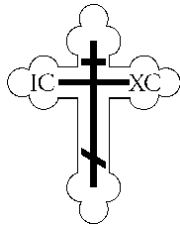


St. Andrew's Outreach Newsletter

MAY 2009

VOLUME 8
ISSUE 5



ST. ANDREW'S
UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX
SOBOR PARISH



Websites:

*Ukrainian
Orthodox
Church of
Canada:*

www.uocc.ca

Western Eparchy

www.uocc.we.ca/

St. Andrew's Parish

www.uocc-standrew.ca/

(You can read our
monthly
"Outreach"
newsletter on the
Parish website)



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The New Testament Origins of Church Structure

Jesus said to St. Thomas, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

Jesus chose the twelve Apostles (Matthew 10:1-4) as His first co-workers. As the number of His followers increased, He appointed seventy more people to go ahead of Him, two by two, into every town and place where He was about to come. (Luke 10:1) After His Resurrection and Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost, the followers of Jesus Christ, who were called "People of the Way" (Acts 9:2) as well as Christians (Acts 11:26), grew in number. Again the multi-faceted work of the Church was distributed among its members. The Apostles committed themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word while the seven Deacons ministered to the practical needs of the developing Christian community (Acts 6:1-7).

A Parish Restructured

In every century the Church has been challenged to seek appropriate ways to identify the needs of a given community. It has also been challenged to identify those whose spiritual gifts could be employed to meet these needs. The Church has been most effective when leaders and structures were selected that would best support the common life of the people of the community in a dynamic spiritual movement.

Our Parish's Restructuring

In reviewing our life as a Christian community, one may observe that we were living in a way that could potentially foster competition or even division within our community. Our parish council, affiliated lay organizations, church school (both teachers and students), adult study group, choir, altar servers, readers and other groups may have been perceived as not being integral parts of one whole. A unified self-perception was lacking. Personal agenda and self-glorification came into play.

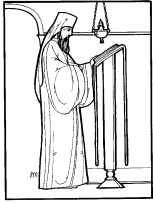
We sought to involve more parishioners in our liturgical, educational, service and social activities. After much discussion and prayer, we felt there was a need to establish a more unifying Parish Group Ministry.

Our goal was to improve the liturgical, educational, service and social opportunities for all parishioners in an orderly and complimentary way. It was also an attempt to encourage more parishioners to dedicate more of their gifts and talents toward the building up of our parish community.

Communications

The need to quickly and efficiently communicate with all parishioners is important to the functioning of any parish. Occasions arise when it is necessary to inform parishioners of an unexpected hospitalization and request for prayer, the death and funeral arrangements for one of our parishioners, or the birth of a newborn, as well as to remind everyone of a specific event or mid-week Feast Day. ...

-Continued on p. 4



LITURGICAL SCRIPTURE READINGS

May 2009

Sunday, May 3rd

3rd Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the

Myrrh-bearing Women

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7;

Gospel: Mark 15: 43-16:8.

Sunday, May 10th

4th Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the Paralytic

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42;

Gospel: John 15:17-16:2.

Sunday, May 17th

5th Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the

Samaritan Woman

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29, 30:

Gospel: John 4:5-42.

Sunday, May 24th

6th Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the Blind Man

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34;

Gospel: John 9:1-38.

Sunday, May 31st

7th Sunday of Pascha
Sunday of the Holy Fathers of
1st Ecumenical Council

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36;

Gospel: John 17:1-13.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S

Sunday, May 3rd
Bilingual

Sunday, May 10th
Bilingual

Sunday, May 17th
Bilingual

Sunday, May 24th
Bilingual

Sunday, May 31st
English

Confession @ 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy commences
@ 10 a.m.



WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST. ANDREW'S SELO

Wednesday, May 6th

Feast of Holy Greatmartyr &
Wonder-Worker George

Monday, June 8th

Feast of the Holy Spirit

Tuesday, July 7th

Feast of St. John the Baptist

10 am - Divine Liturgy
Fellowship Coffee & Lunch
to follow every Divine Liturgy



Liturgical



From the Office of the Consistory:

The office of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada announces that its Primate, His Eminence Metropolitan John, by the Grace of God Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, took ill on April 29th in Yorkton, Saskatchewan while attending a meeting of the Eparchial Council of the Central Eparchy. He was transported by ambulance to Regina and underwent a serious surgery. A full recovery is expected.

