

## THOMAS SUNDAY 4/7/24

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) ✨ Michael and ✨ Caroline Pennock (req. by Gomo Family)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Andy Simkovitch (req. by Victor & Sandra Wheeler)

11:00 AM (E) ✨ Ron Riel (req. by Rick & Mary Benedict)

## SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS 4/14/24

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) For the Parish Family

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) ✨ Ann Exley (req. By Larry & Paula Reinhart)

11:00 AM (E) ✨ Margaret Krivonak (req. by Mark & Karen Davis)

**OUR RETURN TO THE LORD FOR ALL HE HAS GIVEN US:**

03/31/24

\$ 4473.00

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR PARISH**

Please remember in your prayers all of the sick and homebound of our parish. *Those in their own homes are as follows:* Kathy Riel, Jan Kondratic, George Smilo, David Kearney, Helen Law, George Huzinec, Michael Molnar, Maureen Huzinec. *Those in nursing homes are as follows:* Elizabeth Andrijew (Pleasant Ridge Manor), Catherine Kasinec (St. Mary's Asbury Ridge), John Hromyak (Manchester Commons), Shirley Crisswell (Brevillier Village), Fred Koeberle and Helen Bauman (Sarah Reed Senior Living Center). If you know of anyone who should be on this list, contact Fr. John.

**E.C.F. – GRADES K-8 – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, SEPTEMBER THRU APRIL**

Classes will be 9:30 – 10:30 AM. All children, grades K-8 are encouraged to attend and grow in their faith together.

**EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION**

God with Us Eastern Catholic Formation is the official catechetical apostolate of the Eastern Catholic Bishops of the United States. The website address is: [www.godwithusononline.org](http://www.godwithusononline.org) This website now makes available radio podcasts, online lectures, a monthly newsletter, books and other education materials which serve to promote a better understanding of Eastern Catholics and their expression of the Catholic faith in the United States. The resource material on this website is constantly updated or changed to better meet the needs of its users.

*Prayer to Sts. Peter and Paul*

*O Holy Apostles Peter & Paul, we gratefully accept you as our special patrons and advocates. St. Peter, prince of the apostles, you are the rock upon which Jesus built His church. St. Paul, you are the preacher of truth to the whole world. Pray that we will enjoy a lively faith, a firm hope and burning love. Help us, as you helped the early communities of faith, to be united in love, fervent in good works, and living expressions of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Intercede for us, that we might have patience in adversity and humility in prosperity. Inspire us to be attentive in prayer, pure of heart, and diligent in fulfilling our Christian duties. Show us, by your example, to accept the will of God and to persevere by the grace of God until our hour of death. Sustained by your prayers, may we be worthy to share eternal life with you in God's heavenly kingdom. Amen*

## CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN! CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VOISTINNU VOSKRESE!

**PASCHAL TROPARION: Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.**

**RESURRECTION FAITH**

Jesus died on the cross before witnesses, but there were no witnesses to his Resurrection. Thomas was perplexed; he could not reconcile the two events, even despite the testimony of the women and the disciples, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark on the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe” (Jn 20:25). Once he had seen and verified this, Thomas finally cries out, “My Lord and my God!” God’s mercy comes to strengthen man’s weakness in order to save him; it transforms Thomas’ doubts into faith. “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom 10:9). The Resurrection is the foundation of Christianity. Without it, Christian faith is nothing. *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”*

*Extending Mercy*

The concept of sacrifice has changed drastically between that required of the Israelites by Yahweh, and that required by Jesus, of us, His followers.

According to the Old Law, it was the sacrifice of animals, offered by the high priests, which constituted what was expected by Yahweh. It was a bloody sacrifice, and was offered on behalf of all the people for forgiveness of their sins but once a year.

When Jesus came down to earth, He offered Himself as the Lamb Who takes away the sins of the world. At every Liturgy, the unbloody Sacrifice replaces the bloody one, the former having been accomplished once and for all on the Cross on that original Great and Holy Friday.

However, there is something else that is required by Jesus of His followers, as outlined in a gospel reading from Saint Matthew. Here, Jesus says, “Mercy is what pleases Me, not sacrifice. And indeed I came to call not the upright, but sinners” (Matthew 9:13). We are called to be merciful to others, even when mercy may not be the automatic response. To show mercy to those who anger and hate us is to truly be a follower of the Lord, the merciful One Himself. It is not an easy task, and without the Lord’s help, it is impossible.

Just as He has shown us mercy, so too, are we to extend that same mercy to others.

**FROM THE DESERT FATHERS**

Faith comes not through pondering but through action. Not words and speculation but experience teaches us about God. To let in fresh air we have to open a window or go outside. Achieving faith is no different. We never reach a goal by just sitting and waiting. Let the prodigal son be our example. He arose and took action by traveling back to his father.

**THINK ABOUT IT.....**

Courage is not the absence of fear but it is taking action in spite of fear. On some level, spiritual growth, and therefore love, always requires courage and involves risk.

*-The Road Less Traveled*