



Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox
Shrine Church

April 19, 2026

Rev. Ekonomos Aristidis Garinis, Proistamenos
Rev. Presbyter Alexandros Douvres

Office (718) 357-4200 - Email info@stnicholasflushing.org - www.stnicholasflushing.org

Κυριακή Β' τοῦ Θωμά - Sunday of Thomas
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!!!! - CHRIST IS RISEN!!!!

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΑ

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον
πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζωὴν
χαρισάμενος.

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΟΡΤΗΣ

Ἐσφραγισμένου τοῦ μνήματος, ἡ ζωὴ ἐκ
τάφου ἀνέτειλας Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός· καὶ τῶν
θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων, τοῖς Μαθηταῖς ἐπέστης,
ἡ πάντων ἀνάστασις· Πνεῦμα εὐθὲς δι' αὐτῶν
ἐγκαινίζων ἡμῖν, κατὰ τὸ μέγα σου ἔλεος.

ΚΟΝΤΑΚΙΟΝ

Εἰ καὶ ἐν τάφῳ κατήλθες Ἀθάνατε, ἀλλὰ τοῦ
ἄδου καθεῖλες τὴν δύναμιν· καὶ ἀνέστης ὡς
νικητής, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, γυναιξὶ Μυροφόροις
φθεγξάμενος, Χαίρετε, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς
Ἀποστόλοις εἰρήνην δωρούμενος, ὁ τοῖς
πεσοῦσι παρέχων ἀνάστασιν.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

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

APOLYTIKION OF THE FEAST

The tomb being sealed, You rose from the
sepulcher, O Christ God, the Life. And the
doors being shut, You came to the disciples, O
resurrection of all. Through them You renew a
right spirit within us, according to Your great
mercy.

KONTAKION

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.



ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ (Πράξ. 5:12 20)

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις, διὰ τῶν χειρῶν τῶν ἀποστόλων ἐγίνετο σημεῖα καὶ τέρατα ἐν τῷ λαῷ πολλά· καὶ ἦσαν ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἅπαντες ἐν τῇ στοᾷ Σολομῶντος· τῶν δὲ λοιπῶν οὐδεὶς ἐτόλμα κολλᾶσθαι αὐτοῖς, ἀλλ' ἐμεγάλυνεν αὐτοὺς ὁ λαός· μᾶλλον δὲ προσετίθεντο πιστεύοντες τῷ Κυρίῳ πλήθη ἀνδρῶν τε καὶ γυναικῶν, ὥστε κατὰ τὰς πλατείας ἐκφέρειν τοὺς ἀσθενεῖς καὶ τιθέναι ἐπὶ κλινῶν καὶ κραβάττων, ἵνα ἐρχομένου Πέτρου κἂν ἡ σκιά ἐπισκιάσῃ τινὶ αὐτῶν. συνήρχετο δὲ καὶ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν πέριξ πόλεων εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ φέροντες ἀσθενεῖς καὶ ὀχλουμένους ὑπὸ πνευμάτων ἀκαθάρτων, οἵτινες ἐθεραπεύοντο ἅπαντες. Ἀναστάς δὲ ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς καὶ πάντες οἱ σὺν αὐτῷ, ἡ οὖσα αἵρεσις τῶν Σαδδουκαίων, ἐπλήσθησαν ζήλου καὶ ἐπέβαλον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτῶν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἀποστόλους, καὶ ἔθεντο αὐτοὺς ἐν τηρήσει δημοσίᾳ. ἄγγελος δὲ Κυρίου διὰ τῆς νυκτὸς ἤνοιξε τὰς θύρας τῆς φυλακῆς, ἐξαγαγὼν τε αὐτοὺς εἶπε· πορεύεσθε, καὶ σταθέντες λαλεῖτε ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ τῷ λαῷ πάντα τὰ ῥήματα τῆς ζωῆς ταύτης.

EPISTLE READING (Acts 5:12 20)

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."



ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΚΟ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΜΑ (ΙΩΑΝ. 20:19 31)

Οὔσης ὀψίας τῆ ἡμέρα ἐκείνη τῆ μιᾷ τῶν σαββάτων, καὶ τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων ὅπου ἦσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ συνηγμένοι διὰ τὸν φόβον τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἔδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ. ἐχάρησαν οὖν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες τὸν Κύριον. εἶπεν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν· εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. καθὼς ἀπέσταλκέ με ὁ πατήρ, καὶ γὰρ πέμπω ὑμᾶς. καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐνεφύσησε καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· λάβετε Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον· ἂν τινῶν ἀφῆτε τὰς ἁμαρτίας, ἀφίενται αὐτοῖς, ἂν τινῶν κρατῆτε, κεκράτηνται. Θωμᾶς δὲ εἷς ἐκ τῶν δώδεκα, ὁ λεγόμενος Δίδυμος, οὐκ ἦν μετ' αὐτῶν ὅτε ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς. ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ οἱ ἄλλοι μαθηταί· ἐώρακαμεν τὸν Κύριον. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἐὰν μὴ ἴδω ἐν ταῖς χερσὶν αὐτοῦ τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων, καὶ βάλω τὸν δάκτυλόν μου εἰς τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων, καὶ βάλω τὴν χεῖρά μου εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ, οὐ μὴ πιστεύσω. Καὶ μεθ' ἡμέρας ὀκτῶ πάλιν ἦσαν ἔσω οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ Θωμᾶς μετ' αὐτῶν. ἔρχεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων, καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον καὶ εἶπεν· εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. εἶτα λέγει τῷ Θωμᾷ· φέρε τὸν δάκτυλόν σου ὧδε καὶ ἴδε τὰς χεῖράς μου, καὶ φέρε τὴν χεῖρά σου καὶ βάλε εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν μου, καὶ μὴ γίνου ἄπιστος, ἀλλὰ πιστός. καὶ ἀπεκρίθη Θωμᾶς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου. λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ὅτι ἐώρακάς με, πεπίστευκας· μακάριοι οἱ μὴ ἰδόντες καὶ πιστεύσαντες. Πολλὰ μὲν οὖν καὶ ἄλλα σημεῖα ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐνώπιον τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ, ἃ οὐκ ἔστι γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ· ταῦτα δὲ γέγραπται ἵνα πιστεύσητε ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἐστὶν ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ἵνα πιστεύοντες ζωὴν ἔχητε ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ.



GOSPEL READING (JN. 20:19 - 31)

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 said to them, "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.



BRONZE DEDICATION LEAF	\$2,000
SILVER DEDICATION LEAF	\$5,000
GOLD DEDICATION LEAF	\$10,000
BENEFACTOR DOVE	\$25,000
GREAT BENEFACTOR STONE	\$50,000

Please consider supporting our Renovation For Our Future project to continue passing the torch of Orthodox faith and Hellenism to our future generations.

- BRONZE LEAF \$2,000
- SILVER LEAF \$5,000
- GOLD LEAF \$10,000
- DOVE \$25,000
- STONE \$50,000

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLEASE PRINT INSCRIPTION CLEARLY. 3 LINES (33 CHARACTERS MAX)

"SO LET EACH ONE GIVE AS HE PURPOSES IN HIS HEART; NOT GRUDGINGLY OR OUT OF

SAVE THE DATE

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE NEW YORK, GREEK DIVISION

Niki Sideris 31st Annual Walk & Spring Festival



Saturday, May 2, 2026

405 E 73rd St, New York, NY 10021

\$30 per Participant

Registration begins at 9 AM | Walk starts promptly at 11 AM

Live Music by Pelagos Entertainment

Chairperson: Kalomira Sarantis-Boosalis



- Greek-American Popstar, songwriter and TV personality
- 2004 Fame Story Winner
- Represented Greece in the Eurovision Song Contest 2008



Questions? Contact the Greek Division

rmh-newyork.org/greekwalk

☎ 212-639-0218

✉ skatechis@rmh-newyork.org



Scan Me

For more information contact Mrs. Catina Monogioudis (718) 428-9037

ST NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX SHRINE CHURCH



AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD & PASTRIES † LIVE MUSIC † RAFFLE PRIZES † CHURCH TOURS † GAMES † POP-UP SHOPS

