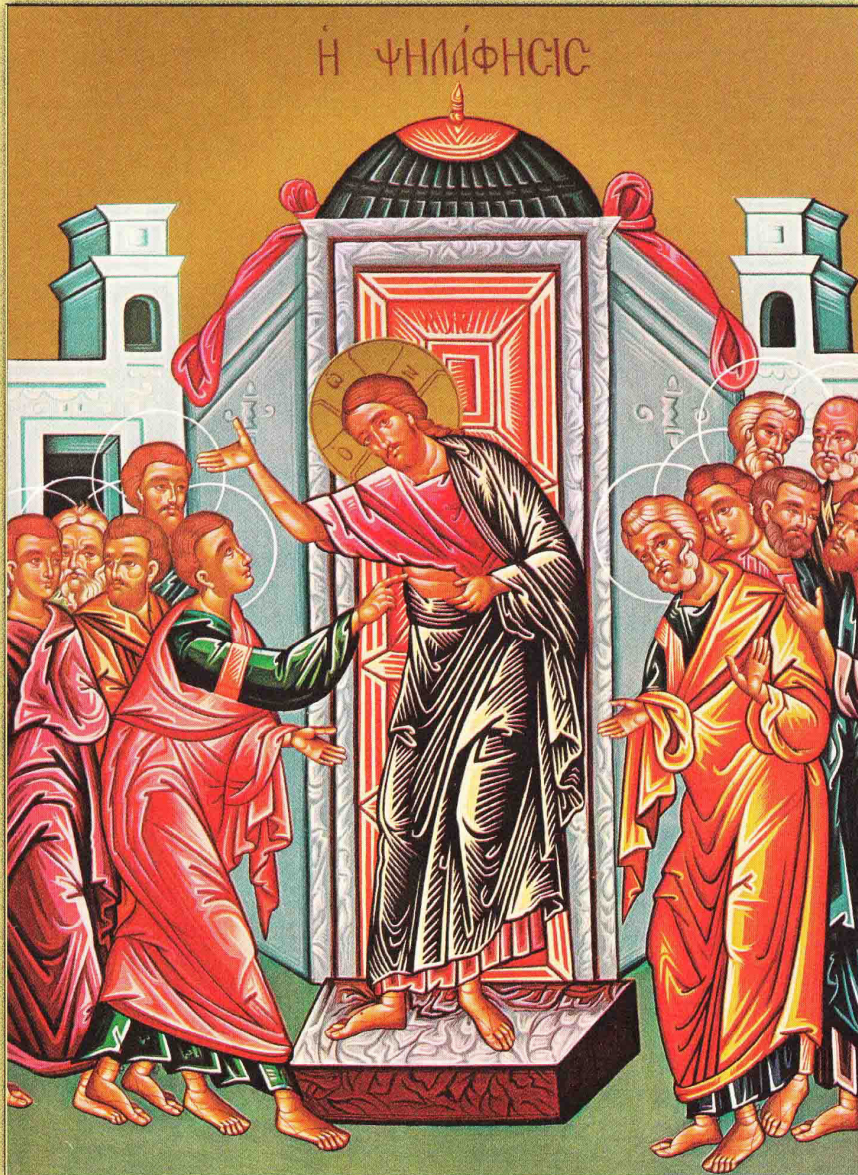


THOMAS SUNDAY



Icon of Saint Thomas and the Lord

May 1, 2011
Thomas Sunday

Festal Tone

Христос Воскрес! Christ is Risen!
Воистину Воскрес! Truly He is Risen!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2 – MAY 8

SATURDAY, MAY 7

6:00 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 8 – SUNDAY OF THE MYRRHBEARING WOMEN

9:30 Am Divine Liturgy For All Parishioners

Mark your calendars!

Next Sunday, May 8, we will celebrate Mothers' Day and our annual *Sviachenne* with a special Luncheon following the Divine Liturgy. The mothers will not be allowed in the kitchen since the Luncheon will be prepared and served by the Gentlemen of the parish! Let us all come together and celebrate that essential role in the Christian Family – the Mother. (Don't worry Fathers... your day is coming on June 19!)

