

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

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Marblehead, OH 43440

V. Rev. Archpriest Peter Tomas, Rector

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

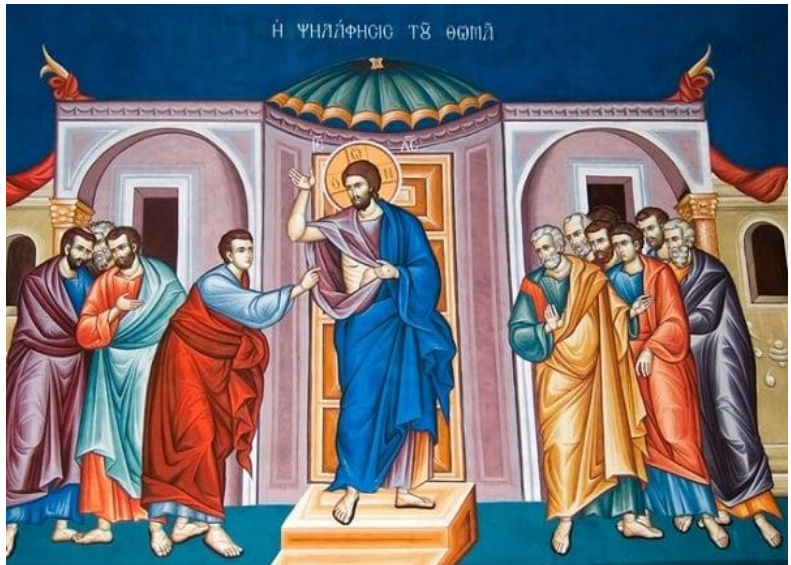
APRIL 27, 2025

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."

**Χριστός Βοσκήσει**



**The Belief of Thomas**

## GOSPEL: Jn 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.



### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

<b>MON. Apr 28</b>	Apostles Jason and Sospater of the Seventy; Acts 3:19-26, Jn 2:1-11
<b>TUE. Apr 29</b>	Nine Martyrs at Cyzicus; Acts 4:1-10, Jn 3:16-21
<b>WED. Apr 30</b>	Apostle James the Brother of Saint John the Theologian; Acts 4:13-22, Jn 5:17-24
<b>THU. May 1</b>	Prophet Jeremiah; Acts 4:23-31, Jn 5:24-30
<b>FRI. May 2</b>	Saint Athanasius the Great; Acts 5:1-11, Jn 5:30-6:2
<b>SAT. May 3</b>	Venerable Theodosius; Acts 5:21-33, Jn 6:14-27
<b>9:10 AM</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>DIVINE LITURGY – Responses by Mission Choir of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk, followed by Brunch in the hall</b>
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>VESPERS</b>
<b>SUN. May 4</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA, HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN, Tone 2</b>
<b>9:10 AM</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour</b>





## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**Tina Rindfleisch**, 524 Woodshire Lane, E-11 Naples, FL 34105; **Basil Glovinsky**, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; **Irene Vangeloff**, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870

## PRAYER LIST

**Parishioners & Family:** Renee Haynal / Tina Rindfleisch / Sharon Shaheen (Patti Owen's sister) / Norb / Heidi Golob / Ron & Bobbie Royhab / Rodney Clevenger / Jennifer Heffernan / Tom Hileman / Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed Garrity / Patti Owens / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Helena Tomášová / Ruth Sheller / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Irene Vangeloff / Sonja Rose / James Bargdill / Carole Conaway / Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Betty Kovach / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, Sophie & Chloe / Carol / Nora.

**Other Requests:** Nicole Williams / John Couture / Don / Ann Turinsky / Marcia / Sarah King / Catechumen Blake Shoemaker / Catechumen Nickolas Dawenport / Catechumen Joshua Paull / Catechumen Danielle Paull / Catechumen Wrenley Paull / Arimus Paull / Linkoln Paull / Catechumen Ryan Stamp / Matushka Melania / Sharyn Osborne / Christine Zahm / Amy / Bill Byrnes / Susanne / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Anthony / Archpriest Ján Čížmár / Archpriest David Lis / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / 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

## ATTENDANCE



**04/19** Nocturs and Resurrection Matins **23** attending (3 guests) [ 2 people less than the previous year]; **04/20 Holy Pascha Divine Liturgy**, **62** attending (35 guests) [ 14 people less than the previous year]; **04/21** Bright Monday Divine Liturgy, **10** attending; **04/22** Bright Tuesday Divine Liturgy, **11** attending (3 guests)

## READERS LIST



Sunday Apr 27 – Tim  
Sunday May 4 – Jake  
Sunday May 11 – Joe

## APRIL REPOSED



Michael Elchisco (1913) No date provided; Andrew Kopchock (1914) No date provided; Anna Onyock (1916) No date provided; Dolores Martin (1974) No date provided; Herb Hobson (2004) No date provided; Charles Rose (2015) No date provided; **1-** Larry Twarek (2019); **4-** Sophia Jump (2012); **4-** Harry Flewelling (2018); **5-** Nancy Sitzler (2022); **6-** John Kotch (2022); **7-** Louis M. Benya (1976); **7-** Mitered Archpriest Basil Dziama (1969) Former Pastor; **7-** Bob Mazur (2018); **9-** Julia Guzy (2021); **11-** LaVerne Schutt (2014); **12-** Helen Tomko (1989); **14-** Paul Glovinsky (1978); **15-** Stephen Brooks (2005); **16-** Mary Wright (2005); **17-** Lois Mazurik (1999); **22-** Olga Belenky (1971); **22-** John Beadle (1988); **22-** Fred Millie (1996); **24-** Demathony Ballan (1968); **26-** Margaret Mazur (1987); **26-** Russell Kovach (1981); **28-** Ann Kovalick (2018); **29-** Olga Kollmeier (1972); **30-** Anthony Hubicki (1977)



## CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Lions Club/Diabetes” is the charity we donate to for the month of April.



