

Sunday of Thomas

April 15, 2012

Saints Commemorated today: St. Theodore the Sykeote; Sts. Nathaniel, Luke & Clemente the Apostles; and St. Nearchos the Martyr

EPISTLE READING

Acts 5:12-20

Brethren, and through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But as night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, 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. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also 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 them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and My God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

TROPARION FOR THE SUNDAY OF THOMAS

O Christ God, Thomas explored your vivifying side with an eager hand; and since You had entered the room while the doors were closed He cried out with the other apostles, "You are my Lord and my God!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Preparations are underway for a new church directory to be published this year. Thank you to Brittany Verhamme for volunteering to photograph parishioners and to those who availed themselves of this opportunity during the Plaki Dinner. Brittany will hold another photography session following liturgy on **Sunday, May 20, 2012**. (This is the last day of Sunday School.) Please contact the church office to register for this session. The photographs are informal and no fees will be assessed other than the cost of materials utilized to develop the photographs. Parishioners who wish to submit their own photograph may do so provided that the photograph is appropriate for a church directory. The

directory planners reserve the right to return any photograph deemed inappropriate. In addition, parishioners are asked to contact the church office to update address, household composition, home telephone number, cell number and email address.

GREEK RELIEF FUND

The Holy Archdiocese of America is conducting a philanthropic aid to assist the people of Greece faced with economic crisis. We ask that all of you respond with generosity and compassion so that we as a Greek Orthodox Parish will do our share to alleviate the pain of our people in Greece and come to their support. God Bless you and thank you. Checks can be made payable to Saint Andrew with the memo line "Greek Relief Fund."

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Please remember, *especially during Great Lent*, to check the ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR when scheduling activities. They should *not* be scheduled during service times. This is disrespectful to God and unacceptable. Thank you.

PROSFORO COMMITTEE

We are in need of Prosforo bakers, please contact the office to sign up!!!

Please note that without the Prosforo, Divine Liturgy cannot be conducted. Recently, we have had several members of this committee that are unable to continue to be a part of the committee. If you would be willing to sign up to make Prosforo twice a year (once every six months), please contact the office or Artemis Hoke. If you are currently a member of the committee and unable to provide it on your scheduled Sunday please contact the office, so that we may make arrangements. Thank you.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Please remember to dress appropriately and modestly for church services. There is no chewing gum, talking or crossing your legs in church. Everyone should arrive on time for the Liturgy. Do not leave trash (bulletins, paper, etc) in the pews. It is considered disrespectful for anyone attending Orthodox Christian services to cross their legs during service, chew gum or come in late. Also women who are planning on taking Communion should not wear lipstick or should remove it before going up for Communion. **TURN OFF CELL PHONES.** Thank you.

A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

People of different religious affiliation or tradition who behave in a respectful manner are always welcome at the liturgical services of our Holy Orthodox Church but **ONLY MEMBERS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH who share a common faith and practice a specific spiritual discipline may participate in the Church's sacraments and receive Holy Communion at the Orthodox Divine Liturgy. The Greek Orthodox Church has a closed communion and no intercommunion with any other Christian body.** We are blessed by your presence with us and thank you for your understanding. May God bless you always.

A NOTE TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS PLEASE NOTE: The proper preparation for receiving Holy Communion is: 1) prayer; 2) keeping the fast throughout the year (Wednesdays, Fridays, Great Lent, fast of the Holy Apostles, fast of the Dormition and the Christmas Fast, etc); and 3) most important, participating in the Sacrament of Holy Confession and Repentance. **ALSO follow these guidelines as you approach for Holy Communion: Take the red cloth from the person before you and place it under your chin. Say your baptismal name. Open your mouth wide and receive the Holy Spoon in your mouth, lower your lips on the Holy Communion spoon and carefully remove the Holy Eucharist so that there is**

