



Українська Католицька Парафія
Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці

*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Catholic Parish*

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*The No. 1 priority for ... the church is evangelization:
preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world*

07 Квітня, 2013

Volume 58 No. 14

April 7, 2013

Служби Божі/Divine Liturgies

В Неділю/Sunday

8:30 am partially sung

10:30 am sung

У Свята/Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 am and 7:00 pm

Щодня/Daily Scheduled

8:25 am in church

First Friday - 8:25 am Divine Liturgy followed
by Moleben to the Sacred Heart of Jesus or
Mother of God

Сповіді - 30 хвилин перед Службою Божою
або наперед домовитися під час тижня

Confessions - 30 minutes before the Divine
Liturgy or by appointment during the week

Baptism by appointment - membership in
Parish is required

Marriages by appointment made at least six
months in advance. Membership in Parish is
required

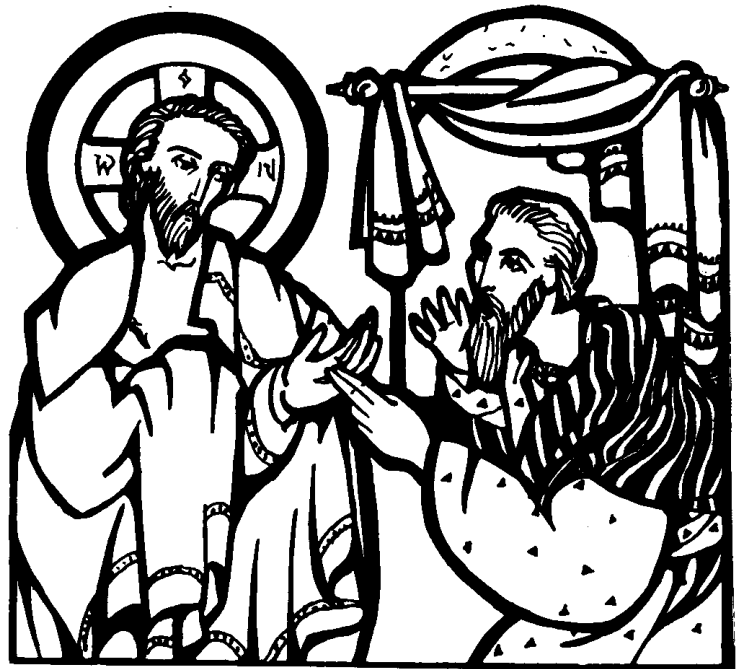
Funerals by arrangement in the Parish Office

оо. Василян/ Basilian Fathers serving this
Parish

Father Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Pastor
Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM
Bishop Emeritus

Томина Неділя

Йоана 20:19-31



Thomas Sunday

John 20:19-31

**SPECIAL NOTICE – Do not park in the
RESERVED stalls in front of St. Mary's
Gardens when you come for the Sunday
Divine Liturgy. Your car will be towed.**

Парафія Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці вітає всіх гостей, приятелів та рідних які зєдналися сьогодні разом брати участь в цій Службі Божі. Нехай наш Господь через заступництво Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці благословить Вас і Вашу родину.

Місячний намір Святішого Отця Папи Римського – на Квітень:

Загальний намір: Віра визнавальна є джерелом життя. Щоб публічне і молитовне визнання віри стало віруючим джерелом життя.

Місійний намір: Церкви - знак воскресіння. Щоб місцеві Церкви місійних регіонів були знаком і знаряддям надії і воскресіння.

- Тропарі і читання в зеленій книжці на стор. 1 і 2.

Люди не клякають під час освячення і перед і по Причастю від Воскресіння до Зіслання Святого Духа.

В цьому часі тільки один священик буде служити в парафії. Щоби вз'яти участь у Св. Сповіді перед Великоднем, заохочуємо Вас приходити до церкви в неділю на Св. Літургію, 30 хвилин скоріше. Ви можете також наперед домовитися і прийти до Каплиці в нашій резиденції під час тиждня.

Сьогодні, 07 Квітень, Томина Неділя: Служби Божі 8:30 рано і 10:30 рано – 12:00 попол. – Спільне свячене в Парафіяльній Залі. Заохочуємо всіх Парафіян взяти участь як одна родина у цій події.

11 Квітень, Четвер:

– 7:00 вечора – Поширення зрозуміння нашої віри у вітальні під церквою.

