

THOMAS SUNDAY



*Icon of Saint Thomas and the Lord*



## PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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<https://eparchyofpassaic.com/giving.html>

### Patronage Church at Hagerstown:

St. Ann Catholic Church: 1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742

Contact: Adam and Lauren Myers: (301) 791-0930 / [axxearp@yahoo.com](mailto:axxearp@yahoo.com)

Divine Liturgy Schedule: Saturday, April 13th, at 7:00pm and Saturday, April 27th, at 7:00pm

### PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
St. Thomas Sunday 4.7.2024	11:00am	Divine Liturgy	For living and deceased parishioners of our church
Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers 4.14.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For living and deceased parishioners of our church
Sunday of the Paralytic Man 4.21.2024	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the repose of the soul of: Dennis Kohlhoff, Sr. From: Dennis Kohlhoff, Jr.

**Thomas Sunday** – Propers are included in the green Pascha booklets.

**MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE:** Confession is available beginning an hour before Divine Liturgy, and ending 15 minutes before the start of services.

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*

*Christós Voskrése! Voístinnu Voskrése!*

**HOLY COMMUNION AND VISITATION OF THE SICK:** Holy Communion can be brought to parishioners who are ill, in the hospital, or at home. If you would like to receive Communion, or a visit by either Fr. Vasyl, or Deacon Tony, you can send the church an email or contact either one.

**LITURGY INTENTIONS:** It is a beautiful part of our Byzantine Catholic tradition to have the Divine Liturgy celebrated for a special intention or for health and God's blessings upon a living person, or for the repose of the soul of a deceased person. Liturgy intention books and forms are available on the bookrack in the Narthex. Forms can also be found on our website. A donation or stipend is an offering made to the priest for the Divine Liturgy for such a request. **Checks should be made payable to: Fr. Vasyl Symyon.** You can either mail your Intention request to the rectory, or place it in the offertory basket in the back of our Temple. A special date may be requested, but it may not always be available. The date is assigned on a first come, first served basis, and are reserved upon receipt of the offering. **We currently have some dates open, if you would like to request an intention!**

**1924 CENTENNIAL 2024 - Establishment of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church Exarchate in the United States.** The Ruthenian Exarchate was established on February 25, 1924. Pope Pius XI appointed Most Reverend Basil Takach, D.D., as the first Byzantine-Ruthenian Bishop in the United States on May 20, 1924. He arrived at New York Harbor on August 13, 1924, on the liner RMS Mauretania and offered a Moleben of Thanksgiving at St. Mary of the Protection Church, New York City. A **Jubilee Weekend Celebration will take place October 12-13, 2024, in Washington D.C. and Annandale, VA.** More details to follow.

**PICK UP YOUR PANS FOR "OUR DAILY BREAD" CASSEROLE DONATIONS:** You can find aluminum pans and recipes on the kitchen counter in our social hall for this project. Additional information can be found on the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex, and in our social hall. Any questions, please contact either Greg Calvitt ([gregcalvitt@gmail.com](mailto:gregcalvitt@gmail.com)) or Mike Skovran ([michaelskovran@gmail.com](mailto:michaelskovran@gmail.com)). **The first casserole collection date is Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**PRINTER CARTRIDGES:** We continue to collect used printer cartridges to recycle, and earn rewards to help pay for new cartridges we use to print our weekly bulletins and Liturgical information. You can place your cartridges in the labeled box in the cry room. **Many thanks to those who have already contributed – we've now collected over 100 cartridges, so far!**

**GOD WITH US - FREE ONLINE WEBINAR:** You can register for the following event, or if you missed an event, there are hundreds of hours of free pre-recorded webinars, series, conferences, and lectures for inquirers, the faithful, and catechists which are available in video and audio format. Please visit [www.godwithusonline.org](http://www.godwithusonline.org), click on "online," and choose which webinar you would like to register for, or view one of the archived events.

- The Bible is full of stories of women who have borne witness to their faith and courage in challenging and pivotal moments in salvation history. These women inspire and model for us the call to holiness and greatness in the life of the Church. Join Biblical scholar, Dr. Sandra Collins, as we explore their stories! This live webinar, "**Great Women of the Bible – Inspiring Women of Faith & Models of Holiness,**" will be held on **Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**EASTER FLOWERS:** Thank you to those who supported our Easter Flower Sale. We sold 55 flowers. Flowers not taken by parishioners who purchased them will be planted in the flower beds around our church.



## Sunday of St. Thomas

"Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'  
Jesus said to him, 'You have believed because you have seen me. Blessed  
are those who have not seen and yet believe.'"

