April 8, 2018
THOMAS SUNDAY

Liturgical Schedule

Apr 7 (Sat) Divine Liturgy **5:00pm**
Blessing and Breaking of the Artos
+Margaret & Andrew Mihalick req by George & Diane Mihalick

Apr 8 (Sun) Thomas Sunday
ECF **9:00am**
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
Blessing and Breaking of the Artos
+Fr. Edward Lucas req by Connie Dubyak

Apr 10 (Tue) Divine Liturgy **8:30am**

Apr 12 (Thu) Divine Liturgy **8:30am**

Apr 14 (Sat) Divine Liturgy **5:00pm**
+Ann Frendzel req by Al & Helen Ferencz

Apr 15 (Sun) Sunday of the Ointment Bearers
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
Total Parish ECF **12:00noon**

April 1, 2018
Our Tithe to our Parish—$8,018.00

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of April 8 thru April 14 for +Fran Mogush req by the Abraham Family .

We greet each other during the next forty days with our Paschal greeting:

Christ is Risen!	(English)	Indeed He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese!	(Slavonic)	Voistinnu Voskrese!
Christos Anesti!	(Greek)	Alithos Anesti!

Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Rosella Busko, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Rose Marie Rupnik, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Ed Suzina, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

PROGRAMS AT MOUNT MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER

All programs are held at the House of Prayer unless otherwise specified. Please call 724-438-7149 to register.

CANDLELIGHT DINNER FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Thursday, April 26, 2018, 6:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Offering: $70. per couple
Registration Due: April 20.

Experience a lovely evening of music, dining, a silent auction and a heartwarming presentation in the atmosphere of a former 1903 Coal Baron's home.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Becky Johnen
WORKING TOWARD A CALMER YOU"
Saturday, April 28, 2018, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Includes Lunch
Offering: $35. Registration Due: April 24

Managing stress is all about taking charge: of your thoughts, emotions, schedule and the way you deal with problems.

This presentation is designed to help you spot stressors and stay in control when the pressure builds by helping you understand what stress is, how to recognize when you are in "stress overload" mode, and how to unwind, relax and become a calmer you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The final installment of our monthly ***Parish Eastern Christian Formation Program will be on Sunday, April 15 after the 10:30 liturgy.*** There will NOT be a 9 a.m. class for kids on this Sunday. There will be a pot-luck lunch before the break-out sessions with side dishes needed, so please see sign up sheets in the back of the church. Seminarian Tom Wells will handle the breakout session for the adults presenting a talk about Virtues. The kids group will meet in the education wing for a fun lesson. Please mark your calendars for this event. The seminarians are winding down their time at our parish with their final Sunday scheduled for April 29. This will be our final time to gather with them for religious instruction.

PARISH BRUNCH

Once again we would like to gather together as a parish family after the feast of Pascha. We would like to invite all of our parish to celebrate the recent accomplishments in our parish at a brunch after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 29. This would be a great time to look at the newly renovated kitchen in our church social hall if you have not had an opportunity to see it.

The Pirohy Project wrapped up a very successful year and it continues to be our major fund-raiser. Many thanks to all those involved. The ECF year is coming to a close and the Ham Bingo was once again a great success. So many people are involved to make these projects such wonderful events in our parish.

In addition, there are so many folks who quietly help out behind the scenes, many of whom work diligently but look for no public acknowledgement. We also remember those who attentively assist with our liturgical services, making them the spiritually uplifting times that they are. Our parish is so richly blessed to have such wonderful people as all those mentioned above.

The brunch is a way to thank everyone for all the little and big things they do to make our parish great. We have so much to be thankful for in our vibrant faith community. Please join us for this catered meal to engage in fellowship and to recognize what makes St. Stephen so special. Keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet so we know how many to plan for.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

On Sunday, April 15, Saints Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Duquesne Pa will hold their annual Spaghetti Dinner from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Adults $9.00 and children 10 and under $5.00 . Children under 5 are free. Dine in or take out.

SUNDAY OF THOMAS

God can make good happen ... even out of bad things.

We see many examples of this in the Scriptures. During the Lenten season when we were reading from the Old Testament during the Presanctified Liturgy, we heard the story of Joseph. He was one of twelve brothers ... and out of jealousy, his brothers sold him into slavery. He was taken as a slave into Egypt ... where he eventually gained the favor of Pharaoh and was placed in a very high position. Later, when his brothers were suffering during a famine, it was Joseph who was able to save them.

God can take even the wrong things we do and bring good out of them.

Today we hear the story of Thomas ... the disciple who was not present when the risen Christ appeared to his disciples. Thomas refused to believe that the Lord was risen ... until he could see for himself.

The hymns of our Church call his doubt a great *gift* to the rest of us:

How wonderful is this doubt of Thomas!

It brought the hearts of believers

to the knowledge of God ...

The Lord appeared to Thomas and showed him his hands and side ... let him reach out and touch the wounds ... to confirm that this was indeed the same Lord who was crucified and buried.

The doubt of Thomas led to this new confirmation of the Resurrection. Not only Thomas now comes to believe ... but we also are strengthened in our faith.

Yes, God can make good things happen ... even from the negative parts of our life. He can write straight even with the crooked lines of our lives.