We ask that all of our faithful pray for a successful conclusion to His Eminence's medical procedure and for his full recovery.

Liturgical Colors

The church has set up various liturgical colors for the robes to be worn by the priests on certain days. They are:

White — for feasts of the Lord, the Virgin Mary, angels and saints not martyrs. It symbolizes joy, innocence, glory.

Red — for the feasts of the Holy Spirit and martyrs. Symbolizes fire and blood.

Green — for Sunday after Epiphany and Sunday after Pentecost, and ordinary days. Symbolizes hope.

Purple or Violet — for Advent, Lent and vigils. Symbolizes penance and fasting.

Black — for Good Friday, Lent, and memorials for the dead. Symbolizes mourning and death.

Jesus Prayer

The Jesus prayer is a short prayer which through constant repetition draws one near to God. Its use was developed in Orthodox monasticism on Mt. Athos. A person begins by saying aloud the prayer constantly. Then after that becomes quite easy, he begins whispering it, and after that he begins to constantly and consciously think about it. Soon one's whole system is integrated and one says the prayer unconsciously in his heart with each heart beat, and great joy and peace is experienced. There are two versions to the prayer, a shorter and a longer one.

Short Version:

Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon me."

Long Version:

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me a sinner."

In Memoriam!



[Should you have names of loved ones you would like included in this section, please contact the Church Office (780-469-1463)]

St. Andrew's Sobor Family extends their sincerest condolences to:

⇒ Irene Mazurenko & Family on the repose of Irene's sister.

ETERNAL BE THEIR MEMORY!

WE PRAY THAT THE LORD GOD WILL ESTABLISH THEIR SOUL WHERE THE RIGHTEOUS REPOSE

REMEMBERING THE LIVING & DEPARTED

During every liturgy the priest says prayers for the living and the departed. At the entrance to the church, please fill in special "Remembrance Cards" and submit them to the celebrant priest so that prayers may be offered.

Parish Bulletin Board

GREETERS' ROSTER

Listed below is a roster of those who have confirmed their participation as "Greeters/Hosts/Ushers" for this month:

May 3rd -

Stephen & Patricia Pawluk

May 10th -

Church School Children

May 17th -

Clifford & Lesia Perritt

May 24th -

Wallace & Marie Mailman

May 31st -

Wally Yadowski & Evelyn Lupul

MORE GREETERS NEEDED

If you are interested in acting as a Greeter, please contact Pauline Lysak (434-4826).

DONATION ENVELOPES

Should you require more "Offering Envelopes" contact Gene Luchka (465-1736) or Mark Bartko (469-9921) or fill out the request form in the Church vestibule entrance area.



16TH ANNUAL KYIV KONNECTION BANQUET

at

St. John's Cultural Center

Thursday, May 7th

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Ehor Gauk

Tickets: \$80/per person
For more information, call Bill Dymianiw at 780-434-1219.

Pictorial Directory

I have had a few requests from parishioners who wished to purchase a church directory. These requests have been fulfilled. However if you would like to purchase a Directory for **\$10.00**, please call me at 780-469-7870 and I'll be pleased to make the arrangements, or if you wish please contact our secretary Stephanie, who will be in contact with me. I sincerely hope you enjoyed a blessed and enjoyable Easter, the most encouraging and inspiring time of the year.

Again, my deep appreciation to the amiable and dedicated members of our fine St. Andrews Men's Club who have supported this key project for many years and I was honored to be their chairman. The Directory is a valuable asset to our parish and I hope to continue working on this project as long as my "Silent Partner" permits because the Directory is just another way of honouring him, by bringing our parishioners together as he states in the second commandment.

With Love, Appreciation & Respect ... *Johnny Bohonos* (Pictorial Directory Chairman).