## APRIL CANDLE SPONSORS

**Altar Candles:** Fr. Peter and Mat. Michelle, For Health and God's Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, and Michal & Helena Tomáš (\$50); **Chandelier:** Joe & Valerie Schutt, In loving memory of LaVerne Schutt and Violet Bargdill (\$50); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Jean Hileman, In Memory of William & Helen Pipenur and Robert & Elaine Hileman (\$25); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, In memory of my mom Margaret and brother-in-law Russ (\$20); **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** Available (\$20)



## MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

**1** – Debby Pinta; **5** – Joe Schutt; **5** – Sebastian Stamp; **6** – Fred & Teri Cassell Anniversary; **8** – Laura Kovach; **16** – David & Sandy Martin Anniversary??; **17** – Tony & Tina Monastra Anniversary (33); **20** – Joe & Valerie Schutt Anniversary (8); **23** – Dale Bricker \*; **26** – Quincy Kowal\*



## VIGILS FOR APRIL 20

**Matushka Michelle 2** Private intentions, For health and God's blessings for Natalie Twarek on the occasion of her birthday! Many Years!

**Susan Guzy 1** Special Intentions

**Laura Kovach 3** For health and/or healing of infant Benny, Nichole W., Alex M., Tina R., Nick S., Mike T., Andrew K., Matushka Melania, Ron R., Betty K., Margaret M., Hannah S., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Kathie J., Jerry P., Irene V, Heidi & Wayne G., Sarah K., and the Daley family  
Prayers for Brett & Chris DeOrio  
Memory eternal to William Stamp, Bobbie's nephew Tony, and Donna Bergman

**Sandy Martin 1** Special Intentions

**Roddie & David Mazurik 1** Special Intentions

**Gabe Mazurik 1** Special Intentions

**Natalie Twarek 9** Pascal blessing for our family and friends, In loving memory of our departed family and friends, Memory Eternal for Ryan's dad, William Stamp, For health and recovery of Tina, For health and recovery of Nicole Oglesbee Williams, For health and recovery of Ann, Laura, Mike, Marcia, For the health & recovery of Matushka Melania, For the health and recovery on Basil, Ron, Rodney, Betty, Carol, Kayla, Pam, Jim, Heidi, Wayne, Health and healing for Father's parents Michal & Helena and Matushka's mom Barbara, and Walter, For the health of Jen, Tony, Father David, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Tina's dad, Earl, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat



## SUNDAY OFFERING

### Sunday, April 20, 2025

Tithe	\$1,525.00
Candles	\$ 101.00
Vigils	\$ 85.00
Holy Day Donation	\$2,661.00
Flowers Donations	\$ 30.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,402.00</b>

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

## UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- May 4<sup>th</sup>** Holy Myrrh-bearers (*Sunday*)
- May 11<sup>th</sup>** Paralytic – Mother’s Day (*Sunday*)
- May 29<sup>th</sup>** ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (*Thursday*)
- May 31<sup>st</sup>** 1<sup>st</sup> Market Day of the Season (*Saturday*)

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### CLEANING SCHEDULE



Apr 28, Roddie & David  
May 5, Bobbie  
May 12, Natalie  
May 19, Basil & Tim



### ST. TIKHON SEMINARIANS VISIT HOLY ASSUMPTION SATURDAY MAY 3

We are happy to announce that we are hosting the Mission Choir of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk Orthodox Theological Seminary next Saturday, May 3. There will be 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy with the seminarians singing at Holy Assumption Church. Please plan to attend Divine Liturgy which will be followed by a brunch. We will have the opportunity to interact with the seminarians in the choral group, and they will have the opportunity to learn about Holy

Assumption Church. V. Rev. John Parker, Dean of the Seminary, will be visiting with Choir and serving with Father Peter; he will give a short talk about the Seminary. The Choir’s visit is in conjunction with their fundraising tour at SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Lorain. On Saturday they will return to the Lorain church for 6 PM Vespers, followed by a concert by the Choir, and a reception. St. Tikhon’s Seminary needs our support, and 100 percent of all donations will go to the Seminary (please write checks to St. Tikhon’s Seminary). The Seminary, founded in 1938, is affiliated with the Orthodox Church in America and located in a rural area in South Canaan, Pennsylvania. It is next to the Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk, the oldest Orthodox Christian Monastery in America. St. Tikhon of Moscow founded the Monastery in 1905.



### COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

Apr 27 - Natalia  
May 4 - Available  
May 11 - Bobbie and Mat. Michelle

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



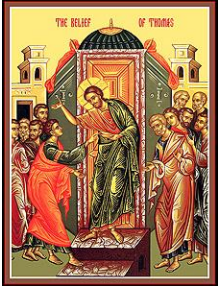
### OUR SYMPATHIES – MEMORY ETERNAL!

Our prayers and deepest sympathies are extended to the family and friends of † **Dr. WILLIAM STAMP**, father of our catechumen *Ryan*, Father-in-law to *Natalia* and Grandfather to *Sebastian*, who fell asleep in the Lord on **Holy Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** and was buried from Secor Funeral Home in Willard, OH on **Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**. “*In blessed repose grant eternal rest, O Lord, to your ever-remembered servant † WILLIAM and make his Memory Eternal! Vichnaya Jemu Pamyat!*”



## 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 \$ **1,504.00**. May Our Lord and God bless Greg for his time and love of our church with His special Blessings Na Mnogaya Leta!



### Antipascha: Saint Thomas Sunday

Commemorated on April 27

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.