

07 APRIL 2024

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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:

04/01/24

\$2286.00

CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD APRIL COLLECTION – Instant Oatmeal

Proverbs 14:31 – “Anyone who oppresses the poor is insulting God who made them. To help the poor is to honor God.”

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.godwithusonline.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. Cyril & Methodius

O Holy Slavonic Apostles, Cyril and Methodius, you led those lost souls and us with them from the darkness of pagan error to the light of the true faith of Christ. Now you rejoice with Christ in heaven. We rejoice in your glory, with which God has rewarded your untiring zeal. We humbly thank Him for the great gift of Christianity which our heavenly Father has bestowed upon us through your efforts. Intercede with God for us who are unworthy descendants of Adam. Grant that we may be strengthened in the true faith which you preached in the Slavic lands. Amen

JESUS PRAYER – *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner*

**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