



SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church
9230 Old Bustleton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19115
Church Phone: 215-676-3311

Pastor: Father Stephen Siniari
Rectory Phone: 1-609-385-3757



Church Bulletin ~ October 2005

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Second Book of Revelation

The liturgical use of Revelation in the Church: While seen as canonical and inspired by God, Revelation is the only New Testament book not publicly read in the services of the Orthodox Church. This is partly because the book was only gradually accepted as canonical in many parts of Christendom. In addition, in the second and third centuries Revelation was widely twisted and sensationally misrepresented, and the resulting erroneous teachings brought troublesome confusion to Christians. These issues, coupled with the presence of admittedly obscure and difficult passages, caused the Church to adopt a cautious approach to the interpretation of Revelation.

Ephesus: Loveless

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,

`These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

"and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

"Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place -- unless you repent.

"But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

Smyrna: Persecuted

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,

`These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

"I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I *know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.

"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." '

-- To be continued

Special Reminders from Fr. Stephen

PLEASE NOTE: AS OF SEPTEMBER 28TH, FR. STEPHEN will NOT BE AVAILABLE AT HIS CURRENT CELL PHONE OR E-MAIL. NEW CONTACT INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED IN THE NOVEMBER BULLETIN. UNTIL THEN, IF YOU NEED TO REACH FR. STEPHEN, PLEASE DO SO THROUGH FR. DN. JASON VANSUCH, WHO WILL GET BACK TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FR. DN. JASON'S PHONE NUMBERS ARE: 267-760-4561 (CELL) AND 215-639-1242 (HOME) OR BY E-MAIL: jvansuch@hotmail.com

All confessions and consultations on Sunday mornings shall take place from 9 AM to 10 AM before the Divine Liturgy. Thank you.

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - October/November 2005

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM'S FEASTDAY & HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON'S VISIT TO OUR SISTER PARISH - NOVEMBER 12 - 13 - *NO* Divine Liturgy at SS Peter & Paul

Schedule of Services for the Week of October 17

VESPERS - EVERY SATURDAY EVENING - 6 PM

AKATHIST SERVICE TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS -- HEALER OF CANCER - OCTOBER 18 (TUES) - 7 PM

AKATHIST SERVICE TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS -- HEALER OF CANCER - OCTOBER 22 (SAT) - 5 PM

Church News & Reminders

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2006 - Dues are \$100 per person and can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Scheduled for Monday, November 7, 7 PM. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

SPECIAL SERVICES - If you are planning to have a special service in the Church, please be considerate and notify either Father Stephen or the Church Committee one week in advance. When you are planning for a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, or any other Prayer Service in the Church, please speak with Father Stephen in advance to determine if there is any way you can contribute to help the Church in helping others. Thank you.

NO SMOKING/NO CELL PHONES - Please remember that SS Peter & Paul has a no smoking policy in the building and that ringers on cell phones should be off during the Divine Liturgy.

The Joy of Giving

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - *In September*, 5 casseroles were delivered. Please continue to help feed the hungry. Frozen casseroles are collected on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month by Harry Halkedis. A \$10 donation for casseroles can be given at any time. *Thank you!*

NEW CENSER & NEW ICON DONATIONS - Donations are needed for a new censer and for the purchase of new Icons. *We thank you for your support in this project. Please donate generously.*

COLLECTION FOR THE POOR - A special collection for the poor will be held on the 1st Sunday of every month. Please plan to give generously every month to those whose lives are less fortunate than ours. Donations can also be placed in the **Poor Box** at any time.

DONATIONS OF WINE & OIL - Altar wine and virgin olive oil for the altar lamps are always needed. The name of the altar wine is **Mavrodaphne of Patras** and it is available at most PA State Stores. Please help make sure that we always have a plentiful supply.

PASTORAL FUND COLLECTION - Collections for the Pastoral Fund will take place every 3rd Sunday of the month. Please donate generously. "Pastoral Fund" donation envelopes are found in the Church foyer, on the left side of the glass partition, should you wish to donate at another time.

Sunday School News

START OF SUNDAY SCHOOL - October 16

Ladies' Society News

MEMORIAL SERVICES - If you are planning to have a Memorial Service, please inform the Ladies' Society as soon as possible, preferably 1 week in advance, so that efforts and tangibles are not duplicated. There is a \$25 donation to the Ladies Society for each Memorial. The Society will take care of the paper goods and coffee; the individual scheduling the Memorial is responsible for all food, for setup, and for clean up. Thank you!

