



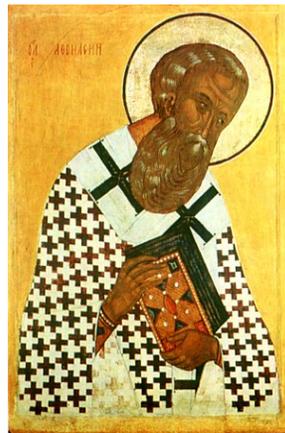
## NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### Second Week of Pascha

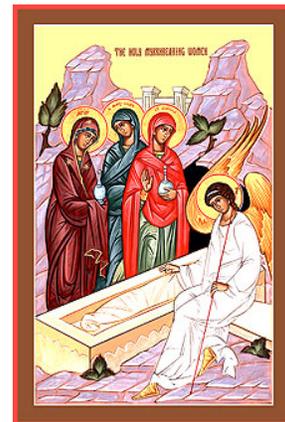
Monday, May 10 — Sunday, May 16, 2021



**Holy Apostle James, the  
brother of St. John the  
Theologian**



**St. Athanasius the Great,  
archbishop of Alexandria**



**Sunday of the Holy  
Myrrhbearing Women with  
the Noble Joseph**

---

## ~ CONTENTS ~

A Note from Fr. John	Ponder This
Twitter Summary	Look It Up!
Thoughts for Every Day	Prayer Corner

---

## ~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

St John Chrysostom on Thomas Sunday:

Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said, Except I shall see in His hands—I will not believe.”

As to believe carelessly and in a random way, comes of an over-easy temper; so to be beyond measure curious and meddlesome, marks a most gross understanding. On this account Thomas is held to blame. For he believed not the Apostles when they said, “We have seen the Lord”; not so much mistrusting them, as deeming the thing to be impossible, that is to say, the resurrection from the dead. Since he saith not, “I do not believe you,” but, “Except I put my hand—I do not believe.” But how was it, that when all were collected together, he alone was absent? Probably after the dispersion which had lately taken place, he had not returned even then. But do thou, when thou seest the unbelief of the disciple, consider the lovingkindness of the Lord, how for the sake of a single soul He showed Himself with His wounds, and cometh in order to save even the one, though he was grosser than the rest; on which account indeed he sought proof from the grossest of the senses, and would not even trust his eyes. For he said not, “Except I see,” but, “Except I handle,” he saith, lest what he saw might somehow be an apparition. Yet the disciples who told him these things, were at the time worthy of credit, and so was He that promised; yet, since he desired more, Christ did not deprive him even of this.

---

**~ TWITTER SUMMARY ~**

***The main points from Sunday's sermon, in 280 characters or less!***

The Church can Baptize and Chrismate you, but you need to remain in the fight for God, sharing His gospel, and doing His will each and every day.

---

**~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~**

***Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week***

<b>~ MONDAY ~</b> <b>(5/10)</b>	<b>~ TUESDAY~</b> <b>(5/11)</b>
<b>Holy Scripture:</b> Acts 3:19-26 John 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 4:9-16 Apostle Matthew 13:54-58 Apostle	<b>Holy Scripture:</b> Acts 4:1-10 John 3:16-21 1 Corinthians 15:39-57 Departed John 5:24-30 Departed
<b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Holy Hieromartyr Symeon, the Kinsman of Christ, Troparion, Tone I —</b> <i>In sacred manner do we praise thee, O sacred hierarch Symeon,/ as the kinsman of Christ and a steadfast martyr/ who destroyed deception and kept the Faith./ Wherefore, celebrating today thy most holy memory,// we receive remission of sins through thy supplications.</i>	<b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Holy Apostles Jason &amp; Sosipater, Troparion, Tone III —</b> <i>O holy apostles/ entreat the merciful God// that He grant to our souls remission of transgressions.</i>
<b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Hieromartyr Symeon the Kinsman of the Lord (107)	<b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Apostles Jason and Sosipater of the Seventy, and their companions: Martyrs Saturninus, Jakischolus (Inischolus), Faustianus, Januarius, Marsalius, Euphrasius, Mammius, the Virgin Cercyra, and Christodolus the Ethiopian, at Corfu (1st. c.)
<b>~ WEDNESDAY~</b> <b>(5/12)</b>	<b>~ THURSDAY~</b> <b>(5/13)</b>
<b>Holy Scripture:</b> Acts 4:13-22 John 5:17-24	<b>Holy Scripture:</b> Acts 4:23-31 John 5:24-30 Acts 12:1-11 Apostle Luke 5:1-11 Apostle

**Excerpt from the Menaion:**

**Kontakion of the Martyrs, Tone II:  
"Seeking the highest..." —**

The steadfast and most splendid choir of the nine martyrs,/ who confessed the three-Sunned Godhead,/ cried out to Him at the tribunal:/ "O Master, we offer our blood, souls and bodies to thee as an unblemished sacrifice!// Number us among Thy heavenly choir, in that Thou art our merciful God!"

