

News from St. Nick's

Sunday, May 9, 2021

The Antipascha: St. Thomas Sunday

*Apostolic Reading: Acts 5:13-20
Gospel: John 20:19-31*

Tone 1 ° Matins Gospel Tone 1

- ➔ **For COVID Guidelines, [click here](#)**
- ➔ **For Live Streaming Link, [click here](#)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

METROPOLITAN NICOLAE'S PASTORAL LETTER at Pascha is available for download in [English](#) and [Romanian](#). Please click on the preferred language to read it.

THANKS TO THE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS for working the Orthodox Food Center on behalf of our parish last week on Great Saturday. Our regular commitment is the first Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. About 4 people are needed. Likewise, donations of food are always needed, and may be dropped off at the Food Pantry housed at St. Spyridon Cathedral. Help is also needed during the week for shopping and stocking the Pantry. If you can help in this worthwhile ministry, please e-mail Nicole Apostola at nicole.apostola@gmail.com. Our next Saturday is June 5th.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING is **Saturday, May 29th** from 9 am to 2 pm. Gerry Belba is coordinating, and we need about 3 people to help with traffic and coordination. Please contact him: vgbelba@msn.com.

MEMORIAL DAY is Monday, May 31st. If the Covid protocols allow, Fr. Nick will be at Hope Cemetery from 10:00 am. If you would like Fr. Nick to visit a grave in another cemetery, [please contact him](#) to make arrangements: 508-335-7378.

THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE CREDINȚA / THE FAITH quarterly magazine of our Metropolia may be [downloaded here](#). Please take an opportunity to read it.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP? Consider volunteering to be a **GREETER** on Sundays during Liturgy. [Margarite Landry](#) is working on a rotating schedule. **Duties are simple:** Greet people as they come in. Make sure everyone has a mask. Help them to sit at the appropriate distance. It's a wonderful way to help people feel welcomed and comfortable. If you're interested, please [email](#) her.

THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS NEEDS YOUR INPUT! The **Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey**, designed by experts on the Assembly's Mental Health Task Force, takes only 15 minutes and consists of approximately 30 questions. **All information you provide is completely anonymous**, and the aggregate data will help the Task Force better understand the mental health needs and experiences of the faithful in order to develop resources and programs for enhanced ministry in your community. [Click here to go directly to the web page](#) to complete the survey.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

COVID-19 UPDATE - Holy Trinity continues to be Covid-Free at this time.

VISITORS - Holy Trinity families and friends are now able to visit in our designated areas, in resident rooms and outdoors. Per the guidance, visitation may vary based on individual status. Please schedule your visit in advance with the Activities department by calling (508) 852-1000.

NEW ADMISSIONS - Holy Trinity is open for admissions. To inquire about admissions, for either long-term or short-term rehab, please call (508) 852-1000.

VOLUNTEERS – Holy Trinity is once again able to welcome volunteers. Per the guidance, those who have been fully vaccinated may be considered for volunteer opportunities. Please call the Activities department at (508) 852-1000 to see how you can lend a helping hand.

JOB OPENINGS - Holy Trinity is looking to add to its excellent staff. We are seeking a Director of Admissions, and there are also openings for nurses and CNAs for all shifts, including sign on bonuses and great benefits. [Click here](#) for a full listing with detailed job descriptions. If you have questions, please contact the Human Resources Generalist, [Kimberly Hescocock](#). Recent grads and people familiar with the languages and cultures of our Orthodox communities are encouraged to apply.

REHABILITATION – May is Better Hearing and Speech month. Sometimes, the need for short-term rehabilitation isn't as obvious as a loved one having trouble walking or recovering from an injury or surgery. For those with dementia, Alzheimer's, and other diagnoses, their loss of speech, memory, cognition, and ability to swallow may happen gradually over time. At Holy Trinity, our highly skilled in-house speech therapists work with the entire rehab team, as well as the family, to provide individualized treatment to address these issues, vital for residents' quality of life. For more information, please contact our Director of Rehab, [Heather Walsh](#).

ACTIVITIES – After enjoying Easter activities and social last week, residents at Holy Trinity continued the celebrations this week with a Cinco de Mayo party, complete with music, games, and a travel to Mexico film. They also continue to keep their bodies and minds active with daily activities including trivia, crosswords, and group exercise.

