

GREATMARTYR, VICTORY-BEARER, AND WONDERWORKER GEORGE

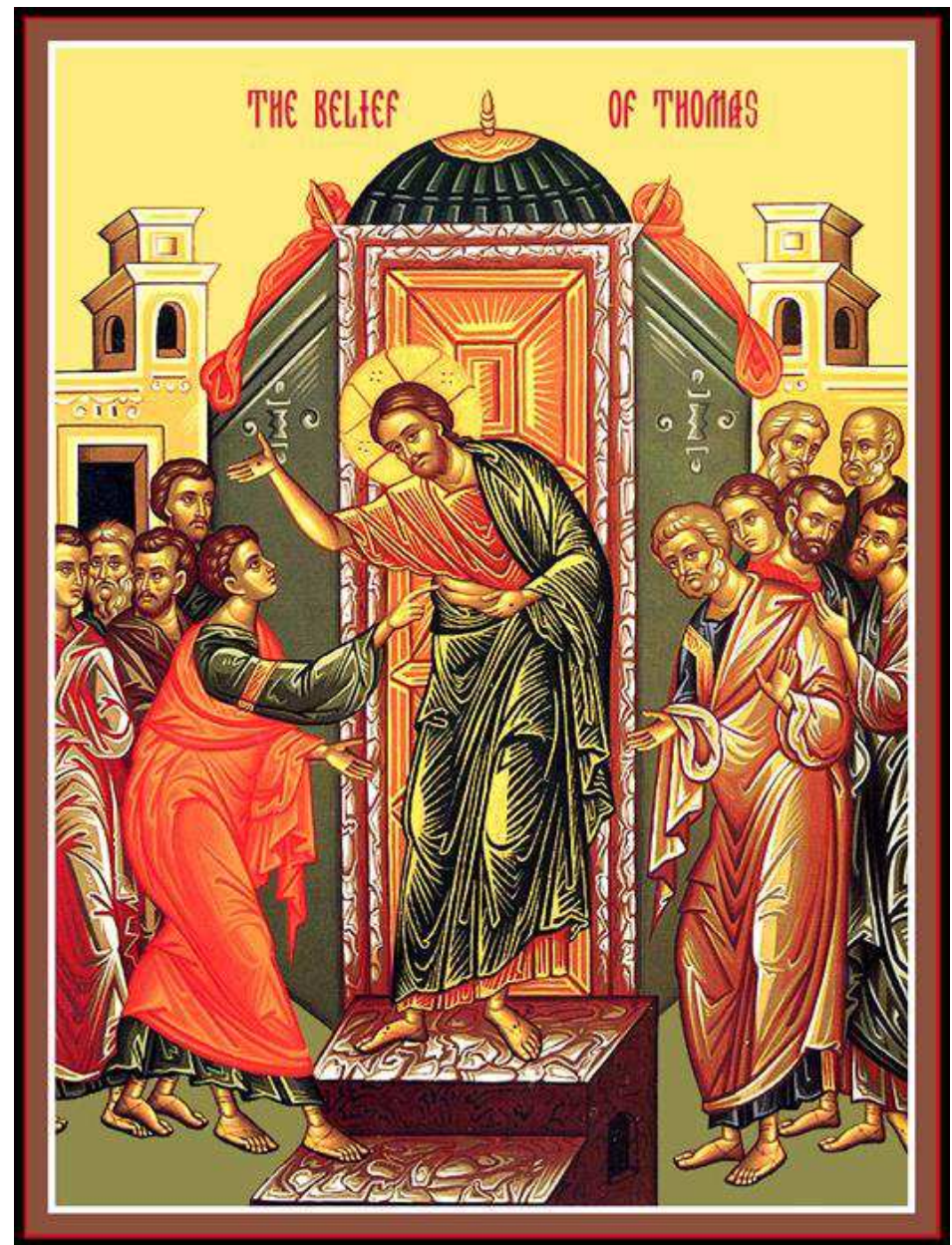
...Of the many miracles worked by the holy Great Martyr George, the most famous are depicted in iconography. In the saint's native city of Beirut were many idol-worshippers. Outside the city, near Mount Lebanon, was a large lake, inhabited by an enormous dragon-like serpent. Coming out of the lake, it devoured people, and there was nothing anyone could do, since the breath from its nostrils poisoned the very air.

On the advice of the demons inhabiting the idols, the local ruler came to a decision. Each day the people would draw lots to feed their own children to the serpent, and he promised to sacrifice his only daughter when his turn came. That time did come, and the ruler dressed her in her finest attire, then sent her off to the lake. The girl wept bitterly, awaiting her death. Unexpectedly for her, St. George rode up on his horse with spear in hand. The girl implored him not to leave her, lest she perish.

The saint signed himself with the Sign of the Cross. He rushed at the serpent, saying, "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." St. George pierced the throat of the serpent with his spear and trampled it with his horse. Then he told the girl to bind the serpent with her sash and lead it into the city like a dog on a leash.

The people fled in terror, but the saint halted them with the words: "Don't be afraid, but trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in Him, since it is He Who sent me to save you." Then the saint killed the serpent with a sword, and the people burned it outside the city. Twenty-five thousand men, not counting the women and children, were then baptized. Later a church was built and dedicated to the Most Holy Theotokos and the Great Martyr George....

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HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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THE TRINITARIAN

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V. REV. ALEXANDER GARKLAVS, PASTOR

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 A.M.
Church School Every Sunday at 10:45 A.M.
(During the Months of September thru May)

Vespers - Every Saturday - 5:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsals Every Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
Michael N. Pilat, Choir Director

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BULLETIN 25 - VOLUME LIV

TONE 1

APRIL 23, 2017

ANTIPASCHA SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA

St. Thomas Sunday

Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Victorybearer and Wonderworker George

Martyr Alexandra the Empress, wife of Diocletian;

Martyrs Anatolius and Protoleon, soldiers converted by witnessing the martyrdom of St. George

“Today, the air is filled with the fragrance of spring, and all creation rejoices at its renewal. As locked doors could not prevent Christ’s presence, neither did unbelief deprive Thomas of faith, so that he exclaimed: You are my Lord and my God.”

Exapostilarion, Tone I

“By cultivating the soil of your soul, God made you a tireless cultivator of piety and justice, so that you harvested for yourself the sheaves of virtue. Indeed you sowed in tears, but you reaped in joy, for by giving your blood, you won for yourself the reward of Christ, the Lord. So now, by your prayers, O victorious martyr, obtain for us all the remission of sins.”

Kondakion for St. George, Tone IV

TODAY’S EPISTLE: ACTS 5:12-20
ACTS 12:1-11

TODAY’S GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31
JOHN 15:17-16:2

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, April 29

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, April 24

Acts 3:19-26

John 2:1-11

Tuesday, April 25

Acts 4:1-10

John 3:16-21

(St. Mark)

I Peter 5:6-14

Mark 6:7-13

Wednesday, April 26

Acts 4:13-22

John 5:17-24

Thursday, April 27

Acts 4:23-31

John 5:24-30

Friday, April 28

Acts 5:1-11

John 5:30-6:2

Saturday, April 29

Acts 5:21-33

John 6:14-27

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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COMING EVENTS

APRIL:

23, TODAY 12:30 p.m. Grave Blessings at St. Theodosius Cemetery
29, Saturday 2:30 p.m. Retreat with Fr. Chad Hatfield, at HTOC Fellowship Hall

MAY:

1, Monday 12:30 P.M. St. Elizabeth Book Circle

A CHRISTIAN LIFE OF THANKSGIVING:

We are honored to host Fr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor of St. Vladimir’s Seminary, in our Fellowship Hall this Saturday, April 29, at 2:30 p.m. for a short retreat. His presentation topic is: “God With Us: A Christian Life of Thanksgiving.” All are welcome!

SPECIAL COLLECTION:

In connection with Father Chad’s visit, we will be having a special collection to support St. Vladimir Seminary. Please donate by using collection envelopes in the basket at the back of the church. If writing a check, make payable to “Holy Trinity Orthodox Church.”

GOD’S BLESSINGS:

Thank you to those who kept watch at the tomb Holy Friday and Holy Saturday: The Kall Family, The Bohurjak Family, Tamara Ray, Jason and Anne Howe; The Rutz Family.