13 Квітень, Субота: Парастаси – Ocean View Cemetery 2 pm

14 Квітень, Неділя:

– 8:30 рано Служба Божа і 10:30 рано Торжественна Служба Божа

– 2:00 попол. «Покоління Віри» – Відзначення 1025 ліття Християнства Хрещення Київської-Русі (України) – читайти оголошення

18 Квітень, Четвер:

– 7:00 вечора – Поширення зрозуміння нашої віри у вітальні під церквою.

20 Квітень, Субота:

– 9:30 рано Сходини Л.У.К.Ж.К. пічнуться молебнем до Пречистої Диви Марії а відтак засідання у вітальні під церквою.

21 Квітень, Неділя: – 10:30 рано – Парафіяльна Катехитична програма зараз по Євангелії під час Служби Божої.

– Парастаси – Forest Lawn Cemetery at 2 pm

27 Квітень, Субота: Парастаси – Forest Lawn Cemetery at 2 pm

The Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish welcomes all guests, friends, visiting relatives and Parishioners in celebrating this Divine Liturgy together. May our Lord, through the intercession of the Protectress, the Blessed Mother of God, bless you and your family!

Monthly Papal Intentions for APRIL

General Intention: - **Liturgy, Source of Life** - That the public, prayerful celebration of faith may give life to the faithful.

Missionary Intention: - **Mission Churches** - That mission churches may be signs and instruments of hope and resurrection.

- **Tropar, Kondak & readings in the green booklet pages 1 & 2.**

WE DO NOT KNEEL during the consecration as well as before and after Holy Communion from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday inclusive. **WE STAND WHILE EVERYONE COMES TO COMMUNION** - you sit only if you are elderly or weak or ill.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE - there will be only one priest serving the parish. To participate in the Mystery of Reconciliation, (Confession) before Easter, we are encouraging you to come earlier to church on Sundays, as confessions will be heard for approximately 20 - 30 minutes before the Liturgies. You may also make an appointment to come **during the week** to the chapel in the rectory.

TODAY: April 7: THOMAS Sunday: – Divine Liturgies at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.
– **Annalies Nadia Bernadette Smigel** receives her First Holy Communion during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy. **You are asked to remember her in your prayers.**
– 12:00 pm – “Sviachene” Parish Easter Dinner in the Parish Hall. We encourage all Parishioners to participate as one family in this event.

April 11, Thursday: “THE CREED” A STUDY OF OUR FAITH” at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room. Workbook – \$29.00 each. Other material will be provided.

April 13, Saturday: Graveside Services @ Ocean View Cemetery 2 pm

April 14, Sunday: – 8:30 am – 10:30 am – Divine Liturgy
– 2 to 3:30 pm **Generations of Faith Celebration of 1025 anniversary of the Baptism of Kyivan–Rus Empire (Ukraine)** (See poster)

April 17, Wednesday: SPECIAL GENERAL PARISH MEETING at 7:00 pm in the Main Hall of the Catholic Centre concerning the direction the parish would like to take in developing the Property. This first meeting would be to look at the information we have gathered until now and to establish a very general direction of ALL POSSIBILITIES. A special committee will be formed.

April 18, Thursday: “THE CREED” A STUDY OF OUR FAITH” at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room. Workbook – \$29.00 each. Other material will be provided.

April 20, Saturday:

- UCWLC Meeting begins at 9:30 am with Moleben to the Mother of God in the Fellowship Room followed by the monthly meeting also in the same room.

April 21, Sunday: during 10:30 am Divine Liturgy - Parish Catechism Program for Pre-Schoolers following the reading of the Gospel.

- **Graveside Services - Forest Lawn Cemetery 2 pm**

April 27, Saturday: Graveside Services - Forest Lawn Cemetery 2 pm

FLEA MARKET - Saturday May 25: For rental of \$ 25 per table, call: Olga Kochan @ 604-274-9804 or Mary Scott @ 604-271-1131 or Marlayne @ 604-274-3164.

