

**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Thomas Sunday**

**SUNDAY, 4/24** 8:30 am Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners  
10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention  
**FRIDAY, 4/29** 8:00 am Divine Liturgy for special intention  
**SATURDAY, 4/30** 5:00 pm Divine Liturgy for special intention  
**SUNDAY, 5/1** 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners  
10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

### **Announcements**

#### **1-Clergy Conference**

Fr. Volodymyr will be out of parish on clergy conference from April 25<sup>th</sup> until April 28<sup>th</sup> in Parma, OH. At that time there will be no services.

### **EASTER PASTORAL LETTER OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHS IN THE USA**

Christ is Risen!

Dear Sisters and Brothers!

Great Lent—marked by the inexpressible pain of invasion, war crimes, murder, and lies about our people and our Church on the part of the aggressor—has passed. Now we see the Resurrection. Our Ukrainian people live, unite all people of goodwill, and give new meaning to Europe and the global community. In a sacramental way, we witness a paschal passage from death to life.

Today, we repeat the lofty, joyous Easter troparion: “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs giving life.” The crux of

our faith and our victory is found in this concise chant. The entire Gospel is a preface preparing the reader for the central story of Pascha. For “...if Christ did not rise” – thus radically writes the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians — “then what we preach is vain, and vain is our faith” (I Cor. 15:14). Without the Resurrection, what we preach becomes a set of rules and obligations. Participation in church life sinks to the conservation of traditions and rituals, empty and lacking substance.

But the Lord is risen indeed, that we might live with Him forever!

For this reason, in his Easter sermon St. John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, author of the Divine Liturgy, which we pray each Sunday, affirms that all are to enter into the joy of the Resurrection – the rich and poor, the continent and careless, those who fasted and those who did not. The feast is so great that this is not the time to get lost in details but to focus on the main thing — Christ is Risen!

In His love for humanity, the immortal and eternal God entered fully into our lives and took on our trials and sufferings – ultimately death. Yet this is not the end of the story.

*Upcoming Events  
in Parish & Eparchy*  
May 6<sup>th</sup> – First Friday Vigil  
May 26<sup>th</sup> – Ascension  
Jun. 5<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost

Drawing near to the tomb with the myrrh-bearing women, we discover that Christ is alive. He has come alive not like a superhero in a film or a computer game, but as the Creator and the Christ – the source of life, who taking on our death, has risen from the dead and given life to all humanity.

Life reigns, and death is vanquished. Defeating death, Christ has made us victors too. Can you believe it? In Christ we are all conquerors of death!

It is crucial to grasp this truth. Our loved ones, whose passing we mourn, are among those to whom Christ has given new life. Among those who live in Christ are the murdered inhabitants of Bucha, Borodianka, Hostomel, Mariupol, and Kramatorsk. Among the living, over whom death has no power, are the fallen soldiers who gave their lives in testimony to the greatest love. The sufferings of the brutal aggressors’ innocent victims – executed, trampled, suffocated – have ended. Death, and the fear of death, rule over them no more. With the Apostle Paul they mock death: “Where, O death, is thy sting? Where, O Hades, is thy victory?” (I Cor. 15:55). They have seen death, and in Christ, its ultimate defeat. Do we believe? Do we realize that the Lord has vanquished death, sin, and the devil, and that our sufferings—however great and painful—are temporary, for death no longer has power over us? Are we ready to announce the good news of God’s triumph?

We appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, to look at the event of the Resurrection not only through the prism of our beautiful and profound rituals and traditions, but to focus on the essence of the Easter message for each of us who face death: Christ is risen from the dead, with His humble death on the cross He has overcome death, and with His sacrifice, He has given life to each of us.

Let us proclaim Christ’s Resurrection and our own!

+ Borys Gudziak

Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia  
of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA

+ Paul Chomnycky

Bishop of the Eparchy of Stamford

+ Benedict Aleksiychuk

Bishop of Saint Nicholas Eparchy of Chicago

+ Bohdan Danylo

Bishop of Saint Josaphat Eparchy of Parma

+ Andriy Rabyi

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

### **THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**Sunday collections for the weekend of 4/17/22, including envelope offerings - \$2083,  
donations -\$1270, candle -\$100  
Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$3453  
Ukraine Relief Project - \$4320**

**Protection of the Mother of God  
Ukrainian Catholic Church  
Byzantine Rite**  
2880 Highway 138 NE  
Conyers, GA 30013

Father Volodymyr Petrytsya

Parish office phone 770-760-1111  
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**Confession before or after Divine Liturgy.**

Confession is recommended as a regular monthly practice. The graces received from confession are an excellent way to help us become closer to Jesus.

*THE CHURCH WAS A MOTHER TO YOU IN LIFE, PROVIDING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS;  
PLEASE REMEMBE YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN  
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.*