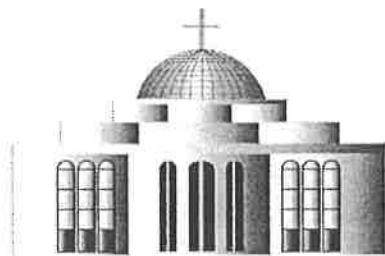


**Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church**  
**THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN**



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**SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018**

Κυριακή 15η Απριλίου 2018

ΤΟΥ ΘΩΜΑ

Αποστ: Πραξ. 5:12-20

Ευαγγ: Ιωαν. 20:19-31

Sunday of the Apostle Thomas

Today's Readings

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31



*Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!*

**IT'S THE SCARS**

Today's Gospel lesson presents to us the scars of Christ. When the disciples told Thomas that they had seen the Lord, Thomas responded to them by saying: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later when the disciples were in the room and Thomas was with them, the doors being shut, our Lord stood in the midst of them and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it into my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas believed when he saw the scars of Jesus. For him, the scars were the greatest proof that this was the real Jesus, the Jesus who had suffered and died, the Jesus Who had risen from the tomb. Through the Gospel lesson, the Risen Christ appears also to us. He shows us the scars in His hands and side. What do the scars of Christ teach us? What do they tell us about Him?

First, the scars of Jesus teach us that life is a struggle. Whoever got the idea that a good Christian never suffers? St. Augustine said "God had one son without sin, but He has no sons without suffering." God never promised us immunity from suffering — His own Son suffered — but He has promised us victory in our suffering. "In the world you have tribulation but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world," He said. The worst thing that evil can do is to kill God. Having been defeated in that, in its strongest moment, when evil wore its greatest armor, it can never be victorious again.

Secondly, the scars of Jesus speak eloquently of His love, but they also speak to our scars. The hardest part of suffering for Christians is the dark hour when they are tempted to believe that God is not with them in their suffering; when they suppose that Jesus reigns in some far-off splendor, untroubled by their woe. This is simply not true! The first thing Jesus does when He comes to sufferers is to show them His scarred hands. Here is the key! When we are pouring out our passionate pleading to Jesus and asking Him why this should happen to us, look! He is showing us His hands.

Finally the scars on the body of Jesus were caused by our sin. If we were to choose a symbol for sin, perhaps the best one would be a nail. Each sin is a nail that continues to be driven into the body of Jesus.

Continued from Page 1

The best definition of sin is that it is not only the breaking of God's commandments, but even more so, the breaking of God's heart.

Jesus appeared to the disciples, and to Thomas, showing them the scars in His hands and side — scars that were proof of His love; scars that won for us the final Victory over death; scars that speak a compassionate word of understanding to our wounds; scars which if we have re-opened through our sin, we can hopefully restore through our sincere and honest repentance.

History has not been kind to Thomas. But, we have to realize that he has verbalized much of what is in our own minds. Surrounded by scars we, too, say: "Until I see in His own hands the mark of the nails, and put my finger into the nail marks and my hand into His side, I will never believe." Having seen the scars, we cannot but say with Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

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### KORAE'S SCHOOL NEWS

Christos Anesti from Korae's! We are so very blessed to have had so many opportunities to celebrate Greek Heritage during March. Our students participated in the two Greek Independence Day celebrations. Korae's took our 3-5th grade students to the Daley Center to participate in the flag raising and laying of the wreaths. During our trip there we also were able to hear many speeches from several dignitaries from both Chicago and Greece. Students also celebrated the event with their program on Sunday, March 25 that included a play and songs to commemorate the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our middle school students participated in a visit to the Daley Center to meet two Hellenic judges, participate in a mock trial and meet other professionals from the Hellenic Bar Association. It surely was our honor to be surprised with a visit from His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael while we were there. We are blessed!

-Beth Lind, Principal

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### MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM...

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

With great spiritual joy, as a family we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord, the pinnacle event, as we walked alongside His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, His Crucifixion, the Mystical Supper with His disciples, His prayer at the Mount of Olives and many other things during the Great and Holy Week. Our own emotions from the moments of deep sadness to joyous celebration, and many feelings in between, were felt, experienced and genuinely part of our journey through the most Holy of Days. As a family, we went through these days together, and I am deeply grateful that we could experience Christ's love in a way that brought all of us closer to Him.

With deep gratitude, I would like to express my appreciation to our Parish family who came together to pray in all of the services. Truly, we wouldn't be able to enjoy the splendor of these special holy moments without the many efforts of our Church committees, groups, ministries, the Youth of our Parish and Korae's School, our Choir and Cantors, our House Committee and members of our Parish Council, our St. Helen's Philoptochos and our KPTA.

Today, I am deeply touched and grateful to our Parish Council, our Philoptochos and our KPTA, who are hosting this celebration of my 51<sup>st</sup> birthday which was yesterday. I am truly humbled by the love, support and care from all of you, our dear parishioners who have been by my side for all of the 18 years that I have been at our Parish.

Please remember that whatever your pastoral need - **I am at your service** – please contact me in the Church Office at (708) 974-3400 or email at Tomdemed@aol.com

**Let us do our best for Our Home**



**Stewardship 2018**

**Sign up for monthly giving at**

**[www.ssch.us](http://www.ssch.us)**

# Χριστός Ανέστη! - Αληθως Ανέστη!

Κυριακή 22η Απριλίου

**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΜΥΡΟΦΟΡΩΝ**

Ώρα 8·00 - 11·15 π.μ.

Ώρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία



Κυριακή 29η Απριλίου

**Η ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΠΑΡΕΛΑΣΗ**

στο Halsted Street

θα συμμετεχουν τα παιδια του  
σχολείου μας ο ΚΟΡΑΗΣ

Ώρα 2·30 μ.μ.