PRAYER FOR EVANGELIZATION 'YEAR OF FAITH' - O God, who wills that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of truth, pour out Your Spirit upon us and grant that we may respond zealously to Your urgent call to lead back to the Church those who have strayed. Prepare their hearts and minds to be receptive to the saving Gospel of Your Son. Send us workers to gather in Your abundant harvest, so that all Your people, obedient to the Word and sustained by the power of the Sacraments, may advance in the way of Salvation and love. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A VIBRANT PARISH - O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth! Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - The Way, The Truth, and The Life - and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You. Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Live-Giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV HAS INVITED YOU TO KYIV for a special Divine Liturgy to celebrate the 1,025th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivian-Rus (Ukraine) on Sunday August 18 2013! Join the Bishops of Canada on an official pilgrimage to Ukraine 7-21 August. Beginning in Western Ukraine visiting Lviv, Zarvanytsia, and Ternopil before proceeding to Kyiv for the major celebrations. Solaway Travel has been commissioned to assist in arranging travel plans and accommodations. Please contact: Myrna Arychuk of Solaway Travel: 3819 Sunset Street, Burnaby, BC V5G 1T4 Tel: 604.430.6789 Fax: 604.430.2244. myrna@solawaytravel.com,

FOR YOUTH 15 to 19 years of age HAVE YOU SIGNED UP for CAMP BUDKA? It is like Camp St. Volodymyr but just for 15 to 19 year olds. This camp will be held JULY 7 to 12 on Gambier Island between Squamish and Vancouver. **IT IS AN OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM with many activities including rope courses, boating and games.** All activities will help you be a good leader if you are chosen to be a councillor at Camp St. Volodymyr. To sign up - Let Jennifer Sawka know. Fill out the form and send to the Eparchial office. You have missed the early bird rates. However, there may still be room - **APPLY NOW!**

Special Petition for Vocations - *We also pray for those in the religious and monastic or consecrated life and for those in vocation discernment, we pray to the Lord.*

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

“THE CREED” A NEW STUDY DURING THIS YEAR OF THE FAITH” on Thursday evening beginning at 7pm
This twelve (12) part series - “The Creed - is A Journey through the Catechism”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church comes alive, showing you how your personal faith journey fits into the amazing story of salvation. **The Catechism** is far more than a list of “faith facts” it provides a map for you to easily navigate and enrich your life.

In this Series - “THE CREED” - you will:

- 1. Learn why the Catechism should be treated less like a fact book and more like a **roadmap for our faith journey.****
- 2. Learn what **God’s innermost secret** is and how we are called to participate in it.**
- 3. See that our journey of faith is a journey from *Blessing to Blessing*, that the God who made us **wills that we return to Him.****
- 4. Discover how the Catechism can be seen as a new Catechesis for the **New Evangelization.****
- 5. Learn how **what we believe** emerges from the **living story** of salvation history.**
- 6. Discover the role the angels play in aiding our salvation, and how they are truly present to us. and much more**

Workbooks are available for the program - \$ 29.00/each - contact Susan Lazaruk or come to the Parish office.

To Request Prayers for: yourself, your family, or a friend - please submit the name to the Parish Office or place a note and on the collection plate.

Пам'ятайте помолитися: за Вашу родину, за членів Парафії, а особливо за тих які знаходяться в лікарнях, або тих що очікують Божої відповіді на їхні молитви, або радіють Божою відповідю, або за тих які відзначають уродини, або роковини, або за тих що покликані до їхньої вічної винагороди, або за родину яку вони залишили.

Remember to pray for: your family; fellow parishioners; those confined to their hospital beds or their homes; those seeking God’s guidance or rejoicing with God’s favour; or for those celebrating a birthday or anniversary; or have been called to their eternal reward or for the family they leave behind; as well as any other need.

Please remember in your prayers: Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Fr. Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Fr. Steven Basarab, Mary Balsevicius, Joseph Bayduza, Frances Bethune, Elizabeth Duda, Mary Earl, Quenten Fabiano, Catherine Hladij, Alice Humenick, Bohdan Karpinski, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie and Shirley Lawryshyn, Ben Marchinkow, Orest Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Dave Shelast, Kaiya Williams, Leon Woznow, Tiny Zarski.

Please Visit: our Parishioners in their homes or in the hospital. They need your visit, your phone call, as well as your prayers.

Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

If there are people you visit requesting prayers, please inform the Parish office.

Це пригадка для всіх вірних. Просимо приходити вчасно на Службу Божу. Будьмо готові разом заспівати початковий гімн. Зрозумійте, якщо Ви прийдете до Церкви після Великого Входу, Ви пропустили більшу частину Служби Божої, і дійсно не вислухали приписаної Служби Божої на неділю.

Церковна Етика: Будьмо свідомі, що беручи участь у Св. Літургії ми мусимо одержати кінцеве Благословення перед тим як ми залишимо Службу Божу. Ми рівнож просимо не виходити з Церкви перед закінченням Служби Божої. Ми просимо Вас не спілкуватися в Церкві перед, під час і після Служби Божої. Прошу це робити в притворі Церкви або у Вітальні під церквою. Залишім наву (Nave) церкви для вірних які моляться.