DIVINE LITURGY continues in-person for residents on Wednesday mornings.

STAY CONNECTED - Be sure to like our [Facebook page](#) for frequent updates and photos.

Orthodox Links

[Romanian Orthodox Metropolia](#) of the Americas
[Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America](#) (Assembly of Bishops)
[International Orthodox Christian Charities](#) (IOCC)
[Orthodox Christian Mission Center](#) (OCMC)
[Orthodox Christian Radio Network](#) (OCN)
[Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches of Central Mass.](#) (CEOC)

A Prayer of Fr. Laurence

Let us pray to the Lord,

Eternal praise and thanksgiving to you, O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for this wondrous feast whereon you raised him to the glory of new life at your right! As we offer you our hymns and canticles in praise of his victory over death, we beseech you: Grant us the faith of the myrrhbearing women, but not their fright; the hope of the apostles, but not their fear; the straightforward attitude of Thomas, but not his hesitation; and the openness of the Samaritan woman, but not her weakness. At all times and in all things enable us to please you, so that your mercy and compassion may rest on us in this world and in the next.

For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Touch My Side and Believe

It has never been easy to believe in Christ's rising from the dead—not in 33ad and not today. This Sunday we remember our Lord's second appearance to his disciples. Just as he had done on the evening of that first day, the day he rose, the Lord comes to his disciples again one week after his resurrection — "eight days later," as the Evangelist John says. The disciples are gathered once again in the upper room, only this time the Apostle Thomas is also there. He hadn't been with them when the Lord first appeared, but is there now.

Thomas' encounter with the risen Lord is one of the most important events in the history of the Church. That experience was not simply a personal encounter meant just for himself. It is intended for us as well. In a very real sense we are Thomas. His incredulity at the possibility that the Lord could have come back from the dead is ours as well. The only difference is that

Thomas was there, in that room, and could stretch out his hands and touch the Lord. He did this for us.

Don't think that Thomas was weak or waffling; he was a courageous man. When the Lord said that he was still going to Jerusalem in spite of the fact that the authorities were trying to kill him, Thomas was the one who told the other disciples "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). What we see in Thomas' "doubt" was that he was a pragmatic person who was not about to believe some seemingly fantastic story. This is what makes his confession all the more powerful and believable (cf John 20:28).

Our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, His rising from the dead, and His promise of life to each one of us, is the result of someone first having testified about their faith in the Lord to us. And their testimony is based on someone else having witnessed to them. We can trace our faith back to the Apostles themselves. When we hear the Prophet David cry out: "We have heard with our ears, O God, our ancestors have told us, what deeds you performed in their days," (Psalm 44:1), we really are able to appreciate what he is saying.

Each of us is called in this same way to witness our faith to others. But our witness has to be more than simply having heard the story from our parents. We need to have a faith grounded in our own experience of the risen Christ.

We are called by our Lord to be witnesses to his rising, just as the Apostles were. This may seem extraordinary, but remember we partake of the risen Christ each time we receive Holy Communion. He lives within us. He knows us and we know him. We are constantly experiencing his power in our lives. It is this power of God, and the testimony of how it has changed us that we need to witness to. We have a responsibility to pass on our faith. The first people that we have the opportunity to witness to are our own family, friends, and especially our children. The most powerful witness of all is a life quietly lived in faith. It is when people see how a person of faith responds to the difficulties in life that they are moved to ask who this Jesus might be.

Listen to how St. Paul calls us to action: "How are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:14-15)

As we go through each day, encountering people weighted by a heavy heart who need their burden lightened, we probably struggle trying to figure out how we might bring this Good News to them. We can be strengthened by the Lord in the same way he strengthened Thomas. He said to him: "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." We have Thomas' answer, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus reminds us, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." (John 20:27-29) Thomas' finger is our finger. His touch is our touch. His answer is our answer: *Christ is risen indeed!*

Fr. Nicholas Apostola

Dates To Remember

Sat, May 29 e-Recycling, and more 9am-2pm
Mon, May 31 Memorial Day, Hope Cemetery, noon
Sat, June 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
Thurs, June 10 The Lord's Ascension
Fri, June 18 Mustard Seed Meal
Sat, June 19 Saturday of Souls, Lit 10 am
Sun, June 20 Pentecost

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Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am