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Nine Martyrs at Cyzicus: Theognes, Rufus, Antipater, Theostichus, Artemas, Magnus, Theodotus, Thaumasius, and Philemon (3rd c.)

**Excerpt from the Menaion:**

**Holy Apostle James, the Brother of St. John the Theologian, Troparion, Tone III —**

O holy apostle James/ entreat the merciful God// that He grant to our souls remission of transgressions.

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Holy Apostle James, the brother of St. John the Theologian (44)

**~ FRIDAY ~  
(5/14)**

**Holy Scripture:**

Acts 5:1-11  
John 5:30-6:2

**Excerpt from the Menaion:**

**Holy Prophet Jeremiah, Troparion, Tone II —**

Celebrating the memory/ of Thy prophet Jeremiah O Lord,// through him do we entreat Thee, save Thou our souls.

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Prophet Jeremiah (650 B.C.)

**~ SATURDAY ~  
(5/15)**

**Holy Scripture:**

Acts 5:21-33  
John 6:14-27

**Excerpt from the Menaion:**

**St. Athanasius the Great, Patriarch of Alexandria, Troparion, Tone III —**

Thou wast a pillar of Orthodoxy,/ strengthening the Church with divine dogmas, O sacred hierarch Athanasius;/ for, preaching the Son as consubstantial with the Father,/ thou didst put Arius to shame.// O venerable father, entreat Christ God, that He grant us great mercy.

**Commemoration of the Day:**

St. Athanasius the Great, archbishop of Alexandria (373)

**~ SUNDAY ~  
(5/16)**

**Holy Scripture:**

Acts 6:1-7

Mark 15:43-16:8

**Excerpt from the Menaion :**

**Sunday of Myrrhbearing Women.**

**Troparion. Tone II —**

When Thou, the Deathless Life, didst go down to death, then didst Thou slay hell by the lightning flash of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst raise the dead from the lower world, all the Powers of Heaven cried aloud: Christ our God, Giver of Life, glory to Thee.

Noble Joseph took Thy immaculate Body down from the Tree, wrapped It in a clean shroud and spices, and having embalmed It laid It in a new sepulchre. But on the third day Thou didst rise, O Lord, granting to the world great mercy.

To the myrrbearing women at the sepulchre an Angel appeared and cried: Myrrh is fit for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a Stranger to corruption. So cry: The Lord has risen, granting to the world great mercy.

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Sts. Myrrh-Bearing Women, righteous Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

**“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world.”**

**[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]**

**To read more:**

<https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

---

## ~ PONDER THIS ~

*A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week's lessons and sermons.*

### THOMAS SUNDAY

<https://orthochristian.com/53064.html>

People say: if we had seen Him we would not have denied Him. This is not true: the majority of those who denied Him had seen Him, and they denied Him because they did not love spiritual values, and the victory over the devil spoke but little to their hearts; they desired external success.

Cases of full denial are not many. Normally a remnant of faith remains, and this half-acknowledgment and half-faith is perhaps even worse, and such half-believers are in the majority. If they were to be excluded from so-called believing society we would see that there are but few true worshippers. Church and cross, unity in Christ, unity in the name of the feat [podvig] of love – there is the outline of our relationship towards the Lord. But half-believers do not strive to understand either one or the other – unity or Christ's love – in the way that Christians understand it.

Half-faith has many degrees, but one thing inevitably follows from all half-belief. Those who deny know both what they have denied and to what to return. But the half-believer does not have any such clarity and grows accustomed to a life guided by sophistries, half-truth, and hints at some sort of supposed truth.

---

## ~LOOK IT UP~

**Did you know:** The Jews slandered the Holy Apostle James (son of Zebedee) before Herod and among some false witnesses there was a certain Josias. But in hearing St. James' testimony, Josias believed and was condemned to death with James. Before the axe fell, St. James embraced and kissed this repentant false witness and said, "Peace and forgiveness to you!" St. James was martyred in the year AD 45 and was the first Apostle to die for Christ. His body was translated to Spain where his relics continue to work miracles even to this day.

**Read more:** [https://en.orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle\\_James\\_\(son\\_of\\_Zebedee\)](https://en.orthodoxwiki.org/Apostle_James_(son_of_Zebedee))

---

## ~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
- Sister Seraphima and her family
- Healthcare workers and anyone at risk of contracting the COVID virus

---

To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:

Archpriest John Tomasi \* (310) 749-0524 \* [frjohn\\_tomasi@yahoo.com](mailto:frjohn_tomasi@yahoo.com)  
Matushka Deborah Tomasi \* (310) 849-9451 \* [deborah\\_tomasi@yahoo.com](mailto:deborah_tomasi@yahoo.com)

**Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!**