

### *Our Exodus, Our Passover*

We have been released not from physical but from spiritual bondage. We have been freed not from earthly labor but from worldly defilement. Our flight has not been from Egyptian taskmasters, nor from a godless and savage tyrant who is nonetheless a human being like ourselves, but from wicked and unclean demons who urge us to sin and from their commander, who is Satan himself.

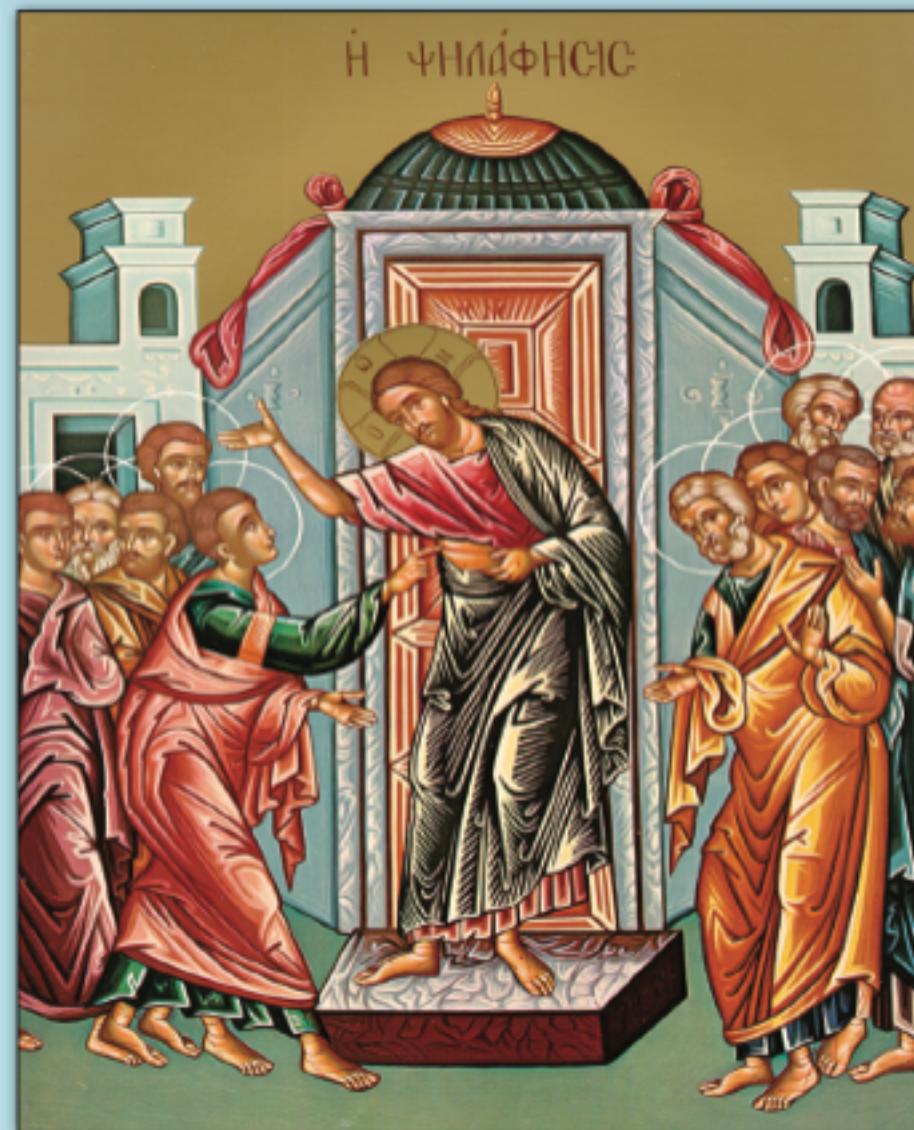
We have passed through the sea of this present life with its pleasures and idle distractions. We have eaten spiritual manna, the bread from heaven which gives life to the world. We have drunk water from the rock, for we have found our delight in the spiritual stream flowing from Christ. By the grace of holy baptism we have crossed the Jordan and entered the land promised to the saints and worthy of them, the land the Savior himself

spoke of when He said: "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the land."

Therefore, in honor of a new happening a new hymn should be sung by the Lord's kingdom, that is, by those subject to Him and governed by Him. A hymn should be sung, worthy praise should be given, not only in the land of the Jews but from one end of the earth to the other; in other words, everywhere in the world. Of old God was known in Judaea and His name was great only in Israel, but now that we have been called by Christ to the knowledge of the truth and His glory fills all heaven and earth, fulfilling the prophecy of the Psalmist: "The whole earth shall be full of his glory."

