**ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME**

**1301 Newport Avenue**, **Northampton, Pennsylvania 18067**

**Rev. Fr. Oleg Kravchenko, Rector**

**Protodeacon Mikhail Sawarynski, Attached**

**Websites:** holyassumption.org **and** ukrainianorthodoxchurchusa.org

**Facebook:** Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church

**YouTube:** AVM UOC Church

**Contacts: Fr. Oleg Kravchenko** – (732) 507-2274; olegkravchenko2212@gmail.com

 **Protodeacon Mikhail** – (H) (610) 262-3876); pravoslavni@rcn.com

 **Office** – (610) 262-2882; avmuoc@gmail.com

 **Webmaster, John Hnatow** – john.hnatow@gmail.com

**Sun. 09 May. ANTIPASCHA. SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA. THOMAS SUNDAY.**

**Tone 1. Hieromartyr BASIL, Bishop of Amasea (322). Righteous Virgin GLAPHYRA of Nicomedia (322).**

**Acts 5: 12-20**

**Bulletin is sponsored by Darryl Meashock in memory of his grandfather +Michael Meashock. Memory Eternal.**

**Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings**

**(No kneeling for 50 days. Fast free week)**

**Mon. 10 May.** Holy Apostle and Hieromartyr Symeon the Kinsman of the Lord.

**Acts 3:19-26 Jn. 2:1-11**

**Tue. 11 May.** Apostles Jason and Sosipater of the Seventy, and their companions.

**Acts 4:1-10 Jn. 3:16-21**

**Wed. 12 May.** Nine Martyrs at Cyzicus: Theognes, Rufus, Antipater.

**Acts 4:13-22 Jn. 5:17-24**

**Thu. 13 May.** Holy Apostle James, the brother of St. John the Theologian (44).

**Acts 4:23-31 Jn. 5:24-30**

**Fri. 14 May.** Prophet Jeremiah (650 B.C.). Hieromartyr Macarius, metr. of Kyiv.

**Acts 5:1-11 Jn. 5:30–6:2**

**Sat. 15 May.** St. Athanasius the Great, archbishop of Alexandria (373).

**Діян. 5:21-33 Ін. 6:14-27**

***5:00 PM Great Vespers***

**Sun. 16 May. Sts. Myrrh-Bearing Women, Righteous Joseph of Arimathea Nicodemus.**

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (restriction of 50 people; also available Online)’***

**SKEPTICS.** Dr. Werner Von Braun, the great scientist who headed the United States’ space program,speaks as a scientist on life after death. He said. “Many people seem to feel that science has somehow made religious ideas untimely and old fashioned. But, I think science has a real surprise for skeptics. Science, for instance, tells us that nothing in nature, not even the tiniest particle, can disappear without a trace. Nature does not know extinction. All it knows is transformation.Dr. Braun continued, “Now, if God applies this fundamental principle to the most minute and insignificant parts of His universe, doesn’t it make sense to assume that He applies it also the human soul? I think it does! And everything science has taught me – and continues to teach me – strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death. Nothing disappears without a trace.” St. Thomas the Apostle had his doubts concerning the reality of our Lord’s resurrection from the dead. He had to have it verified to him personally as today’s Gospel informs us. There are still many doubters today. From the words of our Lord, it seems there will continue to be those who will not accept the reality of a future life. In the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man, through the mouth of Abraham, Jesus said, “If they will not listen either to Moses or to the Prophets, they will not be convinced, even if someone should rise from the dead.” How true!

A junior high school teacher was telling her class about evolution and how the way everything in the world was formed proved that God doesn't exist. She said, "Look out the window. You can't see God, can you?" The kids shook their heads. "Look around you in this room. You can't see God, can you?" The kids shook their heads. "Then our logical conclusion is that God doesn't exist, does He?" she asked at last, certain that she had won her audience over. But one girl from the back of the classroom said, "Miss Smith, just because we can't see it doesn't mean it doesn't exist. We could do brain surgery and investigate the parts of your brain and we could do a CAT scan and see the brain patterns in your head. But we couldn't prove that you've had a single thought today. Does that mean that you haven't thought anything today? Just 'cause you can't see it doesn't mean it doesn't exist." Seeing is believing, right? But, "just 'cause you can't see it doesn’t mean it doesn't exist." ("Seeing Is Believing," by C. T. Powell)

**PROPERS of the LITURGY of JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**After "Blessed is the Kingdom"** the priest sings the Paschal Tropar 2 ½ times.

Choir concludes: "And upon those in the tombs bestowing Life."

**Tropar of Thomas Sunday, Tone 7**

Christ our Life, You rose from the tomb after it had been sealed. While the doors remained closed, You stood among Your disciples renewing a righteous spirit in them. Our God, the Resurrection of alI, You are most merciful.

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

**Kondak of Thomas Sunday, Tone 8**

Christ God, Thomas explored Your Life-giving side with an inquisitive hand. Since You had entered the room while the doors were locked, he cried out with the other Apostles: "You are my Lord and my God."

