

### *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.

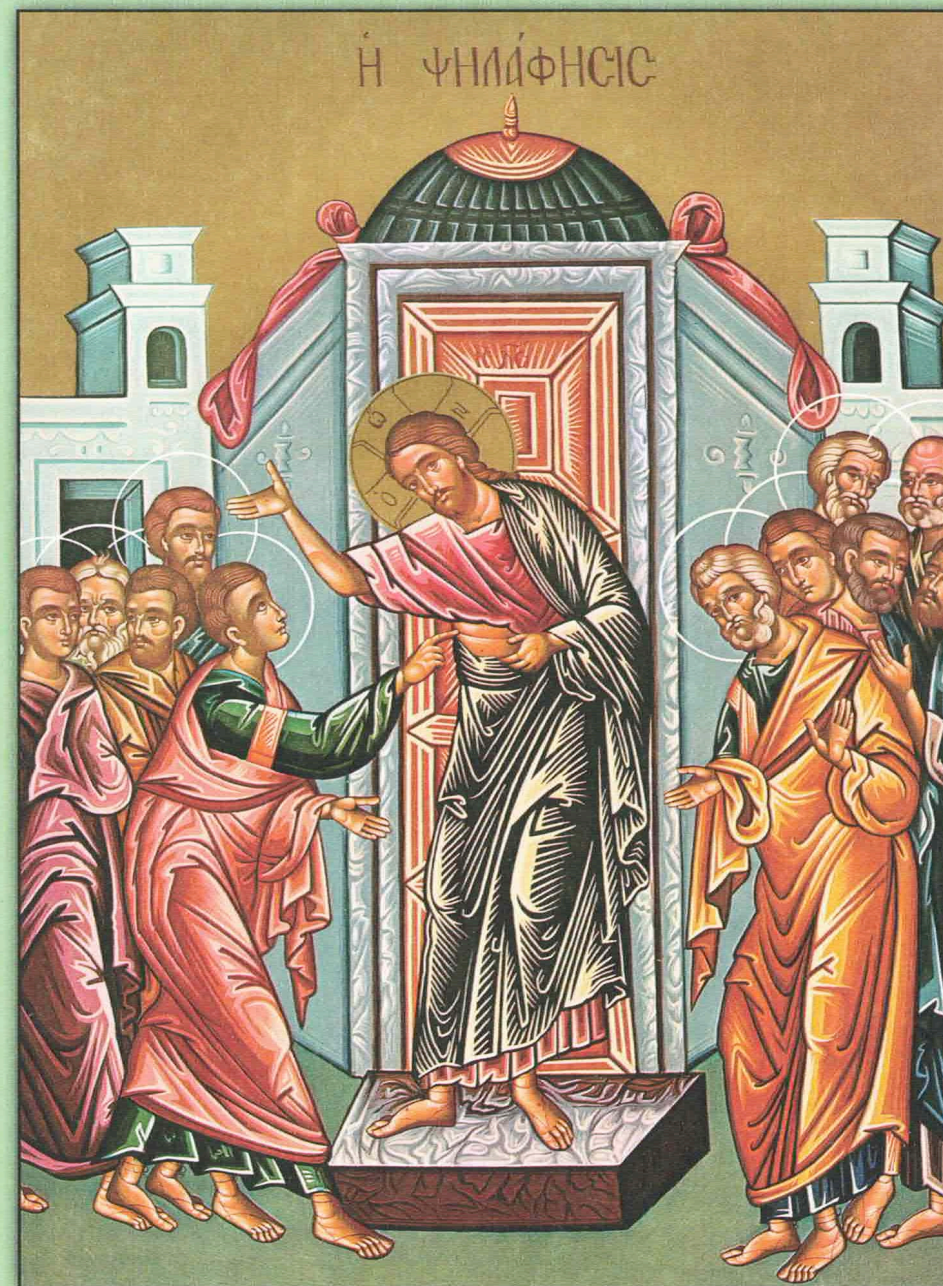
By this action He revealed two wonderful and, according to human reason, quite contradictory things. He showed them that after His resurrection His body was both incorruptible and yet could be touched ...