MEETING - Sunday, **October 16**, after Divine Liturgy

Events

MYRRH-STREAMING ICON OF ST. ANNA - **Saturday, October 8**. The Icon will be brought to *Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, NY* for the monastery's Annual Fall Pilgrimage. **Divine Liturgy: 10 AM. Akathist before the Icon: 1:30 PM**. All are invited to venerate the icon and to participate in the Akathist. *For further information, please contact the monastery (607) 432-3179.* For more information about the Icon of St. Anna, please go to page 7 of the Bulletin.

RUSSIAN FESTIVAL - Sunday, **10/9**, 12 Noon - Sponsored by St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church, 4th & Fairmount Ave., Phila. All parishioners are invited to attend.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Sunday, **October 9**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. *Please make every effort to stay for the meeting.* Thank you!

ADULT EDUCATION (UNDER THE DIRECTION OF STUART BARENBAUM) - Begins **Sunday, October 16**, after the Divine Liturgy

ADULT EDUCATION & BIBLE STUDY CLASS - **Wednesday, October 19, 7 PM**. The class will meet under the guidance of Fr. Dn. Jason every Wednesday evening in the Church Hall. The class will begin with a short prayer service in the Church and then join together in the Church Hall to discuss Scripture, Feasts/Fasts of the Church, Divine

Services, Basic Teachings of the Orthodox Church and any other topic that we would like to discuss. All are welcome!

SITKA ICON PILGRIMAGE - The following dates and Churches are accessible from Philadelphia. Please go to page 9 of the Bulletin for more information about this Icon.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 - An Akathist begins at **3 PM** at **St. Nicholas Church**, 980 Bridle Path Rd., **Bethlehem**, PA . Phone: 610-867-0402

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 - Great Vespers and an Akathist begins at **7 PM** at **St. Stephen Cathedral**, 8598 Verree Rd., **Philadelphia**, PA . Phone: 215-745-3232

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 - Entrance of the Hierarch at **9:30 AM** & The Divine Liturgy with a Service of Intercession at **10 AM** at **St. Herman of Alaska Church**, 1855 Middletown Rd., **Gradyville**, PA . Phone: 610-459-5310

HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON'S ARCHPASTORAL VISITATION TO OUR SISTER PARISH, ST. JOHN'S - **Saturday, 11/12 & Sunday, 11/13**. There will be **Vespers** at our Parish on **Saturday, November 12** with Fr Dn Gregory. There will be **no** Divine Liturgy celebrated at our Parish on **Sunday, November 13**. We will travel down to St. John's to join His Grace, Fr. Matthew, and the faithful of St. John's as they celebrate the Patronal Feast day of their parish. We should all try to make an effort to join our brothers and sisters in Christ as they celebrate this great feast in the life of their parish.

GEORGIAN CHOIR CONCERT - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 7 PM, AT SS PETER & PAUL - The **Anchiskhati Choir** from the Republic of Georgia will be singing both a capella Liturgical and traditional Georgian music. Their presence in this area is an opportunity to extend a sense of welcome and a sense of home to our Georgian Orthodox brothers and sisters, many of whom are recent newcomers. In the warm spirit of our greater Orthodox family, we will also be sharing some traditional Georgian foods after the concert. **Suggested donation: \$12.** For tickets, see *Alicia or Kakhaber Okropiridze*. All are welcome and please bring a friend!

Anyone wishing to help with this event, please see **Sandy Speero**. For more information, contact **Fr. Dn. Jason Vansuch** (267) 760-4561 or e-mail: jvansuch@hotmail.com ~or~ **Christina Murianka** (215) 742-6223 or e-mail: cmurianka@verizon.net. For *Georgian speakers*, call **Kakhaber Okropiridze** (215) 676-8154.

Additional information about the group and their US tour can be found on the following websites: <http://www.deepdownproductions.com/artists/anchiskhati.shtml> or at <http://villageharmony.org>.

Other Events of General Interest

THE SACRED MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE -- "IN GLORY AND HONOR CROWNED" ~ **SATURDAY, 10/15, 10 AM TO 3:30 PM** - At St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 4th & Fairmount, Phila., PA. Adults, \$20; Youth/Sr. Citizens, \$15. Mail to: Eastern Churches Conference, PO Box 85, Folcroft, PA, 19032. Last minute registration will be available at the door. *If you can't afford the fee, come anyway -- no one will be turned away!* More info, call **Fr. John Udics** at **610-713-9358** or e-mail:

john.udics@verizon.net Last minute info, call St. Michael's Church at **215-627-6148**.