**ΤΑ ΟΝΟΜΑΣΤΗΡΙΑ ΤΗΣ  
ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΜΑΣ**

Κυριακή 20η Μαΐου

Ώρα 7·00 μ.μ.

Μέγας Πανηγυρικός Έσπερινός  
συμπαραστατούμενου του  
Ίεροϋ Κλήρου Σικάγου και  
περιχώρων

Ή Φιλόπτωχος Ήδελφότης  
ΑΓΙΑ ΕΛΕΝΗ θά έχει  
δεξίωσιν εις τήν αίθουσα  
Pierre Demets

Δευτέρα 21η Μαΐου

Μνήμη των Κτητορων Αγίων  
μας Κωνσταντίνου καί Ελένης

Ώρα 8·15 π.μ.

Ώρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία  
Θά τελεσθῆ καί άρτοκλασία.

Τῆς πανηγύρεως θά  
προεξάρχη ό Μητροπολίτης μας  
κ. κ. ΝΑΘΑΝΑΗΛ

Ή Φιλόπτωχος Ήδελφότης  
ΑΓΙΑ ΕΛΕΝΗ θά έχει  
δεξίωσιν εις τήν αίθουσα  
Pierre Demets



ΣΗΜΕΡΑ

**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΘΩΜΑ**

Ευαγγέλιο: Ιωάν. κ' 19-31

Ο Απόστολος Θωμάς απουσίαζε όταν ο Χριστός, μετά την Ανάστασή Του, επισκέφθηκε τους Μαθητές Του στο υπερώον όπου ήταν συνηγμένοι. Όταν πληροφορήθηκε τα σχετικά με την επίσκεψη του Χριστού, ζήτησε να Τον δει και να ψηλαφήσει τις πληγές του Σταυρού στα χέρια και την πλευρά Του. Ο Χριστός όταν επισκέφθηκε και πάλι τους Μαθητές Του μετά από οκτώ ημέρες, κάλεσε τον Απόστολο Θωμά να ψηλαφήσει τα σημάδια των πληγών στο Σώμα Του. Τότε ο Απόστολος Θωμάς Τον ανεγνώρισε και Τον ομολόγησε Κύριο και Θεό του. Τον ανεγνώρισε από τις πληγές του Σταυρού, οι οποίες αποτελούν σημάδι της αγάπης Του, αλλά και της δυνάμεώς Του. Την ομολογία του Θωμά οι άγιοι Πατέρες την ονομάζουν σωτήριο. Και πραγματικά οδηγεί στην σωτηρία όλους εκείνους που την απευθύνουν στον Χριστό εκζητώντας ταπεινά το έλεός Του.

Το γεγονός ότι ο Απόστολος Θωμάς αρχικά απουσίαζε κατά την εμφάνιση του Χριστού στους Μαθητές Του, φαίνεται ότι ήταν οικονομία Θεού, για να γίνει πιστευτό το θαύμα της Αναστάσεως και να διαλυθει κάθε είδους αμφιβολία.

Ο Απόστολος Θωμάς, μετά την Πεντηκοστή, κήρυξε το Ευαγγέλιο στους Πάρθους, τους Πέρσες, τους Μήδους και τους Ινδούς και είχε μαρτυρικό τέλος.

Πηγη: [www.dogma.gr](http://www.dogma.gr)

Χριστός Ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας  
και τοις εν τοις μνήμασιν, ζώην χαρισάμενος



## ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

**Today:** · *Following the Divine Liturgy*

A birthday celebration for Fr. Tom hosted by the Parish Council, KPTA and Philoptochos in the East Room

**Monday, April 16:**

7:30 p.m. GOYA

**Tuesday, April 17:**

7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

7:00 p.m. Philoptochos Meeting

**Wednesday, April 18:**

3:30 p.m. Youth Choir

6:30 p.m. Open Junior Olympic Soccer Practice  
Open to all children 6-15 Years old

**Friday, April 20:**

9:30 a.m. Toddler Play Group

**Saturday, April 21:**

6:00 p.m. KPTA GALA at National 27  
(See opposite for details)

**Sunday, April 22:** *Sunday of the Myrrh Bearers*

8:00 - 11:15 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Fr. Byron Golf Open  
and Dinner  
will take place on

**Thursday, June 21, 2018**

More information to come!

### Scholarship Available

**Peter J. Economos Memorial Scholarship**

For Information and Application Form

Go to: [petereconomos scholarship.com](http://petereconomos scholarship.com)

Application Deadline Date: May 7, 2018

For more information contact: Nicholas Bobis  
at [bobisnp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobisnp@sbcglobal.net) or 708-444-8462

## ✠ MEMORIALS ✠

Memorials are not celebrated  
Today Sunday of Thomas

## FUNERALS

The following funeral was held recently

***Janet Tame – April 2<sup>nd</sup>***

*May her memory be eternal.*

## KORAES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### *Third Annual Gala*

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018 – 6 PM TO MIDNIGHT

NACIONAL 27

325 W HURON ST. CHICAGO

Music by Dj Gus Moros

And a live performance by

Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society Dance Troupe

\$150 Ticket Includes: Premium Open Bar, Appetizers,

Multi Course Dinner and Entertainment

Cocktail Attire

100% of all money raised will benefit Koraes

Additional information online at:

[www.friendsofkoraes.org](http://www.friendsofkoraes.org)

## COMING EVENTS AT OUR PARISH

*Feastday of our*

*Patron Saints Constantine and Helen*

Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. Vespers

Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 8:15 am Orthros and

Hierarchal Divine Liturgy

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL**

Will officiate

***Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics***

Friday, May 25 – Sunday, May 27

**See you...**



**...Next SUNDAY!**