

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

May 9, 2021

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SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY



St. ELIA  
ORTHODOX  CHURCH

**A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America**

**64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301**

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**[www.saintelia.com](http://www.saintelia.com)**

**[www.facebook.com/sainteliaakron](https://www.facebook.com/sainteliaakron)**

*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA*  
*Very Rev. Mitred Archbishop Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector*  
*Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*



"MY LORD AND MY GOD"

# ST. THOMAS SUNDAY GOSPEL

<sup>19</sup> Then, 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." <sup>20</sup> When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained."

## Seeing and Believing

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> 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."<sup>26</sup> 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!"

<sup>27</sup> 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."

<sup>28</sup> And Thomas answered and said to Him,

***"My Lord and my God!"***

**29** Jesus said to him,

***"Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."***

## That You May Believe

<sup>30</sup> And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> 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.

[illegible]

The Fathers of the Church emphasize the importance of the doubting disciple's absence at the time of the initial appearance of the Risen Lord to the other disciples:

*“It was not an accident that that particular disciple was not present. The divine mercy ordained that a doubting disciple should, by feeling in his Master the wounds of the flesh, heal in us the wounds of unbelief. The unbelief of Thomas is more profitable to our faith than the belief of the other disciples. For the touch by which he is brought to belief confirms our minds in belief, beyond all question.”*

## St. Gregory the Great ,the Dialogus

## **BREAKING AND PARTAKING OF THE ARTOS**

Following the Midnight Service of Pascha, the **ARTOS** was blessed. The Artos is a Paschal Bread and bears on it the Icon of the Resurrection. Artos is a Greek word, translated literally as “leavened bread”.

Christ is our Passover Lamb Who has freed us from the bondage of sin and death. The Artos is offered and blessed on Holy Pascha and symbolizes the Angelic Bread, the Bread of Eternal Life; namely our Lord Jesus Christ. We will break the Bread and partake of it on the eighth of Pascha, today, St. Thomas Sunday.

The tradition of using the Artos in worship has existed since the age of the Apostles. When Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven on the fortieth day after His Death, His followers found consolation in their memories of their Teacher, His words and His actions. As they gathered for common prayer, they remembered the Last Supper and received the body and blood of Jesus Christ. During the shared meal, His disciples traditionally reserved the most honorable seat at the table to their Teacher, who was invisibly present among them and placed the bread in front of it.

Following this Apostolic tradition, the first shepherds in the Church established the custom to place bread at Church on the feast day of Christ’s resurrection as a visible recognition of our Savior Who suffered and died for us as the bread of life. The Artos is a symbol of the invisible presence of Christ in our lives.

# **SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES**

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 1 – ST. THOMAS SUNDAY – *MOTHER'S DAY***

**Saturday, May 8**

**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**

Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

**Sunday, May 9**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Sandy Graham**

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

**Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham**

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20    Gospel: John 20:19-31

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 2 – SUNDAY OF HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN**

**Saturday, May 15**

**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**

Matins Gospel: Mark 16:9-20

**Sunday, May 16**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Bud Graham**

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

**Epistle Reader: Bud Graham**

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7    Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

### **Learn more about the Peter Maurin Center**

David Churbock, director of the Peter Maurin Center, will visit our parish **next Sunday, May 16**, to offer a short presentation immediately following Divine Liturgy about the Center and the work they do. Throughout this past Lent, our parish collected toiletries, bottled water, and other needed items for the \_\_\_\_\_ Center. Located just 5 minutes north of St. Elia at 1096 S. Main St., the Peter Maurin Center serves unsheltered and marginalized individuals and families in the Greater Akron area by offering prepared meals, warm clothing and friendship at their facilities and in the community.

# Help those in need: Bring in toiletries and other needed items during Lent!

During Great Lent we are called upon to fast not only for reasons of self-control and prayer, but also for reasons of love: to deny ourselves something that we may share what we have saved with someone else who is in need. This Lent, our parish family will be collecting items for the **Peter Maurin Center** (<http://www.petermaurincenter.org>). Located just 5 minutes north of St. Elia at 1096 S. Main St., the Center serves unsheltered and marginalized individuals and families in the Greater Akron area by offering prepared meals, warm clothing and friendship at their facilities and in the community.

Look for the bin located near the entrance of church, and drop off your items as you come in each week. If you are not currently attending services, contact Aaron Gray (330-413-8324, [grayaaron@outlook.com](mailto:grayaaron@outlook.com)) to pick up your donations. Below is a list of ideas of items that are currently in need at the Center:

- Toilet paper
- Toiletries and personal hygiene items
- Bottled water
- Aluminum foil and plastic wrap
- Plastic zip bags: sandwich, quart, or gallon
- Cleaning supplies
- One-day Metro bus passes (these cost \$2.50 each and can be purchased at the Metro Station and frequently at Giant Eagle stores)

Thank you for doing your part to help those in need!



God made a mother's smile  
to warm our world  
all through the years  
He made a mother's gentle hand  
to brush away our tears.  
He made a mother's patience  
so we'd learn  
from our mistakes:  
He made a mother's touch  
to mend our hearts  
each time it breaks  
God made a mother's voice  
to bring a song  
to every day:  
He made a mother's faith  
to teach her children  
how to pray.  
God made her as she is  
that we might see  
upon her face  
A glimpse of His own love  
And a reflection of His grace

***Christ is risen! Christos Voskrese! Christos Aneste!  
Christus ist auferstanden! El Messieh kahm!  
Cristo e' risorto! Le Christ est ressuscite!***

**REMEMBER THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES**

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr .Don and Popadia Donna  
Egor Cravcencko. Son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcencko

**REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS**

Metropolitan Herman

Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)

Kathy Gray

Sandra Dodovich (mother of Tony Dodovich)

Phyllis George (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)

Angelo Lambo and Florence Lambo

Larissa Freude Newman

Reader William Paluch

Subdeacon Martin Paluch

Martin and Rose Marie Vronick

Niki Bober (President of the Orthodox Christian Women)

Matushka Myra Kovaiak and

Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak

Matushka Chrisitne Zebren;

Matushka Laryssa Huntyn

**IN MUCH APPRECIATION**

Thank you to all who made offerings for the paschal flowers and who brought the red eggs; to Veronica Bilas for baking the Artos; to Subdeacon Terrence Bilas for directing the Choir through all of Great Lent and Pascha and to all who sang and did the Readings; and to all who assisted in the processions.

**“ZOOM” PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, May 18 at 7:30 pm**

# **Important Guidelines on Attending the Divine Services**

All services will continue to be *live streamed* by visiting our website [www.saintelia.com](http://www.saintelia.com).

In accordance with the State of Ohio, CDC, and Diocesan guidelines we all must follow these simple steps:

1) If you or your family member is sick please stay home.

2) All must wear masks in church (disposable masks are provided in the vestibule).

3) Sanitize your hands before entering the church (sanitizer is located in the vestibule).

4) All are required to keep 6 feet social distancing. Pews are marked for available and not available seating.

5) Please...**NO GATHERING IN THE VESTIBULE, OFFICE OR PARISH HALL**

<u>PASCHA,</u>	<u>May 2, 2021</u>
Candles:	\$ 59.00
Paschal Flowers:	60.00
Improvement Fund:	90.00
<u>Pascha/Sunday Offering:</u>	<u>2,081.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,290.00</b>