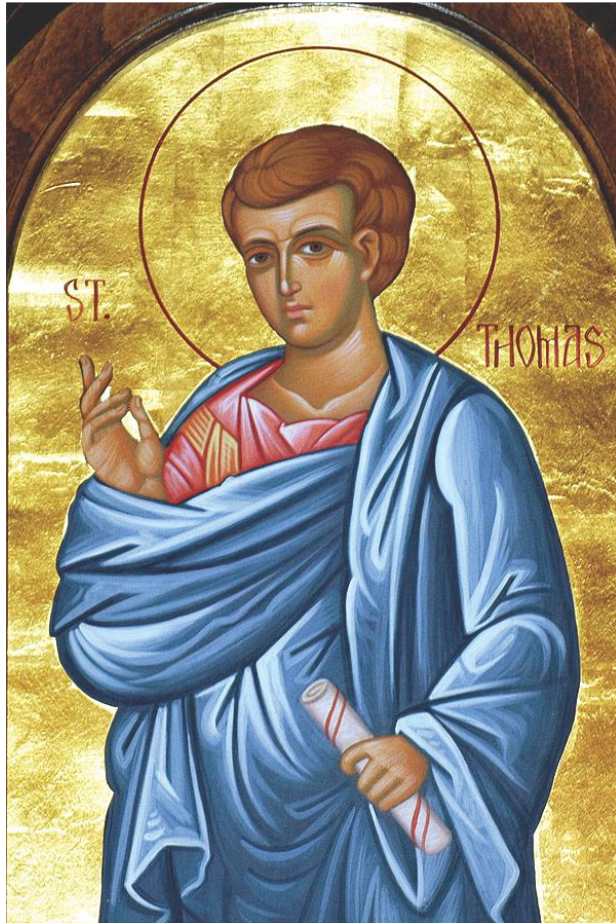


HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



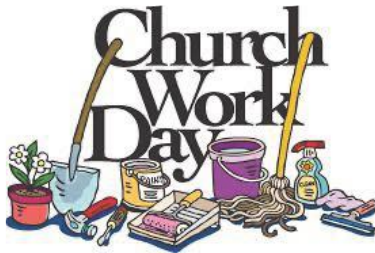
October 6, 2024

20th Sunday after Pentecost:
The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas

October 6, 2024

Schedule of services for the week of October 7 – October 13

- Saturday, October 12** – *The Holy Martyrs Probus, Tarachus and Andronicus; Our Holy Father Cosmas of Jerusalem, bishop of Maiuma and Hymnographer; St. Martin the Merciful, bishop of Tours*
- 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
 - 4:00 PM – Confessions
 - 5:00 PM – Great Vespers
- Sunday, October 13** – *Sunday of the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council; The Holy Martyrs Carpus, bishop of Thyatira; Pappylas, his deacon; Agathonica, sister of Pappylas; and Agathodorus, their servant*
- 8:40 AM – 3rd Hour
 - 9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy



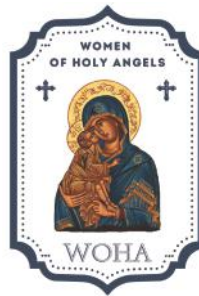
Saturday, Oct. 19th. 10:30 - 2:00

Meet in the hall immediately after Saturday Liturgy for bagels and fruit, sign up for cleaning jobs and pick up supplies. Lunch will be served at 12:15. Please bring your own reusable water bottle.

Many hands make light work!

“God has visited his people!” When Jesus shows his compassion by raising the dead, the people around him experience the presence of God in their midst. As the Body of Christ, we can all do so when we show love, compassion and holiness in our lives. God is seeking to build his Church with the faithful who serve him as priests, deacons, subdeacons, monks and nuns to continue to visit His people. If he may be calling you, contact the Vocations Office at 206-329-9219 or email: vocations@ephx.org

Women’s Group - WOHA:



WOHA will meet on Saturday October 19, following the 9AM Divine Liturgy. All women 21 of age and up are invited! Invite your friends.

Men’s Group - BROHA:



This is an informal group of men who support each other in living their faith more fully in today’s culture. The new series begins this Thursday, October 17 at 7:00 PM. All men, 21 years of age and up, are invited!

BROHA along with WOHA will be working through the book *Men and Women Are From Eden: A Study Guide to John Paul II's Theology of the Body*.

Copies are available in the bookstore for \$17.00.