A SPECIAL NOTE to ALL PARISHIONERS: Please come on time for the Divine Liturgy. Realize that when you come into the Church proper after the Great Entrance, you have missed most of the Divine Liturgy and have not really attended the prescribed service for a Sunday.

Church Etiquette: Just a reminder that to have attended the entire Divine Liturgy one must be in Church and have heard the reading of the Gospel as well as the homily, participated in the responses for the consecration and received the final Blessing before leaving the church. We also ask that you do not visit in the main part of the Church (the Nave) before during or after the Service. Please use the Vestibule or the Fellowship room to conduct your conversations - leave the Church proper for those that want to pray.

CAMP ST. VOLODYMYR August 18 – 25th, 2013 Camp St. Volodymyr will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. We have been enriching campers in their Ukrainian Catholic Faith and Culture since 1983. Located in Kelowna campers spend a week participating in age tailored activities such as Ukrainian dancing, arts & crafts, singing, catechesis, sports and water activities. Camper fees: \$260 before July 4, \$310 after July 5. 3rd/4th child from same family is \$150 each. Bus transportation is available from New Westminster. Registration forms can be downloaded from the eparchial website at www.nweparchy.ca/. For more information contact Jennifer Sawka @ 604.876.5691 jennsawka@hotmail.com. Register early. Space is limited!

VOLUNTEER STAFF Camp St. Volodymyr is again looking for counsellors to help with the planning, teaching, coordinating, and carrying out activities and guiding campers in their personal growth, and daily living skills. These positions are ideally suited for outgoing individuals who enjoy working with children and enjoy being outdoors. Counsellor application forms can be downloaded from the website and are due May 15, 2013. **This year we are looking for a volunteer to help us out with singing. Please contact us asap if you are interested.**

Support our Camp! Donations are always greatly appreciated. We are always happy to accept food donations of vegetables, fruits, cereals, and treats for children, as well as monetary donations. Tax receipts can be issued with donations of \$25 or more.

Thank you to all the ladies and men of the Parish that helped with the preparations for the Parish Easter Bake Sale. I personally thank: John and Irene Sliziak, Elizabeth Pura and Stephanie Lyseyko for contributing their time to help the ladies prepare for the sale. Your leadership is very much appreciated, Thank you! To the Members of the Ladies League that worked to make this year's event so successful, Thank You! May the Risen Lord bless each of you with His Easter Blessing!

Marlayne Andrijaszyn, UCWLC President

You may purchase a DVD of Major Archbishop Sviatoslav's September 1 visit.

The cost of this commemorative DVD is \$10. This DVD contains the complete Divine Liturgy celebrating Bishop Budka's hundredth anniversary of arrival to Canada. Please indicate how many copies you would like.

A quiet and studious parishioner in 4th year science/math is looking for room and board close to or along a bus route to UBC for September. Please let the parish office know if you can accommodate this young man.

JOYFUL CHRISTIAN – LIVING EASTER

Are you a joyful Christian? Can people look at you and believe by your joy that you believe that Christ is risen?

Are you excited on Sunday when you return again to church to celebrate the Resurrection?

Do you look forward to the Sunday Divine Liturgy, to meet your Saviour?

Or do you think of it as something you must do, an obligation like paying taxes or doing the dishes?

Do you sing and participate in the responses at the Divine Liturgy?

Do you really pray the words of the Creed?

"CHRIST IS RISEN!" Let these words sink into your mind and deep into your heart. Ponder the fact that the most important man that has ever lived loved you enough to die for you. That man was God. He is risen, He will come again!

– The Christian Mother Catholic Quote #4,1994

WHAT CONSTITUTES A CHURCH

The church is not an edifice where something is walled in as protection from the world, but where something is poured out to save the world. It is not a fortress which simply defends a garrison; it is rather a supply house from which much is given out daily and freely to help those high and low.

No matter how much money is spent on building, budgets, staff, special meetings, suppers, and the like, it is the life of prayer and devotion and study of Church Teachings that ultimately determines the value of a church.

– Frank K. Morton Catholic Quote #4,1994

WAITING FOR OUR RISING — A SPECIAL NOTE FOR EASTER

God is not finished with us yet, and will not be until we eagerly accept into our lives the command of Jesus to the son of the widow of Naim: "I bid you, arise!" And, of course, His own Rising from the tomb at Easter is the supreme charge for each of us!

