

Fr. Joseph Whittaker (Serving)  
Mark Howanetz, Choir Director  
**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA**  
**St. Thomas Sunday**



**Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

**Epistle**

Acts 5:12-20

**Gospel**

John 20:19-31

**Troparion Tone 7 (Pentecostarion)**

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ God. Renew in us through them an upright spirit,//by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

**Kontakion Tone 4 (St. George)**

As a martyr of Christ, thou wast bound for good deeds, O George; by faith thou didst conquer the torturer's godlessness. Thou wast offered as a sacrifice pleasing to God, thus receiving the crown of victory. //Through thine intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.

**Kontakion Tone 8 (Pentecostarion)**

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, when Thou camest to Thine Apostles through closed doors.// He cried out with all: "Thou art my Lord and my God!"



**Prayers for the Sick**

Archpriest Vladimir  
Mat. Gloria  
Mat. Lisa  
Mat. Myra  
Julie  
Thom

Joan  
Vera  
Helen  
Barbara  
Marie  
Barbara

*For all who are sick or suffering with afflictions in our parish,  
our community and throughout the world!*

Congratulations to the Cesari and Thomashefsky Families  
on the Baptism of the Infant Catherine.  
Baptized, Illuminated, Chrismated, Sanctified, and Washed  
in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Services for the Week**

Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>, Holy Myrrhbearing Women Divine Liturgy, 9:30 AM

**Parish Finances for March 2023**

Income: \$7,053

Expenses: \$5,993

**We are so very grateful for all who support our parish!**

**Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has given His very life for us. All that we have has been given us by God. St. Nicholas parish is looking forward to receiving a new priest if the Lord wills. This will mean an increase in our financial obligations. May God help each of us to give prayerfully and cheerfully.**

**Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, the future of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church is in our hands.**

**Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

***Slavonic:* Khristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!**

***Greek:* Khristós Anésti! Alithós Anésti!**

***Arabic:* El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!**

***Ukrainian:* Khrystos Voskres! Voistynu Voskres!**

Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. He was the only disciple absent; on his return he heard what had happened but refused to believe it. The Lord came a second time;



He offered His side for the unbelieving disciple to touch, held out His hands, and showing the scars of His wounds, healed the wound of his disbelief.

Dearly beloved, what do you see in these events? Do you really believe that it was by chance that this chosen disciple was absent, then came and heard, heard and doubted, doubted and touched, touched and believed? It was not by chance but in God's providence. In a marvelous way God's mercy arranged that the unbelieving disciple, in touching the wounds of his Master's body, should heal our wounds of disbelief.

The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples. As he touches Christ and is won over to belief, every doubt is cast aside and our faith is strengthened. So the disciple who doubted, then felt Christ's wounds, becomes a witness to the reality of the resurrection.

Touching Christ, he cried out: "My Lord and my God."

Jesus said to him: "Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed."

Paul said: "Faith is the guarantee of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen."

It is clear, then, that faith is the proof of what can not be seen. What is seen gives knowledge, not faith.

When Thomas saw and

touched, why was he told: "You have believed because you have seen me?"

Because what he saw and what he believed were different things. God cannot be seen by mortal man. Thomas saw a human being, whom he acknowledged to be God, and said: "My Lord and my God."

Seeing, he believed; looking at one who was true man, he cried out that this was God, the God he could not see.

What follows is reason for great joy:

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

There is here a particular reference to ourselves; we hold in our hearts One we have not seen in the flesh. We are included in these words, but only if we follow up our faith with good works. The true believer practices what he believes. But of those who pay only lip service to faith, Paul has this to say: "They profess to know God, but they deny him in their works."

Therefore James says: "Faith without works is dead."

