

HOLY MARTYR CHRISTOPHER

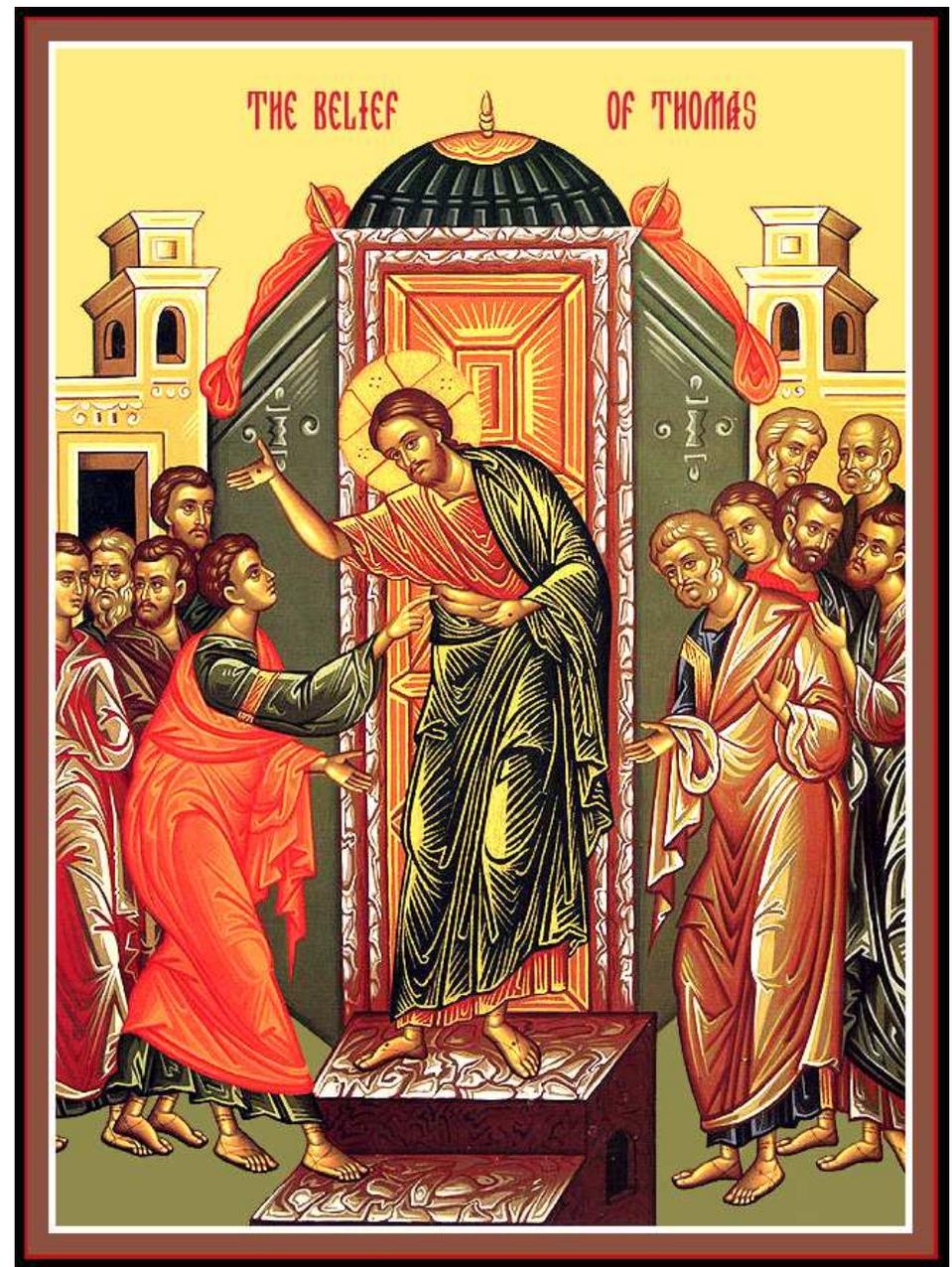
The Holy Martyr Christopher lived during the third century and suffered about the year 250 during the reign of emperor Decius (249-251). He was a man of great stature and unusual strength. According to tradition, St. Christopher was very handsome, but wishing to avoid temptation for himself and others, he asked the Lord to give him an unattractive face. Before Baptism, he was named Reprebus because of his disfigured appearance. Even before Baptism Reprebus confessed his faith in Christ and denounced those who persecuted Christians.