MAY 14 TO MAY 17

Come & join us for great evening of
Greek Food, Music & Dance

THURS MAY	FRI MAY	SAT MAY	SUN MAY
14	15	16	17
6PM TO 10PM	6PM TO 11PM	2PM TO 11PM	12PM TO 9PM

140+ RAFFLE PRIZES

196-10 NORTHERN BOULEVARD, FLUSHING

ENTRY: FREE

For more information:

STNICHOLASFLUSHING.ORG/FESTIVAL



Become a Pillar of Our Community at the St. Nicholas Greek Festival!

For decades, our festival has been a cornerstone of Flushing, bringing together thousands for a celebration of faith, culture, and (of course) world-class food.

As we prepare for our **May 14-17, 2026** event, we invite you to join us as a formal sponsor. Your support doesn't just fund an event; it preserves our traditions and allows us to welcome the entire neighborhood with open arms.

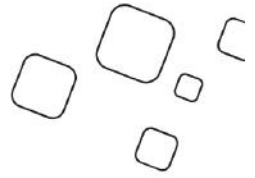
Join the St. Nicholas family today and help us make this our most vibrant year yet!

Ready to partner with us? Secure your sponsorship in just a few clicks! Visit our official festival portal at stnicholasflushing.org/festival to view our 2026 packages and sign up online.



2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

Support the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church Festival (May 14–17)



Festival Friend Sponsor \$250

- The perfect way for individuals and local shops to show their support. Your name or business name featured prominently on our official "2026 Festival Sponsor List."

Food Booth Sponsor \$500

- Own a piece of the festival's most popular attraction! Your name or business logo displayed directly on one of our high-traffic food booths (Souvlaki, Gyro, Loukoumades, etc.). Continuous visibility to thousands of hungry guests throughout the 4-day weekend.

Festival Banner Sponsor \$550

- Maximum brand impact for the entire weekend. Display your custom 2' x 6' banner in a premium, high-visibility area of the festival grounds.
Note: Sponsor must supply their own 2' x 6' banner.

Join the St. Nicholas family today and help us make this our most vibrant year yet!

Ready to Sign Up?

Don't wait—booth and banner placements are limited!

- Go Here: www.stnicholasflushing.org/festival
- Visit Us: Drop off your form at the Church Office 196-10 Northern Blvd
- Contact: Call office **718-357-4200** or email info@stnicholasflushing.org to secure your spot.



TO APXONTAPIKI THE ARCHONTARIKI MUSIC FOOD ΠΑΡΕΑ

The Archontariki is a monthly gathering of our senior parishioners. At St. Nicholas, we strive to reach out to all ages and offer opportunity for community fellowship and engagement. Please encourage your loved ones to participate in this wonderful new program. Please rsvp with the Church office. Thank you!

JOIN US!!
THURSDAY, April 23rd at
12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**Ελάτε να μας κάνετε
παρέα!!!**





ST. NICHOLAS FLUSHING GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

GOYA DANCE

FRIDAY, MAY 1ST, 2026

7:30-10:30pm

SPECIAL GUEST

DJ SPYRO

X MC MJ

geoevents

\$30 PER PERSON

*Food & Drinks Included
Inter-Goyans are welcomed*

SIGN UP!





St. Stephanos Young Adults

Spring

*Volunteer
Opportunities*

**Joy Retreat Volunteering
Friday, April 10th from 11 am - 4:30 pm**



**St. Mary's Hospital for Children Volunteering
Saturday, April 25th from 10:30 am - 12 pm**





**ST. NICHOLAS LADIES
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
YOUNG PHILANTHROPIST
SCHOLARSHIP**

*The Scholarship application is now open for a
Graduating High School Senior of the Greek
Orthodox faith who has excelled in Philanthropic
works during their high school career*

Our chapter will be offering two (2) scholarships

*Family must be a member in good standing of the parish of
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church, Flushing NY
and a member of the St. Nicholas Ladies Philoptochos chapter*



[stnicholasphiloptochos.org](https://forms.gle/NLks53pkCVJwA1kt5)

<https://forms.gle/NLks53pkCVJwA1kt5>

information email priitosm@gmail.com

**APPLICATION DUE BY
MAY 11, 2026**

CLASS OF 2026

Gus Cherevas Estia-Pindus Chapter 326

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*Empowering Our Youth
Since 1982*

Established by Van Pappas and Andy George, the Estia-Pindus Chapter No. 326 of the Order of AHEPA is proud to announce our 2026 Scholarship Program.