**Prokimen** of Thomas Sunday, Tone 3 Great is our God and great is His Power. His understanding is beyond measure.

**Verse:** Praise the Lord, for a Psalm is good; Let our praise to God be sweet.

**Epistle: Acts 5: 12-20**

**Alleluia** Verses, Tone 8 Come let us rejoice in the Lord. Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior.

For the Lord is a great God and a great King over all the earth.

**Gospel: John 20: 19-31**

**In place of "It is right in truth"...** The angel cried to the Lady Full of Grace: Rejoice Pure Virgin. Again I say: Rejoice. Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself, He has raised up all the dead: Rejoice, all peoples.

**Irmos:** Shine, Shine, O New Jerusalem, for the Glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now and be glad, O Zion and rejoice, Pure Birth- Giver of God, in the Resurrection of Your Son.

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord, Jerusalem, praise Your God, Zion. Alleluia (3X)

**"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.

**"In place of the** **regular dismissal**.." Paschal Tropar (3 X)

**During the Great Lent we collected 231 dollars for charity organization in Ukraine (Lviv region). Thank you all for your generosity.**

**2021 Spring pierogi schedule:** May 13, 20. For orders or volunteers please call Helen: 610-261-4575.

**For the food banks**: We were assigned baby foods, but they also need cans of potatoes, tuna fish, canned meats, pasta, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

**09 May...**Taras Pypiuk, Matthew Vitushinsky

**MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY:**

**09 May...**Anastasia Machibroda '35

**10 May...**Michael Meashock '78

**11 May...**John Siglecki (6 yrs.) '22, Helen Gontar '87

**12 May...**Anastasia Dworakivskky '94

**14 May...**Margaret Zarayko '99

**VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**WE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** of the ill-afflicted: Raisa, child Oleksandra, child Alexandria, Elizabeth, Daria, Catherine Kochenash, Joan Molnar, Bill Ketterer, Paul, Richard Stetch, Evan, Brandon and Stacy Snyder, Aaliyah Osmun, Michael Mack, Ihor Broda, James Osmun, Matthew, Tom, William Savitz, Vladimir & Emma Krasnopera, Brendan Phillips, Jessie Hnatow, Jessica Meashock, Adam Hewko, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Rob Hewko, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Norman Betrous, Luba Walker.

We've heard so many things about the "doubting Thomas." We tend to see him as an ill-believer if not an unbeliever. According to John, Thomas just happened not to be with the other ten apostles when the Risen Jesus appeared to them on Easter evening. Upon hearing the news, Thomas did not believe the other disciples' testimony and said that he would believe only on the ground of solid proofs, like "seeing the mark of the nails" and putting his finger "in the mark of the nails." But should faith in the Resurrection be based on proofs or on testimony, on evidence or on signs, on reasoning or on personal encounter with the Risen One? While we tend to blame Thomas for his skepticism, Jesus favors a different approach. We even get the impression that his second appearance to the Eleven after Easter is just meant to answer Thomas' need for proof. Jesus condones Thomas' wish and invites him to put his finger in his side and "see" the marks with his own eyes. Now that the Risen Jesus stands before him, Thomas needs no further sign or proof. He now believes and exclaims: "My Lord and my God!" The mere presence of the Risen One says more than any proof or sign. We believers of the 21st century have never seen with our eyes the mark of the nails or touched Jesus' wounds. We believe on account of the Apostles' testimony, including that of Thomas. But ultimately faith is seeing and only a personal encounter with the Risen Jesus can cast away all our doubts. What has helped me more in times of uncertainty and doubting?

Jesus saw someone who was depressed.

One of the 1st things we do when we are down and depressed is we seclude ourselves from others. When Jesus showed up on that resurrection day, where was Thomas? We don’t know where he was; but we know where he wasn’t. One of the most important parts of being a part of a local congregation is to have fellowship with others. We need each other, especially when we are down.

Jesus saw. Someone who had doubt.

Although the other disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus, Thomas didn’t believe. Thomas was so filled with anger, disappointment, and hurt that he wasn’t going to just believe. What he needed to do in order to move forward was to remove his doubt. When you have doubt, you will not be able to move forward. Doubt creates fear, lack of trust, anger, etc… You must remove the doubt from your life. How do you do that? Jesus said, “Stop doubting and believe."

Jesus saw someone who required proof.

Thomas said that he needed proof and that is what Jesus gave him. Now, none of us have that luxury, or do we? Have you ever asked God for a sign? Have you ever asked God for direction?

Jesus saw. Someone who needed to renew their faith. Once Thomas had his proof, he said, "My Lord and my God!" We all have moments when we just need to say, "My Lord and my God” and start over.

Jesus saw someone who recognized how much Jesus loved them.

After all, that’s what the Christian life is about- Serving the person who loves us more than anything else. Don’t let life’s challenges to cause you to forget how much Jesus loves you.