Pochaiv / Klenovi Lyst Project Sunday, October 18th, 2009



A Fundraising Event at

*St. Andrew's Cultural Center Complex
9831 - 75 Street, Edmonton*

1:00 p.m. Luncheon & Silent Auction

GUEST SPEAKER: Victor Malarek

CTV W5 Journalist & author of "The Natashas" and his latest book "The Johns"

MC: Graham Neil, Award-winning CTV Reporter

ALL PROCEEDS FROM
THIS EVENT WILL
GO TOWARD
THE POCHAIV / KLENOVI
LYST "MAPLE LEAF"
PROJECT IN UKRAINE



TICKETS:

\$25.00 per person IN ADVANCE ONLY!

(Seating is limited!)

For more information or tickets, contact:

Pauline Lysak — 780-434-4826 or aplysak@telusplanet.net

Thank you for helping to make a difference toward diverting the children of Ukraine from human trafficking through education, awareness and a "Safe House" Center

St. Andrews Family Camp Weekend at Bar-V-Nok will be held on May 29, 30, and 31. There will be Church Service on Sunday May 31 in the church at Camp. Pot Luck Dinner after the service. Contact the Bar-V-Nok Planning Committee; Trish Bartko (780-469-9921), Gene Luchka (780-465-1736), or Gord Ostapchuk (780-463-0454) for more details, accommodation, and confirmation.

50 YEARS AND COUNTING ...

St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish is moving through it's fiftieth year.

During the latter portion of 2008 and early 2009 we have had the distinct pleasure and privilege to elect and welcome our two new Bishops to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, Bishop Ilarion, the Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy and Bishop Andrij, Bishop of Saskatoon and the Central Eparchy to St. Andrew's. While these were not planned aspects of our 2009, 50th Anniversary celebrations, our Parish and its parishioner and clergy has more than willingly stepped up to shoulder the obligations and responsibility that has been one of St. Andrew's hallmarks throughout our 50 year history.

Major projects planned for the remainder of the year are as follows:

- July 25, 2009 (tentative) St. Andrew's sponsored Community Pancake Breakfast.
- December 13, 2009 St. Andrew's Patron Saints Day- Hierarchal Divine Liturgy, Banquet, Program.
- Organization, compilation and production of a 50th year Anniversary booklet.
- Atrium Commemoration Plaque recognizing all Parishioners, Clergy, and Church Hierarchy, through 50 Years of Growth.
- Organization and Production of DVD's highlighting 50 Years of St. Andrew's History.
- Several Church related Committees have expressed an interest in proposing their own projects. To be announced later.

-George Tkachyk

"A Parish Restructured" ...

Continued from p. 1

A Social Function Of Our Ministry

Some of our parish members have assumed responsibility for coordinating the Sunday Fellowship Hour that follows the Divine Liturgy. There is need for more to volunteer. We may wish to consider having an occasional guest speaker address the congregation during our Fellowship Hour or during the course of the year. We may wish to establish groups of our parish members to serve as hosts for the month assuming responsibility for offering hospitality at various social functions organized. Each group could also be responsible for coordinating annually at least one parish-inclusive or outreach event aimed at strengthening our community life. Additionally, these groups could be encouraged to schedule activities at the church, in homes, in restaurants or other such venues that serve to strengthen the bond among the members of their group and the membership at large. ... - **-Cont'd on p. 5**



NEXT PYROHY SUPPER!

Our next "Pyrohy Supper"

will be held on

Friday,

May 1st

from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Bring Family & Friends!

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIPS



The Sunday Fellowships are greatly appreciated by the worshipping congregation; therefore we would like to thank those who sponsored or provided these fellowships.

A most heartfelt thank you to:

... the months of **April** sponsors:

Ladies Auxiliary & Men's Club (Apr. 5 Pancake Brunch); Fellowship Committee (Apr. 12); Parish Potluck Easter Breakfast (Apr. 26).

Parish Bulletin Board

At the same time we **invite other parish members** to also sponsor an occasional Fellowship.

FOR SALE

If you are interested in purchasing any of the following please contact Gordon Haug (780-464-4777):

- 8 ft. rectangular banquet tables (\$30.00 each)
- 22 - 64 oz. insulated, beverage servers (\$20.00 each)

DVD SET AVAILABLE

A 3-disc copy of the *Hierarchical Divine Liturgy & Enthronement of His Grace Ilarion* as Bishop of Edmonton (from October 26th, 2008), as well as the banquet program, is available for purchase through the Church Office for a cost of \$30 for the 3-DVD set.

