THE STORY OF ST. THOMAS

Each year on the Sunday following the Resurrection, our Church remembers the incident involving St. Thomas, with its remarkable turning of doubt into faith. When Christ was crucified, the apostles fled in fear. For all of them, life had lost its meaning; their hopes and dreams were shattered as the Lord was laid in the tomb. But they came together Sunday evening after the crucifixion, seeking comfort in their sadness.

It was then that the Risen Christ suddenly appeared in their midst. They looked at Him and couldn’t believe their eyes. But Jesus spoke to them, showed them His wounds, and convinced them of the reality of His presence. They rejoiced with renewed hope.

But Thomas was not present that evening. Later, when the Apostles told him the good news of the Resurrection, he replied: “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails . . . and place my hand in His side, I will not believe.”

A week passed by. On the Sunday after the Resurrection, once again the apostles were gathered together. This time Thomas was there. In spite of the locked doors, the Risen Christ again suddenly appeared amongst them and greeted them with words of peace. He called Thomas to His side and had him place his fingers in the wounds and see for himself, saying: “Do not be faithless, but believing.”

Thomas did as the Lord had asked. Then he fell to his knees and cried out: “My Lord and my God!” His doubts were gone, replaced by a deep and abiding faith. Jesus then responded, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed.”

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . . . Litho in USA.
May 12, 2024
Thomas Sunday
Martyrs Emmanuel, Theodore, George, Michael and the other George of Samothrace
Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus
Germanos, Patriarch of Constantinople

ENTRANCE HYMNS

**Apolytikion of Great and Holy Pascha - Christos Anesti ("Christ is Risen")**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

**Apolytikion for St. Thomas – Esfraghismenou tou nimatos ("O Life, You rose from the sepulcher")**

O Life, You rose from the sepulcher, even though the tomb was secured with a seal, O Christ God. And though the doors had been bolted. You came to Your disciples, O Resurrection of all. Through them You renew a right spirit in us, according to Your great mercy.

**Apolytikion of St. Sophia/Ss. Faith, Hope & Agape**

Greek

Os elia kata karpos anevlastisasa, en tais avlais tou Kyriou, Sofia martys semni, kai prosgaghes Christo karpon idytaton, tus tis nidyos su vlastus, di' agonon evagon, Agapin te ke Elpida, syn ti theofroni Pisti; meth on dysopi yper pandon imon.

English Phonetics for Greek

Os elea kata karpos anevlastisas, en tes avles tu Kyrion Sofia martys semni, ke prosgigases Christo kapon idytaton, tus tis nidyos su vlastus, di' agonon evagon, Agapin te ke Elpida, syn ti theofroni Pisti; meth' on dysopi yper pandon imon.

English

As an olive tree laden with fruit you sprouted forth, in the courtyards of the Lord, Sophia martyr dignified, and you brought to Christ a fruit most sweet, Namely your womb's own sprouts, brought up by instructive deeds: your daughters Love and Hope, along with God-minded Faith; together intercede with God for us all.

**Kontakion of Pascha – I ke en tafo ("Though You went down into the tomb")**

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.
The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20

Great is our Lord, and great is his power.
Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

Everything changed when we handed the keys to Carlos and his family. While they thanked us for the home, WE thanked them for opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ and put our Faith in the Lord to work for this very beautiful family.

Our parish has once again committed to fielding a group of volunteers to help Project Mexico build a house for a needy family in Rosanito, Mexico. This deeply rewarding experience has now become a regular ministry for our Parish. Our team has committed to building a house from July 5 – 11, 2024, but we need your help. We have 7 people on our team and need at least 3 more. If you would like to learn more, join the team, or learn how you can help sponsor our team, please email John Pogas, the group leader, at johnpogas@gmail.com.
On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he breathed on him, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe.” Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and My God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

May Poor Box Donations
Thank you for considering a gift!

Please consider supporting the philanthropic outreach of our Church through the Philioptochos Poor Box located in the Pangari. Each month 100% of the donations are designated for a local charity. Donations made to the Philioptochos Poor Box for May benefit Lord’s Pantry in Downingtown. You can learn more about this worthwhile organization at https://www.lordspantryofdowningtong.org. Please pray for those affected who are helped by Lord’s Pantry as well as those who work on their behalf.

Please consider donating to this worthwhile charity at: http://www.saintsophiachurch.org/poorboxdonations.html or submit a check payable to St. Sophia Philioptochos and indicate Poor Box on the memo line. God bless you and thank you for your generosity!

The Choir is Looking for New Members
Can you sing? Do you play piano? The choir is looking to expand our membership. All are welcome to sit in on our rehearsals and/or Liturgies to learn more about our music. We are looking for friendly, welcoming faces to be part of our Pangari Team. You to sit in on our rehearsals and/or Liturgies to learn more about our music. Welcome fellow parishioners, make change when they purchase candles, help with passing the collection tray, etc. It’s a great way to serve the Parish and to learn more about how the Parish operates as you’ll be serving next to existing Parish Council members. If you are interested, then please reach out to either Elaine Piligian (Parish secretary) or John Pogas.