ZOE FOR LIFE!

ZOE is expanding their programs with a Women’s Center Medical Committee. They plan to add services such as classes in parenting, abortion healing, child raising, as well as offer pre-natal counseling. Volunteers are being sought, especially: nurse, monographer, fund raiser, client advocate, receptionist, medical assistant, physicians’ assistant. Contact Despina (Despina@mavrakisfamily.com).

GRAVE BLESSINGS:

Weather permitting, Fr. Alexander will be at St. Theodosius Cemetery to bless graves today at 12:30.

ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:

The Book Circle will meet May 1 at 12:30 p.m. We are reading The Joy of the Holy (Teachings of St. Seraphim), pages 1-24 and Appendix A (pgs. 93-122). All are welcome. Books are available at La Coupole.

IOCC 25TH ANNIVERSARY:

The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year. The Cleveland Committee of the IOCC is marking that occasion with a special 25th Anniversary Banquet on Friday, June 9, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence. Our parish and parishioners have been loyal supporters of the great work that IOCC has done in the past, and we look forward to our participation in the historical anniversary celebration. Information is posted in the Fellowship Hall, and tickets are available and can be purchased from Paula Svilar or Diane Hastings.

TRINITARIAN COVERS AND FLOWERS:

The covers and flowers today are offered by Jewelann Stefanar.

COFFEE HOUR:

Donors are needed for Sundays in May and June. Sign up in the kitchen.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, APRIL 14-16	\$ 4131.00
CHILDREN’S COLLECTION	2.00
BUILDING FUND	85.00
MORTGAGE FUND	75.00
CANDLES	201.00
PASCHA FLOWERS	1520.00
ST. MARY OF EGYPT	175.00
ST. VLADIMIR’S SEMINARY	6.00
IN MEMORY OF JOHN VIGNOVIC	100.00

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TREASURES FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

As the Pre-Lenten and Lenten season has a special liturgical book with hymns and prayers for that period, called the Triodion, there is a book for Pascha and the Paschal season. Called the Pentecostarion, it is also known as the “Flowery Triodion.” Like its Lenten counterpart, the Pentecostarion is full of liturgical and literary masterpieces which are some of the treasures of Christian spirituality. As we did during Great Lent, we will share selections from the Pentecostarion here in The Trinitarian during this Paschal season.

FROM THE VIGIL OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA – THOMAS SUNDAY

Today is the springtime of our souls; for Christ, Who shone out from the grave like the sun on the third day, has driven away the gloomy winter of our sins. Let us praise Him, for He is glorified.

The queen of seasons, illustriously escorting this light-bringing day, the queen of days, delights the noble people of the Church, as she unceasingly praises the risen Christ.

O Lord, in the unendurable brilliance of Your Divinity, You came while the doors were shut; and standing in the midst of the disciples, You did lay bare Your side and did show them the marks of the wounds of Your hands and feet; and doing away the despondency that came from their faintheartedness, You clearly declared: “O friends, as you behold seeing Me in the flesh, know too that I am not a ghost.” Then You did exhort the doubting disciple to touch with fear, saying to him: “Now that you have examined all, come therefore and do not doubt.” And when with his hand he perceived Your twofold nature, he was drawn by faith and cried out with fear: “O my Lord and my God, glory to You!”

Who preserved the disciple’s hand unconsumed when he drew near to fiery side of the Lord? Who gave it the daring and strength to touch the bone ablaze with flame? Surely, it was that which was touched. For if that side had not furnished power unto that earthen right hand, how could it have touched those wounds which caused both things above and below to quake? This grace was given to Thomas that he might touch and cry out to Christ: You are my Lord and my God.

Thomas the Twin, who alone was bold, and by his unbelieving belief became our benefactor, by his believing unbelief does away with gloomy ignorance in all the ends of the earth. And for himself, he clearly plaits a crown by declaring: You are Lord, the supremely exalted God of our Fathers and us: Blessed are You!

You did show the disbelief of Thomas to be the mother of faith for us; for in Your wisdom, You did provide all things for our profit, O Christ, since You are the friend of mankind.