

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith



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*Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest*

MAY 12, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA
THOMAS SUNDAY

EPISTLE: Acts 5:12-20

In those days, 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."



The Belief of Thomas

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

**God could not be everywhere
and therefore, he made mothers."**
(Jewish proverb)

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

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.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Tony Monastra, 2119 Willow Cove Marblehead, OH 43440; Patti Owens, 311 Woodbridge Road, Vermilion, OH 44089; Basil Glovinsky, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; Subdeacon Roger Pinta, P.O. Box 39, Middle Bass, OH 43446; Diane Tryon, 109 Joslyn Street, Arcadia, OH 44804; Ed & Irene Vangeloff, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870



PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

O Lord, our God, look down with merciful eyes upon our humble and earnest petition which we fervently offer to You today in behalf of all of our mothers. Shower Your heavenly graces upon them. Grant that they may always behold the joy of their children and their children's children. Fill them with that same maternal love that our most holy Lady, the Blessed Theotokos, and ever-Virgin Mary showed to Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. And, grant that all of our mothers may ever be sustained in the image of our heavenly mother, the Most Pure Virgin Mary. We pray to You, O heavenly Master, on this special day honoring our mothers to graciously hear us and have mercy on them.



MAY CANDLE SPONSORS

Altar Candles: Fr. Peter & Mat. Michelle, For Health and God's Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, Matushka's mother and Michal Tomáš, Father's father (**\$50**); **Chandelier:** Valerie Schutt, Birthday blessings to Joe (**\$50**); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Available (**\$25**); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, Birthday blessings to Michael (**\$20**); **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** For Safety and Health of Nicholas, Tikhon, Gleice, & Chloe (**\$20**)



MAY REPOSED

Julia Onyock (1921) No date provided; Andrew Onyock (1922) No date provided; Christos Karniotis (1992) No date provided; **1-**Donald Cholcher (2020); **4-** Norman Anthony Glovinsky (2016); **8-** Brad Bauer (2019); **14-** Stanley Lis (2019); **15-**George Glovinsky (1986); **21-** Anna Mazurik (2008); **22-** Mary Opritza (2011); **24-** Helen Greshko (1980); **25-** Anna Mazurak (1966); **25-** Philip Timko (2021); **27-** John Gresko- (2008); **30-** Anna Elchisco (1977)



VIGILS FOR May 5

Tamara & Mary Blackford 1 In loving memory of Rob Blackford, Jr.

Basil Glovinsky 3 In loving memory of departed members of the Glovinsky, Yuhas and Monak families. For the health of members of the Glovinsky, Monak, Brown, Grieger and Tryon Families, Health and blessings to Fr Andrew and Fr. Peter and Matushka Michelle

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Larry D., Patti O., Margi H., Fred S., Marty B., Jim K., Ron R., Diane T., Ruth S., James W., Tony M., Hannah S., Barbara D., Pauline O., Betty K., Ben F., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Sharon D., John D., Karen D., and Kathie J.

Birthday blessings and many years to Joe and Sebastian.

