

MARTYR ALEXANDRA THE EMPRESS, WIFE OF DIOCLETIAN

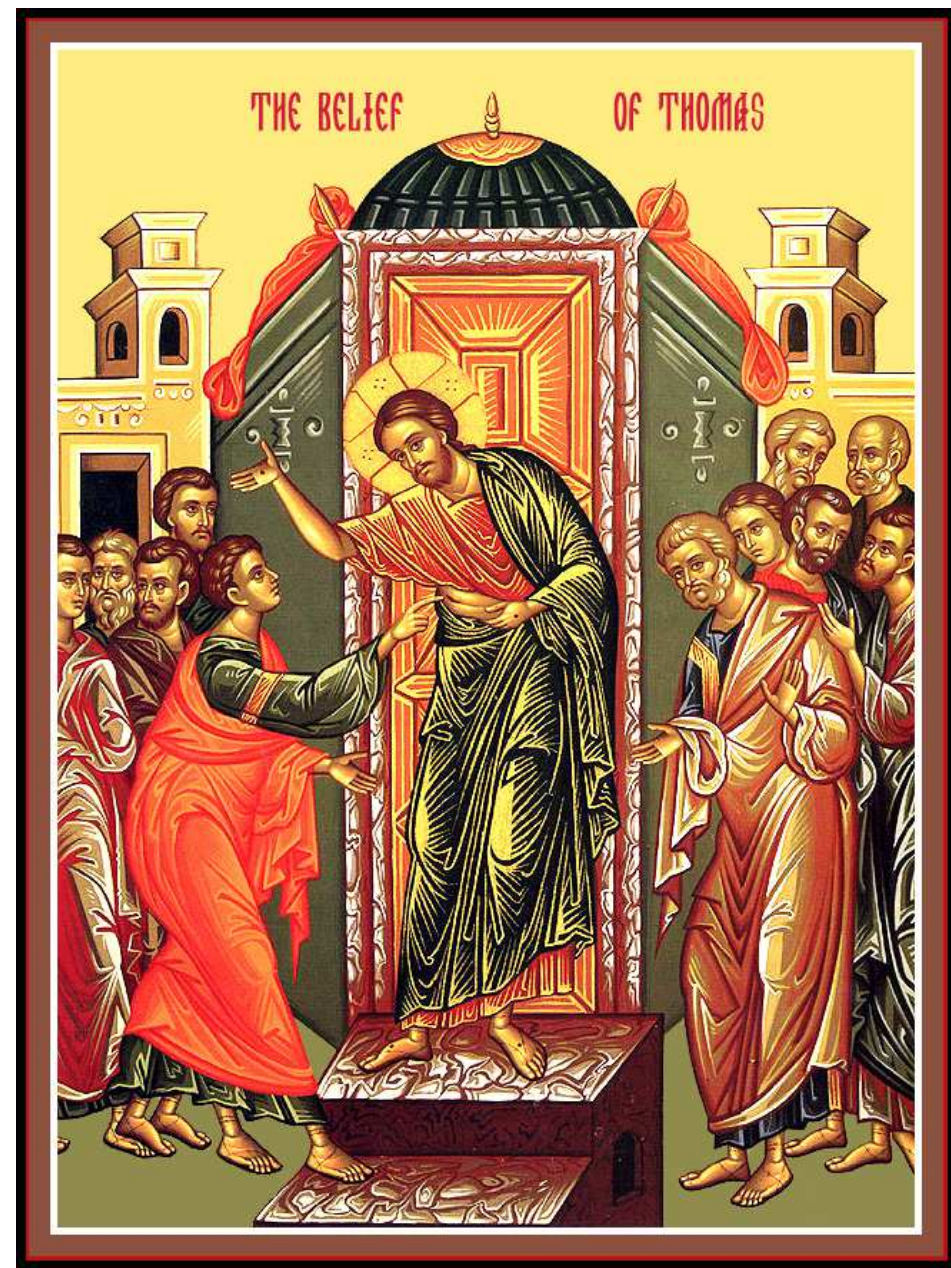
The Holy Empress Alexandra was the wife of Diocletian (284-305), persecutor of Christians. Her supposed death was described in the Martyrdom of Saint George, which was written immediately after his death. The empress, however, received the crown of martyrdom several years later, in 314.