2005 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL ASSEMBLY - Will be held Thursday through Saturday, October 20 - 22 in South Boston, MA

A PARISH LIFE STRATEGY SEMINAR: FOCUS ON THE FUTURE ~ SATURDAY, NOV 12, 10 AM TO 3:30 PM - By Fr. Protodeacon Peter Danilchik, at St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, 615 Mercer St, Cherry Hill, NJ. Adults, \$25; Youth/Sr. Citizens, \$15. *If you can't afford the fee, come anyway -- no one will be turned away!* More info, call **Fr. Vincent Saverino** at **610-989-0519** or e-mail:

john.udics@comcast.net Last minute info, call St. Thomas Church at **856-665-1731**.

Miscellaneous

WEB PAGE/E-MAILS - SS Peter & Paul Webpage: <http://homepage.mac.com/alicaj17/sspeterpaulhome1.html>. New Bulletins can be viewed the Saturday before distribution by 7 PM. If you would like to be kept up-to-date by e-mail or to be removed from our "paper" mailing list, please send me an e-mail at: **alicaj17@mac.com**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS ABOUT PARISHIONERS - If you have any items to include in next month's Bulletin, please see Alicia or call her at **215-742-0492** or e-mail: **alicaj17@mac.com**. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **October 30**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **11/6/05**. Bulletins will be mailed to any Parishioners unable to attend.

Please remember to let Alicia know the names of our members who are ill or in need of prayer so that they can be included in our Bulletins.

Thank You to all members of the Parish who have helped out or volunteered in any way with their time and efforts, and a very special **thank you** to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin.

Parishioner's Corner

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **October** Birthdays: **Christine Antony, Helen Arndt, Helen Banushi, Raisa Belous, Harry Cappo, Michael Cappo, Nina Horowitz, Lucille John, Margie Kelly, Llambi Quirias, Jean Rifkin, Jim Schaeffer, Fr. Stephen Siniari, George Steffa, Ann Stephano, James Vesho**

May God grant them all many, many years!

Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Elaine Quirias, Gregory Vreto, Sr., Debbie Krimetz, Nina Horowitz, Helen Arndt, Harry Cappo, Matthew Murianka, Amelia Daka, Joyce Dorsey, Steven Yarrow, Katia Vansuch**

*** *God knows the names and ages of all who need His love and mercy...*

Memory Eternal

†Margaret (Karafelli) Kenny fell asleep in the Lord on October 2, 2005. She was the beloved wife of Thomas, devoted mother of Karen, Thomas, and Margaret, and dear sister of Patricia Bergey. Marge is also survived by 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Her quiet, unassuming ways, her devotion to the Church, and her generous nature will long be remembered and missed by all at SS Peter and Paul. Marge is remembered lovingly by all those whose lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to SS Peter and Paul Orthodox Church.

May her Memory Be Eternal

Announcements from Fr. Dn. Jason

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES/EVENTS FOR THE MONTH - Beginning in October, a schedule of services/events for the month will be posted in the Church, the Church Hall, and the Candle Desk.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES/EVENTS - A weekly schedule of services/events plus a writing from one of the Fathers as well as the Epistle and Gospel lessons of that Sunday will be handed out at the Veneration of the Cross every Sunday. Our parishioners will have a handout to take home with them for the week to re-read and provide them with inspiration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE EVERY SUNDAY - Following the Divine Liturgy, announcements will be made about the upcoming week's services and events. If there are any special announcements that need to be made, please contact Fr. Dn. Jason (267) 760-4561 or by e-mail: jvansuch@hotmail.com

Myrrh-streaming Icon of St. Anna

On May 9, 2004, Mother's Day in the U.S., an icon of St. Anna, the Mother of the Holy Virgin Mary, at the Church of Our Lady began to stream myrrh. On that Sunday a parishioner told Fr. Athanasy that the icon seemed to be "perspiring." Father noticed visible liquid streams and droplets. Accumulations of the liquid were on the cuff on St. Anna's left hand and on the left side of her veil on the shoulder. There were droplets elsewhere on the icon as well. This fragrant, slightly oily liquid is commonly called "myrrh." Starting around November that year the oil began to stream from St. Anna's eyes as though she were crying. Fr. Athanasy commissioned the icon in 1998 and it was painted by the Mount of Olives Convent in Jerusalem where he had served in 1980-1981; it was blessed at Our Lord's tomb in the Church of the Resurrection in that city and brought here. Father has a special devotion to this saint, whose intercession saved his right arm from amputation after a bad fall when he was a child.