(John 20:28-29)

# CHILDREN'S CORNER

## Learn about St. Thomas:

Fill in the blanks with the letters that come after the ones given.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Thomas was a                            . When he heard that Jesus was  
c h r b h o k d

                    from the         a    , he could not                             it!  
q h r d m c d c a d k h d u d

He                     Jesus, but he had to             for himself that Jesus was  
k n u d c r d d

            dead. When he     a     Jesus, Thomas said, "My             and my  
m n s r v k n q c

           !" Thomas                            .  
f n c a d k h d u d c

Jesus wants us to believe                         seeing! He wants us to have  
v h s g n t s

    a            .  
e h s g

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**EPARCHY OF PASSAIC YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS:** Registration is now open for the following camps, and will take place at the Carpathian Village, 802 Snow Hill Road, Cresco, PA 18326. Visit [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com), click on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Youth Summer Camps" to download the forms. If you have any questions regarding Camp Theotokos or Camp Saint Nicholas, please contact Maria Kovach - [camptheotokos@gmail.com](mailto:camptheotokos@gmail.com), Jon Aponik - [passaicyouthcamps@gmail.com](mailto:passaicyouthcamps@gmail.com), or Fr. Teras Lovska. If you are interested in attending a camp, please let Fr. Vasyl know. More information is forthcoming.

1. **Altar Server Congress:** July 21-25, 2024 – open to Altar Servers; cost is unknown at this time
2. **Camp Theotokos:** July 14-18, 2024 – open to girls ages 6-17; cost is \$175.00
3. **Camp Saint Nicholas** (pre-teen co-ed): August 11-15, 2024 – open to boys and girls ages 6-12; cost is \$175.00

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon be restored to their land, our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, and those who cannot make it to church. Also, Fr. Vasyl Symyon, Matthew Skovran, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline and Joe Belensky, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Howard Guba, Albert Ondrish, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world. *May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies, grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

## STEWARDSHIP:

**Patronage Church: Sunday, March 31, 2024**  
 Offertory: \$530.00                      Tithe.ly: \$165.00  
 Easter Flowers: \$50.00                Easter: \$2,435.00  
 Religious Articles: \$38.00            Candles: \$266.75  
 Post-Festival Sales: \$131.00

You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. A collection basket is on the table in the back of our Temple for your donation. You may also mail in your donation, or donate online at: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>. The link is also on our website. *“Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth” (Dt. 8:18).*

**ANNUAL ST. THOMAS SUNDAY PARISH DINNER:** Please join us in our social hall today, after Divine Liturgy, for a parish dinner in honor of this feast day. All are welcome!

**PRAYERFUL CONGRATULATIONS:** The Servants of God, **Landon Roberts and Nicholas Roberts**, sons of Sarah Jane and Zachary Roberts, received the Holy Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation, and Eucharist yesterday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, in our church. God grant Landon and Nicholas many blessed years! Mnohaja l’ita!

**PRAYERFUL CONGRATULATIONS:** The Servant of God, **Tim Herder**, husband of Carol Herder, received the Holy Mysteries of Chrismation, Eucharist, and Repentance on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, in our church. God grant Tim many blessed years! Mnohaja l’ita!

**GCU 2024 BYZANTINE FAMILY DAY AND LUNCHEON AT KNOEBELS PARK:** Mark your calendar – **Sunday, June 9, 2024**, from 10:15am – 8:00pm in Pavilion Q. At 11:00am, there will be a Divine Liturgy – **Celebrant: Fr. Paul Varchola West**. The deadline to order ticket booklets is Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, and to order luncheon tickets is Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Visit [www.gcuusa.com](http://www.gcuusa.com) for more information. You can also contact Chris Chamberlain at 724-495-3400, X3810, or [cchamberlain@GCUusa.com](mailto:cchamberlain@GCUusa.com), if you have any questions.

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH:** We welcome all new visitors, to our parish family, and are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and hope you will become an active part of our parish community. We receive the Body and Blood of Christ in our mouth by spoon; please DO NOT stick out your tongue. All Catholics may receive the Eucharist if you are in good-standing and prepared. If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at [patronage.church@gmail.com](mailto:patronage.church@gmail.com). If you want to make us your home church, parish registration is the OFFICIAL way we join a church. Simply complete a census form that is located either on the bookrack in the Narthex, or can be found on our website, and either mail it to the church, or place it in the collection basket in the back of our Temple. Donation information can be found under “Stewardship” in this bulletin. *“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).*

Reflection from Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA

By: Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM, Sisters of St. Basil the Great

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Have you ever been caught in telling a lie? A half-truth? Well, the Eighth Commandment addresses such things: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

But it, of course, encompasses the whole matter of truth; a bigger truth. So big, Jesus Himself says, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

And in the graces that we receive through Him, through our prayer, through the sacramental life, we do get the strength to walk in truth. When we don't walk in truth, we must repair that in some way. Make some reparation.