Many events occurred during these years. In 305 the emperor Diocletian resigned the throne, and power passed to his co-ruler Maximian Galerius (305-311), a fanatic pagan, as well as a coarse and fierce soldier. His wife was Saint Valeria, the daughter of the holy Empress Alexandra, whom Diocletian had given in marriage against her will.

St. Alexandra raised her daughter in Christian piety. When Galerius died, the emperor Maximinus sought her hand in marriage. When he was refused, he banished Saint Valeria to Syria, where she lived with her mother.

After the death of Maximinus in 311, the mother and daughter arrived in Nicomedia, trusting in the mercy of the emperor Licinius (311-324). Together with St. Constantine, he had subscribed to the Edict of Milan, which gave Christians the freedom of religion, but secretly he remained an enemy of Christianity. Licinius gave orders to execute the holy Empress Alexandra and her daughter Valeria. They were beheaded and their bodies thrown into the sea.

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**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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THE TRINITARIAN

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Divine Liturgy on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Vespers on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 25 - VOLUME LX

TONE 1

APRIL 23, 2023

ANTIPASCHA SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA

St. Thomas Sunday

Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Trophy-bearer and Wonderworker, George

Martyr Alexandra the Empress, wife of Diocletian;

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

New Martyr George of Ptolemais

“From the sealed tomb, You did shine forth O Life! Through closed doors You did come to Your disciples, O Christ God! Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!”

Troparion, Tone 7

“You were bound for good deeds, O martyr of Christ: George; by faith you conquered the torturer’s godlessness. You were offered as a sacrifice pleasing to God; thus, you received the crown of victory. Through your intercessions, forgiveness of sins is granted to all.”

Troparion, Tone 4

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:

Today, April 23

Saturday, April 29

1:00 p.m. Grave Blessings at St. Theodosius Cemetery

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers

WELCOME GUESTS!

We are very glad you have come to worship the Holy Trinity with us this morning! Please participate in the services at your comfort level. Our greeters will kindly assist you with whatever questions or needs you may have. The communion of Christ’s Body and Blood is reserved for practicing Orthodox Christians. All are invited to come forward at the end of the service to receive the blessed bread. Please stay after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better!

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, April 24

Tuesday, April 25

(St. Mark)

Wednesday, April 26

Thursday, April 27

Friday, April 28

Saturday, April 29

Acts 3:19-26

Acts 4:1-10

I Peter 5:6-14

Acts 4:13-22

Acts 4:23-31

Acts 5:1-11

Acts 5:21-33

John 2:1-11

John 3:16-21

Mark 6:7-13

John 5:17-24

John 5:24-30

John 5:30-6:2

John 6:14-27

COMING EVENTS

APRIL:

24, Monday	Cooking for St. Herman’s House
26, Wednesday	Serving dinner at St. Herman’s House
30, Sunday	El Camino — The Way!

MAY:

8, Monday	6:00 p.m. IOCC Banquet at St. Michael’s Woodside
13, Saturday	12:00 noon EOWG Pan-Orthodox Luncheon at HTOC
14, Sunday	Second Sunday Food Sale
21, Sunday	Last day of Church School classes

EL CAMINO — THE WAY!

Coming to Holy Trinity on April 30th during Coffee Hour! Embark on this unique journey with our Church School students to learn more about their yearlong study of “Christ, the Light of the World.” We would love to have you attend this all-parish event and show your support for our youngest parishioners.

MANY THANKS:

And God’s blessings on ALL who helped in any way to make our Holy Week and Pascha so glorious! Whether it was cleaning the church in advance, or standing watch at the Tomb, or delivering baskets to shut-ins, or stuffing plastic eggs with treats for our children, or helping in many other ways, your efforts were noticed and appreciated.

EOWG PAN-ORTHODOX LUNCHEON:

On Saturday, May 13, the Eastern Orthodox Women’s Guild will host their annual Pan-Orthodox Luncheon here at Holy Trinity. Everyone is invited. Doors will open at noon; lunch is served at 12:30. There will be door prizes and an auction of gift baskets. Tickets are available from Joanne Stoyka. Adults, \$15 / Children 6-12, \$7:50 / under 6, Free.

COFFEE HOUR:

Our refreshments today are donated by the Bellack, Spak and Stoyka Families.

ST. THOMAS SUNDAY GRAVE BLESSINGS:

Fr. Christopher will be at St. Theodosius Cemetery this afternoon, beginning at 1:00, to offer prayers at the graves of your loved ones. Please let him know if you will be there; you can text him at 440-447-7704.

