WEEKLY BULLETIN

May 12, 2024, Vol. 41, No. 19
SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY
Mother's Day

THE VOICE

SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301
Church Hall: 330-724-7129
Office: 330-724-7009
www.saintelia.com
www.facebook.com/sainteliakron

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

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH

2024 Parish Council

President: Veronica Bilas
V. President: Sandy Graham
Secretary: Subdeacon Aaron Gray
Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley
Members: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas, Bud Graham, Jefferson Hodge, Nicholas Morelli

Choir Director: Subdeacon Terrence A. Bilas
Assistant Directors: Anastasia Bohush
Deaconisa Heidi Gresh, Reader Michael Luc

Church School: Anastasia Bohush

Sisterhood of St. Juliana:

President: Anastasia Bohush,
V. President: Sandy Graham
Secretary: Katherine Hodge
Treasurer: Mary Magensky

Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:

Coordinators: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers - 2024

Sunday, May 12 - Mary Beth Gray
Sunday, May 19 - Hours – Subdeacon Terence Bilas
Epistle -Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, May 26 - Sue Ellen Turscak
Sunday, June 2 - Daniel Slife
Sunday, June 9 - Bud Graham

SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA. Tone 1
SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY – *Mother's Day*

Saturday, May 11

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, May 12

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Mary Beth Gray

9:30 am Baptismal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Baptism of Elias Ivan Hodge, son of Jefferson and Katherine and brother of August

Godparents: Subdeacon Aaron and Catherine Gray

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia

Epistle Reader: Mary Beth Gray

Epistles: Acts 5:12-20 Romans 6:3-11

Gospels: John 20:19-31 Matthew 28:16-20

BREAKING OF THE ARTOS

THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA. Tone 2
Myrrh-bearing Women

Saturday, May 18

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, May 19

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours:Subdeacon Terrence Bilas

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!
Christos Voskrese! Al Masseh Qam! Hristos a Inviat!
Krishti U Ngjail! Hristos Vaskrese! Christo e'resorto!
Krisztus Feltamadt! Christus ist Aufrsandent!
Le Christ est Ressucite! Christus Resurrexit

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20 - ***St. Thomas Sunday***

12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.**13** And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.**14** And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)**15** Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.**16** There came also a bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed everyone.
17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,**18** And laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.
19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, **20** Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11 – ***Baptism***

Brethren: do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the

newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin . For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died, He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: John 20:19-31 - ***St. Thomas Sunday***

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

19 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." 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

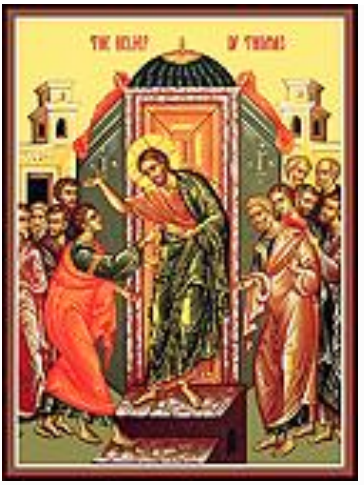
The Unbelief of Thomas

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 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."[26] 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!" [27] 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." [28] 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." [30] And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] 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

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 - *Baptism*
The Great Commission
16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. **17** When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Antipascha:
Saint Thomas Sunday



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.

BREAKING OF THE ARTOS

Following the Midnight Service of Pascha, the **ARTOS** was blessed. Artos is a Paschal Bread and bears on it the Icon of the Resurrection.

In the Old Covenant the Jews commemorated the Passover from bondage in Egypt by sacrificing a Passover Lamb.

Christ is our Passover Who has freed us from the bondage of sin and death. The Artos Bread is offered and blessed on Holy Pascha and symbolizes the Angelic Bread, the Bread of Eternal Life – our Lord Jesus Christ.

Why all this? According to one version, this custom dates back to the apostolic tradition: when the disciples of Christ gathered after His Resurrection for a meal, according to legend, they put part of the bread on the table for Him, as they always did during His earthly life.

The Fathers of the Church carried on this tradition, and on the feast of feasts, on Pascha, to remind us that Jesus is Himself the True Bread of Life and is always invisibly present with His Church, *even to the end of the age!* (as He promised!)

The Artos today symbolizes the invisible presence of Jesus Christ with us. But this is the symbol of eternal life: ***I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will not hunger*** (John 6:35), as the Savior said of himself.

We will break the Bread and partake of it today. the eighth day of Pascha, St. Thomas Sunday.

BEYOND HUMAN EXPERIENCE

One feature of Jesus' Pascha appearances is people's inability to recognize Him.
When Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene***, "she did not know"*** it was Jesus (John 20:14).
When Jesus appeared to the apostles, they thought it was ***"a ghost"*** (Luke 24:37).
When He appeared on the seashore, the ***disciples "did not know"*** Him (John 21:4).

This speaks of the nature of resurrection. It is something no human has ever experienced. It is not "resuscitation," or a return to life, but a quantum leap in life – and in body. The body that rose on Pascha Sunday morning was radically different from the body that was buried on Good Friday afternoon.

The Apostle Paul compares the body before resurrection to a seed planted on the earth.

"When you plant a seed in the ground,
it does not sprout to life unless it dies.
And what you plant is a bare seed…
not the full-bodied plant
that will later grow up…

This is how it will be
when the dead are raised to life…
When buried, it is a physical body;
when raised it will be a spiritual body."

1Corinthians 15:36-37, 42-44

Let us pray to the Lord for our mothers:

"O Lord our God, look down with merciful eyes upon our humble and earnest petition which we fervently offer to You today on behalf of all 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 God-bearer and ever-Virgin Mary showed to Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And grant that all our mothers may ever be sustained by the image of our heavenly mother, the 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 and grant them Many Years!

And grant blessed repose, O Lord, to all our mothers who have fallen asleep in the hope of the Resurrection and make their Memory Eternal!

IN APPRECIATION

As a Parish Family we have much to be grateful for and be appreciative of the efforts offered by so many.

To Subdeacon Terence Bilas and all the members of the Choir in offering all the prayers of the Liturgical Services of Holy Week and Pascha; to the Readers and Protodeacon James and the Altar Servers.

To Subdeacon Terrence and Veronica Bilas for baking the PROSPHORA BREAD for the Divine Liturgy; to Natalie Slife for baking the ARTOS that we will partake of today To all who prepared and brought the RED EGGS to share with one another. To all who gracious donated the PALMS AND WILLOWS for blessing on Palm Sunday and the FLOWERS that adorned the Tomb of our Lord and on Holy Friday and the Temple on Holy Pascha.

To all who participated in the SPRING CLEANING inside and outside For everyone's prayerful presence in the Divine Services – thank you!

OUR STEWARDSHIP, May 5, 2024	
Candles:	**$ 197.00**
Improvement Fund:	**5.00**
Tray Offerings:	**1,878.00**
TOTAL:	**$2,080.00**
Tithely Donations:	**$948.34**
PayPal Donation:	**25.00**
TOTAL:	**$973.34**
TOTAL OFFERINGS:	**$3,3053.34**

REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and Popadia Donna Freude
Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcenco

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Archbishop Alexander
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Florence Lambo
Martin Vronick
Pani Dolores Zuder
Mitered Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Subdeacon Martin Paluch
Sarah Nigilo
Melissa Trace
Halina Woroncow
Louis Hakim
Mary Elizabeth Marcin
Carl Nickoloff
Joseph Taylor (nephew of DiPuccio Family)
Archie Alexander