

### *St. Thomas the Apostle*

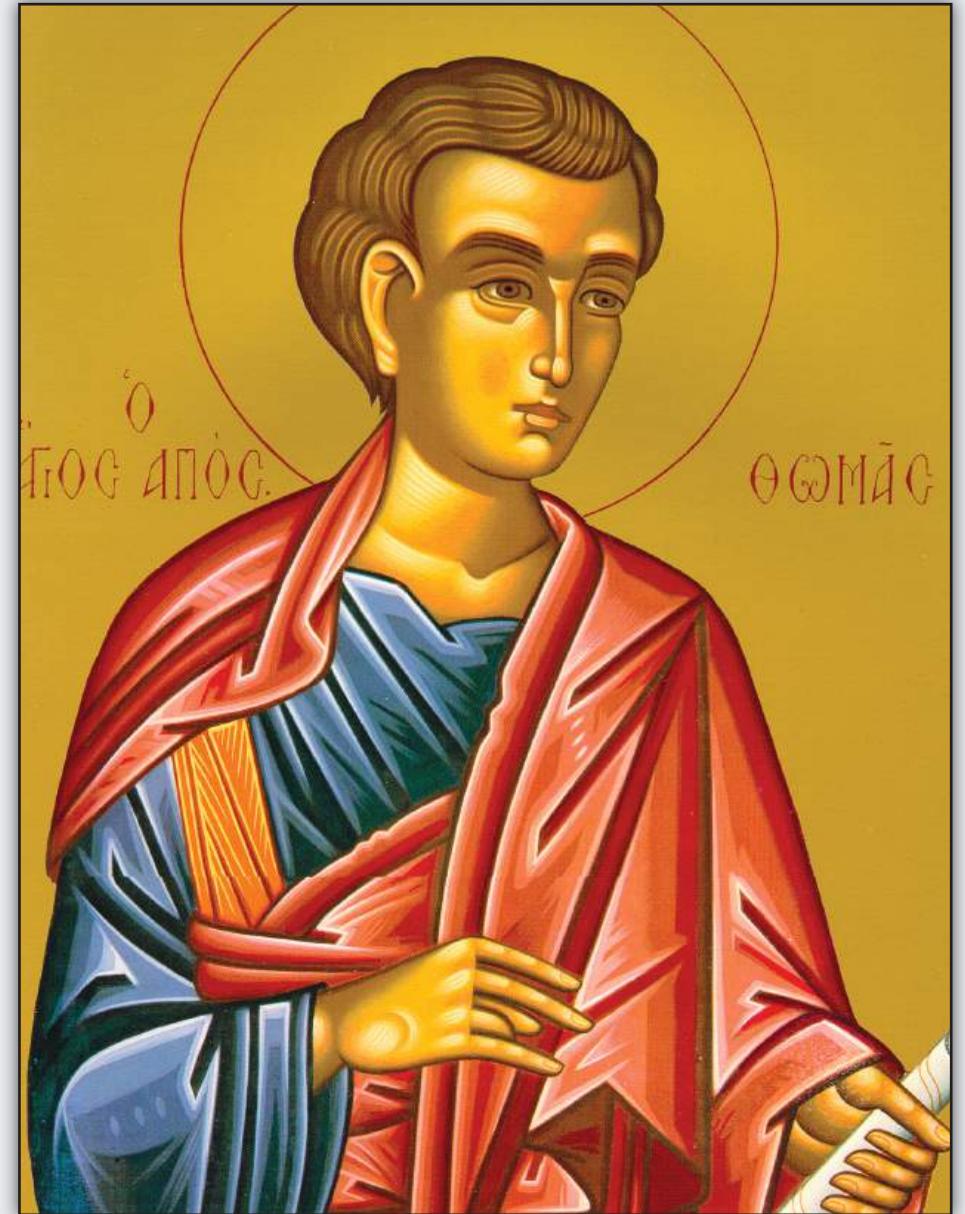
Poor Thomas! He made one remark and has been branded as “Doubting Thomas” ever since. But if he doubted, he also believed. He made what is certainly the most explicit statement of faith in the New Testament: “My Lord and My God!” (see John 20:24-28) and, in so expressing his faith, gave Christians a prayer that will be said till the end of time. He also occasioned a compliment from Jesus to all later Christians: “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29).

Thomas should be equally well known for his courage. Perhaps what he said was impetuous – since he ran, like the rest, at the showdown – but he can scarcely have been insincere when he expressed his willingness to die with Jesus. The occasion was when Jesus proposed to go to

Bethany after Lazarus had died. Since Bethany was near Jerusalem, this meant walking into the very midst of His enemies and to almost certain death. Realizing this, Thomas said to the other apostles, “Let us also go to die with him” (John 11:16b).

Thomas shares the lot of Peter the impetuous, James and John, the “sons of thunder,” Philip and his foolish request to see the Father – indeed all the apostles in their weakness and lack of understanding. We must not exaggerate these facts, however, for Christ did not pick worthless men. But their human weakness again points up the fact that holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ, the courageous, trusting and loving one.

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of the Holy Apostle Thomas -- October 6th*



Українська Греко-Католицька Церква Парафія Святих Йоакима та Анни  
**SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*A Mission Parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. All are welcome!*  
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Fr Robert Hitchens, Administrator    Fr Mykola Dziurakh, Parochial Vicar  
 Subdeacon Kyle Hayes                      Subdeacon David Wallace

**Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever! Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки!**

**Reader Great Vespers: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, 5:00pm**  
**Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am**  
**Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): Sundays, 9:45am**  
 The church is open for prayer M-F, 9-5, unless otherwise announced.

**OCTOBER 5, 2025 – 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (TONE 8);  
 MARTYR CHARITINA OF AMISUS**

**GIVING REPORT** - The in-pew collection for September 28 was \$527. E-giving through tithe.ly for the month of September was \$3,873.30. *We invite you to continue supporting the ministry of our parish as the baskets are passed on Sundays, or find us on tithe.ly, our e-giving platform. Thank you for your generosity, dedication, and support!*

**WEEKDAY DIVINE LITURGY** - Join us on Wednesday, October 8, 6:00pm, for the Divine Liturgy. Confession is available at 5:30pm.

**READER GREAT VESPERS** will be served on Saturday, October 11, 5:00pm. We celebrate Vespers on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. Contact Subdeacon David for more information: dmwallace@gmail.com.

**WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** will next meet on Thurs, October 23, 8:00pm, at 403 McCoys Ford Rd to pray and discuss *Always Believe in Love: Selected Writings of Elizabeth of the Trinity*. Newcomers welcome! Contact Kate Nelson: kateclairenelson@gmail.com.

**Christ Our Pascha Catechism on The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God (203-206):**

Christ began his public ministry with the proclamation: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news” (Mk 1:15). The kingdom of God is personified in Jesus Christ. One becomes a participant of the kingdom through faith in Christ and by holy Baptism: “The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned” (Mk 16:16; see also Jn 3:5). We were created for the kingdom of God: “Whatsoever good things are sown in the human soul, these are the offspring of the kingdom of God and have been sown by God the Word, who was in the beginning with God” (Origen, *Comm. Gospel Mt*). The kingdom of God is the will of the Father, announced by the Son and fulfilled in the Holy Spirit. This “Blessed...kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” will last “forever and ever.”

An “icon in words” that portrays the kingdom of God is the Sermon on the Mount, especially the Beatitudes announced by Christ: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...[and so forth as we sing in the Divine Liturgy].”

The Sermon on the Mount reveals life in God’s kingdom and points to the fact that the kingdom of God is God’s gift, not something earned through works of the Law. Only by receiving the kingdom in faith and obedience to the will of God does a human being become the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world” (see Mt 5:13-16).

Christ does not replace the Law with the Sermon on the Mount: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil them” (Mt 5:17). Christ rather discloses the full meaning of the Old Testament commandments.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Nancy & Jon Anderson, Julie, Lisa Behnke, Alison Bernhoft, Yevhenia Borys, Robert Matthew, Carrie Chuff, Elizabeth Deegan, Clara Anne Duda, Fr Michael Duesterhaus, Robert Dulaine, Pat Fagan, Danylo (Neyko) Fedoryka, Emma Flournoy, Katie Flynn, Patricia Fogarty, Lilian Garland, Jerry Gawron, CR Gaush, Samuel Gaush, Josie Hacker, Brigid and Marlena Hess, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Sarah Kelt, Dixie Lane, Catherine Luckey, Destiny Makins, Michael Marshner & Family, Bridget McDonald, Laura McMahan, Vince McLaughlin, Thomas Pavick, Robert Rice, Chris Saboe, Betsy Sayre, Truman L Sayre, Jr, CJ & Theresa Sidrow, Amy Smith, Kitty Smith, Karena Tapsak, and Fr George Worschak. *Teresa Fedoryka is our prayer coordinator; please email bulletin prayer requests to ssjochimandannauc@gmail.com.*

## Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Tone 8)

**Troparion, Tone 8 (p. 357).** You came down from on high, O Merciful One,\* and accepted three days of burial\* to free us from our sufferings.\* O Lord, our life and our resurrection,\* glory be to You.

*(p. 357). Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

**Kontakion, Tone 8 (p. 357-58).** When You rose from the tomb,\* You also raised the dead and resurrected Adam.\* Eve exults in Your resurrection,\* and the ends of the world celebrate Your rising from the dead,\* O most merciful One.

*(p. 358). Now and for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Theotokion, Tone 8 (p. 358-59).** To you, O Mother of God,\* the invincible leader,\* we, your servants, ascribe these victory hymns\* in thanksgiving for our deliverance from evil.\* With your invincible power free us from all dangers\* that we may cry out to you:\* “Hail, O bride, and pure Virgin!”

**Prokeimenon, Tone 8 (p. 360).** Pray and give thanks to the Lord our God. *verse:* In Judea God is known; His name is great in Israel. (Psalm 75:12)

### **Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1**

Brothers and Sisters, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

**Alleluia, Tone 8 (p. 360).** *verse 1:* Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Saviour.(Psalm 94:1) *verse 2:* Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms. (Psalm 94:2)

**Gospel Matthew 15:21-28.** At that time, Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

**Communion Verse.** Praise the Lord from the heavens;\* praise Him in the highest. (Psalm 148:1)\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.