



**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Ukrainian Catholic Church  
(St. Mary's)**

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**Reverend Alexander Dumenko — Pastor (301) – 421 – 1739**

**Sunday Divine Liturgies: 8:30 a.m.**

**Holy Days as scheduled in the Bulletin**

**DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**APRIL 11-18, 2021**

**Saturday, April 10, 2021 Thomas Sunday**

03:00PM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners & in particular

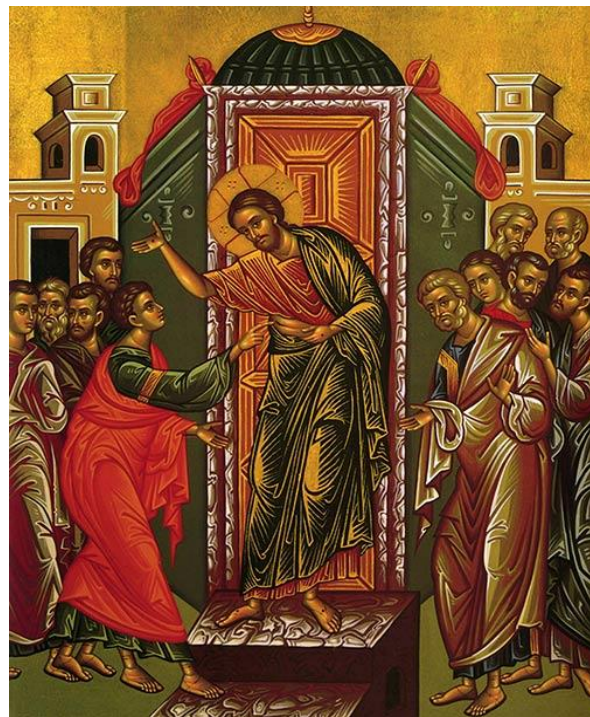
For special intention of Diane Smith from Martha & John Stine

**Saturday, April 17, 2021 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers**

03:00PM – For God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

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**Thomas Sunday**



The Church observes the Sunday of Thomas one week following the celebration of the Sunday of Holy Pascha. The day commemorates the appearance of Christ to His disciples on the evening of the Sunday following Passover. It also commemorates the appearance of the Lord to His disciples eight days later when Thomas was present and proclaimed "My Lord and my God" upon seeing the hands and side of Christ.

This Sunday is also called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

Saint Thomas the Apostle is commemorated by the Church on October 6.

The events commemorated on the Sunday of Thomas are recorded in the Gospel of Saint John 20:19-29. Following the crucifixion and burial of Christ, the disciples were gathered in a room with the doors closed and locked for fear of the Jews. On the evening of the Sunday after Passover, Jesus Christ entered the room and stood in their midst, greeting them with the words, "Peace be with you." (v. 19) He showed the disciples his hands, feet, and side. (v. 20)

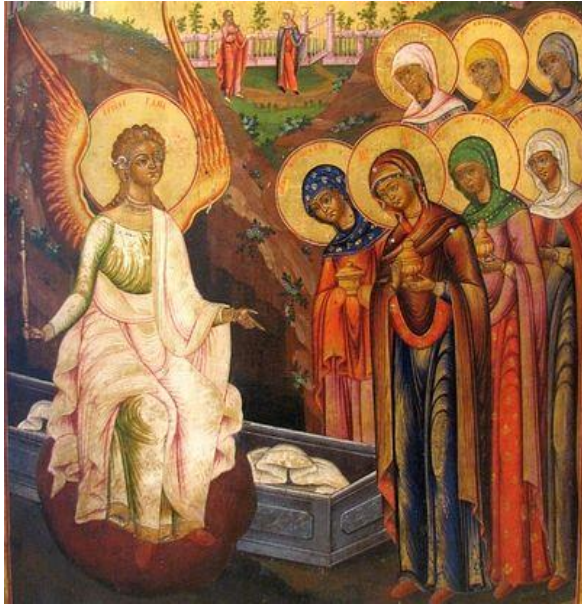
Thomas was not present with the disciples when Jesus appeared, and he did not accept the testimony of the other disciples concerning Christ's Resurrection. He stated, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." (vv. 24-25)

Eight days later, the disciples were gathered together again with Thomas present, and the Lord appeared in the same manner. Standing in their midst he said, "Peace be with you." He then spoke directly to Thomas and said, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." (vv. 26-27) Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus replied by saying, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." (v. 29)

The icon of the Sunday of Thomas depicts Christ standing in the midst of the disciples. He has appeared to the eleven in the upper room, and he is inviting Thomas to come and examine his hands and his side. Thomas is reaching out to touch the side of Jesus. He is also looking to Jesus in a manner that indicates his faith and the proclamation recorded in Scripture.