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*

## THOMAS SUNDAY



*Icon of Saint Thomas and the Lord*



**PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
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**Contact:** Adam and Lauren Myers: (301) 791-0930/[axxearp@yahoo.com](mailto:axxearp@yahoo.com)  
**Divine Liturgy Schedule:** Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>; at 4:00pm

**PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE**

Date	Time	Service	Intention
St. Thomas Sunday 4.12.2026	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Souls of: +Mary and +George Kostak Offered by: The Kotula Family
Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers 4.19.2026	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Soul of: +Dorothy Gaydos Offered by: Thomas and Chris Gaydos
George Great-Martyr Thursday, 4.23.2026	6:00pm	Vigil Divine Liturgy Anointing/Mirovanije	For the Health and Salvation of: Parishioners

**Resurrection of our Lord - Pascha**

*Today's Propers can be found in the Pascha Liturgy booklet.*

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

**HOLY EUCHARIST AND VISITATION OF THE SICK:** Eucharist can be brought to a parishioner who is ill, in the hospital, or at home. You can request a visit by either sending our church an email, or contacting either Fr. Vasyl or Deacon Tony, personally.

***Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Christós Voskrése! Voístinnu Voskrése!***

**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, Charlie Toth, Larissa Toth, Tony Kotlar, Jr., Mary Hrinda, Michael Demyan, Michael Skovran, Mary Ann Ondrish, Betty Charlock, Elizabeth Hresko, John Hanyok, Ann Marie Elwell, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Joe Belensky, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Howard Guba, Melanie Copper, Julie Wiegand, Natalie, Edin, and +Walter Lourdes Najera Herder, Mark and Betsey Herder, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world. Please help us keep our prayer list up to date. Let us know if we need to remove or add a name by sending an email to our church.

*May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies,  
grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

**STEWARDSHIP:** You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. An offertory basket is on the table in the back of our Temple for your weekly donation. You may also mail your donation to our church, or donate using Tithe.ly online at: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>. The link is also on the first page of 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 POT-LUCK LUNCHEON/EASTER EGG HUNT:** Please join us after Divine Liturgy today for our pot-luck luncheon followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for children up through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We want to thank the GCU for their generous donation of supplies for our egg hunt, and to those who provided a dish for our luncheon. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

**EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF):** Our next class for children will be held on **Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**, after Divine Liturgy.

**ADULT ENRICHMENT:** Our next session is scheduled after Liturgy on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Deacon Tony will be discussing, “Why are the dates different,” when it comes to Western Easter and Orthodox Pascha. Please join us!

**PLANNING MEETING FOR PATRONAGE CHURCH’S 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL PICNIC:** A brief planning meeting will be held after Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**. All are welcome to attend! We need many volunteers to help organize our picnic, which will be held at Holy Trinity (Cathedral Gardens) pavilion in Elkridge, on **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**. Divine Liturgy will begin at 11:00am, followed by food, games for children and adults, “Baba’s Auction,” and lots of parish fellowship. To help offset the cost of our parish picnic, we are asking each household to donate an item or two (or how many items you would like to donate) for the auction. Auction item ideas can be gift cards; religious, handmade, household, or garden items; toys; games; plants; or anything else you can think of – be creative! Any questions, please see Sharon Kotula. More details to follow.

**2025 BISHOP’S APPEAL:** Please consider making a donation towards the Bishop’s Appeal now through **June 30, 2026**. Checks must be made payable to: Eparchy of Passaic, and mailed to: 445 Lackawanna Avenue, Woodland Park, NJ 07424-2969. You can also pledge online at: [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com), then click on “Giving.” Thank you to those who have already donated to support our Eparchy!