For over 40 years, we have awarded more than \$75,000 to deserving students who have gone on to become leaders, doctors, lawyers, and educators. This year, we continue that tradition by awarding \$7,250 in total scholarships!

We are proud to announce \$7,250 in total scholarships for the Class of 2026:

- High School Seniors: (3) Awards of \$2,000 (Enrolled in College for Fall 2026)
- W. Spyropoulos 8th Graders: (2) Awards of \$500 (Entering High School in Fall 2026)
- St. Nicholas Hellenic School: (1) Award of \$250 (Graduating Student)

Eligibility: Applicants must be of Hellenic descent residing in Queens (or attend school in NYC), or be children/grandchildren of Chapter 326 members.

Application Deadline:
MAY 18, 2026



Apply Here: forms.gle/Um89bJPRrDKA56Gk7

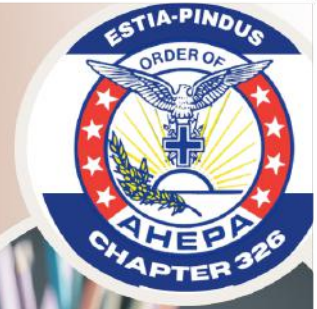
OTHER SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

AHEPA Empire District No. 6

<https://www.ahepad6.com/ahepa-district-6-scholarship>

The AHEPA Education Foundation (AEF)

<https://www.ahepa.org/education>



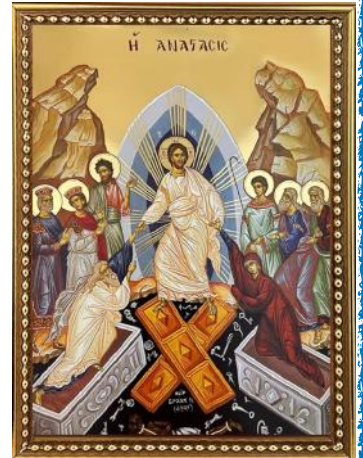
Contact Information:

moskos.ahepa326@verizon.net

KIDS BULLETIN PAGE

Word Bank: *Empty, Friday, Believe, Tomb, Procession, Icon*

1. On Great and Holy _____, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.
2. The **Epitaphios** is a beautiful embroidered cloth representing the _____ of Christ.
3. During the night service, the faithful carry the Epitaphios in a solemn _____ around the outside of the church.
4. The Resurrection means that the grave is now _____!
5. In the center of the church, we kiss the _____ of the Resurrection to show our love for Christ.



The Sunday of Thomas: Seeing is Believing!

One week after Pascha, we remember **St. Thomas**. On the night Jesus rose, Thomas wasn't with the other disciples. When they told him, "We saw Jesus!" Thomas had a hard time believing it. He wanted to see Jesus for himself.

Eight days later, Jesus appeared again. He was very kind to Thomas and showed him the marks on His hands. Thomas immediately fell to his knees and said, "**My Lord and my God!**"

The Lesson: Jesus told Thomas that those who believe without seeing are truly blessed. We learn that it's okay to ask questions, and that Jesus is always there to help our faith grow!

Unscramble these special items we see and use during the Pascha season.

1. **DAMBALA** (_____) *Hint: The decorated candle you carry on Pascha night.*
2. **RESIKOUT** (_____) *Hint: The sweet, braided bread we eat to celebrate.*
3. **ANASTASI** (_____) *Hint: The Greek word for "Resurrection."*
4. **PELGOS** (_____) *Hint: On Sunday, we read the "Good News" from this book in many languages!*
5. **PHASCA** (_____) *Hint: The "Feast of Feasts" (the Orthodox word for Easter).*
6. **BOUDT** (_____) *Hint: St. Thomas had a moment of _____, but then he believed!*



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Son of
Lambrini & Anthony Zullo
Saturday, April 18th 11:30 a.m.