The Sunday of Thomas is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. On this Sunday and throughout the Paschal period until the Apodosia or leave-taking of Pascha, the day before the Feast of the Ascension, the services begin with the chanting of the troparion of Pascha, "Christ is risen..."

## Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers



This Sunday in church books is called the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women. Myrrh-bearers were women who came to the tomb of Christ on the 3rd day after His death on the cross so that they might anoint the body of the Lord with perfumed ointment according to Jewish rites. Among the myrrh-bearers, the Evangelists mention Mary Magdalene first; also Salome, Joanna, Martha and Mary, the

sisters of Lazarus, and others, all of whom were so sincerely devoted to the Lord, that they followed Him everywhere, serving Him and using their own resources to help Him and His disciples.

Six days before the death of Jesus Christ, when He was reclining at the table in the house of Lazarus, Mary, Lazarus' sister, *"took a whole pint of a very expensive perfumed ointment, poured it on Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The sweet smell of the perfume filled the whole house"*, – says Evangelist John (*John 12*). In this act was manifested her love and thankfulness to the Lord for raising her brother from the dead.

The Lord approved her act of devotion and said: *"When she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial"* (*Math. 26*). Thus Mary, the sister of Lazarus, even before the death and burial of the Lord attained the rank of Myrrh-Bearers. The Lord said of her: *"Truly I say to you, wherever this Gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."* (*Math. 26*)

According to the word of Christ, the Church justly honours the memory of myrrh-bearing women, praising their faith and ardent

love for the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church summons us to emulate their unshakable faith and unchangeable devotion during all times of our life, in all circumstances: in happiness and misfortune, in joy and sorrow, in good health and illnesses.

The faith of a Christian, the true, live faith, based on the Gospel, is real myrrh for our Lord. Bring Him, O Christian, every day this myrrh of faith, confessing your sins, withdrawing from “deeds of darkness” and undertaking the deeds of light. And faith with repentance will justify you and will render you a participant of eternal glory.

Overcome and diffuse doubts arising in your soul, covertly stirred up by evil spirit. Reject unbelief reigning in the world, that there is no resurrection of the dead, that death is an absolute end of our existence and that there will be no God’s judgement.

Keep closer to the Church, the unshakable pillar of truth, which the gates of hell will never prevail. Join your faith with hope, love and good deeds. As you hope to inherit great, incorruptible, eternal good things, you should abstain from every sin and live in righteousness in the fear of God. And this will be your myrrh brought to the Lord.

In the Gospel, we find the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, which bring a great consolation for our souls: *“Truly I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me”* (Math 25). Thus, the Lord accepts what we have done to our neighbors as if it were done to Him. The Church is the body of Christ, as the Apostle says. Christians are His body. Our love and charity towards our neighbors – this is myrrh for Christ’s body.

Thus, let us emulate the Myrrh-bearers and bring myrrh of charity to the least brethren of Christ, as if to Christ, Himself. And the Lord will undoubtedly accept this myrrh upon His heavenly altar as a scent of spiritual fragrance and receive us into eternal rest and glory of His Kingdom.

## **SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS (Second Paschal Sunday)**

**Christ is risen from the dead! By death He conquered Death, and to those in the graves He granted life.(3)**

### **Troparion and Kontakion:**

**Troparion (7):** Though the tomb had been sealed, from the tomb You arose, O Life and Christ our God. Though the door had been locked, You appeared among the disciples, O Resurrection of all; and thus You restored an upright spirit for us according to Your great mercy.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (8):** Thomas placed his

restless hand into Your life-giving side, O Christ our God; and since You entered, although the doors were locked, he cried to You with the other apostles: You are my Lord and my God. **Prokimenon: (3):** Great is the Lord, mighty in power; to His wisdom there is no limit. **Verse:** Praise the Lord for He is good. Sing to our God for He is loving. To Him our praise is due. **Prokimenon (3):** Great is the Lord, mighty in power; to His wisdom there is no limit.

**Epistle: Reading of the Acts of the Holy Apostles.** (Acts 5,12-20) In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. Then the high priest rose up and all his companions, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and, filled with jealousy, laid hands upon the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night, the angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, led them out, and said, "Go and take your place in the temple area, and tell the people everything about this life."

