

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 15, 2018 ~ St. Thomas Sunday

did not matter whether or not one was a great sinner, or bound by shackles of addiction and despair. It did not matter whether or not one lived in the land of Assyria or the land of Egypt—Christ came to forgive and liberate all, and gather the exile safe and sound in His holy flock. What then is our responsibility? Pascha calls us to live like men and women who have heard the blast of a trumpet, who have arisen like those alive from the dead, living in joy. Nietzsche famously said that he would believe in the Redeemer when the Christians looked a little more redeemed. Fair enough: let us live in such a way that all may know that we have been redeemed—living each day in freedom and joy. Formerly we lived like everyone else, helpless and trembling in the shadow of death, debtors to sin in the lands of Assyria and Egypt. But no longer. Now we are going home, our faces radiant with Pascha, the faces of those who have heard the blast of the Jubilee trumpet. Let that trumpet sound in the ears of the weary world, loud enough to wake the dead: Christ is risen! —*Fr. Lawrence Farley*

## • THOMAS SUNDAY

The first week after Pascha is called Renewal Week, or the week of *Antipascha* (the Greek prefix *anti* means “in place of”)—that is, the renewal of Pascha. On this Sunday, the Lord repeated and renewed for all eleven of the Apostles His appearance on the first day after the Resurrection. But because the renewal of the Savior’s appearance was especially for the sake of the Apostle Thomas, the eighth day after Pascha is called Thomas Sunday. Following directly after the Paschal week, it completes the most solemn part of the great feast. Therefore, Thomas Sunday is sometimes called the eighth day after Pascha. St. Gregory the Theologian writes: “The law of honoring the day of renewal is ancient and of good intent; or it would be better to say, to honor with the day of renewal a new act of goodness. But was not the first day of Resurrection, the Sunday which followed the holy and light-bearing night, the day of renewal? Why is that name given to the present day? That day was the day of salvation, and this day is the day of remembrance of salvation.” (Homily 44, on the Sunday of Renewal) —*Hieromonk Job (Gumerov)*

## • TROPARION OF THOMAS SUNDAY, Tone Seven:

Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

## • KONTAKION OF THOMAS SUNDAY, Tone Eight:

With his searching right hand, Thomas did probe Thy life-bestowing side, O Christ God; for when Thou didst enter whilst the doors were shut, he cried out unto Thee with the rest of the Apostles: Thou art my Lord and my God.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, April 14: 9:30 AM, Paschal Liturgy  
5 PM, Great Vespers  
6 PM, Young Adult Group get together (see below)
- Sunday, April 15: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape luncheon
- Tues., April 17: *Radomitsa*: Memorial Prayers & Blessing of graves  
6 PM, Sisterhood Meeting
- Wed., April 18: 6 PM, Vespers  
6:30 PM, Potluck and Movie (*Silence*)
- Thurs., April 19: 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
  
- RÁDONITSA — DAY OF REJOICING:  
The Tuesday after Bright Week (April 17 this year) is dedicated to the blessing of graves and prayers for the repose of the departed, those who are waiting in the Lord for the General Resurrection. Times: 10 AM—Sebastopol; 10:45

AM—Forestville; just before Noon—Healdsburg Cemetery; 1:45 PM—  
Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery. Please join us. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP:

Hi all: I have talked to several of you about this, but I want to make sure I don't miss anybody: We are resurrecting the Young Adult Group, but this time, that means we all get together for dinner, board games and general social interaction. The first dinner seemed to go well, so with the busyness of Pascha behind us, now is a good time to have a second one, to include anyone ages 18–27. If there is anyone just outside that age bracket that would like to be involved, please let me know. Joe and I will be hosting the second dinner this Saturday night after vespers. If you'd like to bring a snack, drink or dessert to share that would be great, but we'll have the main course covered. If you're planning on coming, or if you can't this time but would like to be involved in the future, **please text me at (707)**

**888-2129** so I know how many to expect and can make sure I have everyone's contact info. If anyone needs a ride, we can probably arrange it. I hope that with time we will be able to form the kind of friendships that will keep us all involved in the church and ready to inspire the next generation. —*In Christ, Emma and Joe Anderson*

- GIVING THANKS:

The Services of Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha are celebrated in our Parish with beauty, exuberance and competence thanks to the many who offer their time and talent. Rather than thanking individuals by name and inadvertently omitting a name (in any case, all of us work for the love of the Lord and His Church), let each of us send up thanksgiving to God for those who cleaned, cooked, decorated, served, sang, arranged, polished, cared for one another, prayed and rejoiced. It was all quite extraordinary. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- TRADITIONS OF THE PASCHAL SEASON:

The Resurrection of Christ is a powerful spiritual force in our lives, especially during the Forty Days until the Ascension (June 9), when the Church teaches us to pray in certain ways. For example, because Christ is raised, and we are raised with Him, we do not kneel or prostrate in Church until Pentecost. Watch the priests in the Altar at the time of the

Consecration of the Holy Gifts, and you will see that they do not prostrate, but only bow. Also noteworthy during the Paschal days is that when we pray we replace “O Heavenly King” with “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down...” and “It is Truly Meet to Bless Thee” with “The Angel Cried...”

- PASCHAL ARTOS:

At the end of the Paschal Liturgy a beautifully decorated “loaf” of bread, the Artos, is blessed. The Artos symbolizes the physical presence of the resurrected Christ among the disciples. We bless the Artos with a special prayer and sprinkle it with Holy Water. It remains on a table before the Iconostasis throughout Bright Week. It is customary, to kiss the Artos, as a way of greeting the Risen Christ. On Bright Saturday (here we do it on Sunday), before the Agape Meal, the Artos is brought to the Parish Hall, a prayer is offered, and it is then broken and distributed among the whole congregation.

- POTLUCK AND MOVIE on WEDNESDAY:

Following Vespers on Wednesday evening we are planning to have a potluck (non-dairy/non-meat) and to show the movie *Silence*. The movie, about Christian missionaries in Japan when Christianity was forbidden, contains a number of intense scenes not suitable for children. Next week we will follow up with a discussion on the movie.

- UPCOMING MARRIAGE:

Hannah Prudhomme (newly baptized) and Alexander Stameroff will be united in the Mystery of Holy Matrimony on Sunday, April 29th at 3 PM, with reception in the Parish Hall at 5 PM. All the members of the Parish and guests are invited to the wedding and the reception. Please send an email, specifying the number of people in your party, to [anstameroff@comcast.net](mailto:anstameroff@comcast.net) by Sunday April 22 to reserve a spot.

- PASCHA:

Christ died not only for the Jewish nation, “but He that might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad,” Gentiles as well as Jews (John 11:52). As many in the world whom God taught and who heard the voice of the Shepherd, just as many God would gather into one, “and they shall become one flock with one Shepherd” (John 10:16). It