Anniversary blessings and many years to Michael & Stephanie and Fred & Teri

Sandy Martin 1 Special intentions

Diane Tryon 1 Special intentions

Natalie Twarek 11 Pascha blessing to our parish family and all of our family and friends, In loving memory of our departed family and friends, In loving birthday memory of Dad, George Twarek 5/3, In loving birthday memory of dad, John Mazurik 5/6, God's blessing to Wyatt on his First Communion, Birthday blessing to Missy and Laura 5/8, Memory Eternal to Bishop Matthias, For the health and recovery of Father Emilian, Ruth, Pam, Diane, Ron, Rita(Gigi), Jim, Ed, Michelle, Terrie, Theresa, Clayton, For the health of Randy, Patrick and Marty, Mike Heffernan and Barbara Heffernan, Health and healing for Father's dad Michal and Matushka's mom Barbara, For the health and recovery of Tony, Bev, Ed, Irene, Father David, Pauline, Judy, Tina, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Tina's dad, Earl, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed Garrity / Patti Owens / Tony Monastra / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Ruth Sheller / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Jeanne Smith / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Subdeacon Roger Pinta / Ed Vangeloff / Irene Vangeloff / Diane Tryon / Sonja Rose / Ron Royhab / James Bargdill / John Beadle / Carole Conaway / Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Elaine Hileman / Betty Kovach / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Stephanie Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, her unborn baby & Chloe / Carol / Debbie & Marco / Nora. **Other Requests:** Michael Heffernan / Susanne / Barbara Heffernan / Rita Mumea / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Sidharth Bijilani – friend of Subdeacon Roger and Debbie Pinta / Anthony / Archpriest David Lis / Bishop Matthias / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Ben Franklin / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Robert Piznar / Mark Masica / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Chris. **Military:** Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military



MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

16 – David & Sandy Martin Anniversary; **17** – Tony & Tina Monastra Anniversary; **20** – Joe & Valerie Schutt Anniversary; **26** – Quincy Kowal



READERS LIST

Sunday May 12 – Joe
 Sunday May 19 – Natalie
 Sunday May 26 – Jake
 Sunday Jun 2 – Tim



ATTENDANCE

05/03 Holy and great Friday Vespers, **24** attending (5 guests); **05/03** Holy Saturday Matins, **24** attending (6 guests); **05/04** Holy Saturday Divine Liturgy, **17** attending (3 guests); **05/04** Nocturns and Resurrection Matins, **25** attending (8 guests); **05/05 *Great and Holy Pascha Divine Liturgy***, **76** attending (40 guests) [24 people more than the previous year]; **05/06** Bright Monday Divine Liturgy **12** attending; **05/07** Bright Tuesday Divine Liturgy **10** attending (1 guest)

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| MON. May 13 | Virgin Martyr Glyceria at Heraclea; Acts 3:19-26, Jn 2:1-11 |
| TUE. May 14 | Martyrs Isidore and Myrope of Chios; Acts 4:1-10, Jn 3:16-21 |
| WED. May 15 | Venerable Pachomius the Great; Acts 4:13-22, Jn 5:17-24 |
| THU. May 16 | Venerable Theodore the Sanctified; Acts 4:23-31, Jn 5:24-30 |
| FRI. May 17 | Apostle Andronicus of the Seventy and his fellow-laborer, Junia; Acts 5:1-11, Jn 5:30-6:2 |
| SAT. May 18 | Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra, and with him the seven Virgin Martyrs: Alexandra, Tecusa, Claudia, Phaine, Euphraisa, Matrona, and Julia; Acts 5:21-33, Jn 6:14-27 |
| 4:00 PM | VESPERS |
| SUN. May 19 | 3rd SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA, SUNDAY OF THE MYRRHBEARERS, Tone 2 |
| 9:10 AM | HOURS |
| 9:30 AM | DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour |



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Baby Bottles (Heartbeat of Port Clinton)” is the charity we donate to for the month of May.



COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

May 12 - No Coffee Hour – Blessing of the Graves at the cemetery

May 19 - Mtk. Michelle & Fr. Peter – to mark 1st Anniversary at Holy Assumption Parish

Please sign up to host coffee hour after the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Signup sheet is located in the Social Hall.



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, May 5, 2024

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Tithe | \$2,607.00 |
| Candles | \$ 109.00 |
| Vigils | \$ 85.00 |
| Holy Day Donation | \$2,428.00 |
| Candles at the Cross | \$ 20.00 |
| Paska Bread Sale | \$ 308.00 |
| Total: | <u>\$5,517.00</u> |

May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!

