

Incorruptible but Touchable

The Lord's body that made its entrance to the disciples through closed doors was the same as that which issued before the eyes of people from the Virgin's closed womb at His birth.

Is it surprising that He who was now going to live forever made His entrance through closed doors after His resurrection, who on His coming in order to die made His appearance from the unopened womb of a virgin?

But because the faith of those who beheld it wavered concerning the body they could see, He showed them at once His hands and His side, offering them the body that He brought in through the closed doors to touch.

By this action He revealed two wonderful and, according to human reason, quite contradictory things. He showed them that after His resurrection His body was both incorruptible and yet could be touched ...

By showing us that it is incorruptible, He would urge us on toward our reward, and by offering it as touchable He would dispose us toward faith.

He manifested Himself as both incorruptible and touchable to show us that His body after His resurrection was of the same nature as ours but of a different sort of glory.

St. Gregory the Great

THOMAS SUNDAY



Icon of Saint Thomas and the Lord



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

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

Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

April 12, 2026 St. Thomas Sunday Schedule of Services

Sunday	12	<u>St. Thomas Sunday</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Thursday	16	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Bonny Adamowski by Xara Bogal
Saturday	18	8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Betty Jane Rolling by Mark & Susan Northrop 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	19	<u>Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Woman</u> 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	Francis Hughes
Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes	Joel Super
James Forkal	Fran Zeimetz	Carrie Thompson	Jim Sima
Katelyn Fuentes-wc			

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.

There is still time to make a Stewardship Appeal Donation



EPARCHY OF PARMA FOUNDATION'S
2025-2026
**STEWARDSHIP
APPEAL**

TIME. TALENT. TREASURE.
THIS YEAR'S APPEAL WILL RUN FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2025 TO MAY 31, 2026



Donations to the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal help to support the activities of parishes, outreaches, missions, and eparchial events.

The goal for this stewardship drive is to increase the number of participants giving to the fund. The Bishop is therefore suggesting a one-time donation of \$175 per household.



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA

2026 Eparchial Assembly

Join us for a conversation of the Spirit—a time of walking together, listening together, and renewing our shared commitment to vibrant pastoral action and faithful stewardship across the Eparchy.

Pre-Assembly

October 17-19

All clergy, monastics & faithful of the Eparchy are welcome to participate. Lodging and meals at participants' own expense.

Assembly

October 20-22

By invitation only.

Further details are forthcoming.
Recommendations for additional subjects may be submitted to bishop@parma.org.

The Myrrh-Bearers Adventure Hunt

Sunday, April 19th

Following Divine Liturgy

See the sign-up
sheet in the
Narthex

Ages 12 and under



Sponsored by
the GCU

A Thomas Sunday Celebration

Jesus Christ our Hope

A catechetical study

Sunday, April 19th

The Virgin Mary as Icon of Hope



Next Sunday we will have a combined postponed Thomas Sunday Celebration & Family Catechesis event which is an opportunity for adults and children to grow in their faith as one community. We will begin with a **Potluck lunch** following Liturgy. Please note GCU will also be hosting their annual egg hunt for the children during this time. After lunch both adults and children will have a reflection on this month's theme - The Virgin Mary as Icon of Hope - where Theo & Aida McManigal will unpack the secrets found in the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

All are welcome to attend these sessions, we do ask that attendees try to bring something to share with the community, even if it is something small, or volunteer to help clean up after the class.



Fr Tom's daily videos are now being posted to YouTube and Instagram, as well as on our Facebook page! Please follow us on both of these pages as well as on Facebook if you do not already do so.



Instagram - annunciationbyzantinecatholic

annunciationbyzantinecatholic

Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

32 posts 43 followers 4 following



YouTube - fatherthomasjloya5297



Father Thomas J Loya

@fatherthomasjloya5297 · 22 subscribers · 32 videos

More about this channel ...more

Subscribed



YouTube

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"