

# Thomas Sunday



**Welcome** to St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church. We invite you to join us for coffee hour, which is held in the fellowship hall, immediately after the Divine Liturgy. We ask that you introduce yourself to our Pastor , who would be happy to answer your questions.

Please visit our Mission in Wasilla. Blessed Theodore Romzha (Bishop and Martyr—murdered by Communists in 1947, whose feast day is October 31st). We meet on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. Blessed Romzha mission is an outreach to the Mat-Su Valley and we are delighted to welcome all who choose to attend our Divine Liturgy at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. Please see the address on back of this bulletin.

## Divine Liturgy Schedule

**Apr 8.— Apr 15, 2018**

### THOMAS SUNDAY

Sat	4/7	5:00 pm	Vesper/Liturgy + Fred Walaka ( Fr. M)
Sun	4/8	10:00 am	All parishioners ( The Heller)
		4:00 pm	Living and Deceased Members of Parish Mission in Wasilla

Mon	4/9		No Service
Tues	4/10		No Service
Wed	4/11	6:00 pm	Liturgy : Byzantine priestly vocation in Alaska ( Fr. Michael)
Thur	4/12		No Service
Fri	4/13	6:00 pm	Liturgy: Liz and Tom Kol ( Sidun family)

### SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT –BEARERS

Sat	4/14	5:00 pm	Vesper/Liturgy Heller family ( The Heller)
Sun	4/15	10:00 am	St. Nicholas Parishioners ( The Heller family)
		4:00 pm	Living and Deceased Members of Parish Mission in Wasilla

7 DAY CANDLE INTENTIONS  
 EUCHARIST: Trombley family  
 THEOTOKOS: Heller Family  
 CZESTOCHOWA: Sidun family

\*7 DAY Candle intentions may be requested by filling out an envelope at the entrance. Donation is \$10.00

*Christ is risen! / Indeed He is risen! (English)*  
*Christós voskrése! / Voístinu voskrése! (Slavonic)*  
*Al-Maseeh qam! / Háqqan qam! (Arabic)*  
*Christós anésti! / Alithós anésti! (Greek)*



**BISHOP APPEAL 2018** a letter and flyer from Bishop John Pazak about the Annual Bishop's Appeal has been mailed to your home. Please read the letter and take some time to decide what you will pledge. You could pay it all at once or decide to use a payment schedule over the next 3 months to pay your pledge. Try to get your pledge form in as soon as possible.

**BISHOP'S APPEAL 2018** This year, we are requested to send our pledges directly to the Bishop's office in Phoenix, AZ, and our checks made to Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Eparchy.

**Our parish goal is \$5,775.00**

**Blessed Theodore goal is \$275.00** Please support the Annual Appeal to the best of your financial ability.

**Thank you** Sherry Whah for your very kind donation of the cantor stands and label machine for our office. As we have been blessed with new cantors the stands help them to use their voices together. Our Holy week was greatly enhanced with the joy of these blended voices.

**Thank you Cantors of St. Nicholas of Myra:** Ron Kichura, Sherry Whah, Rachel Jones Joseph Pearson, Victor Flaquer, Joseph Wegman, Matthew Pustina, Laura Walters, Frania Lonskia , Alexander Boeko —for your beautiful singing and glorification of God during Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

**Thank you Teresea Landry** for the cleaning and preparation for all the services during Holy Week and for Easter Sunday. Her many hours of labor of love showed the beauty of our church as it shined in radiance.

**Thank you**—Our Easter Egg hunt and Pizza Party was a great success with the host and hostess Dave and Judy Bich. The drawing for the Easter baskets Raffle will long be a wonderful memory in the joy of the event for children of all ages. Judy's beautiful decorated candles made a lovely addition to many of our baskets on Easter Sunday. It is with appreciation and great smiles that we say thank you to and as well to those who donated items for the raffle baskets and helped make this annual event a success.

**Thank you**—The Easter bunnies also known as Anthony Heller and Solanche Stone with direction from the head rabbit, Bruce did a delightful job in hiding the eggs and organizing the event. I think there must be some chickens laying colored eggs in the parking lot, as some are now appearing as the snow melts. Thank you for all the fun.

**Thank you** Frania Lonskia and Sherry Whah for making the Easter bread that was shared with so many of our church members and to Teresa for help in restoring the kitchen back to its original condition.

**For our Wasilla Mission** thank you Brian Okuley and Joseph Pearson for your cantoring, working together making a joyous celebration for the Resurrection of Christ.

**Thank you everyone** for sharing with us in our Easter celebration joining with us during Holy week and Easter Sunday. Your love, kindness and joy was felt by all in the brilliance of Christ's resurrection.