CHURCH MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENSES

Month of **APRIL 2024**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Church Donation income was | \$ 8,565.68 |
| Church Operating Expenses totaled | <u>\$ 9,123.47</u> |
| net loss of | - \$ 557.79 |



CLEANING SCHEDULE

May 13, Laura
 May 20, Stephanie
 May 27, Sandy
 Jun 3, Greg

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- May 19th** Parish Council Meeting after Coffee Hour
May 25th 1st Market Day of the Season
Jun 8th Market Day
Jun 22nd 5th Memorial Saturday, Market Day
Jun 23rd PENTECOST



RADONITSA – BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

The Annual Blessing of the graves of our beloved deceased will take place today at our Cemetery after the Divine Liturgy.



SINCERE THANK YOU!

We would like to express our sincere thanks to **Nancy Bunge** for making chocolate crosses for everyone on Pascha, and to **Matushka Michelle** for the beautifully dyed eggs. May Our Lord bless them both with His special blessings during this Paschal Season!



PASKA BREAD SALE - THANK YOU!

We would like to express our sincere thanks to **Greg Mazur** for baking his delicious Paska Bread this year again. His hard work brought to our parish coffers \$308.00. May Our Lord and God bless Greg for his time and love of our church with His special Blessings Na Mnogaya Leta!



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Parish Council Meeting will take place next Sunday, May 19th after Coffee Hour in our Social Hall. Attendance of all council members is kindly requested.

NEW CATECHUMEN IN OUR PARISH

We are very happy to announce that **Blake Shoemaker** will become a new Catechumen of our parish and will be received to the Catechumenate next Sunday, May 19th before the Divine Liturgy. May Our Lord and God bless him as he prepares to be fully received into the Holy Orthodox Church in the near future!

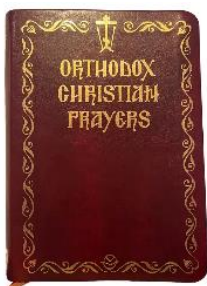


BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

You are invited to participate in the Annual Baby Bottle Campaign sponsored by Ottawa County Pregnancy Services. Please take a Baby bottle which you will find in the vestibule and fill it with loose change, cash or check made out to Ottawa County Pregnancy. Please return the bottle on or before Father's Day.

3M's Corner

XB! Christ is Risen!



Hi friends. Today I'll be sharing my favorite prayer for every morning. Father and I pray together in front of our Icon Wall/Icon Corner, which we situated to face East. Try to do this if it is possible in your home. Most Orthodox Christian book of prayers have a section for Morning Prayers. Fr and I use the book shown on the left. It's available from St. Tikhon's Monastery Bookstore and Press (stmppress.com) and costs \$25.00. There are really wonderful prayer books available from Ancient Faith, as well. You can see Bobbie Royhab if you're interested in a prayer book from there. She has discounts available with them.

Start with the Trisagion Prayers, the Creed and Psalm 50. After that you can say 'The Morning Prayer of the Last Elders of Optina', below, 'Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos', 'It is Truly Meet' and end with 'Glory to the Father'. You may pray the Jesus Prayer 33 times (beginners), 100 or 300 times. Talk to your Spiritual Father for more guidance on saying the Jesus Prayer. May our Risen Christ bless you all! With love, M

The Morning Prayer of the Last Elders of Optina

O Lord, grant that I may meet all that this coming day brings to me with spiritual tranquility. Grant that I may fully surrender myself to Thy holy Will. At every hour of this day, direct and support me in all things. Whatsoever news may reach me in the course of the day, teach me to accept it with a calm soul and the firm conviction that all is subject to Thy holy Will. Direct my thoughts and feelings in all my words and actions. In all unexpected occurrences, do not let me forget that all is sent down from Thee. Grant that I may deal straightforwardly and wisely with every member of my family, neither embarrassing nor saddening anyone. O Lord, grant me the strength to endure the fatigue of the coming day and all the events that take place during it. Direct my will and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to be patient, to forgive and to love. AMEN.

HUMOR WITH HISTORIC MOTHERS

COLUMBUS' MOTHER: "I don't care what you've discovered, you still could have written!"

MICHELANGELO'S MOTHER: "Can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?"