DECREE

September 26, 2024

Falling Asleep in the Lord of the Apostle and Evangelist John

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory forever!

My dear friends,

Many people are very concerned about the direction of our Republic and about the rapidly approaching election in November of 2024. I am one of those people.

I am mandating that every parish or community have a public service in honor of the Mother of God on every day in October asking for God's blessing on our country in this election.

For October 1, the Divine Liturgy is already being celebrated.

Then, on every day in October 2024, the community should celebrate some public prayer service in honor of the Mother of God: the Rosary, the Akathist Hymn, the Paraklesis, or some other appropriate prayer service.

If the priest is not available every day, then a team of lay people or a deacon can make sure that a service is prayed in the church every day.

If the priest has more than one community, the lay people or a deacon can cover the second community.

Thank you for already singing "Beneath Your Compassion" at the end of every service. God has shown great mercy to our Church in these difficult times. I have no doubt it is because of the fervent persistent prayers of all the people.

Thank you for your cooperation and obedience in this matter. May the good God bless all of you abundantly and your families and loved ones.



Most Rev. Kurt Burnette

Bishop of Passaic

Apostolic Administrator of Phoenix

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

by John G. Panagiotou

If you want to know the spiritual state and strength of a church, just look at its stewardship report.

What do Jesus, the Bible, and the Church Fathers say about Tithing and Giving to God?

“Where your treasure is there will your heart be also.”¹

These words of Jesus have resonated within the hearts of people for two thousand years. What was Jesus talking about? What do Jesus, the Bible, and the Church Fathers have to say about tithing and giving to God?

The Scriptures have no less than 2,350 verses having to do with money and money management. Jesus speaks about money and money management more than any other topic including heaven, hell, salvation etc. The topic is very important for the Christian life.

In an often misquoted verse, St. Paul the Apostle writes,

“the love of money is the root of all evil”²

St. Paul teaches that our Lord realizes that we have needs to meet in order to live and to carry out His work. God is, however, a jealous God and demands our full commitment with nothing else taking precedence over His Lordship in our lives. That is why the Apostle Paul warns his first century Greek congregation that the *love* of money is evil.

All that we have is on loan from God. It is all gift. What we do with our time, talent, and treasures will have to be given account of on the last day. This was the great sin of disobedience by Adam in the Garden of Eden. He abused his gift of stewardship. King Solomon who was the richest and wisest man of all time, expressed his feeling of the emptiness of materialism apart from God when he said,

“vanity of vanities, it is all a bubble that bursts”.

In the book of Genesis, the mysterious paradigmatic priest of priests Melchizedek appears to perform one task alone: to collect the tithe from Abraham and to thus confer a blessing upon him on behalf of the Lord.³ This clearly shows that Abraham in his righteousness before God gave of his first fruits (his best fruits) unto the Lord and in turn was blessed. This is precisely what God is calling us to do. We as believers are each called upon to give sacrificially of our best resources first and God will take care of the rest as He did with Father Abraham.

As individuals, when we become burdened with a mindset of materialism (i.e. non-stewardship focused giving) we become slaves to our wealth instead of our wealth becoming our servants for the promotion of God’s Kingdom. This clearly is not the way that God intended it to be. Inevitably, we squanderer the gifts of our resources. Then a multitude of other problems emerge namely the bondage of debt. For truly, as the Preacher teaches in Ecclesiastes and Proverbs,

“the borrower is a slave to the lender”⁴

All of these principles not only apply to the individual Christian, but to the life of a congregation as well. Jesus is clear in the New Testament when He says that He would build and grow the Church and that the task at hand for believers is to make disciples who are followers of Jesus amongst the nations. That is what the core culture of a parish and diocese should be all about. That is what the ultimate focus of any and all monetary collections should be about. As the late great Orthodox theologian Georges Florovsky would write on the matter:

The primary task of the historical Church is the proclamation of another world “to come.” The Church bears

witness to the New Life, disclosed and revealed in Christ Jesus, the Lord and Saviour. This it does both by word and deed. The true proclamation of the Gospel would be precisely the practice of this New Life: to show faith by deeds (cf. Matt. 5:16). The Church is more than a company of preachers, or a teaching society, or a missionary board. It has not only to invite people, but also to introduce them into this New Life, to which it bears witness.