*St. Cyril of Alexandria*

## THOMAS SUNDAY



*Icon of Saint Thomas and Christ*



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

Office: (708) 645-0241 Fax: (708) 645-0243

Email: [AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com](mailto:AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com)

Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

### April 27, 2025 - St. Thomas Sunday Schedule of Services

**Sunday** 27 St. Thomas Sunday  
9:00 AM Matins  
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

There will be no Divine Liturgies this week

**Saturday** 3 5:00 PM Vespers

**Sunday** 4 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers  
9:00 AM Matins  
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

#### We pray for the sick and homebound of our parish, especially:

Dot Wochok	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne	Mike Sheedy
Francis Hughes	Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes
Frank Miko	Ken Hrusosky	Fr. Bernard Danber	Gary Paczkowski
Aida McManigal-wc	Anna Chagnon-wc	Abbie Sheedy-wc	Mitchell Stachnik
Jim Forkal	Steve Bieniek	Ned Grabavoy	

### Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish

*In all decisions regarding parish membership and Sacramental life, the pastor exercises the final decision and the confidentiality of the persons involved must be respected.*

**Parish Membership** is determined by three things:

1. Being registered in the parish for a sufficient amount of time
2. Faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish especially on Sundays and Holy days.
3. Regular financial support of the parish. Use of offertory envelopes by parish members is required for weekly donations

**The Sacred Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Matrimony** are available only to those persons who comply with the above requirements of parish membership.

**A Biblically based stewardship** is part of the vision of Annunciation parish. Parishioners are encouraged to practicing tithing and also to consider Annunciation parish in planned giving such as trust funds, etc.

**Couples who are planning to be married** at Annunciation parish must be free to be married in the Church and must contact the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date. Persons applying for annulments of a previous marriage should not set a Church wedding date unless their annulment has been granted.

**Couples who are cohabitating or involved in same sex civil unions or so-called same sex "marriages,"** as well as couples who are contracepting are asked to seek the pastor's help in understanding the Church's teaching and in conforming their lives to the moral teaching of the Church. Such persons **cannot receive Holy Communion** until their lives are reconciled with the Church.

**Parish members entering the hospital or who are home-bound** should contact the pastor or parish business office.

**Prior to undergoing surgery or going under anesthesia** parish members should contact the pastor.

**No eulogies** or public addresses by laity are permitted during funeral services.

**Cremation is permitted but not encouraged.** Ashes are not permitted in the church. Funeral services with the body of the deceased in the church must take place prior to cremation. Ashes are to be buried according to the burial rite of the Church. Ashes cannot be scattered or kept in homes.

**Appropriate behavior and dress** are required for all liturgical services. No audible conversations, or waving across the church. Electronic devices must be turned off. No food, candy, or gum chewing. Dress code is formal and modest for all services.

**Abstinence from meat is to be observed every Friday.** If this is not possible an equivalent penitential practice is to be observed.

# The Myrrh-Bearers Adventure Hunt

Sunday, May 4th  
Following Divine Liturgy

See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex

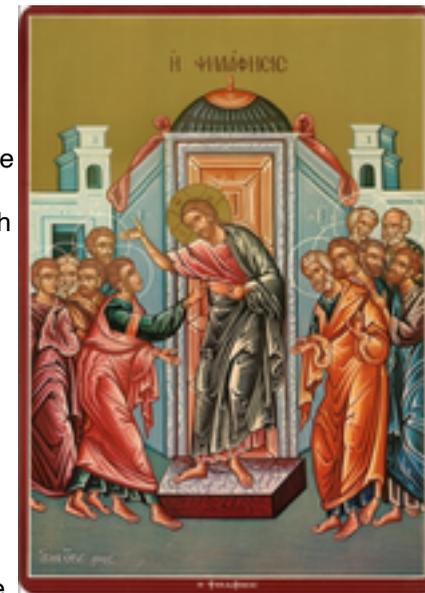
Ages 12 and under



Sponsored by  
the GCU

## The Sunday of St. Thomas

Jesus understood the concerns of St. Thomas, it is very difficult to believe in something that is intangible. As mankind exists in a physical realm, man requires that there be a sensual validation of reality; members of mankind must be able to see, touch, smell, taste or hear that which they are asked to accept with certainty. Christ also knew that there are aspects of the reality created by God which lack corporeality; areas of life in which physical senses are either unreliable or useless. The actuality of these aspects of existence must be accepted within the constraints of the revelation of God, which, to many, are nothing more than an assemblage of abstract concepts that may or may not have a tenuous thread of sensual origins. Beliefs can be problematic for some since they rely on nothing more than a confident “feeling” or impression concerning the person or idea in question. That expression of unswerving confidence is faith.



Christ offered proof to St. Thomas of His physical presence and in the expanded reality that He had come to witness. He stood before the Holy Apostle and allowed him to examine His wounds in order to solidify his faith, but Christ also offered a gentle reproach to St Thomas and proclaimed the additional Beatitude: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

We as Eastern Christians, are challenged by God to believe without seeing. We are called to expand our consciousness and our intellect to realize that what we see isn't answer to the question “Is that all that there is?” Christ came into this world to demonstrate this very fact; the Son of God condescended to take human form and live under the same self-imposed limitations as we live, in order to demonstrate a path to salvation in the transcendent realm of Heaven.

Unfortunately, many of us show the dispositions initially exhibited by St. Thomas. We demand proof before we express our faith. We attempt qualifying our relationship with God in terms of a variety of temporal concerns; we attempt to redefine God in our own image instead of accepting that we were created in the “Image and Likeness of God.”

To begin the process of accepting the fullness of created reality, each of us must acknowledge that we have a distorted relationship with God which have caused us to disastrously separate ourselves from our fellow mankind and from God. It is the effect of this separation that have led us into sin. Accordingly, we must also acknowledge that it is sin that is the cause of evil and all the problems present in our world. We must then approach our Lord, God and Savior, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and confess our misconceptions regarding our actualized reality and of God and confess our transgressions against one another and God so that we can pray for forgiveness. In this way we will reestablish our fidelity with God and with our fellow mankind and in return receive the undeserved *Divine Grace* that we need for our Salvation and Eternal Life.

An excerpt from Rev Michael Danczak essay on “The Sunday of St Thomas”

A promotional poster for a concert and conversation event. The poster is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a circular image of a man playing a guitar, with the text "St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church" and "The Standard Taproom" below it. In the center, there is a circular image of a woman, with the text "Calumet College" and "The Standard Taproom" below it. The main text on the poster reads: "FRIDAY MAY 2 7PM", "ST. MARY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC HALL 2882 DAVIDSON PLACE, WHITING, INDIANA", "BOURBON BLUE GRASS AND THE BIBLE REVIVAL", "A CONCERT &amp; CONVERSATION WITH FR. JUSTIN BOLGER, OP HILLBILLY THOMISTS FR SIMON TELLER, OP HILLBILLY THOMISTS AND JENNIFER NEWSOME MARTIN NOTRE DAME", and "TICKETS \$25 PURCHASE AT WWW.STMARYWHITING.ORG/REVIVAL". There is also a QR code and a small logo for "The Standard Taproom".

Let's make our Stewardship Goal! **\$20,400**

Amount pledged so far from our parish: **\$5,438**

You can make an Appeal Pledge until May 15th

# Online Registration is now Available

Scan the QR code on the poster or visit our parish website: <https://byzantinecatholic.com/25th-anniversary-celebration>

## 25th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, May 18th 2025

*Put Out into the Deep*



Join us as we celebrate twenty-five years of Annunciation Parish “putting out into the deep” while also casting our nets further into the deep for the years ahead

10:00AM  
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy  
Most Reverend Bishop Robert Pipta  
Celebrant & Homilist

Noon  
Reception & Banquet  
Orland Chateau  
14500 LaGrange Rd  
Orland Park, IL

Cost: \$50/person  
Family Style Dinner & Open Bar  
*Children under 18 are free*

Live dinner music provided by:  
**Peter Oprisko Quartet**

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets online or you can sign up in the Business Office



To show your support for our parish family, please consider purchasing an advertisement or a family’s well wishes in the 25th Anniversary Program.

Full Page - \$500  
Half Page - \$300  
Quarter Page - \$150

These can be purchased online or in the business office. You can email your artwork to [annuncbyzchurch@aol.com](mailto:annuncbyzchurch@aol.com) or you can work with Catherine Baranko to create a special message representative of your family. All ads and art work need to be submitted by May 1st.