## Children's Corner

The Sunday after Pascha (Easter) is St. Thomas Sunday. The icon for this feast day 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. In your Bible, read the scripture, John 20:26-29, and fill in the blanks using the following words:

Lord    faithless    believe    Thomas    side    believing  
Jesus    seen    believed    finger    Peace    hands

"...Jesus came and stood among them, and said, ' \_\_\_\_\_  
be with you.' Then he said to \_\_\_\_\_, 'Put your  
\_\_\_\_\_ here, and see my \_\_\_\_\_, and put out  
your hand, and place it in my \_\_\_\_\_; do not be  
\_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_.' Thomas answered him,  
'My \_\_\_\_\_ and my God!' \_\_\_\_\_ said to him, 'You  
have \_\_\_\_\_ because you have seen me. Blessed are  
those who have not \_\_\_\_\_ and yet \_\_\_\_\_.'"

Reflection from Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA

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

"Lead us to Your truth"

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We come. Now to the magnificent days. The days of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection. Days that we are invited to walk closely with the Lord in this time.

I invite us to seek our patron saints to pray for us to do just that; to walk a personal journey with the Lord or ask the intercession of Lazarus and Martha and Mary, who surely were there, and our Holy Mother May.

In our prayers, one particular beautiful prayer that I found helps us to become personal in this time to walk with the Lord. This comes from Thursday Matins:

*You were crucified for my salvation and you poured forth the fountain of forgiveness for me. Your side was pierced and the stream of life gushed forth for me. You were nailed to the cross so that when I saw the depth of Your Passion I would recognize the greatness of your majesty and sing to You, O Christ, the giver of life, glory to You, for You save us through Your cross and Your passion. When You were on the cross, You drew all mortals together, O Jesus. A fountain of life flowed from the wound of Your side. You poured out streams of forgiveness upon us. By Your cross, lead us to Your truth. O Christ, Savior, deliver us from the snares of our enemies.*

Let us pray for each other, as well, to walk closely with the Lord and to bring to Him what we need to bring yet: our weaknesses, sins, our needs for grace, blessings, strength, and courage. Let us pray for whatever virtue we need to see us through these days and prepare our hearts to enjoy, celebrate, and glorify His Holy Resurrection.

God bless you.

**ECF LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT:** ECF is collecting monetary donations to benefit Holy Annunciation Monastery (founded in 1977) located in Sugarloaf, PA, for this year's Lenten Service Project. This monastery of Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Nuns is part of our Eparchy of Passaic. ECF is currently planning a visit to the monastery on **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to support our Lenten service project, please place your donation (cash or check made payable to: Patronage Church) in the labeled white poor box in the back of our church. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generosity! Visit [www.byzantinediscalcedcarmelites.com](http://www.byzantinediscalcedcarmelites.com), to learn more about Holy Annunciation Monastery.

**HELP NEEDED:** We encourage our younger parishioners to enjoy the books in the cry room. However, due to safety concerns, parents, please make sure all books are put neatly back on the bookshelf. Thank you for your help!

**380<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNION OF UZHHOROD:** The Eparchy of Passaic warmly invites clergy and faithful to commemorate the 380<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Union of Uzhhorod (1646-2026), on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**, at 2:00pm, at St. Michael's Chapel, Woodland Park, NJ, with a solemn Hierarchical Divine Liturgy followed by a Celebration Conference. This special gathering will honor the spiritual, historical, and ecclesial significance of the Union of Uzhhorod, and its enduring legacy in the life of our Church. Attending the Liturgy and Conference is free of charge. The Conference dinner is \$20/person. Registration is required, and space is limited. For additional information, please send an email to: [uzhhorod380@gmail.com](mailto:uzhhorod380@gmail.com), or call (609) 394-5004.

**BYZANTINE CATHOLIC SEMINARY ANNUAL LECTURE:** In honor of the 380<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Union of Uzhhorod, our 26<sup>th</sup> annual academic lecture is to be delivered by Paul Robert Magocsi, PhD at 7:00pm on **Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**. Dr. Magocsi's presentation will focus on how the Byzantine Ruthenian/Greek Catholic Church has been able to survive for nearly four centuries in the face of political, social, and cultural challenges placed before it by the different societies which it has had to function in Europe and North America. All are welcome to attend this lecture virtually via the Seminary website at [www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu). The lecture can also be accessed live or at a later time from archives on the B.C.S. YouTube channel. Don't miss this informative lecture!

