



Icon of the Holy Apostle Thomas -- October 6th

St. Thomas the Apostle

Poor Thomas! He made one remark and has been branded as “Doubting Thomas” ever since. But if he doubted, he also believed. He made what is certainly the most explicit statement of faith in the New Testament: “My Lord and My God!” (see John 20:24-28) and, in so expressing his faith, gave Christians a prayer that will be said till the end of time. He also occasioned a compliment from Jesus to all later Christians: “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29).

Thomas should be equally well known for his courage. Perhaps what he said was impetuous – since he ran, like the rest, at the showdown – but he can scarcely have been insincere when he expressed his willingness to die with Jesus. The occasion was when Jesus proposed to go to

Bethany after Lazarus had died. Since Bethany was near Jerusalem, this meant walking into the very midst of His enemies and to almost certain death. Realizing this, Thomas said to the other apostles, “Let us also go to die with him” (John 11:16b).

Thomas shares the lot of Peter the impetuous, James and John, the “sons of thunder,” Philip and his foolish request to see the Father – indeed all the apostles in their weakness and lack of understanding. We must not exaggerate these facts, however, for Christ did not pick worthless men. But their human weakness again points up the fact that holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ, the courageous, trusting and loving one.

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

8111 Brecksville Road ✱ Brecksville, Ohio 44141

"The Byzz Line"



"Living the Word of Christ Together"

Pastor: Father Bruce Riebe

Deacons: Bill Fredrick, Robert Kirschner

Office Administrator: Michele Wiltshire

Rectory Phone: 440-526-1818

Office Phone: 440-526-0016

e-mail: stjoebyz@sbcglobal.net

website: www.stjoebyz.com



Respect Life Reflection



From the time we are knit together in our mothers' wombs until we take our final breaths, each moment of our lives is a gift from God. While every season of life brings its own challenges and trials, each season also gives us new opportunities to grow in our relationship with God.

Today the gift of life is threatened in countless ways. Those who are most vulnerable, rather than receiving the protection they deserve, are all too often seen as a burden and as expendable. As new attacks on human life continue to emerge, we can be tempted to despair, but Christ instead offers us unfailing hope.

Hope is the virtue "by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (CCC, 1817).

Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us.

For this reason, a woman experiencing a difficult pregnancy can find the strength to welcome her precious child into the world. A man facing a terminal diagnosis can see that the end of his earthly life is only the beginning of eternal life with Christ.

The Church teaches us that "the one who has hope lives differently" (SS2). Christ's promise of salvation does not mean that we will be spared from suffering. Rather, the promise of salvation ensures that even in the darkest moments of our lives, we will be given the strength to persevere. By virtue of this Christian hope, we can face any challenge or trial. When the seas of life swell and we are battered by the waves, hope allows us to remain anchored in the heart of God. May we hold fast to Christ our hope, from the beginning of life to its very end.

October 6, 2019

Christ is Among Us!

Liturgy Schedule

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|--|
| Monday | October 7 | 8:00 a.m. | † Mary Choma by Berni Hlivyak |
| Tuesday | October 8 | 6:30 p.m. | Akathist Service to the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| Wednesday | October 9 | 8:00 a.m. | † Joseph Kochis by Virginia Lechko |
| Thursday | October 10 | 8:00 a.m. | Intention of Jim/Pat Lesnick (47th Wedding Anniversary) |
| Friday | October 11 | 8:00 a.m. | † Ken/Mary Baumeister by Joe/Jackie Babin |
| Saturday | October 12 | 4:00 p.m. | Intention of the Parishioners (Lyceum Choir) |
| Sunday | October 13 | 10:30 a.m. | † Ladislav/Elizabeth Churavy by Chuck/Judy Churavy |

| | | Altar Servers | Lectors | Greeters |
|------------|------------|---|-------------|------------------------|
| October 12 | 4:00 p.m. | M. & T. Ebert | B. Fortlage | G. & J. Huntz |
| October 13 | 10:30 a.m. | G. Karaffa, J. Warner, R. Percic & A. Percic | G. Kolenich | K. Lambourne & M. Cohn |

Courage is fear that has said its prayers.

Akathist Service on Tuesday

The month of October, in conjunction with the **Feast of the Protection of the Mother** of God (which we celebrated this past week), is dedicated to Mary. To help recognize this, we will offer an **Akathist Service** to the Blessed Virgin Mary on **Tuesday** at **6:30** starting with the rosary.

Rosary Before Liturgies

We will be praying the rosary prior to the weekend liturgies as part of the National "Forty Days for Life" running through November 3.

Octogenarian Sunday



Next Sunday we will honor our "**Octogenarians**" (parishioners who have reached the age of eighty and above), many of whom are still very active in volunteering. ByzanTEENS will escort them into church prior to the liturgy (teens, please be generous with your time) and then downstairs for a breakfast (prepared by the **A-OK Club**) and short program. Honorees are asked to be in the vestibule no later than 10:15 (there will be chairs for your convenience). We hold this celebration in conjunction with "Respect Life Month."

"Respect Life Month" Project



During "**Respect Life Month**" we will be assisting **Womankind** in Garfield Hts. with a "Baby Bottle Project." Pick one up in the vestibule, fill it with loose change, and return it by the end of the month in the bassinette. Womankind supports low-income mothers with financial help and baby items.

Annual Parish Meeting

The annual "Parish Meeting" is scheduled for **October 20** right after the Sunday liturgy (no Saturday meeting this year because of Christ the Bridegroom Gala). Please make time in your schedules to attend. We will be seeking input and ideas—especially from the 18-35 year old segment of our congregation. How about it?!?

Moleben Service for the Unborn

In conjunction with "**Respect Life Month**," a **Moleben Service** for the Protection of the Unborn" will be celebrated by **Deacon Bill** on **October 24** beginning with the rosary.