It is a missionary body indeed, and its mission field is the whole world. But the aim of its missionary activity is not merely to convey to people certain convictions or ideas, not even to impose on them a definite discipline or a rule of life, but first of all to introduce them into the New Reality, to convert them, to bring them through their faith and repentance to Christ Himself, that they should be born anew in Him and into Him by water and the Spirit. Thus the ministry of the Word is completed in the ministry of the Sacraments.

If you want to know the spiritual state and strength of a church, just look at its stewardship report. Invariably, it tells it all because what people do with their money speaks volumes. We make disciples by giving people Jesus through preaching, teaching, the sacramental life, the liturgical life and outreach ministries. It is to this end that our giving should be focused. If the *ekklesia* will do its job, Jesus has promised to be faithful and do His. Sacrificial giving for the Christian is not an option, but a joyful obligation. St. John Chrysostom in the 4th century speaks of this joyful obligation in his book *On Wealth and Poverty* when he writes that the Christian owns nothing because God owns everything.

The ecclesial ministry in its essence is not about buildings, budgets, and bodies. The model that we ought to follow is that the Church should be viewed first and foremost as the family of God, not just as another corporation or business. When that

happens, the Bible tells us that inevitably God's presence and blessing can be seen manifest in the local eucharistic community because its focus is on Jesus the Author of our salvation. It is then when we see the fullness of the Faith express itself, not only in the transformation of the elements into the Body and Blood of Christ, but when the celebrant and those worshipers present are transfigured into the Body of Christ as well.

With these things in mind, proper Christian stewardship for individuals and congregations should include the following four principles: 1) the glorification of God should be the focus; 2) giving should be sacrificial; 3) giving should be of the best of the first fruits of one's resources; and 4) debt has no place in this paradigm.

If you would incorporate these four principles of economics into your lives and the life of your congregation, the Lord has promised to do mighty, mighty works in your life and in the lives of all around you. A proper understanding of stewardship is not a luxury in our private life as a Christian and in our collective life as the *Ekklesia*. For us to be truly "called out from the world" as the word *ekklesia* connotes, is to take up the mantle and responsibility of stewardship and all that it entails.

John G. Panagiotou is a graduate of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and Wheeling Jesuit University.

¹ Matthew 6:21

² 1st Timothy 6:10

³ Genesis 14:18-20

⁴ Proverbs 22:7

Holy, Glorious Apostle Thomas

Commemorated on October 6

Troparion & Kontakion

You were both a disciple of Christ and a member of the apostolic college. Your lack of faith proved the Resurrection and your touch unleashed reverence. O Thomas, ever-worthy of praise, obtain peace and mercy for us.

O Thomas, full of wisdom and grace, you were a disciple and faithful servant of Christ. You cried out in the sincerity of your love: "You are my Lord and my God!"

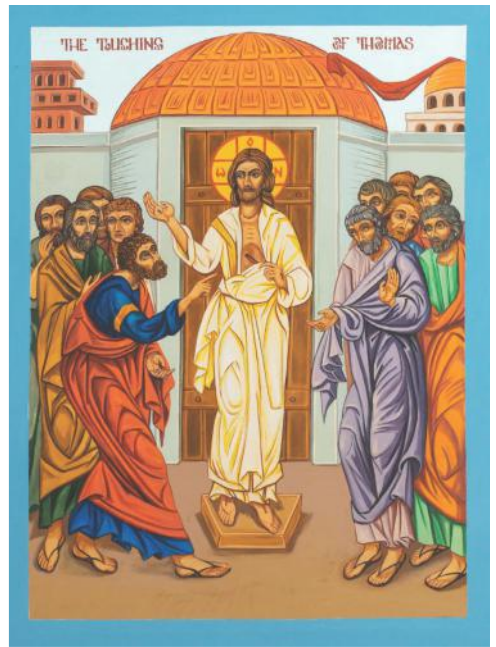
The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas was born in the Galilean city of Pansada and was a fisherman. Hearing the good tidings of Jesus Christ, he left all and followed after Him. The Apostle Thomas is included in the number of the holy Twelve Apostles of the Savior.

According to Holy Scripture, the holy Apostle Thomas did not believe the reports of the other disciples about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25).

On the eighth day after the Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the Apostle Thomas and showed him His wounds. "My Lord and my God," the Apostle cried out (John 20:28). "Thomas, being once weaker in faith than the other apostles," says Saint John Chrysostom, "toiled through the grace of God more bravely, more zealously and tirelessly than them all, so that he went preaching over nearly all the earth, not fearing to proclaim the Word of God to savage nations."