**Easter formation classes  
for children.  
April: Sunday: 15,29,  
11:45pm**

***Please feel free to  
talk with Fr. Michael  
about parish needs***

**Jesus Prayer:  
Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
Have mercy on me, a sin-**

# **St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church**

*2200 Arctic Blvd., Anchorage AK, 99503-1909      Tel: 907-277-6731*

**Email:** [pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorstnicholas@yahoo.com)      **Webpage:** [www.ak-byz-cath.org](http://www.ak-byz-cath.org)

**Pastor:** *Rev. Father Michael Sidun*

## **Divine Liturgy Schedule**

**Weekday Divine Liturgy: 6:00pm**

*Saturday Divine Liturgy: 5:00 pm      Sunday Divine Praises: 9:40 am*

**Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am**

*Holy Mystery of Confession: 20 minutes before every Divine Liturgy and upon request*

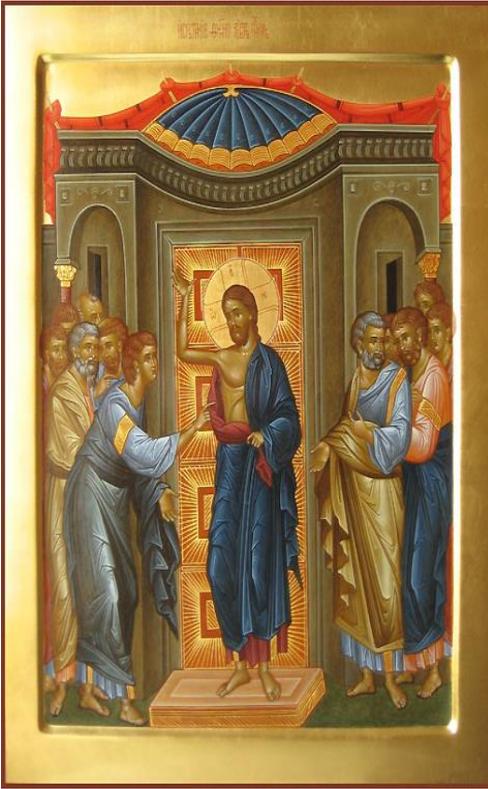
## **Blessed Theodore Romzha Byzantine Catholic Mission**

*Sacred Heart Church, 1201 Bogard Road in Wasilla*

**Holy Mystery of Confession: Sundays—After Liturgies**

**Divine Liturgy: 4:00 pm**

**Our Parish and Mission are in Communion with the Pope of Rome and the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix**



## **BIBLICAL STORY**

The events commemorated on the Sunday of Thomas are recorded in the Gospel of Saint John 20:19-29. Following the crucifixion and burial of Christ, the disciples were gathered in a room with the doors closed and locked for fear of the Jews. On the evening of the Sunday after Passover, Jesus Christ entered the room and stood in their midst, greeting them with the words, “Peace be with you.” (v. 19) He showed the disciples his hands, feet, and side. (v. 20)

Thomas was not present with the disciples when Jesus appeared, and he did not accept the testimony of the other disciples concerning Christ’s Resurrection. He stated, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” (vv. 24-25)

Eight days later, the disciples were gathered together again with Thomas present, and the Lord appeared in the same manner.

Standing in their midst he said, “Peace be with you.” He then spoke directly to Thomas and said, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” (vv. 26-27) Thomas answered, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus replied by saying, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

## **BYZANTINE CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF SUNDAY OF THOMAS**

The Sunday of Thomas is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. On this Sunday and throughout the Paschal period until the Apodosis or leave-taking of Pascha, the day before the Feast of the Ascension, the services begin with the chanting of the troparion of Pascha, “Christ is risen....” Scripture readings for the feast are the following: At Orthros: Matthew 28:16-20, the first of eleven resurrectional Gospel passages that are read in a cycle throughout the year during the Sunday matins. On this day the cycle always begins with the first Gospel passage; At the Divine Liturgy: Acts 5:12-20 and John 20:19-31.