Because of his renowned strength, 200 soldiers were assigned to bring him before Decius. Reprebus did not resist. Miracles occurred along the way: a dry stick blossomed in his hand; loaves of bread were multiplied through his prayers so none went hungry as they travelled. The soldiers surrounding him came to believe in Christ and they were baptized along with Reprebus by St. Babylus of Antioch.

St. Christopher was brought before the emperor, who tried to make him renounce Christ by cunning. He summoned two profligate women, Callinika and Aquilina, and commanded them to persuade Christopher to deny Christ and to offer sacrifice to idols. Instead, the women were converted to Christ by St. Christopher. When they returned to the emperor, they declared themselves Christians; they were subjected to fierce beatings and received the crown of martyrdom.

Decius also sentenced to execution the soldiers who had been sent after St. Christopher but who now believed in Christ. The emperor ordered that Christopher be thrown into a red-hot metal box. St. Christopher, however, remained unharmed. After many fierce torments, they finally beheaded the martyr with a sword. This was in the year 250 in Lycia. By his miracles the holy Martyr Christopher converted as many as 50,000 pagans to Christ. His relics were later transferred to Toledo (Spain) and still later to the abbey of Saint Denis in France.

St. Christopher is widely venerated throughout the world. In Italy people pray to him in times of contagious diseases. In Greece churches place his icon at the entrance so that people see him as they enter and leave, with the belief that whoever gazes upon his icon will not meet with accidental death that day.



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 28 - VOLUME LVIII

TONE 1

MAY 9, 2021

ANTIPASCHA **SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA**

St. Thomas Sunday

Prophet Isaiah;

Martyr Christopher of Lycia, and with him Martyrs Callinica and Aquilina;

Ven. Shio of Georgia;

Translation of the Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker from Myra to Bari

“While the tomb was sealed, You shone forth from it as light, O Life, and though the doors were closed, You appeared in the midst of Your friends, through whom You renew in us an upright spirit in Your great mercy.”

Troparion, Tone VII

“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

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, May 15

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, May 10

(St. Simon the Zealot)

Acts 3:19-26

I Corinthians 4:9-16

John 2:1-11

Matthew 13:54-58

Tuesday, May 11

(Sts. Cyril and Methodius)

Acts 4:1-10

Hebrews 7:26-8:2

John 3:16-21

Matthew 5:14-19

Wednesday, May 12

Acts 4:13-22

John 5:17-24

Thursday, May 13

Acts 4:23-31

John 5:24-30

Friday, May 14

Acts 5:1-11

John 5:30-6:2

Saturday, May 15

Acts 5:21-33

John 6:14-27

***GOD’S BLESSINGS UPON THE MOTHERS,
GRANDMOTHERS, AND GODMOTHERS OF OUR PARISH!***

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 28 - Volume LVIII

May 9, 2021

COMING EVENTS

MAY:

15, Saturday	Noon EOWG Annual Pan-Orthodox Luncheon at HTOC
23, Sunday	Parish Council meeting
31, Monday	Memorial Day Blessing of Graves at St. Theodosius Cemetery

PAN-ORTHODOX BENEFIT LUNCHEON:

The EOWG will have their annual Benefit Luncheon on Saturday, May 15, at noon in our HTOC Fellowship Hall. There will be a basket raffle. The menu is: chicken, potato salad, pasta salad, fruit cup, roll, cookie. You can dine in or take out; but **reservations are required. No tickets will be sold at the door.** See Joanne Stoyka for tickets, and specify if taking out or eating in. Adults are \$15; children 6-12 are \$7.50; children under 6 dining in are free.