NAPOLEON'S MOTHER: "All right, if you aren't hiding your report card inside your jacket, take your hand out of there and show me."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S MOTHER: "Again with the stovepipe hat? Can't you just wear a baseball cap like the other kids?"

MARY'S MOTHER: "I'm not upset that your lamb followed you to school, but I would like to know how he got a better grade than you."

ALBERT EINSTEIN'S MOTHER: "But it's your senior picture. Can't you do something about your hair? Styling gel, mousse, something...?"

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOTHER: "The next time I catch you throwing money across the Potomac, you can kiss your allowance good-bye!"

THOMAS EDISON'S MOTHER: "Of course I'm proud that you invented the electric light bulb. Now turn it off and get to bed!"

PAUL REVERE'S MOTHER: "I don't care where you think you have to go, young man, midnight is past your curfew."



Bright Saturday

Commemorated on May 11

The Artos, which was blessed after the Liturgy of Pascha, is cut and distributed after Liturgy on Bright Saturday.

The cutting and distribution of the Artos takes place after the Liturgy on Bright Saturday. In monasteries the cutting and distribution of the Artos is done in the trapeza.

The cutting of the Artos is done in this way: After the Divine Liturgy, the Artos is brought into the trapeza, as is customary, and "Christ is risen" is sung three times, with bows. After the "Our Father" has been said, and after the food has been blessed as usual, the Deacon says: "Let us pray to the Lord," and the brethren reply: "Lord, have mercy."

Then the Priest says the following prayer over the Artos:

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the Angelic Bread, the Bread of eternal life Who came down from Heaven and nourished us on these most radiant days with the spiritual food of Your divine benefits for the sake of Your saving Resurrection on the third day, so now we humbly entreat You: "Look down upon our prayers and thanksgivings, and as You blessed the five loaves in the wilderness, so now bless this bread, that all who partake of it may be granted bodily and spiritual blessings and health, through the grace and compassion of Your love for mankind. For You are our sanctification, and to You we send up glory, together with Your Unoriginate Father, Your All-holy, Good and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

The People: Amen.

After cutting the Artos, as is customary, the Priest distributes it to everyone before the meal. He may also cut the Artos at the Liturgy after the Prayer before the Ambo, and distribute it to the faithful instead of the Antidoron. They should consume it right away. They may, however, bring some home for those who were not able to be in church.



Antipascha: Saint Thomas Sunday

Commemorated on May 12

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.



What It Was that Saved Thomas

by Fr. Lawrence Farley

Thomas had a heart that had taken one too many beatings. Despite his often being stigmatized by later generations as “Doubting Thomas” there is nothing in his past record to indicate such a defect of character. In John’s account of Christ’s raising of Lazarus, when the Lord said that Lazarus had died and that He was going to enter the cauldron of dangerous Judea to “go to him” (John 11:15), the disciples assumed that He meant following Lazarus by dying too in His attempt to visit the grieving family. They were properly horrified, and reluctant to follow Him on such a doomed mission. It was Thomas who spurred them on and said, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him” (v. 16). In other words, Thomas could not bear the thought of letting his Lord die alone, but was prepared to accompany Him even if it meant his death as well. This is not the utterance of a doubter, or of someone who is of two minds. Thomas had wrapped his whole life around Jesus, and that life would have no meaning without Him.

Like the other disciples, Thomas rode the rollercoaster of His Lord’s final days. He rode to the dizzying top when they entered Jerusalem and found the road strewn with palms and the air rent with cries of acclamation. He shared their sense of imminent triumph when Jesus commandeered the Temple and brought to public humiliation those who tried to entrap Him there. And like the other disciples he rode to the bottom of despair and grief when the morning after His late-night Paschal arrest the mid-morning sun saw Him hanging on a cross. One can only imagine the trauma to his poor tender heart—the heart of someone who was prepared to die with his Lord during His recent visit to Lazarus in Bethany. They were so sure that Jesus was the Messiah, and that His Kingdom was at hand. Yet His crucifixion at Roman hands was the indisputable proof, as far as a Jewish mind was concerned, that He could *not* have been the Messiah, for the Messiah was by definition the conquering King, the one who would triumph over the Romans. Thomas’ whole world had been turned upside down in a day. How could they all have been so wrong? He could scarcely bear to try to work it out: had the Pharisees been right after all when they said He was a blasphemer who worked miracles by the power of Satan?

