

APRIL 23, 2017
SUNDAY OF THOMAS
CHRIST IS RISEN!

COMMEMORATIONS:

MARTYR THERINUS OF BOTHROTUS IN EPIRUS (250); HOLY GLORIOUS GREAT-MARTYR, VICTORY-BEARER AND WONDERWORKER GEORGE (303); MARTYR ALEXANDRA THE EMPRESS, WIFE OF DIOCLETIAN (303); BLESSED GEORGE OF SHENKURSK, FOOL-FOR-CHRIST (1462); NEW MARTYR GEORGE OF PTOLOMAIS (1752); NEW MARTYR LAZARUS OF BULGARIA, WHO SUFFERED AT PERGAMUS (1802); NEW HIEROMARTYR PRIEST EGOR (GEORGE) OF SPAS CHEKRIAK VILLAGE, RUSSIA (1918); NEW HIEROMARTYR JOHN, PRIEST (1940); NEW HIEROMARTYR PRIEST SERGIUS ZACHARCZUK OF NABROZ (CHELM AND PODLASIE, POLAND; 1943)

Martyr Alexandra the Empress

The Holy Empress Alexandra was the wife of Diocletian (284-305). Her supposed death was described in the Martyrdom of Saint George, which was written immediately after his death. The empress, however, received the crown of martyrdom several years later, in 314.

Many events occurred during these years. In 305 the emperor Diocletian resigned the throne and power passed to his co-ruler Maximian Galerius (305-311), a fanatic pagan, as well as a coarse and fierce soldier. His wife was Saint Valeria, the daughter of the holy Empress Alexandra, whom Diocletian had given in marriage against her will.

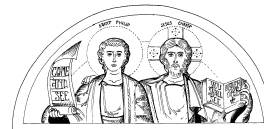
Saint Alexandra raised her daughter in Christian piety. When Galerius died, the emperor Maximinus sought her hand in marriage. When he was refused, he banished Saint Valeria to Syria, where she lived with her mother.

After the death of Maximinus in 311, the mother and daughter arrived in Nicomedia, trusting in the mercy of the emperor Licinius (311-324). Together with Saint Constantine, he had subscribed to the Edict of Milan, which gave Christians the freedom of religion, but secretly he remained an enemy of Christianity. Licinius gave orders to execute the holy Empress Alexandra and her daughter Valeria. They were beheaded, and their bodies thrown into the sea.

Text & image from <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2017/04/23/101185-martyr-alexandra-the-empress-wife-of-diocletian>



The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts II:26)



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Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday 8:30 - 4:00

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH
BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.**

TROPARION OF ST. THOMAS - TONE 7 - While the Tomb was sealed, thou didst shine forth from it, O Light! While the doors were closed, thou didst come in to thy disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of thy mercy!

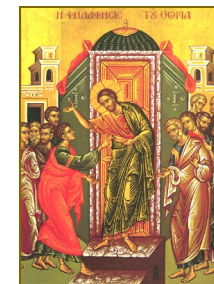
TODAY: Coffee Hour, Sunday School, and Teens after Liturgy

**WEATHER PERMITTING: Procession to Cemetery for Blessing of
Graves following Sunday School and Coffee Hour.**

SAINT PHILIP'S is a "Pan-Orthodox" parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese, serving Orthodox Christians of all backgrounds in the English language. If you are a newcomer to our community, please sign our guest book, and stay with us for the Coffee Hour today. **AND, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AGAIN!**

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Matins Gospel:

St. Matthew 28:16-20

Eothinon 1

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: Saint John 20:19-31

PLEASE PARK ONLY IN DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES; OTHER AREAS MUST REMAIN FREE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS.

AMPLE PARKING is always available for Church Services in lots just across Clearview Road, thanks to our good neighbors at Solar Atmospheres. Thank you.

THE ALTAR CANDLES are lighted this week by the Shaw family, in thanksgiving for blessings received (Dwight's birthday - MANY YEARS!); and by the Ibrahim family, in thanksgiving for blessings received (Michael's birthday - MANY YEARS!).

MANY THANKS to all who contributed to today's potluck coffee hour, and to all who set up and clean up. **EVERYONE** is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy.

AND MANY THANKS to all who made offerings for flowers and decoration; who provided palms and willows, olive oil, wine, rose water, and incense for the Holy Days, and red eggs for Pascha; and who gave their voices for singing and their time for cleaning.

THOMAS SUNDAY CEMETERY OFFERINGS this year will be used to fund one or more "mercy graves" to be offered to bereaved families when appropriate. Please be generous.

IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS. Thank you for remembering the needs of others!

THIS WEEK'S GREETERS: Larry & Louise Shaheen

THIS WEEK'S CLEANING TEAM: Olena Kulbachna, Mary Kompass, Tadesse Abay

THANK YOU to all who fulfill these ministries!

Mark Your Calendar:

Introduction to Orthodoxy

Saturdays, April 22 - June 3, 4:15 p.m.

Parish Life Conference

June 29 - July 2, Morristown, NJ (Hosted by St George, Little Falls)
www.antiochianevents.com/ny.html#

International Food Festival - Sept 15 & 16 - Mark your Calendar!

Everyday Evangelist

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

Practice intentional acts of kindness out of love for God.

DURING THE PASCHAL SEASON:

- ✦ We say or sing the Resurrection Troparion every day with our devotions.
- ✦ We continue to share the good news with the greeting, "Christ is risen!"
- ✦ We read the Book of Acts and the Gospel of John in our family Bibles.
- ✦ There is **no fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays.** (Communion fast continues as usual.)
- ✦ In honor of the Resurrection, there is **no kneeling**, in Church or at home, until the Pentecost Kneeling Prayers.

This Week:

Monday, April 24: **MORNING PRAYERS & Bible Study, 10 a.m.**

Tuesday, April 25: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

Wednesday, April 26: **COMPLINE & Adult Study, 7 p.m.**

Thursday, April 27: **DIVINE LITURGY, 10 a.m.**
(Bp Thomas presiding)

Friday, April 28: **PARAKLESIS, 7 p.m.**

Saturday, April 29: Intro to Orthodoxy, 4:15 p.m.
VESPERS at 6 p.m.
Bible Bowl study

Sunday, April 30: **HOLY MYRRHBEARERS**
MATINS 9 a.m., LITURGY 10 a.m.
Sunday School, Teens, & Coffee Hour.
Parish Council, 12:45 p.m.

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Cleaning products

WISDOM FROM FATHER B: Camelot cannot go on forever ...

ATTENDANCE: At Bridegroom Matins on Sunday, Apr 9: 44 Presanctified Liturgy on Holy Monday: 17 Bridegroom Matins on Holy Monday evening: 80 Presanctified Liturgy on Holy Tuesday: 34 Bridegroom Matins on Holy Tuesday evening: 77 Holy Unction: 128 Vespertal Liturgy on Holy Thursday: 78 Twelve Gospel Matins: 108 Royal Hours on Holy Friday: 119 Lamentations Matins: 169 Holy Saturday Liturgy: 96 Paschal Services: 153 Agape Vespers on Sun., Apr 16: 62 **OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$795.72 Collections, \$272.45 Flowers, \$75. Youth, \$4. BookShelf, \$46. Food for Hungry, \$1,089.89 Needy, \$70. Stewardship, \$11,643. Total received: \$13,996.06

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY