,136.00

*Year-to-date as of April 21, 2017

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!