IOCC WORKING MISSION TRIP:

Volunteers are heading to Kentucky June 18-June 21 to rebuild homes damaged during tornadoes in Dec. of 2021. The cost is \$90 per person for shelter and food during the stay. A team leader will supervise. Work hours finish at approximately 2:30 each afternoon. If you want to participate, please see Diane Hastings. Space is limited; ages 16 and older, please. Donations are also needed and appreciated.

IOCC BANQUET:

Plan to attend the IOCC Annual Banquet on Monday, May 8, 6:00-9:00 p.m., at St. Michael’s Woodside. Tickets are for sale now, \$60; but sales will end two weeks prior to the event. Please see Paula Svilar or Diane Hastings. Sponsor donations will be published in the evening’s program booklet, so please donate even if you are unable attend the banquet.

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Mat. Claudia Virosteck in memory of all named George or have George as their patron saint.

O Mystery exalted beyond every word and beyond silence,
 Who became human in order to renew us by means of voluntary union with the flesh,
 Reveal to me the path by which I may be raised up to Your mysteries,
 Travelling along a course that is clear and tranquil, free from the concerns of this world.
 Gather my mind into the silence of prayer,
 so that all my wandering thoughts may be silenced with me
 during that luminous converse of supplication and mystery-filled wonder.

St. Isaac of Nineveh

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 25 – Volume LX

April 23, 2023

PASCHAL MESSAGE OF HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DANIEL

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Beloved Faithful of the God-protected Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest,

*The Angel proclaimed Thee, the crucified and buried Master. He told the women:
“Come, see the place where He lay! He is risen as He said, for He is almighty.”
We worship Thee, O only immortal One. Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of Life!*

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Christ is risen!

The Gospel of Saint Matthew tells us that the good news of Christ’s Resurrection was first heard and then first proclaimed by the Holy Myrrhbearing Women. These faithful disciples, on their early morning mission to anoint the Lord’s body, encountered an angel sitting on the stone that had miraculously been rolled away from the Lord’s tomb. The angel greeted them with the words, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.’ So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to bring His disciples word” (Matthew 28:5-8).

This Gospel passage describes how the frightened women quickly left Jesus’ tomb. Jesus Himself then appears to them, saying: “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me” (v. 10). With these words, the Risen One entrusts the women with the mandate to evangelize: “Go. Tell.”

Indeed, these holy and faithful disciples of the Lord had offered an admirable example of faithfulness, of dedication, and of love for Christ throughout the time of His public ministry. This was followed by their fidelity during the dark days of His passion. Now they are rewarded by Him with the distinction of being the first to proclaim His victory over sin and death.

First the women, then the disciples, and Peter in particular, were granted to bear witness to the reality of the resurrection. Fifty days later, on the great day of Pentecost, Peter declared with faith, courage and conviction: “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses” (Acts 2:32). From that moment on, the proclamation of the Resurrection of Christ has “gone out into all the universe” and has reached the four corners of the earth. This good news has become the message of hope for all peoples of all times and places. Jesus’ Resurrection tells us that death does not have the last word; life does. As Saint John Chrysostom reminds us in his Paschal Homily: “O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and life reigns! Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave! For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.” This is, indeed, our hope. This is the good news of the Gospel.

Christ is risen! Because of this, it is possible to look with hope at every moment of our lives, even the most difficult ones. This is the message of hope that we are called to proclaim with words, and above all through the witness of life. May this news resound in our homes and in our hearts: “Christ is risen!” May this certainty strengthen the faith of every baptized person, and above all, encourage all those around us and throughout the world who are facing greater suffering and difficulty.

As we gather in our churches to celebrate the Feast of Feasts, with the Holy Women we once again hear the Angel proclaim that Christ is risen! This joyous proclamation has resounded throughout the centuries and has taken root in the hearts of millions of Christians. In our own day, it has become our own message of hope, a message we are called to share with the world around us.

I invite you to join me in prayer, asking the Risen Lord to grant His peace to our troubled world and His light to all whose lives are darkened by hopelessness and despair. I also extend my blessing you, to your families, and to all your friends and loved ones, as well as my heartfelt best wishes for a bright and blessed celebration of Holy Pascha.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

With love in the Risen Lord,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest