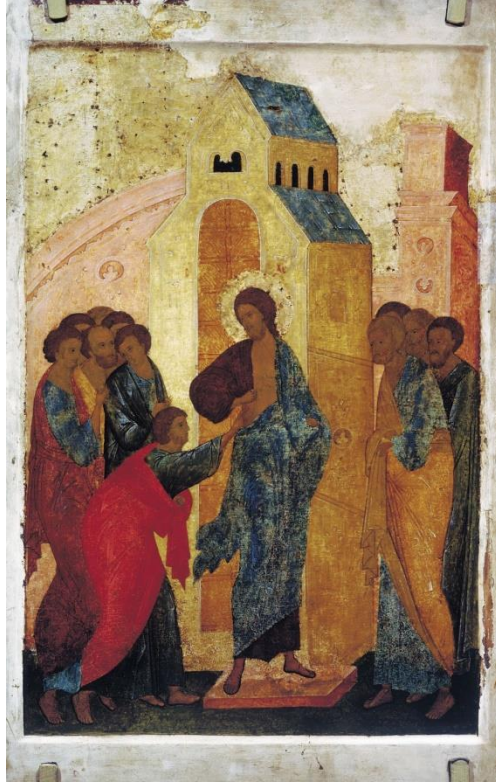


SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church, 971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905
Rev. Presbyter Milan Dragovic; Cell 385 228 4725
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SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS

(April 26th, 2020)



HRISTOS VOSKRESE – VAISTINU VOSKRESE!

CHRIST IS RISEN – INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

Liturgical Readings:

Epistle (Acts 5, 12-20) & Gospel (Jn. 20, 19-31)

St. John's Gospel verifies the Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection! The Risen Lord appeared to His disciples and they were able to physically see Him. St. John's Gospel has withstood the test of time and is continually proclaimed in the Church.

Believers through the centuries have benefitted from St. John's Gospel.

The Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection changed the world forever. Serious followers of the Risen Christ continue to change the world for the better.

The Risen Christ sent forth His disciples just as He was sent into the world.

The disciples carried the message of the Risen Christ to wherever they traveled. They had the strong benefit of being first-hand witnesses.

The disciples preached and could speak with authority. The current Gospel verifies the Holy Apostle Thomas' experience with the Risen Christ. Each year this verification is proclaimed in God's Holy Church.

The Risen Jesus places value on those who believe in Him though they have not physically seen Him. Believers experiencing Christ through the centuries have come to know Him with certainty.

Believers have come to experience the Risen Christ through the Church. The preaching of the Holy Apostles, the lives of the saints and martyrs through the centuries have validated the Resurrected Christ in their lives.

The Risen Christ nourishes and strengthens persons believing in Him. Hope lives in the hearts and minds of believers in the Resurrected Christ. The Holy Apostle Paul put Christ's Resurrection into perspective.

The Holy Apostle told the Corinthians: "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." (I Cor. 15:17) What a woeful state the world would be in today, if Jesus had not arisen from the Tomb!

The world currently is fighting an invisible virus which has consumed an untold amount of resources. Masses of people around the world are following their governmental leaders in restricting their behavior though no one can see the virus.

The current virus has created great fear and numerous deaths. In comparison, think about the immeasurable good the Risen Christ's Resurrection has created and established in the past more than twenty centuries.

Consider the joy that Christ's Resurrection has brought to generations through the centuries and throughout the world. Actively combat the fear of the current virus with fervent hope in the Conqueror of Death, the Risen Christ!

The Risen Jesus greeted His disciples with the words: "Peace be unto you!"

The Risen Christ brings peace to the mind, heart and soul. Not a day goes by that we cannot turn to the Risen Lord in fervent prayer and hope.

Now is the time to fully embrace the Risen Lord and the hope He established by vanquishing death. No threat of a virus is equal to the Risen Lord. Draw hope from the same God who saved Noah from the flood. (Gen 6:13-8:11)

Holy Apostle Paul is clear in the value of believing in the Lord. The Holy Apostle said: "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. (Rom.14:8)

Christ is Life and is the Real Value in life. We give ourselves fully to Jesus Christ at Holy Baptism. We are to live in Jesus Christ every moment of our lives. Only to the extent we live in Christ, do we really enjoy life as intended.

During this Paschal period the Church celebrates the joy of the Risen Lord. Believers are nourished and educated in the continued meaning of Jesus Christ's Resurrection.

Now is the time to be eternally grateful to the Risen Christ! Thank God for His Holy Church and the Apostles, Saints, Martyrs and believers through the centuries. Hristos Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Hristos a inuiat!

Fr Rodney Torbic

DONATIONS RECEIVED ON APRIL 19TH

Due to this pandemic, not only have we modified the schedule for services but we have suspended all fund raising activities including fish fries until further notice. The fish fries have provided great financial support to our church treasury over the years and this loss of income plus not having a weekly collection puts a strain on the finances. Even though we may not be attending services, we continue to incur operating expenses that need to be paid. ***WE ARE ASKING YOU TO PLEASE CONTINUE WITH YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS BY MAILING THEM TO THE CHURCH. YOUR COOPERATION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!***

BELL TOWER FUND - Total to date \$44,747.78/\$ 32,500.00

WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE LARGE CANDLES (\$25)

THANK YOU!

BOOK OF THE MONTH APRIL

"THIRTY STEPS TO HEAVEN: THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT FOR ALL WALKS OF LIFE"

(Archimandrite Vassilios Papavassiliou)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY (April 27th) – Memorial Monday

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy and Pomen

SATURDAY (May 2nd)

6:00 PM – Great Vespers (Live streamed)

SUNDAY (May 3rd) – Sunday of Myrrhbearers

10.00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Live streamed)

Liturgical Readings: Epistle (Acts 6, 1-7); Gospel (Mk. 15, 43-47 & 16, 1-8)

Dear ones,

Please, keep in your hearted prayers our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ

- who suffer of cancer: Jenifer, Linda, Sandy (Simko)
- who pray the God for the restoration of health: Irine (Martinovich), Grace (Vuckovich), Ranka (Banda), Edward (Gartell), George (Momcilovic)

TROPARION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.