**2026 GCU ANNUAL ART & PHOTO CONTEST:** The theme for 2026 is "My Favorite Place." **Now through June 5, 2026**, the GCU is accepting artwork and photos for this contest. For the rules and more information, visit [www.gcuusa.com](http://www.gcuusa.com), and click on "Events." You must be a GCU member for at least one year to participate.

**2026 "OUR DAILY BREAD" CASSEROLE DONATIONS:** Our first casserole collection for this year will be next **Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>**. Please place your casserole in the church's social hall freezer when you drop it off. Be sure it is appropriately labeled with the name of the casserole, Patronage Church, and the date. Any questions, please contact Greg Calvitt ([gregcalvitt@gmail.com](mailto:gregcalvitt@gmail.com)). Aluminum pans can be found on the kitchen counter in the social hall. Thank you for your support!

**2026 BYZANTINE CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT CONVOCATION:** This summer, encounter "*The Heart of the God-Bearer*," on **July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, New Jersey. Young adults ages 18-35 will gather for fellowship, communal praying of the Liturgy of the Hours, and talks from speakers like Mother Natalia of *Christ the Bridegroom Monastery* and co-host of the *What God Is Not* podcast and Very Rev. Paul Varchola West, MFA, MDiv of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Levittown, PA; host of the "*Building Athosin Our Hearts Podcast*;" and "*Spiritual Father of the Springs in the Desert ministry*." Join us for three days of faith, friendship, and transformation. For more information and regular updates, go to <https://www.heartofthegodbearer.org/>. Online registration is open from now until June 30<sup>th</sup>! Not a young adult? Contact us if you're interested in helping sponsor scholarships to help the young adults in our Church grow and share their faith!

**2026 EPARCHY OF PASSAIC YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS:** Our Eparchy is currently accepting applications for its summer camps located at the Carpathian Village in Cresco, Pennsylvania. Registration and other information is available by visiting [www.eparchyofpassaic.com](http://www.eparchyofpassaic.com), and clicking on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Youth Summer Camps." **Please let Fr. Vasyl know if your child would like to attend any of these camps as soon as possible.**

1. **Altar Server Congress:** July 19-23, 2026 – open to Altar Servers ages 6-17
2. **Camp Theotokos:** August 9-13, 2026 – open to girls ages 6-17

**GCU – KENNYWOOD SUMMER DISCOUNT TICKETS:** The 2026 Summer Season is coming Soon! Opening Day for Kennywood Amusement Park, 4800 Kennywood Blvd. West Mifflin, PA, is **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00am – 7:00pm**. Discounted tickets for GCU members are available for \$32/person. Non-members are \$39/person. More info can be found at [www.gcuusa.com](http://www.gcuusa.com), or call (855) 306-0607.

**LIVING AND DECEASED MOTHER'S DAY COMMEMORATION:** Included with this bulletin is a Mother's Day Commemoration form. If you would like to submit any names for our commemoration on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, kindly return the form no later than Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. A special insert will be included in the bulletin on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC LITURGICAL PRACTICE OF OBSERVING “ALL SOULS”**

**SATURDAYS:** Please join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> and final “All Souls” service for the year, with the reading of the “Hramoty,” on ***Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00pm.***

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH:** We are glad that you have chosen to participate in the Divine Liturgy with us today, and we pray that it will be a spiritually nourishing experience. All Catholics may receive the Eucharist if you are in good standing and prepared. We receive the Body and Blood of Christ in our mouth by spoon. Please DO NOT stick out your tongue. ***If you would like to become an active part of our parish community, be added to our email list, and register as a parishioner,*** please complete a “Census” form. Forms are located on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our website, and can either be mailed to our church, or placed in the offertory basket in the back of our Temple. On-line 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).***

**Mother's Day  
Living and Deceased Mothers  
will be Remembered at the Divine Liturgy on  
Sunday, May 10, 2026**

**Living Mothers:**

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**Deceased Mothers:**

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**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: Very Reverend Vasyl Symyon**

**Kindly return your Intention form by: Sunday, May 3, 2026**