Then came the offer of another ride to the top of the rollercoaster: his fellow disciples came and said that He was alive after all and that they had seen Him (John 20:25). Thomas could not bear yet another disappointment, another blow to his heart. He could not bear to have his hopes ignited only to be told

by them in another day or so that they had been mistaken after all, and that it was a mass hallucination or that it was only someone who looked like Jesus. Thomas faced them all and drew his line in the epistemological sand: “Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe!” *They* could believe all they liked; *he* would await the proof from his own senses. Note that Thomas did not say, “I *cannot* believe”, but “I *will not* believe”—this was about decision. Thomas was not doubting so much as choosing—making the choice to withhold belief until he had seen it for himself. It was not a defect in character, but the putting on of armor, and his only way of protecting himself from yet another wound to his already bleeding heart.

And yet, note the next verse of John’s Gospel: “After eight days again His disciples were inside *and Thomas with them*”. Despite his refusal to share their faith, Thomas did not leave the apostolic company. In the months and years, they had known Jesus, He had melded them into a unified family. They came from wildly disparate backgrounds—Simon was a Zealot who was dedicated to the violent overthrow of Rome, and Matthew was a collaborator who collected taxes for Rome. And yet Jesus had transformed them, so that they were now dedicated not only to Him but also to one another—and Thomas remained with this family. That was why he was with them a week later when Jesus once again came into their midst. That was why Jesus was able to reveal Himself to Thomas and elicit from him the saving cry, “My Lord and my God!” There is no reason to think that Jesus would have tracked him down if he had abandoned his fellow apostles and renounced their company. The risen Christ only revealed Himself to those who loved Him and identified themselves with His other disciples. He did not reveal Himself to Pilate and throw back into his Roman teeth the cynical quip, “What is truth?” He did not reveal Himself to Caiaphas to reassert His Messianic claim to now sit at the right hand of Power. His revelation to Thomas happened because Thomas stayed with his apostolic family and did not leave their company.

In doing this, Thomas teaches us also. We also sometimes are subject to doubts about the truth of the Christian faith. Thomas’ doubt sprung from a heart that had been struck down by sudden trauma. Ours springs from the slow, ceaseless, and unrelenting barrage of propaganda from our secular society that inundates us. We in the modern West live in a world washed clean from any trace of God or faith. Everything our senses encounter reinforces the lie—every book or magazine we open, every movie, television program or newscast we watch, every casual contact or radio announcer we hear. After a while we grow tired of fighting. Can the whole world be wrong and we Christians alone be right? A kind of spiritual fatigue overtakes us and the secular model of reality begins to look ever more tempting; unbelief, moral and religious relativism gain ever more credibility. What do we do then? Where can we take our doubts?

Thomas teaches us: take your doubts to Church. Do not abandon your Christian family, or retreat from the apostolic company. Stay in Church, praying privately and attending the Church’s public Liturgy. And ask Christ to give you the answers, and reveal Himself, and bring you the truth. If you really want to know the truth, Christ will give it to you. But be clear: you must want to find the truth like a starving man wants to find food, like a man dying of thirst in the desert wants to find a watery oasis. If you merely wouldn’t mind knowing the truth, there is no reason to think you will hear from Christ, for you are trifling with God. God Himself promised: “You will seek Me and find Me *when you search for Me with all your heart*” (Jeremiah 29:13). If you really want the truth, Christ will reveal it to you, for everyone who seeks finds. St. Thomas is not just the saint for Christian doubters. He is the saint for all souls who really want to know the truth. And he reveals where that truth can be found: in the apostolic Church of the living God.