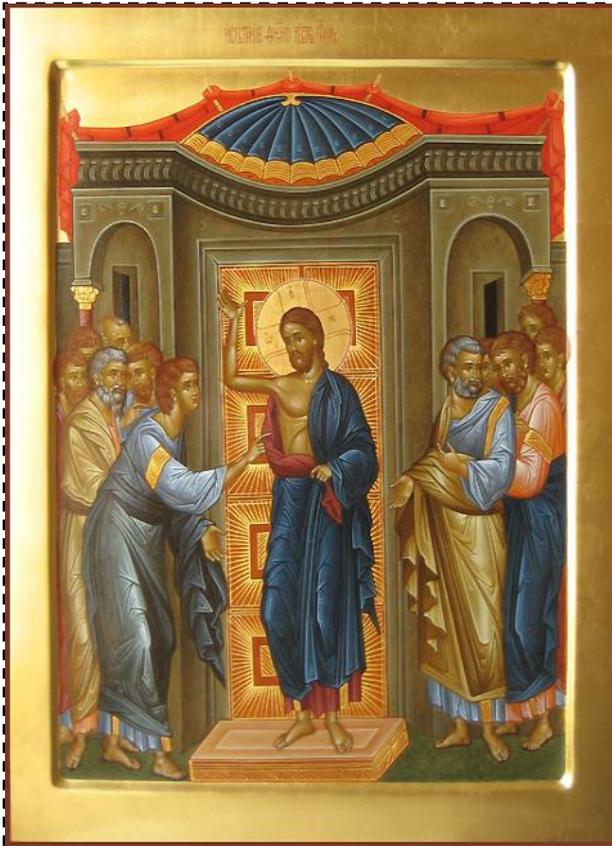


**Artos** is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. The Artos is blessed on Easter Sunday after the Ambon Prayer which is said at the end of the Liturgy. Even though this is a custom and an old-world tradition in our Byzantine Church, we find regrettably that only a few churches carry out this practice. 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." ["Trebnik", Žokva, Pp 602-604]

During Easter Week, which is also known as Bright Week, the blessed bread, covered with an icon of the Resurrection, remains on the Tetrapod to be kissed until the Sunday after Easter (St. 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

***Christ is risen! / Indeed He is risen! (English)***  
***Christós voskrése! / Voístinu voskrése! (Slavonic)***  
***Al-Maseeh qam! / Háqqan qam! (Arabic)***  
***Christós anésti! / Alithós anésti! (Greek)***



## ICON OF THE SUNDAY OF THOMAS

The icon of the Sunday of Thomas 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 and the proclamation recorded in Scripture.



**Catapeteasma** - Definition: (lit: that which is spread out downwards, that which hangs down), a curtain, veil, of that which separated the Holy of Holies from the outer parts of the temple at Jerusalem, also of an outer curtain at the entrance to the Holy Place in the same temple.



**Dear Saint Nicholas of Myra Parish Family & Guests  
Dear Blessed Theodore Romzha Mission Parish Family & Guests**

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

**Your hearts are filled with the Love, Joy and Peace of our Risen Lord. I pray that this Love, Joy and Peace permeates every area of your lives and consecrates every moment, every deed and every relationship in your families, our parish, our communities, our countries and world. I thank you for all your preparations for the PASCHA Feast: you beautified our church & Artim Hall; you prayed, fasted & gave alms; you dressed in your best—COME JOIN THE FEAST!**

**Please join us in the parish hall after Divine Liturgy so I may bless our Pascha baskets, and please stay to share and enjoy some of our blessed food, drink and most of all, each other's company.**

**With much Love, Respect and Prayer,  
Father Michael Sidun with Family**

**English - Christ is risen! / Indeed He is risen!**

**Church Slavonic – Христо́въ воскресе́! Воистину воскресе! (Hristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!)**

**Ukrainian – Христос воскрес! Воістину воскрес! (Khrystos voskres! Voistynu voskres!)**

**Russian – Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес! (Christos voskres! Voistinu voskres!)**

**Polish – Chrystus zmartwychwstał! Prawdziwie zmartwychwstał!**

**Greek – Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη! (Khristós Anésti! Alithós Anésti!)**

**Arabic- Al-Maseeh qam! / Háqqan qam!**

**Latin – Christus resurrexit! Resurrexit vere!**

**Spanish – Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!**

**Romanian – Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!**

**French – Le Christ est ressuscité! En vérité il est ressuscité! or Le Christ est**

**Italian – Cristo è risorto! È veramente risorto!**

**German – Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!**

**Hungarian – Krisztus feltámadt! Valóban feltámadt!**

**Aleut – Kristus aq ungewektaq! Pichinuq ungewektaq!**

**Yupik languages – Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq! Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!**

**Filipino – Si Kristo ay nabuhay! Totoo! Siya nga ay nabuhay!**

**Japanese – ハリストス復活！実に復活！ (Harisutosu fukkatsu! Jitsu ni fukkatsu!)**

**Korean – 그리스도께서 부활하셨네! 참으로 부활하셨네! (Geuriseudokkeseo Buhwalhasheetne! Chameuro Buhwalhasheetne!)**