Someone you know may need this information:

Alternatives to Abortion—

1-800-712-HELP (4357)

Accessible 24 hours a day.

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GCU Lodge 302 will once again be holding "Trunk or Treat" following the Sunday liturgy on **October 27.**

Ladies' Aux. Meets Next Sunday

The **Ladies' Auxiliary** will meet **next Sunday** right after the Octogenarian Breakfast.

The Week Ahead

- The woman's "**BLESS Group**" will have their first of eight sessions on **Monday, 7:00**, in the Education Center.
- The **Men's Club** will meet on **Tuesday at 7:00.**
- The **Men's Fellowship and Book Group** will hold their first of eight sessions on **Monday, 7:00**, in the Education Center.
- **Sandwich making** will take place on **Saturday, 9:30**, in the Education Center.



There was a big crowd for last Saturday's "**Garage Sale.**" We're still tabulating, but it looks like we'll make close to \$5,000.00 which will be used to renovate the bar in the Party Center. Chairman **David Petruno** would like to thank the many volunteers who helped the day of and the days leading up to the sale. Thanks also to those who donated items. (Anything left over was picked up on Monday by Habitat for Humanity.)

Raffle Winners:

\$250...Bill Spaham

\$150...Ralph D'Amico

\$50...Watkins

BYZANTEENS...

Mark your calendars for **October 19** for a gathering after the 4:00 liturgy. More details to come.



Blood Pressures Checked Next Weekend

Which JACK O' LANTERN will you be this Fall?

One that DRINKS enough WATER for—



- Hydrated, Moist Skin
- A Happy Healthy Mouth and Teeth
- A Body that Flushes out the Waste and Germs

Your Weekly Offering

September 29, 2019

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday: | \$3,893.00 |
| e-giving: | 440.00 |
| 11 Student Envelopes: | 11.00 |
| Cash: | 176.00 |
| Candles: | 54.00 |
| Holy Days: | 30.00 |
| Total: | \$4,604.00 |

Have you remembered St. Joseph Church in your Will and/or Trust?

Mirovanije \$\$

The mirovanije collection from today will be sent to the nuns in Uniontown, Pa. at Mt. St. Macrina to assist in renovation/repairs to their House of Prayer.



Volunteers are needed at the clothing room at Parkview Elementary in Parma (just south of the high school on W. 54th) operated by our **St. Joseph Outreach.** Duties include sorting/displaying items and assisting clients. The hours are **1:00-4:30** on **Thursdays.** Contact **Barbara Shepard** for more information (**440-427-5999**).

Candle Fundraiser

The **Ladies' Auxiliary "Yankee Candle Fundraiser"** is underway. The traditional catalog sale runs through October 18 (with delivery by mid-November). Contact **Jean Karaffa** for details or to pick-up a catalog (**216-513-3854**). On-line sales run through December 31. (Visit: yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter Group number 999985315.)

PARISHIONER TID-BITS

- Congratulations to **Victoria Kattler** who was named Homecoming Queen last week at Cuyahoga Heights High School.
- We bid farewell to **Sara Katrenich** who relocated to New York City. Sara was a lector, Communion singer and substitute ECF teacher.
- **Rich Evans** will be competing on "The Wheel of Fortune" this Wednesday (**October 9**), **7:00 p.m.** on CBS (Channel 4).



CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD MONUMENT

Father blessing the new addition to our back property area.

Over 170 people were in attendance last Sunday for the blessing of Christ the Good Shepherd monument which arrived from St. Eugene Church in Bedford. **Bishop Milan** requested that it be moved here in deference to the many St. Eugene parishioners who now attend St. Joe's (the church closed January 13). Thanks to the **Men's Club**, **GCU Lodge 302** and some private donations (from former St. Eugene parishioners living out of state) there was zero cost to the parish for getting it here. Much gratitude also to members from the **Garfield Hts. Knights of Columbus** for cooking and serving the luncheon following the service.

(This was the prayer Father read following the blessing)

Faithful Shepherd,
You are not a hireling who runs away at the sight of danger,
but Your fidelity was tested and proven on the wood of the Cross.
Accept the gift of our gratitude for Your marvelous care.
Help us to hear and follow Your voice.

Watchful Shepherd,
Who protects the flock and searches tirelessly for those who wander from the fold,
retrieve the lost and bring them home. Tend and heal their wounds.

Good Shepherd,
Who lays down His Life for His sheep, nourish Your people with the Bread of Life,
that we may reflect Your likeness and enjoy the spring of Living Water that never ends.

Amen.

PARISH INFORMATION

ACTIVITY CENTER & HALL RESERVATIONS: 440-526-0016

CONFESSIONS: One half hour before liturgies for fifteen minutes and by request

MEN'S CLUB: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

LADIES' AUXILIARY: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

A-OK CLUB: 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

COFFEE SOCIAL: Every Sunday after liturgy

EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) CLASSES: Sundays 9:00 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE: Tuesday noon

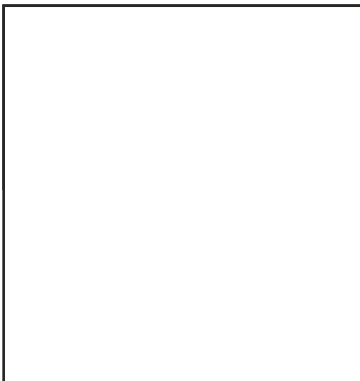
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*Hail Mary,
full of grace, the Lord
is with thee. Blessed
art thou amongst
women, and blessed is
the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus. Holy Mary,
Mother of God, pray
for us sinners, now and
at the hour of our death.
Amen.*



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