In the Russian Orthodox Church of Our Lady the Joy of All Who Sorrow (ROCOR), located in Philadelphia, PA an icon of St. Righteous Anna was found to have been weeping myrrh since November, 2004. Since the discovery of myrrh coming from the icon,

many miracles occurred in the lives of the faithful who venerated the icon and were anointed by its myrrh.

The Russian Orthodox Church of Our Lady the Joy of All Who Sorrow states the following: That His Eminence visited our Church's Miraculous icon and it declared authentic. His Eminence Metropolitan Laurus, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia graciously visited our parish to celebrate our feast day with us as we inaugurate our 55th year as a parish family and the 30th year of ordination for our Rector. To our great joy, His Eminence served the All-Night Vigil on Friday evening, November 5, as well as the Liturgy on the following day. Not only was the icon of the parish's feast day honored but the miraculous medieval Kursk Root icon of the Mother of God was in the church for the veneration of the faithful. The Father Rector received a gramota for his service to the church. The phenomenon of the oil drops on the icon of St. Righteous Anna has been approved for veneration.

Feast of the Dormition of St. Anna

'REJOICE, O HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS JOACHIM AND ANNA, ANCESTORS OF GOD!'

On Sunday August 7, 2005, Fr. Dn. Jason, Diakonitsa Ekaterina, and Matushka Paraskeva (Fr. Jason's mother), led a group of five parishioners to the Russian Orthodox Church of Our Lady, 'Joy of All who Sorrow' located in Center-City Philadelphia for the Feast of the Dormition or Falling Asleep of the Mother of the Theotokos, St. Anna. This Feast is very special for this particular parish and their priest, Fr. Athanasy, because they have a Wonder-Working Myrrh- Weeping Icon of St. Anna.

This particular Icon of St. Anna was written for Fr. Athanasy by some nuns from Jerusalem. A few years ago St. Anna began to weep on a day that is indeed very special to all of us – MOTHER'S DAY!! Just as the Theotokos is a Mother to all of us, St. Anna is a grandmother to us as well. Ever since that Mother's Day, St. Anna has been weeping.

To celebrate this great Feast of St. Anna, Her Dormition or Falling Asleep, we went down for the Services and Procession around the block with Her Wonder-Working Icon. Then afterwards, we venerated the Icon and were anointed with the Myrrh and Oil that came from St. Anna. For those of us who were able to be apart of this great Feast and celebration, we were indeed blessed with the Protection of St. Anna. The church was filled. The singing was angelic. There was a peaceful and prayerful atmosphere that filled the entire church with the blessing of GOD!!

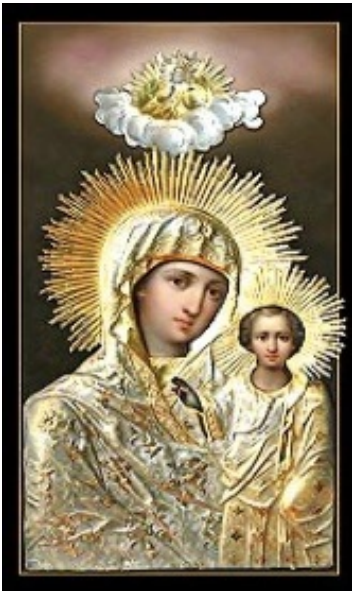
To celebrate this great blessing of GOD, we had a service to St. Anna in our church a few weeks ago where our faithful were able to venerate the Icon print of the Wonder-Working Icon of St. Anna as well as be anointed with the Oil and Myrrh from the Icon. We have Her Icon Print in our church as well as the Oil, which are available for our veneration and anointing.

Through the Prayers and Protection of The Holy Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, May GOD continue to bless us and guide us!

- - Fr. Dn. Jason Vansuch

Wonderworking Sitka Icon of the Mother of God to begin two-month pilgrimage to "Lower 48" on September 7, 2005

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] — For the first time in history, the wonderworking Sitka Icon of the Mother of God will be taken on pilgrimage to over 60 Orthodox Christian parishes across the US from September 7 through November 7, 2005.