We are ordered to arise from death–dealing selfishness to life–expanding selflessness, from jealousy and envy – to trust, from self–justification – to humility, from impatience – to patience.

A SMILE is the curve that you throw at another and it always results in a hit!

CONVERSION OF THE HEART – ‘The Way of Repentance’
By Irma Zaleski, 2003 Novalis, St. Paul University, Ottawa, ON,
Read slowly, reflect and meditate

The Gift of Tears

Some people receive the grace to experience God’s mercy in their bodies as well as in their hearts. This is called the gift of tears. In the tradition of the Eastern (Catholic and Orthodox) Churches, this gift, although not given to many, holds a very important place. It appears at the very birth of Christianity in the tears of the woman who wept at the feet of Christ out of sorrow for her sinful past, but also out of her great love and joy at being forgiven. They are the tears of the Apostle Peter after he had denied Christ, when the Lord turned and looked at him. Many stories of the great saints of the Egyptian Desert in the early Christian centuries attest to the existence of this gift and its significance.

The gift of tears is always understood as an expression of a great longing for God and of heart breaking repentance. Such tears are often referred to as “second baptism” and are believed to wash away our sins, reunite us with Christ and restore us to the life of Paradise. In this they resemble the action of sacramental confession, and are viewed as a source of grace. They are tears of love and sorrow but also of joy.

But the gift of tears was not only known in the past. It can still be encountered today. We may have seen such tears ourselves on the faces of men and women during a Liturgy, kissing the icons, or praying their “beads.” Some have tried to describe their experience, because they realized that although we cannot acquire or imitate this gift, we may still learn some important truths from those who have experienced it. As Catherine Doherty wrote in her book *Poustinia* (“The Desert”),

“I weep and the tears wash away my sins and the sins of others. My mind is serene and unaffected; because I know that the grace of tears is not from my mind, but proceeds from the heart of God. It comes to my heart, and I weep ... You must never forget that when I weep, Christ weeps, because Christ is in me ... The tears wash away my sins and the sins of the world.”

The gift of tears, like any other exceptional spiritual gift, is a special grace, a gift of the Spirit, given to some for reasons only known to God. We cannot make ourselves cry like that. In fact, most spiritual teachers warn us not to try. If we do, the tears we might be able to produce would hardly be a sign of grace, but rather of self-centered emotionalism, and a great danger to our souls. For most of us, repentance will never be experienced in such an extraordinary way, but will always remain a path of discipline and constant effort: our work of conversion and love.

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Meeting with Death

When repentance becomes a ceaseless attitude of our heart, our daily life with God, it will also become our way of “practicing” for death. There is really no better way to prepare ourselves for death. At that unknown, mysterious moment when we are summoned to cross the boundary between time and eternity and to meet Christ our Lord and Judge, what else can we do but repent and hope for mercy? We shall be judged according to “heavenly measures” which, in this world, we cannot begin to understand, by God whose perfection we cannot begin to imagine, and before whose face we have nothing to offer but our prayer for mercy. We shall have left behind our earthly dimension of time, and there will be no longer anything we can change, anything we can do, no amends we can make.

This does not mean that God who knows our every thought, weakness and need and whose love has no limits may deny us His mercy even at the moment of our death. One movement of the heart towards God, one moment of real compunction and repentance may open, even for a most hardened sinner, the door of heaven. This is the faith of the Church. This is why we pray at every Liturgy and every day for help and the grace of repentance “at the hour of our death.”

But those of us to whom the grace of conversion has already been offered, perhaps long before the hour of death approached, had better not wait until the last moment to respond to it. We should start preparing for death right now so that when the hour of our physical death is upon us, our hearts will be wide open to God’s mercy and, although our human nature may still quake with fear, our hearts may be at peace.

Our patient, daily practice of repentance will have taught us already that every moment we enter the presence of God we can still, however weak and sinful we have been, be accepted and welcomed home. It will have taught us that all of us – saints or sinners – enter eternal life only as the “Good Thief” did. In the Man on the Cross, he recognized the Lord, asked for mercy and that very day entered with Him into Paradise. (Luke 23:43)

But this is not only true of the moment of our physical death. The death that we must undergo and that we must practice is our “daily death,” to which every Christian has been called. We must “die to self” in order that we may rise with Christ to a new life. This dying is a daily death – we cannot do it all at once. We die and rise every moment of our lives. We follow Christ, we surrender ourselves to him, we “lose ourselves” – we let ourselves die – so that we may rise again to a new life. Through ceaseless repentance we meet our death moment by moment and “turn it into life.”