Cards for sale

Various Greeting Cards are available for sale in the church hall following each Divine Liturgy. See Mary Kitt to purchase.

On Entering Into the Resurrection

“Keep the Feast of the Resurrection. Be a Peter or a John; hasten to the Tomb, running together, running against one another, vying in the noble race (cf. Jn. 20:3-4). And even if you be beaten in speed, win the victory of zeal; not simply looking into the tomb, but boldly going in.”

– St. Gregory the Theologian

FR. JAMES WILL BE AWAY...

Fr. James will be out of town from Monday through Wednesday. In case of an emergency please contact either Fr. Robert Pipta of Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church at (858) 277-2511, Fr. Sabba Shofany of St. Jacob Melkite Catholic Mission at (619) 410-7868, or Fr. Myron Mykyta at (323) 663-6307.

Schedule Change – PLEASE NOTE:



Because Mothers Day is just one week after Thomas Sunday we will combine our annual *Sviachenne* meal with our celebration of Mothers. Therefore following the Liturgy on May 8 there will be the combined annual parish *Sviachenne* & Mothers Day meal. Mothers will not be allowed in the kitchen! Everyone is invited!

The purpose of a great sermon is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. The latter is preferable to the former.



ABOUT THE VICTORY OVER THE LAST ENEMY

From the Prologue of Ochrid / St. Nikolai Velimirovich

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death” (1 Cor 15:26).

Man’s first enemy is the devil, the second is sin and the third is death. The Lord Jesus conquered all three of these enemies of the human race. By His humility, He conquered the proud devil. By His death, He conquered sin and by His resurrection, He conquered death. In conquering all of our enemies, He invites us to be partakers in His glorious victory. Not only that we conquer but that we win together with Him. Only His power conquers, only His weapons triumph. Alone we are without power and weapons, and our enemies are fearful. But with Him, we conquer those mightier than ourselves. What is the price that He offers to us for His victory? A meager price, my brethren; for a very paltry price He offers us the most precious victory. To humble ourselves and to submit ourselves to the will of God, that is the price He seeks in order to conquer the devil for us. To die unto ourselves, to die to fleshly desires and passions, that is the price which He seeks in order to conquer for us. To live for Him and not for ourselves, to receive Him into our hearts, that is the price He seeks in order to conquer death for us. He conquered all enemies openly and completely. This is the price for which He offers His victory to each of us. The Apostle Paul speaks: “But thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15:57).

ARTOS



In our Church, Resurrection of Christ. On the first day of Pascha, during the Holy and Divine Liturgy, after the Prayer Before the Ambo, the Artos is blessed by a special prayer and sprinkling with the Holy Water. Throughout Bright Week, at the end of the Holy and Divine Liturgy, the Artos is carried around the church in solemn procession. On the Saturday of Bright Week it is distributed as a blessing of the Arch-Pastor (that is to say Christ) to the congregation (sometimes after Sunday Holy and Divine Liturgy, on Thomas Sunday).

before the Iconostasis throughout Bright Week in memory of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, before it is shared among the whole congregation. Depicted on the top of the Artos are either the symbol of Christ’s victory over death – the Cross, surmounted by a crown of thorns, or the icon of the



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

Святкуємо 50-років!

Celebrating 50 Years!

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Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston

Папox: o. Яків Бенкстон

frjames@mac.com

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

Incorruptible but Touchable

The Lord's body that made its entrance to the disciples through closed doors was the same as that which issued before the eyes of people from the Virgin's closed womb at His birth.

Is it surprising that He who was now going to live forever made His entrance through closed doors after His resurrection, who on His coming in order to die made His appearance from the unopened womb of a virgin?

But because the faith of those who beheld it wavered concerning the body they could see, He showed them at once His hands and His side, offering them the body that He brought in through the closed doors to touch.

By this action He revealed two wonderful and, according to human reason, quite contradictory things. He showed them that after His resurrection His body was both incorruptible and yet could be touched ...

By showing us that it is incorruptible, He would urge us on toward our reward, and by offering it as touchable He would dispose us toward faith.

He manifested Himself as both incorruptible and touchable to show us that His body after His resurrection was of the same nature as ours but of a different sort of glory.

St. Gregory the Great