Plans for the pilgrimage were presented to members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America by His Grace, Bishop Nikolai of Sitka, Anchorage, and Alaska at their fall 2004 session. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman and the hierarchs enthusiastically endorsed the pilgrimage plans.

Special services will be celebrated in every parish along the pilgrimage's "coast-to-coast" route. Bishop Nikolai will join the OCA's diocesan bishops for services in the icon's presence in a number of locations.

The icon, a 19th-century variation of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God, is adorned with a magnificent gold and silver riza, or metal covering. The icon was commissioned for Sitka's Archangel Michael Cathedral by Saint Innocent Veniaminov in the early 1800s and has been enshrined in the cathedral since its arrival some 150 years ago. The icon is attributed to the hand of Vladimir Borovikovsky, a leading artist of the time and one of

Russia's most revered painters. Miraculously, the icon survived a fire that destroyed the original cathedral in 1966. Over the years, many healings and miracles have been credited through the intercession of the Holy Virgin in response to prayers offered by countless faithful before the icon.

As a prelude to the pilgrimage to the "lower 48 states," the Sitka Icon of the Mother of God was taken to numerous parishes and communities across the Diocese of Alaska in the summer of 2005.

Icon of the Mother of God "Our Lady of Sitka" Commemorated on July 8

The Sitka Icon of the Mother of God Located at the Cathedral of St Michael the Archangel in Sitka, Alaska is one of the most revered Icons in North America: the Sitka Mother of God.

This Icon has been attributed to a famous Iconographer, Vladimir Lukich Borovikovsky (1758-1826), a protégé of the Empress Catherine II who was instructed at the Academy of Arts in St Petersburg, Russia. In addition to being a great portrait painter, Borovikovsky also painted many of the Icons for the Cathedral of the Kazan Icon in St Petersburg.

Painted in the style of the Kazan Mother of God Icon, on canvas, the Sitka Mother of God Icon is 36 x 17 1/2 inches in size. An exceptionally beautiful and detailed riza of silver

covers the Icon of the Theotokos and Christ child, and the Image of God the Father blessing from above.

The Cathedral received the Icon as a gift from the laborers of the Russian American Company in 1850, two years after the Cathedral was completed. Even with their meager wages, these men generously made their contribution to the Church.

Miracles have been attributed to the Sitka Mother of God Icon over the years. It is believed that the gaze of the eyes of the Theotokos have led to the restored health of those who prayed before the Icon.

Because of the peaceful gaze of the Theotokos, the Icon has been described as a "pearl of Russian ecclesiastical art of ineffable gentleness, purity and harmony...." And "...the most beautiful face of the Mother of God with the Divine Child in her arms is so delicately and artistically done that the more one looks at it the more difficult it is to tear one's gaze away."

Originally part of the main Iconostasis at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel in Sitka, Alaska, the Icon is now permanently located on the far left side of the Iconostasis in a special place of honor.

SS Peter & Paul Annual Clam Bake ~ September 24, 2005





Holy Days and Name Days in October

- October 1 - Protection (Pokrov) of the Most Holy Theotokos
- October 6 - Holy Apostle Thomas; St Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow
- October 8 - Venerable Pelagia, the Penitent; Ven. Taisia of Egypt
- October 9 - Holy Apostle James, Son of Alphaeus; St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow
- October 10 - Martyrs Eulampius & Eulampia; Venerable Ambrose of Optina
- October 16 - Martyr Longinus the Centurian
- October 17 - Prophet Hosea
- October 18 - Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke
- October 19 - Prophet Joel
- October 22 - Demetrius Saturday
- October 23 - Holy Apostle James (Jacob), Brother of the Lord
- October 24 - Blessed Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia
- October 25 - St Tabitha the Widow, raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter
- October 26 - Great Martyr Demetrius; Great Earthquake at Constantinople, 740 AD
- October 28 - Venerable Job of Pochaev
- October 29 - Martyr Anastasia of Rome
- October 31 - Hieromartyr John Kochurov

Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas

The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas was born in the Galileian 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" (Jn 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 (Jn 20:28). "Thomas, being once weaker in faith than the other apostles," says St. 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 St. 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 hav-

ing converted the wife and son of the governor 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).

~ Icon & Reading Courtesy of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Webpage ~