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." In Slavonic, it says, "The Belief of Thomas." When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

According to Church Tradition, the holy Apostle Thomas founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Ethiopia and India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr's death. For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Meliapur [Melipur], the holy apostle was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally, pierced with five spears, he departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of the holy Apostle Thomas are in India, in Hungary and on Mt. Athos. The name of the Apostle Thomas is associated with the Arabian (or Arapet) Icon of the Mother of God (September 6).



It is inevitable that by our life we witness or don't witness God. Even though we frequently live in a state of illusion that we can keep a neutral stand, however this is not so. Generally we always take a step on the side of God or away from God. Often we appease ourselves with the thoughts that these or other circumstances will bring us to the Lord, or we complain that some situations draw us away from Him. In reality whatever the situations are, they can either bring us closer to the Lord or pull us away from Him as well. This depends on the attitude each one of us has. Circumstances in themselves do not make us either saints or sinners.

We all know about saints. They are those beings who knew how to take advantage of all the circumstances of their life in such a way that they could live in perfection and holiness. They had those circumstances which God gave them. Humanly speaking, possibly, they were lighter than ours at times, but more often they were weightier. All of this was sent to them by God, that exactly in these circumstances they could achieve sanctity. In the same way He sent us our life as well. God sends us each person, every event, gives us work, family so that exactly there, in these concrete situations of our life, we would profess and witness our faith in Him.

– BENEDICT (Aleksiychuk)

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.

– C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

O Physician of Souls and Bodies, we pray for:

Pope Francis, Barbara Alexander, Maria Amaro, Peter Andre, Fr. Christopher Andrews, Harry and Virginia Bowden, Kim Camplisson, Patrick Carmack, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Julia Camberos, Dennis Cline, Amy Cohn, Vivian Corr, Maria Cruz, Joe Danscuk, Fr. Daniel Dozier, Gabriel Espedal, Ana Fandrey, Karen Foto, Christine Galgano, Janet Greenwell, Deborah Harris, Michael Havens, Martha Hill, Doris Huber, Rebecca Huber, Melissa Hunter, Taylor Kessler, Subdcn Paul Kilroy Jamie Kohanyj, Juan Lopez, Pauli Martin, Mila Mina, Linda Moffit, Maryann Nagrant, Julia Ohnysty, Genevieve Paquette, Sylvia Pasnak, Fr. Lee Perry, Anthony Porrello, Nina Porrello, Peter Porrello, Fr. Robert Rankin, Margaret Raya, Maha Salazar, Gretchen Sharpe, Karen Simonich, Debbie Stark, Tava Tomc, Hong Truong, Pat Walsh, Maria Zhukova, Gianna, Nicole, Subdcn Eddie and his wife Viane.

October Birthdays

Christia Bankston, Harry Bowden,
Juliana Deane, Michael Raya

Many blessed years!

Did I miss a birthday? Please let me know.

Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

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Fr. Deacon Jonathan A. Deane

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Social Hall/Ethnic Foods: 858-268-3458

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Website: www.HolyAngelsSanDiego.com

Facebook: [Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church](https://www.facebook.com/HolyAngelsByzantineCatholicChurch)

Parish Advisory Council:

Bruce Bitsko, Nelson Chase, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Joel Espedal, Janet Greenwell, Daniele Laman, Olena Bankston

Finance Council:

Al Aparicio, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Bob Greenwell, Paul Washicko

Bless, O Lord, the worship and Stewardship of your faithful servants:

Adult tithes: \$1355.00; Loose Change: \$102.00; Non-Parishioner: \$50.00; Church Usage: \$200;

Special Contribution: \$8997.00; **Total: \$2134,82**

Vocation Icon: This week: Washicko Family
Next week: Fatima Rodriguez

Please sign up in the narthex to host the vocation icon.

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX

SUBSCRIBES TO THE

*Charter for the Protection of
Children and Young People*

adopted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.

The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions and programs, is committed to assuring a safe environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People.

For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any incidents of concerns, please contact:

Fr. Dcn. Michael Hanafin

Victim Assistance Coordinator

Cell: (480) 307-5182 -- email: vac@ephx.org

- or -

Sbdcn. Paul F. Kilroy

Safe Environment Program Coordinator

Office: (602) 861-9778 ext. 204 -- Cell: (480) 745-0316

email: sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org