

*April 23, 2017*

*Bulletin*

*St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*

*Diocese of Toledo – Orthodox Church in America*

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## **The Gospel according to Saint Matthew**

### **28:16-20 (1st Matins Gospel)**

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, 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.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017. St. Thomas Sunday. ANTIPASCHA. 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 1. Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Victorybearer and Wonderworker George (303). St. Thomas Sunday. Martyr Alexandra the Empress, wife of Diocletian (303). Martyrs Anatolius and Protoleon, soldiers converted by witnessing the martyrdom of St. George (303).**

### **FIRST ANTIPHON**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give glory to His praise!

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Say to God: How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that Thy enemies cringe before Thee!

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee! Let it praise Thy name, O Most High!

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!**

### **SECOND ANTIPHON**

God be bountiful to us and bless us! Show the light of Thy countenance upon us and have mercy on us!

**O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations!

**O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to Thee!

**O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

### **THIRD ANTIPHON**

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

**Troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.

**Troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad.

**Troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**Troparion:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

### **TROPARIA**

**(Tone 7)** 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!

**(Tone 4)** 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.

**(Tone 4)** In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

### **KONTAKION**

**(Tone 8)** Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, when Thou didst come to Thy apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God!

***The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall set his hope on Him.***

**v. Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to Thee.**

**THE READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES (12:1-11)** In those days, Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the

church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

### *Alleluia, Tone 8*

**v: Come; let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!**

**v: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth!**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN (20:19-31)** On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the

nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.” Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 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.

### **THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

O most radiant lamp, Theotokos, the honor immeasurable, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we //magnify// thee.

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### **IN PLACE OF “WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT...”**

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

### **WHAT IS THE ARTOS?**

“Artos” is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. The Artos is blessed on Pascha after the Ambon Prayer which is said at the end of the Liturgy. The prayer used in the blessing of the Artos is as follows: “We bless and sanctify this bread on this Paschal day, for the honor, praise and memory of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we are released, freed ... We further ask Almighty God to bless this bread and that all who partake of it may share in His Heavenly gifts and be free of all pain and sickness, and be granted salvation of soul and health of body.” During Bright Week, the blessed bread, covered with an icon of the Resurrection, remains in the church to be kissed until the Sunday after Pascha (Saint Thomas Sunday), when the Artos is distributed to the faithful. According to the old custom, the Artos was distributed on the Saturday of Bright Week after the Holy Liturgy with the prayer, “this bread may be for the health and sanctification of the soul of him who eats of it.” In the former centuries the faithful would preserve little

pieces of bread for those who were seriously ill or in danger of death and unable to receive Holy Communion. They would be given a piece of Artos as a substitute for Holy Communion. Presently, the Artos is generally broken and distributed on Thomas Sunday so that as many of the faithful as possible can partake of this blessing. The Artos reminds us of the occasion when our Lord at the Last Supper, on Holy Thursday, with His Disciples present, instituted the Holy Eucharist. It recalls to our minds that He is permanently among us. It also reminds us of His appearance to the Disciples after the Resurrection, when He blessed the food and did eat of it with them. Again we are reminded of His words to Cleophas and Lucas on their way to the village of Emmaus when He interpreted the Scriptures in regard to things referring to Himself, and they did recognize Him when He reclined at the table with them, and He took bread and blessed, and broke and began handing it to them. (Luke 24:27-35) According to the oldest tradition, the Apostles, after the Ascension of Our Lord, placed bread on the table (altar) each time during the services, for the Divine Master. This they did for their Master, confessing or believing in His invisible presence among them. At the end of the services they took the bread and lifted it up with the words: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit." The Apostles, after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day, went to preach the Gospel throughout the world and, according to tradition, left a loaf of bread on the altar in remembrance of His Glorious Resurrection. As the unleavened bread had a great significance to the Jews in the Old Testament, so the Artos has for us in the New Testament. As bishop, Saint Cyril, the great writer and preacher, writes: "As the Jews in Egypt were preparing unleavened bread for their big journey through the Red Sea, and after crossing the Sea they did eat the bread, so we, Christians, saved through the Resurrection of our Savior from sin, lift up the Artos, which is exposed on the table during Bright Week and eat it on Saturday, the last day of Bright Week. As the unleavened bread was eaten for the health of the people who ate it, so is this bread given for the health and sanctification of our soul and body."

April 23, 2017



**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF**

Fr. Joe, Fr. Tom, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, Noah, JoAnn, Nicolai, Kosta,  
Luba, Jimmy, Laurie, Walt, Zina, Dorothy, Allen, Michael, Allison, Marla,  
Anna, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Gloria, Ted, Marlene, Nicholas, Margaret, Gladys,  
my family and friends

Special Intention

Health and blessings for Anna Branoff, & Petsy Papalazarou

Joe Tome

Joe Tome

Alex & Magda Popoff

**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE**

Peter Popoff & John Naum

Alex & Magda Popoff



**CHRIST IS RISEN!** Welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas! Please join us for fellowship in our parish hall. Coffee and pastries are being provided today in memory of Evangelia Bakousidis (2 yrs.) by Irene Batcos and Lena Bakousidis.

**EGG HUNT** Today following the Divine Liturgy. All of our youth are welcome to participate. Thank you to all who made donations towards the event.

**PARISH COUNCIL** will have a brief meeting today after veneration of the Cross.

**GRAVE BLESSINGS** will take place today at St. Nicholas cemetery. Father will begin at 2:00pm at the central cross.

If any of you should go to our parish cemetery today you will see that approximately two dozen headstones were toppled over. A police report has been filed with the Flint Police Department. Please do not attempt to fix any gravestones at the cemetery until the investigation by police and the insurance company is complete.

**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** will be put together on Tuesday, beginning at 10 am.

**CHARITY MINISTRIES**

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting baby items/wipes and formula for the month of April. Place the items in the Blue Box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

**FOOD DRIVE** Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

**NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN** Please mark your calendar for next month's service day: Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> (9:00 to 1:00pm).

***Schedule of services and events for the week of April 23:***

<u>Today</u>	<b>THOMAS SUNDAY</b>
2 PM	Grave Blessings at St. Nicholas Cemetery
<u>Tuesday, April 25</u>	Father in Toledo
<u>Wednesday, April 26</u>	
9 am	Divine Liturgy
11 am	Adult Education
<u>Saturday, April 29</u>	
5:00 pm	Vespers
<u>Sunday, April 30</u>	<b>HOLY MYRRHBEARERS – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA</b>
9:30 am	Third Hour
10:00 am	Divine Liturgy

**Offerings for the week April 16, 2017**

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$6,480.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$4,034.03
	<b>\$2,445.97</b>

*100+ people were in attendance on Sunday, April 16, 2017*

“If you cannot see Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice.”  
**St. John Chrysostom**