Golf Tournament

St. Andrew's Men's Club will be holding their 11th Annual **Mixed Golf Tournament & BBQ on Friday, August 21st, 2009** at Sherwood Park Golf Club (52321 Range Road 233).

9-Hole Texas Scramble
Golf — 2 pm
BBQ — 6 pm

COST:

9-Holes & BBQ \$45.00
Golf only \$20.00
(*Golf carts are extra*)
BBQ only \$25.00

Number of golfers is limited to 52 so please register early (BBQ is unlimited)! Entry forms will be available at the Church Office or **contact Tom Haugen** (1-780-797-2696).

The menu for this year is steak/chicken dinner. More information will be forthcoming in the next "Outreach" newsletter!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Glory to Jesus Christ!



A thank you is extended to the Ladies' Auxiliary and Men's Club for sponsoring the Communion Brunch with special thanks to Stephanie McNee, Ollie Sluzar, George & Vera Tkachyk, and George & June Gushaty, for preparing the brunch and also the clean-up crew.

Upcoming events:

May 10th — Mother's Day - Students will greet with special recognition to Moms

June 7th — Sunday of Pentecost - Year End Awards

Yours in Christ,

-Olga Alexandruk (780-998-2356)

LOST AND FOUND

1. Girl's gold ring with light green stone.
2. Ladies; pearl and rhinestone pin/brooch (found Sunday, April 19th).

Please call the Church Office if you have lost either of these items.

"A Parish Restructured" ... Continued from p. 4 Outreach To Newcomers

When a newcomer decides to become a member of our parish, an announcement is published in our parish newsletter and an announcement could be made at the conclusion of a Sunday Divine Liturgy. As an expression of our thanks to God and our desire to share our community life with them, they are recognized. At the Fellowship hour that follows, the new member should be introduced to the members of our parish community. This is especially important in the integration of new parishioners; it has proven over the years to be very fruitful.

Enrichment Program

A wonderful outcome of our outreach ministry could give rise to the establishment of an Enrichment Program. This could be a form of study groups consisting of four to ten people who would gather either in homes or at our church on a weekly basis for periods of seven to ten weeks to discuss enrichment programs for our parish. While most of the groups meet on weekday evenings, groups have also been held during daytime hours. This especially has been helpful for parishioners who are available while their children are in school or who do not like to travel at night. . . .

-Continued in next month's "Outreach" newsletter

Veerneest Dancers

Sunday, April 26th: Eastglen High School Pictures @ St. Andrew's Hall (2:30 - 4:30 pm)

Performance @ SELO (beginning at 5 pm)

Friday, May 1: Last regular class day

Friday, May 8th: Rehearsal @ Eastglen (6:30 pm -)

Saturday, May 9th: Year End Concert @

Eastglen High School (11430 - 68 St.) in the "Majestic Theatre" (6:30 pm) — Social to follow
Tickets: \$5.00

For more information call 780-456-4535 (Greg) or 780-479-5512 (Lori).

Friday, June 12th: Open House & Costume Return



CAMP BAR-V-NOK

Pigeon Lake

June 28 - July 11

For youth ages 8-14

Participating youth will experience a variety of cultural, religious and sporting activities.

Registration deadline is June 1st. Brochures are available in the Church vestibule. For more information contact Erin Haugen @ 780-469-5293 or e_corlett@hotmail.com

"Provody"

Sunday Graveside Services

April 26th

Edmonton Cemetery, 3 pm

May 3rd

Beechmount, Cemetery 2 pm

May 10th

St. Michael Cemetery, 2 pm

May 17th

Evergreen Cemetery, 2 pm

May 24th

St. Stephen Cemetery, 2 pm

If scheduled dates for Graveside Services are not convenient for you, private bookings could be arranged by contacting Fr. Victor @ 780-440-4822 (Office) or 780-438-1890 (Home). Private arrangements can also be made for visitations to other cemeteries other than those listed above.