**Alleluia Verses:** Verse: Come, ring out your joy to the Lord; hail God Who is our Savior. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: Let us come before Him, giving thanks; with songs let us hail the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Gospel:** (Jn 20,19-31) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when

he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of [his] disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

**Instead of It is truly right...** (Or the Hirmos of the Feast): The angel exclaimed to her, full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin, again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is risen from the grave on the third day and has raised the dead. Let all nations rejoice. Shine in splendor, O new Jerusalem! For the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Sing with joy and rejoice, O Zion, sing. And you, pure Mother of God, rejoice in the resurrection of your Son.

**Communion Verse:** Glorify the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Instead of Blessed is He Who Comes:** Christ is risen from the dead! By death He conquered Death, and to those in the graves He granted life.

**Instead of We have seen the true light:** Christ is risen from the dead! By death He conquered Death, and to those in the graves He granted life.

**Instead of May our mouths be filled:** Christ is risen from the dead! By death He conquered Death, and to those in the graves He granted life. **(3)**

**Instead of Blessed be the name of the Lord:** Christ is risen from the dead! By death He conquered Death, and to those in the graves He granted life. **(3)**

**Glory and Now:** Christ is risen from the dead! By death He conquered Death, and to those in the graves He granted life. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing

**SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN (Third Paschal Sunday)**  
**Christ is risen from the dead! By death He conquered Death, and to those in the graves He granted life. (3)**

**Troparion and Kontakion:**

**Troparion (2):** When You went down to death, O Life Immortal, You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity. When You raised the dead from the nether world, all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You!

**Troparion (2):** The noble Joseph took down Your most pure body from the cross. He wrapped it in a clean shroud, and with fragrant spices laid it in burial in a new tomb. But You arose in three days, O Lord, bestowing great mercy upon the world. **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Troparion (2):** The angel stood by the tomb and cried out to the women bringing ointment: Ointments are for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself not subject to corruption. So now cry out: The Lord has risen, bestowing great mercy upon the world.

**Now and for ever and ever: Amen. Kontakion (2):** By Your resurrection, O Christ our God, You told the women bringing ointment to rejoice; and You stilled the weeping of Eve, the first mother. You instructed the women to announce to Your apostles: The Savior has risen from the tomb.

**Prokimenon (6):** Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.

**Verse:** To You, O Lord, I call; my God, be not deaf to me.

**Prokimenon (6):** Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.

**Epistle: Reading of the Acts of the Holy Apostles.** (Acts 6,1-7) At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

**Alleluia Verses:** Verse: Lord, You once favored Your land and revived the fortunes of Jacob. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Verse: Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Gospel:** (Mk 15,43-47:16,1-8) At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the council, who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God, came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of

Jesus. Pilate was amazed that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had already died. And when he learned of it from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses watched where he was laid. When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" Then they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed! He said to them, "Do not be afraid! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold, the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.'" Then they went out and fled from the tomb, seized with trembling and bewilderment. They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**Instead of It is truly right...** (Or the Hirmos of the Feast): The angel exclaimed to her, full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin, again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is risen from the grave on the third day and has raised the dead. Let all nations rejoice. Shine in splendor, O new Jerusalem! For the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Sing with joy and rejoice, O Zion, sing. And you, pure Mother of God, rejoice in the resurrection of your Son.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dear Parishioners and Friends!** We welcome you to our Sunday Liturgy with the indoor service. Please keep in mind that social distancing applies and wearing a mask during the celebration of the Liturgy is mandatory to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

**IMPORTANT!** Please note that for the weekends of Sunday, April 11, and Sunday, April 18, the Sunday Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Saturday at 3:00 PM instead of 8:30 AM on Sunday. Thank you for your understanding, and may God bless you!

**Support your Church** In addition to caring for your neighbor and taking care of yourself, one of the most practical ways to help the Church is to continue to do what you have always done: support our parish with your financial resources. Please, continue to contribute to your parish, even during the period you are unable to attend the Liturgy, with your gifts of alms during this Great Fast. Parishioners' weekly contributions are the main source of financial support for our parish, and while some expenses may be a little lower during this time, parishes have many fixed costs that need to be attended to. You may send your donations to PO Box 2735, Manassas VA 20108

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**YOUR OFFERINGS Collection Easter Sunday, April 04, 2021 -**

**Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!**