*St. Gregory the Great*

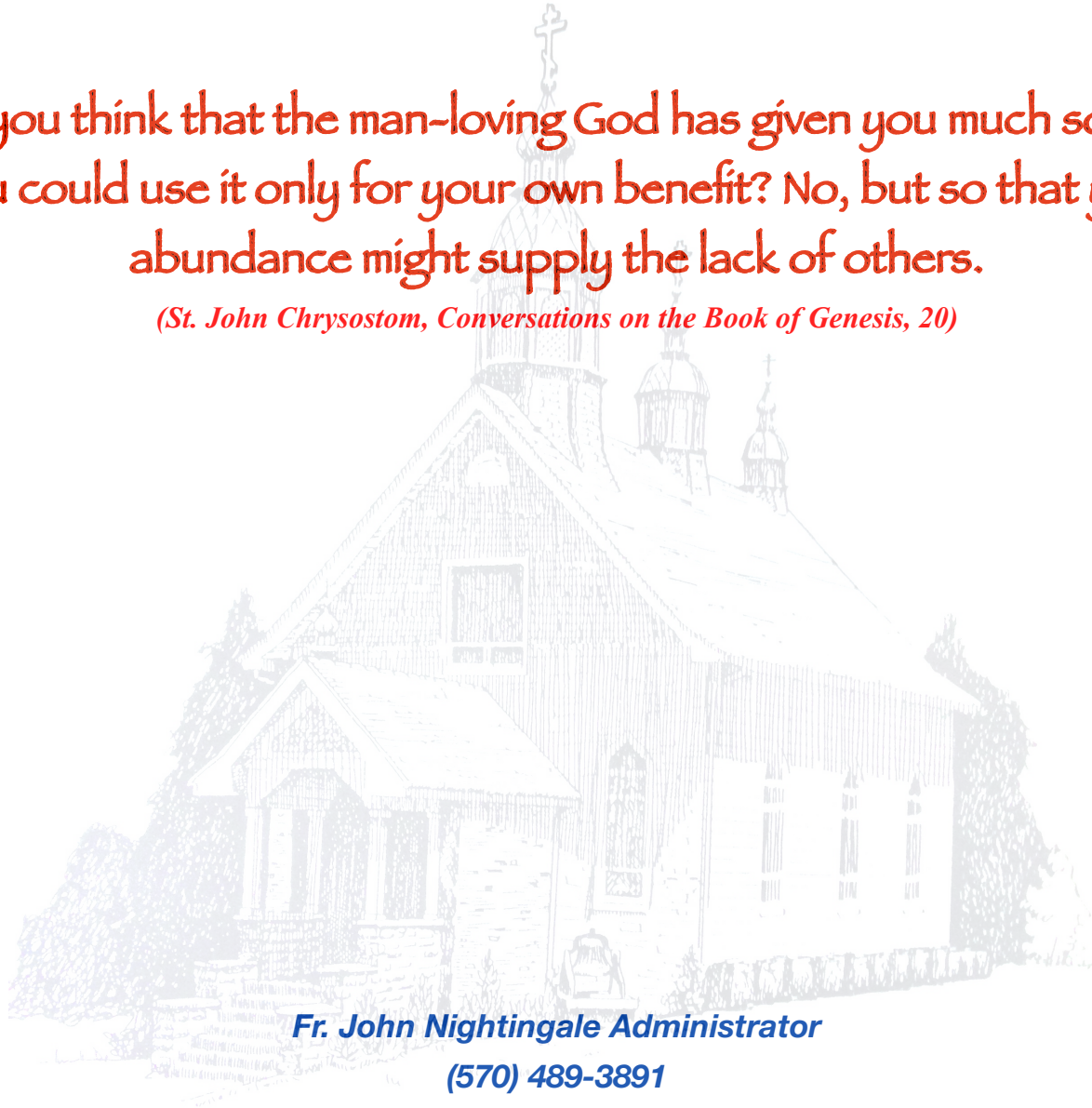
Olyphant PA

St.Nicholas  
Orthodox Church

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023

Do you think that the man-loving God has given you much so that you could use it only for your own benefit? No, but so that your abundance might supply the lack of others.

*(St. John Chrysostom, Conversations on the Book of Genesis, 20)*



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### **Driving**

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