Christ's disciples – "we" – have been blessed to put on the "new man," the new life of grace and so we are given that blessing and help. Truth and truthfulness is a virtue. It's how to show oneself faithful in deeds and in words. We need to guard against hypocrisy, duplicity, and outright lying.

In fact, we, as Christ's followers – Christians – are also asked, expected, to not be ashamed of testifying to the Lord. The truth! Martyrdom is the ultimate telling of the truth in the face of the opposition. Many martyrs are among the saints that inspire and pray for us.

So, the everyday reality is a call to respect the reputation and the honor of other people so that we don't speak against them. But is also means being truthful in any obligations that we contract to. We can't say one thing outwardly with the purpose underneath of deceiving.

Our neighbor, one another, and society has the right to hear truth. The Golden Rule helps us to discern when I should or should not reveal the truth to someone. Does this person need this information for honorable reasons? If it would be good for me then it's good for the other person as a way of knowing when to speak, what to speak.

The sacramental seal of confession comes under the Eighth Commandment and priests must absolutely keep secret what is revealed in confession. But, we must be faithful to professional secrets if we're participating in some endeavor with others.

We have to be faithful when we receive confidences. If we pledge not to reveal something, we must not reveal. (There are exceptions such as a person is planning suicide or a crime.)

Society has a right to information based on truth and freedom and justice. We have experienced, we have seen, we have known societies in which truth has decreased or fallen apart and the country is in terrible condition thereafter.

We also are urged in the Commandment to be disciplined, to use moderation in our use of social media communication. There is such a mass of information that comes at us and is invited from us. So, we must be very mindful how easy it is to be deceived or to deceive in these communication media.

One last thought is the fine arts, especially sacred art. Here, too, truth must be spoken. We know anyone who has worked with an icon or prayed with an icon knows that it is a message of truth, a message of holiness, and if we are involved in the arts, our expressions about God and about holiness must be true to who God is.

Thank you for considering these thoughts. May we be blessed to walk in Him Who says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." God bless you.

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**GCU MEMBERS 2024 DISCOUNTED TICKETS:** Visit [www.gcuusa.com](http://www.gcuusa.com) for more information. You can also contact Chris Chamberlain at 724-495-3400, X3810, or [cchamberlain@GCUusa.com](mailto:cchamberlain@GCUusa.com), if you have any questions. You are a GCU member if you have a GCU life insurance or annuity product in your name.

1. **Hersheypark** – now through December 31, 2024. Tickets are offered to GCU members at \$38 per ticket and non-members at \$46 per ticket. Parking is \$25 per car.
2. **Knoebels Park** – now through November 1, 2024. \$20 ticket books are available to GCU members for \$16 each. Tickets are good for rides, pool, food, and games inside the park. No discount tickets will be available at the park.
3. **Kennywood Park** – now through September 14, 2024. Tickets are \$32 for GCU members, and \$39 for non-members.

**CABRINI, MORE THAN JUST A RELIGIOUS STORY:** Head to the theatres to learn more about the inspiring life of Mother Cabrini, the first naturalized American citizen to be canonized as a saint. The film highlights her dedication to serving the poor, marginalized, and immigrant communities, embodying the values of compassion, selflessness, and faith. Mother Cabrini's story serves as a reminder of the importance of reaching out to those in need.

**SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL UPDATE:** We are pleased to report the results from our festival last month. Many thanks to all who worked to make our festival such a tremendous success! The donations of cash and food items made a significant impact to our bottom line.

<b>Festival Results:</b>	Gross Sales	\$14,571.44
	Costs	<u>\$ (5,408.05)</u>
	Net Sales	\$ 8,284.39
	Parishioner Donations	<u>\$ 3,857.05</u>
	<b>Festival Profit</b>	<b>\$12,141.44</b>

## *Incorruptible but Touchable*

The Lord's body that made its entrance to the disciples through closed doors was the same as that which issued before the eyes of people from the Virgin's closed womb at His birth.

Is it surprising that He who was now going to live forever made His entrance through closed doors after His resurrection, who on His coming in order to die made His appearance from the unopened womb of a virgin?

But because the faith of those who beheld it wavered concerning the body they could see, He showed them at once His hands and His side, offering them the body that He brought in through the closed doors to touch.

By this action He revealed two wonderful and, according to human reason, quite contradictory things. He showed them that after His resurrection His body was both incorruptible and yet could be touched ... .

By showing us that it is incorruptible, He would urge us on toward our reward, and by offering it as touchable He would dispose us toward faith.

He manifested Himself as both incorruptible and touchable to show us that His body after His resurrection was of the same nature as ours but of a different sort of glory.

*St. Gregory the Great*

**For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)**