Son & Daughter of
Maria & Gabriel Sakellaridis
Saturday, April 25th 11:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Diana Diamantis - Petros Skevis
Sunday, April 19th 1:15 p.m.

Themia Eleni Papageorgiou & Jonathan Frank Brown
Saturday, April 25th 3:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We invite you to coffee hour and fellowship after the Divine Liturgy.

EORTOLOGION

April 19
SUN
Sunday of Thomas
Κυριακή του Θωμά
Orthros 7:30 a.m. / 8:45 Liturgy
(One Liturgy)

April 26
SUN
Sunday of the Myrrh-bearers
Κυριακή των Μυροφόρων
Orthros 7:30 a.m. / 8:45 Liturgy
(One Liturgy)

April 23
THU
St. George the Great Martyr
Αγ. Μεγαλομάρτυρος Γεωργίου
Orthros 8:00 a.m. / 9:00 Liturgy

April 30
THU
St. James the Apostle
Αγ. Ιακώβου Αδελφοθέου
Orthros 8:00 a.m. / 9:00 Liturgy

*Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church
196-10 Northern Blvd Flushing, NY 11358*



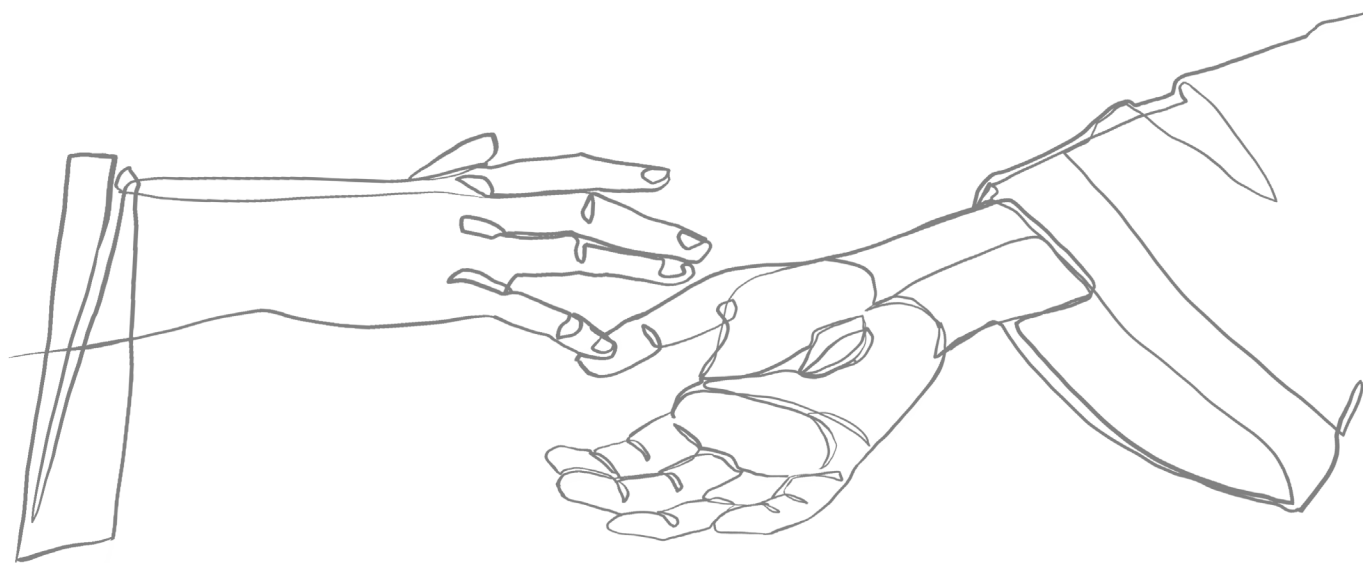
DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING - *John 20:19-31*

“Thomas, Doubt and Faith”