CHURCH CLEANING

The cleaning bee took place on **Thursday, April 9th.** Many thanks to the following individuals for their assistance:



Cliff Perritt
Robert Shewchuk
Gordon Ostapchuk
Gary Brow

Mike Wasylasko
Gordon & Liz Haug
Michael Alexandruk
Olga Alexandruk
Fedir Gotsoliouk
George Gushaty
Marie Mailman
Betty Wolanski
Anna Keech
June Gushaty
Vicky Zukiwsky
Lessia Perritt
George Tkachyk
Vera Tkachyk

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you goes out to all the ladies who helped with the baking of Paska & Babka on the extra two days in April. You know who you are and thank you all!



May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5-7:30 pm — Pyrohy Supper Last Ukr Dance Class	2
3 <i>Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women</i>	4 7 pm - Parish Board Meeting	5 9 am - Golden Age Club	6 10 am - “ <i>Feast of Holy Greatmartyr & Wonder-Worker George</i> ” @ Selo	7	8 6:30 pm - Veerneest Re- hearsal at Eastglen	9 6:30 pm - Veerneest Year End Concert for @ Eastglen
10 <i>Sunday of the Paralytic</i> MOTHERS' DAY	11	12 9 am - Golden Age Club	13	14 7 pm - Sustainability Committee Mtg	15	16
17 <i>Sunday of Samaritan Woman</i>	18	19 9 am - Golden Age Club 7 pm - Ladies Aux. & Men's Club Mtgs	20 7 pm - Budget Finance Committee Mtg	21	22	23
24 <i>Sunday of the Blind Man</i>	25	26 9 am - Golden Age Club	27	28 “ <i>Ascension of Christ</i> ” 9:30 am - Liturgy @ St. Andrew's	29	30
31 <i>Sunday of Holy Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Graveside Services for the Month of May:</p> <p>May 3rd @ Beechmount Cemetery 2 pm May 10th @ St. Michael Cemetery, 2 pm May 17th @ Evergreen Cemetery, 2 pm May 24th @ St. Stephen Cemetery, 2 pm</p>					

Following every Sunday Divine Liturgy,
“Fellowship Coffee & Lunch” is served!
We welcome you and yours!

Parish President's Report

Khrystos Voskres! Christ is Risen!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I am pleased to report on the following activities of the Board **from their meeting of April 6, 2009.**

1. St. Andrew's Board is still searching for a member to act as our computer system administrator to help us manage our new computer system. Please help us and volunteer for this position. This position may be filled by an adult, university student, or a senior high school student with an aptitude for computers. All interested persons are to call me at 780.469.1729.
2. The second phase of the Parish computer system is scheduled for installation in mid-April with a training session to follow.
3. Repairs to the cultural building HVAC are ongoing.
4. A thank-you letter will be sent to the Men's Club for their recent \$10,000 donation to the Parish.
5. Mrs. Carla Kozak provided a letter with suggestions on revitalizing our Parish. Later in the meeting, it was decided that a Sustainability Committee would be formed, and, together with this letter, Mr. Eugene Ratsoy's "Into the New Millenium", Mr. Lawrence Dary's "Sustainability Planning Report" and other suggestions from

members will be used as reference materials.

6. The Ukrainian Dance Group BIPHICTb provided an email for information.
7. A letter from St. Martin's Ukrainian Bilingual Playschool was received requesting the posting of the advertisement for their open house on April 14.
8. A letter from the Advisory Committee Chair was received in response to the recent requests from the Board. The letter was distributed to all Board members for review and it is tabled to the next meeting.
9. A discussion was held regarding the text to be used by the Board in answering three of the questions in the Western Eparchy's Annual Report form regarding planned activities and assistance.
10. An email was received from the Pochaiv Safe House Project requesting clarification of the wording in March's Board meeting minutes. Clarification was provided.
11. A letter from the Edmonton Chapter of the Order of St. Andrew was received

informing that their list of all Parishes' acolytes will be updated.

12. A letter was received from Canada-Ukraine "Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities" Project requesting a donation toward an evening of farewell to the delegation from Ukraine and volunteer appreciation. The letter was forwarded to the Men's Club and Ladies' Auxiliary for consideration.
13. An email was received from the Chair of the Petro Mohyla Institute requesting posting of the advertisement of their annual Ukrainian Language and Cultural Immersion Program.
14. The President reports that contact with committee chairs is ongoing confirming membership updates, the emergency protocol is being developed, and the potential date for the all-Edmonton Parish Presidents/Priests meetings is April 29 or 30.
15. The Vice-President reported that the Men's Club intends to purchase a plaque for installation in the Atrium as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations. The plaque will contain the names of all members, clergy, and hierarchs since our Parish's inception in 1959 with room for future name additions. The Board approved the plan.
16. The Treasurer's report was heard and accepted.