EVAΓΓΈΛΙΟΝ
'Εκ τοῦ Κατά Τιάννην 20:19-31 Εὐαγγέλιο τὸ Ανάγνωσμα

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he breathed on him, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe.” Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and My God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

HELP WANTED
We are looking for friendly, welcoming faces to be part of our Pangari Team. You do NOT need to be a member of the Parish Council to serve Pangari duty. What you do need to do is welcome fellow parishioners, make change when they purchase candles, help with passing the collection tray, etc. It’s a great way to serve the Parish and to learn more about how the Parish operates as you’ll be serving next to existing Parish Council members. If you are interested, then please reach out to either Elaine Piligian (Parish secretary) or John Pogas.

The Choir is Looking for New Members
Can you sing? Do you play piano? The choir is looking to expand our membership. All are welcome to sit in on our rehearsals and/or Liturgies to learn more about our music and to see if the choir is right for you. Please call Tom Cox with questions (215-859-1009) or email him at tcox@myisolutions.com. Thank you!
THE NICE CREED
(The Confession of Faith)

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages;

Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;

And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead;

His kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets.

In one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come.

Amen
Tiropites and Spanakopites – We have a limited supply of packages of frozen Tiropites and Spanakopites that we will continue to sell each Sunday until our inventory is depleted.

Spring Grecian Festival: Our festival is just a few weeks away and we need your help! The festival runs Thursday, May 30th through Sunday, June 2nd. As usual, the tent will open at 5pm on Friday. There will be many opportunities to help. Be on the lookout for the SignUpGenius link – it will be available shortly.

Lawn Signs: Festival lawn signs have arrived and are available for pickup. They are in the alcove outside of the Office Entrance.
Film Screening and Panel Discussion

IN SUPPORT OF LIBERTY

PHILADELPHIA AND THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

DATE: MAY 18, 2024 / TIME: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
LOCATION: ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
900 S TROOPER RD, JEFFERSONVILLE, PA 19403  
CONTACT: (610)-574-9873 OR (610) 650-8960

PLEASE RSVP to mattstolarczyk@cs.com by Thursday, May 17th

Paschal Troparion: CHRIST IS RISEN – Χριστός ἀνέστη  
From the Holy Eparchial Synod, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 2012  
March 2013 Revision

Plagal of the First Tone, D.

Christ is risen from the dead, by death,
trampling down upon death, and to
those in the tombs He has granted life.

Ἡχος πα. α΄ Πα

The Holy Eparchial Synod recommends teaching this melody and text so that when Orthodox faithful from various parishes and Metropolises gather, they will be able to sing this hymn as one.

Icon of the Resurrection used with permission from  
Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Butte, Montana.
May 12, 2024

St. Sophia/Ss Faith, Hope & Agape Vigil Candle: If you are interested in sponsoring a vigil candle, please see a Parish Council member at the Pangari – no advance signup necessary and several individuals or families can sponsor each week. The proceeds of these donations will go to our Mortgage Reduction Fund. Each vigil candle lasts one week; the asking donation is $10.

Artoklasia: Today’s artoklasia is offered by Philoptochos to remember our blessings and in sharing our abundance with those less fortunate. One artos will be provided to the residents of St. Mary’s Shelter in Phoenixville, along with a meal prepared, to be delivered on Saturday, May 18th.

Coffee Hour: Thank you to Michael and MaryBeth Tsikalas for offering today’s coffee hour.

Exciting Mortgage Reduction News! An anonymous donor has come forward to match donations made to the mortgage reduction fund up to $100,000 for 2024. This is a great opportunity to reduce our mortgage by one-third. With your help, we will make a huge difference in our mortgage expenses.

Please Update Your Contact Information: Have you moved recently? Are you receiving our weekly emails and occasional phone calls? If any of your contact information has changed (emails, phone numbers, address) please send an email to the Parish office at office@saintsophiachurch.org to update this information. Thank you!

Senior Citizen Ministry: St. Sophia’s Senior Parea is open to all senior citizens of the community. The meetings take place on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12 noon.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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<td>Sat. May 18th</td>
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<td>Armed Forces Day Prayer Service</td>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Film Screening and Panel Discussion of Greek-American documentary</td>
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<td>&quot;In Support of Liberty: Philadelphia and the Greek of Independence&quot;</td>
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<td>Sponsored by AHEPA – in the Cultural Center (see flyer)</td>
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<td>Monday, May 27</td>
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<td>Thurs. – Sun. 5/30 – 6/2</td>
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