Fr. George Parsenios



The doubt of St. Thomas provides a powerful lesson in discipleship, but not for the reasons that one might think. Thomas was not with the other disciples when they saw the risen Lord, and he insisted on seeing the wounds of Christ before he would believe that Jesus had been resurrected. Because he hesitated, Thomas is famously called “Doubting Thomas,” and his faith is considered weak. But is this the correct way to view him? St. Romanos the Melodist urges us to see something different in Thomas. According to Romanos, if Thomas doubted what the disciples said, it was not because he failed, but because they did. His doubt was produced by their fragile and feeble witness. Although they told him that Jesus was risen, they did not act like Jesus was risen. Instead of having a bold and confident faith, they were still cowering in the upper room. Instead of bravely proclaiming the message of new life, they were

hiding under the fear of death. Why would Thomas believe anything they said? The same is true for us. Think for a moment of the people who inspired you to take your faith seriously. They didn't just talk about their faith. They lived it. In the same way that Thomas watched how the disciples behaved, our children are also watching us. If they see that we sacrifice for our faith, they will learn to do the same. If they see that we share our abundance with those who lack, they will imitate our kindness. If they see that we treasure the Sunday Divine Liturgy, they will treasure it as well and orient their week around it. Fortified with this knowledge, let us proclaim not only with our words, but with everything we do: **Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!**

Fr. George Parsenios is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. www.hchc.edu



Diakonia is made possible by a generous grant from Leadership 100

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bit.ly/parishtexts



FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK: *homooousios* (ὁμοούσιος)

What is “consubstantial?”

Fr. George Parsenios



When applied to Christ in the Nicene Creed, the term *ὁμοούσιος/homooousios* means that Jesus shares the same essence or substance (ousia) as God. The term is translated into English either as “consubstantial,” or “of one essence,” and the

concept was an important tool in fighting the Arian heresy. The Arians taught that

Jesus was not truly God. He was a special person, even a superior person, but Jesus was inferior to God. Jesus was not immortal, they said, nor sinless, nor uncreated.

Being immortal and sinless and uncreated are the qualities of the divine nature (*ousia*), but the Arians insisted that Jesus shared only in the human nature, which is mortal and created. The term *homooousios* was directed precisely at opposing this heresy, as a way to insist that Jesus is fully God. But *homooousios* was a controversial word. It is the one word in the Creed that is not Scriptural, and so it was opposed even by some Orthodox theologians who hoped to build a Creed that was entirely based on biblical language. But *homooousios* was selected because it emphatically claims that Jesus shares fully in the divine nature. Jesus possesses whatever makes God to be God. He is *homooousios* with the Father.

THIS WEEK'S LOOK AT CHURCH HISTORY

The Ladies Philoptochos Society



As Greek Orthodox immigrants arrived in the US in the late 1800s, women’s clubs formed in our churches to welcome and assist them. In 1931, during the Great Depression, Archbishop Athenagoras founded a charitable organization, naming it the Ladies Philoptochos Society, to provide the community with music, educational lectures, and performances.

The Philoptochos Society was crucial to raising funds for the purchase of the Ruppert Estate just 60 miles up the Hudson River from New York City, which became St. Basil Academy. The Academy assists children and families in need, supported by the fundraising efforts of Philoptochos.

At the local and national level, the organization serves as the Church’s philanthropic ministry to the poor and needy. Philoptochos focuses on providing food, medicine and clothing to people affected by natural disasters. Philoptochos fundraising campaigns assist the elderly and marginalized. In 1974, financial and moral support was provided to victims of the invasion of Cyprus. With over 400 parish chapters throughout the Archdiocese, Philoptochos provides millions of dollars each year to local and national philanthropic organizations and causes.



FAITH IN ACTION

Create Autism Awareness in Your Parish



The *What I Wish You Knew Series* is written from the voice of an autistic person to help parishioners better understand common autistic experiences to create more welcoming communities where everyone is valued.

ANSWERING CHRIST'S CALL From Awareness to Action

Building Peer Relationships

Every person is created in the image of the Holy Trinity, and we imitate the Trinity when we experience loving relationships. Peer relationships can be challenging when neurological differences exist. Here are a few suggestions to create understanding, remove fear, and foster peer connections amongst autistic and non-autistic youth.

What I Wish You Knew: To My Peers

- **Unique perception:** I probably notice different things than you, but I love to learn.
- **I have talents:** I have a disability, but I also have many abilities and gifts.
- **Invite me:** I want to be included in activities, but I don't assume I'm invited. Please invite me to youth activities, parties, events.
- **I like structure:** It's easier for me to relate to you when there's a structured activity like a game or a shared project we can enjoy together.
- **Favorite Topics:** Some of my interests are so fun to me that I want to know everything about them. Ask me about things I love. I like to listen to your areas of interest, too.
- **Eye contact:** I may not be able to look directly into your eyes when you are talking. That doesn't mean I'm not listening or that I don't care about what you are saying.

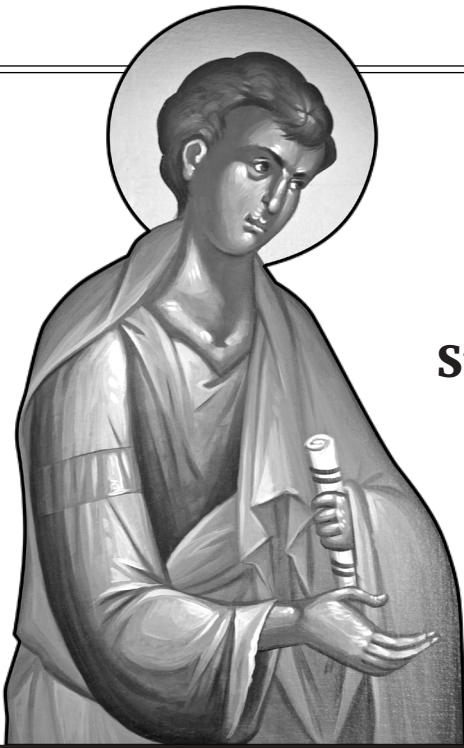
- **Understand my movements:** My behaviors are a form of communication. If I move away, please give me space. If I sound happy but don't have words, it's my way of showing I care. Sometimes I must soothe myself to pay attention. I may rock, sway, or make sounds you don't understand. I'm just calming myself.
- **Be kind:** Even if I struggle to use words, that doesn't mean that I cannot understand or feel your words and attitudes.
- **Understand my communication:** If I have a difficult time, cry out, or get upset, don't be afraid. Sometimes I don't have words to express my pain or frustration. I'm honest and forthright, but I don't intend to hurt anyone's feelings.
- **Understand my sensitivities:** I may be sensitive to sounds, lights, changes of routine, or having to sit in a space that is new to me. Ask me if I'm comfortable holding hands or hugging. I may be sensitive to different types of physical touch.



See the entire list. Scan the code or use the URL below:
<https://bit.ly/4cp01ZI>



Just For Kids!
 (...and the young at heart)



Sunday of Thomas

When Jesus rose from the dead, Thomas was not there. He did not believe the others. He said he needed to see and touch Jesus' wounds. A week later, Jesus came again. This time, Thomas was there. Jesus showed him His hands and side. Thomas believed and said, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas is called "Doubting Thomas," but he became very strong in faith. He loved Jesus deeply. He later traveled far to teach others about Jesus. Thomas lived a life of faith and courage.

WORD SEARCH

Find these words:

- DOUBT
- BELIEVE
- TOUCH
- DISCIPLES
- APOSTLES
- PASSOVER
- NAILS
- RESURRECTION
- PEACE
- THOMAS

B	X	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S
V	A	P	L	W	K	B	D	V	Z
T	X	A	N	X	J	E	I	W	P
G	N	S	A	J	B	L	S	K	T
D	C	S	I	Q	P	I	C	V	O
O	O	O	L	Z	E	E	I	Y	U
U	I	V	S	O	A	V	P	D	C
B	K	E	O	D	C	E	L	W	H
T	N	R	F	Q	E	C	E	P	U
T	H	O	M	A	S	U	S	S	B