Accepted that the bills payable be paid. Pre-authorization was given for the upcoming expenditure toward flowers for Easter Sunday.

17. A report was heard from the Membership Chair toward the consolidation of efforts by the Membership, Benevolent, and Wellness Committees as well as follow up with non-member families receiving baptism and marriage sacraments in our church. The message of all such activities and efforts needs to be consistent and warrants some sort of consolidated effort. A meeting between all these committees and Fr. Victor will be held. The Membership Chair advised that he is still searching for a female member to join the Membership Chair. Those interested should contact Ivan Kupchenko, Fr. Victor, or Michael Zukiwsky.
18. A report was heard from the Hospodar outlining recent repairs required to our facility.
19. A verbal report was heard from the Ladies' Auxiliary.
20. Pictures of His Grace Bishop Ilarion and Fr. Benny Ambrosie were received from the Pictorial Committee for the Board's use.
21. The topic of inclusiveness between all activities and groups participating in our Parish was endorsed. . . .

-Continued on insert

9831 -75 St

Edmonton, Alberta T6A 2Y8

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Email: st.andrews_uocc@telusplanet.net

PASTOR:

Right Rev. Fr. Victor Lakusta

Phone: 780 - 438-1890

Email: flakusta@telusplanet.net

Office Hours:

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Thursday: Pastoral Visitation Day

Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

"St. Andrew's Outreach" is published monthly to encourage Christian growth, to share our faith in Our Lord God, Jesus Christ, to keep you informed of our parish events and activities, and to invite you to worship with us.

Next "Outreach" Issue - May 31st

Disclaimer: We do not claim that all the information published in this newsletter is accurate. All submissions are the responsibilities of their contributors.



St. Andrew's Men's Club Website
www.uocc-standrew.ca/mensclub/



Pastoral Reflections



ON THOMAS SUNDAY

It is said that there are two sorts of people in this world. There are those who see half-empty glasses and those who see half-full glasses. In other words, there are those who are negative and those who are positive, those who look backwards and those who look forwards, pessimists and optimists.

Something similar can be said about doubt. Is doubt negative or is doubt positive?

The reality is that there are two sorts of doubt.

Firstly, there is the doubt that is a negative and destructive poison. It comes from a loss of faith, from lack of faith, it breeds cynicism. This doubt says: "I won't believe, even if you prove it to me."

This second sort of doubt is that of Thomas, who with "his eagerly searching right hand" sought out the Risen

Christ. His doubt was such that it led to the confirmation of his faith and he cried: "My Lord and my God".

His doubt confirmed him personally, because it led him to Pentecost, to being transformed from a disciple into an Apostle and bringing him to his Divine mission to India, where his holy relics are venerated to this very day. More than this, his doubt has confirmed the faith of millions throughout history, who have heard his story. They say: "Yes, I believe because Thomas saw, he inserted his fingers into Christ's wounds and so knew that the Crucified is Risen".

Let us be aware of the pessimistic, half-empty view of the world. This was the view that was held by the pharisees, who could only nitpick, hairsplit and find fault, even criticizing Him who healed on the Sabbath.

The Pharisees are those who see only a few tress, never the whole forest, who oppose the good and creative positive, who reduce the Living God to a mere ritual. And this pessimistic view was also the view of the saducees, the cynics and skeptics, the jaundiced doubters, the intellectuals of the age of Christ, who refused to believe in the Resurrection.

Let us rather turn to the optimistic, but carefully and wisely optimistic. Because we know that Christ is risen, because we know that, whatever our many human weaknesses, His Resurrection confers on us life "in abundance", everlasting life, and that whatever the destiny of this world, in the near or distant future, the last words in history are Christ's. And those words will be words of victory, trampling down death by death and on

those in the tombs bestowing life.

Christ is risen!



St. Thomas Sunday

**Commemorated the
Sunday After the
Resurrection
(Pascha)**