JOB OPPORTUNITY:

FOCUS North America is seeking to hire a Development Director for the National Office, located in Carnegie, PA. The job description and details can be found at: www.focusna.org or www.orthodoxjobs.com

LA COUPOLE GRAND REOPENING SALE:

La Coupole is open! Stop by after the Divine Liturgy to browse. Russian imports are reduced just in time for Mother's Day gift giving. Amber jewelry, matryoshka dolls, hand-painted plates, boxes and icon eggs are all 30% off. Plus, 50% of Daria's jewelry!

ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE GOLF OUTING:

Please save the date of June 14 for the annual Golf Classic at Tanglewood Club in Chagrin Falls to benefit St. Herman's House. Details will be forthcoming.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers are offered with prayers for blessings to all those named Thomas or have Thomas as their Patron Saint today on Doubting Thomas Sunday, by Matushka Claudia Virosteck.

Pray for others as you would pray for yourself
and do not relax in sincerity, or lose inward respect for the ones you pray for,
do not allow the holy fire of love to be extinguished, or your light darkened;
do not despond at the wiles of the enemy,
undermining your heart and striving to implant in your heart an aversion to all,
to take away from your lips the prayer for others
which is the best proof of evangelical love for our brethren.

St. John of Kronstadt

All who have firm hope in God will come nearer to Him and will be enlightened by the radiance of eternal light. If a man doesn't have any unwarranted preoccupation with himself, out of love of God and of deeds of virtue, then that kind of hope is true and wise. True hope seeks solely the Kingdom of God and is certain that all earthly things needed for our temporary life will be given without question.

One's heart cannot find peace until it arrives at this hope. This hope will pacify it and pour joy into it. The Savior spoke of such hope: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

In other words, trust in Me and you will be comforted from labor and pain.

St. Seraphim of Sarov



**PASCHAL MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE
METROPOLITAN TIKHON
THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST 2021**

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Esteemed Clergy, Reverend Monastics, and Beloved Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Today the Myrrhbearing Women arrive at the tomb and, seeing the angel, hear from him the joyous message that the Lord has risen. When they leave the tomb, running to tell the Apostles the news, Christ Himself suddenly appears to them and greets them with a single word: "*Rejoice!*" (Mt 28:9).

On this bright day, as we celebrate this glorious feast of feasts, this supreme festival of festivals, the Resurrection of Christ, I in turn extend our Lord's greeting and say to you all: "*Rejoice!*"

Our Lord Jesus Christ has revealed Himself to us through His Death and Resurrection. He has won the victory for us over seemingly meaningless death by His all-meaningful Death, and we in turn celebrate with exceeding joy. Death no longer stings and hell has no victory, for its gates are smashed and its prisoners are freed. The Resurrection of Christ has brought eternal life to all.

Through the Resurrection, we rejoice—in spite of our sins, hardheartedness, and lack of forgiveness. For we know that God promised through Jeremiah: "*I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more*" (Jer 31:34).

Through the Resurrection, we rejoice—in spite of our doubts, worries, and anxieties. For as was guaranteed to us through Zephaniah: "*No one shall make them afraid... The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall see disaster no more!*" (Zeph 3:13, 15).

Through the Resurrection, we rejoice—in spite of the difficulties, trials, and struggles that we have faced, and always will face, in the brief span of our earthly lives. For Christ Himself has promised: "*Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen!*" (Mt 28:20).

My brothers and sisters in the Lord: "*Rejoice!*" Our sins are forgiven, our anxieties cease, and our temporary sufferings are given meaning through the Resurrection of the One who grants us eternal life. And while this eternal life is only fully manifest in the age to come, it is ours to experience joyfully even now.

May we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection in joy and love. From this day forward, may we never cease exulting in the Lord.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

+ Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