nothing left. After partaking of the Sacrament blot your lips and hand the red cloth to the person behind you. Receive one piece of antidoron, return to your seat and read the post communion prayer. Lipstick, lip gloss, lip balm, etc, should be removed prior to approaching the chalice. Receiving the precious Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ should not be treated like a fast food service. You should come on time for the Divine Liturgy (that means at the beginning) and not leave until the completion of the service. *This means that every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. It follows that if anyone eats the Lord's bread or drinks from his cup in a way that dishonors him, he is guilty of sin against the Lord's body and blood. So then, everyone should examine himself first, and then eat the bread and drink from the cup. For if he does not recognize the meaning of the Lord's body when he eats the bread and drinks from the cup, he brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks. That is why many of you are sick and weak, and several have died. If we would examine ourselves first, we would not come under God's judgment. But we are judged and punished by the Lord, so that we shall not be condemned together with the world. (1 Corinthians 11:26-32).*

YOUR PRAYERS HELP...

"...I was sick and you visited Me..." St. Matthew 25:36. "Holy Father, Physician of our souls and bodies have mercy, forgive and heal thy servants." The following brothers and sisters in Christ need your constant prayers and love, *recovering at home or ill at home/hospital:* Phyllis Leonakis (Michiana Rehab), Chris and Peggy Bouris (home), George Karras (home), Helen McCormick (home), Leon Andrews (home), Helen Kaldis, Mary Rudhman (home), and Telesila Yustwan (Home).

In nursing homes or home bound:, Bill and Betty Kanalos (Brentwood at Niles), Amelia Morris (home), Mario Rekos (Morningside), Anna Moskolis (Kindred), John Kouroubetes (Woodridge), and Dina Polezoes (Hubbard Hill).

| THIS WEEK | |
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| Monday, April 23 rd | St. George the Great Martyr 9:00 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy Vespers 4:30pm |
| Tuesday, April 24 th | Orthros 9am Vespers 4:30pm Parish Council 7pm |
| Wednesday, April 25 th | Paraklesis to St. Nektarios 9am Vespers 4:30pm |
| Friday, April 27 th | Paraklesis to Theotokos 9am Vespers 4:30pm Ellen Karris Comedy 6:30pm |
| Saturday, April 28 th | Great Vespers 5pm |
| Sunday, April 29 th | Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday 9:00 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy |

Spring Parish Assembly

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, April 30th

St. James the Apostle
9:00 Orthros
10:00 Divine Liturgy
Vespers 4:30pm

Tuesday, May 1st

Orthros 9am
Vespers 4:30pm

Wednesday, May 2nd

Paraklesis to St. Nektarios 9am
Vespers 4:30pm

Friday, May 4th

Paraklesis to the Theotokos 9am
Vespers 4:30pm

Saturday, May 5th

Great Vespers 5pm

Sunday, May 6th

Sunday of the Paralytic
9:00 Orthros
10:00 Divine Liturgy

June 8th-10th

Grecian Festival

OUR HOLY MISSION

St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church of South Bend, IN is a Christian Community committed to serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, and united in faith and in love with God, and called to make that love real to others through...

- **WORSHIP** (the Divine Liturgy) and the reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion by which we achieve union with Jesus Christ and with each other.
- **PHILANTHROPIC DIAKONIA** (service) to those people in need of our love and compassion. In teaching His disciples the Lord said, "...as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)
- **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES** which enable Orthodox Christians to grow in Christ and be faithful disciples and prepares them to strengthen their personal commitment to our Lord, His Church and the holy Gospel.
- **NATIONAL AND PARISH MINISTRIES** of our Holy Orthodox Church which provide opportunities for Parish Outreach and to live as an integral and vital part of the community. The prime objective is to encourage a greater participation in the life of the Church and the world.
- **TEACHING** the commandment of the New Life, imparting a clear knowledge of the doctrines, traditions, canons and disciplines of the Church and guiding the growth, progress and enlightenment of all Orthodox Christians.