Thomas Sunday – By showing his wounds to Thomas, Christ warns us against those who would present a Christianity without the Cross.

John 20:19–31.

The two Sundays which follow ‘Pascha’ (Resurrection Sunday) are dedicated to commemorating certain episodes related directly to the Resurrection of our Lord from the dead; and both of them, while they are clearly historical events, are packed with meaning and symbolism. Thomas Sunday, which we celebrate today, is really the first day of Thomas Week, a whole week focused on drilling into our brains the pragmatic implications of our Lord’s Resurrection.



Regarding Thomas himself, it is important to notice that our Lord does not blame Thomas for requiring proof of the Resurrection; after all, the other apostles were no less to blame, since the only reason they believed it was because they had seen our Lord. What is interesting is that our Lord does not discourage the notion that faith needs to be based on some sort of credible grounds that make sense. When he appears to the apostle the second time, and Thomas is finally with them, while he does make the statement, “Blessed are they who have not seen, yet believe,” he still invites Thomas to touch his holy wounds. He is willing to surrender the principle that faith should be blind. His statement presents the ideal, but the ideal is tempered by reality and an understanding of fallen human nature.

One of the greatest joys of any parish community is when it has converts at Paschal time, at least it should be. We had that blessing last year, as you know. And there are two ways to go about instructing converts: you can take a didactic approach and just throw the truths of the faith out there, declare them revealed by God, which they are, and simply demand that the convert blindly accept them without question; but this is not what we do for the simple reason that this is not what our Lord did. Yes, he did say, “Blessed are they who have not seen, yet believe”; but he also spoke about the seed that falls into sandy ground, which sprouts up very quickly with enthusiasm, but is blown away at the first wind of

trouble because its roots are not deep enough. When our Lord shows Thomas his wounds, he is not compromising the truth; he is just planting the seed in better soil; and, given the fact that Thomas, as a missionary, carried the Gospel farther than any other apostle, I do not think any of us can find reason to quarrel with the results.

Man is a divine being, created by God with an immortal soul; but that soul has been tainted with sin. Our fallen nature compromises our divinity. Our faith should be blind; but the simple fact is that it is not. Cardinal Newman, now Blessed John Henry Newman, who was a convert himself, and who spent a lot of time working with converts, used to sum it up this way: "A hundred questions do not equal one single doubt." After all, a person who outright doubts the faith is looking for a way out, he is looking for a way not to believe because he does not want to sacrifice the things that the faith will require from him, because a doubt does not seek an answer; it seeks an escape. But a person who questions is looking for a way in, because a question seeks an answer; and one cannot seek an answer sincerely without wanting to find it; and when he finds it, he conforms himself to it.

On Great and Holy Friday, at the conclusion of Solemn Vespers, just before we had processed with the shroud of our Lord and laid it in the tomb, I spoke to you about the phenomenon of so-called "Christians" who want Christ without his cross. That theme carries over into Thomas Week as well because of the manner that our Lord chose to strengthen the faith of Thomas: he does not do card tricks; he does not stand on his head; he does not throw things around the room like a poltergeist. Later, he would eat in the presence of his disciples to prove he was real; but he does not even do that on this occasion. For the very first test of his Resurrection, our Lord simply shows Thomas the marks of his passion. That is significant. And the commemorations of Thomas Sunday and Thomas Week, right on the heels of Easter, there to caution us against any presentation of the Christian message which seeks to eliminate the Cross and the crucifixion, against anyone who would try to soften and humanize Christ so that he becomes a mild and likable teacher of social principles; those for whom the mystery of the Cross and its implications in their personal and practical lives are too harsh; those for whom the repentance, asceticism and sacrifice for which the Cross stands are simply unacceptable. By showing his wounds to Thomas, Christ is warning us to reject the false "Christ" that these deniers of the Cross set up for us. Like Thomas, we insist on looking at and touching the wounds of our Lord; because we know that a "Christ" who does not carry the imprint of the nails is not authentic; and we shall reserve our adoration for the Crucified One alone. Only the Christ who shows us that the road to heaven is the Way of the Cross is the one to whom we shall say, "My Lord and my God." **From: Byzantinecatholicpriest.com/index.htm**



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