

Sunday, April 11, 2021



**ST. ATHANASIUS UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH
55 MCMURCHY AVENUE
REGINA SK. S4R 3G3**

Parish Priest: Fr. Vasyl Tymishak
Cell Phone: 306-519-9030

E-mail: vasyltymishak@gmail.com

Parish Office: 306-543-8008

E-mail: stathanasius@sasktel.net

Website: www.st-athanasius.ca

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reginaukrainiancatholicnorth/live>

Parish Council President – Kevin Korchinski - Cell phone (call or text) @ 306-539-3935

E-mail: kevin@osac.ca

UCWLC President - Josie Vantour

Seniors' Club President - Angie Lawryk

UCBC President - Mark Woitas

Ultimate A&B Youth - Lesia Lazurko

Knights of Columbus – James Empey, Grand Knight

Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC) - Mary Lou Senko @ 306-525-6437

DIVINE LITURGY: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Service in English; TEMPORARILY by preregistration

Weekday Liturgies – as scheduled; **preregistration required** by calling Fr. Vasyl Tymishak (306-519-9030)

MEMBERSHIP AT ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH is recognized by participating in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and by fulfilling your baptismal responsibility in contributing to our Church Community activities by using your time, talents and treasures. Regular financial donations by use of Sunday envelopes is necessary for our parish to grow and prosper.

Please contact Fr. Vasyl if you know of any parishioner who is sick and wants to be visited.

St. John Paul II Syro-Malabar Parish – Fr. Daris Cherian

Phone: 1-647-680-2415

Parish Council Trustee – Saneesh A. Sunny (Phone: 306-807-5454)

E-mail: daris.cherian@gmail.com

E-mail: sachandilsunny@gmail.com

MASKS ARE MANDATORY UPON ENTERING THE CHURCH AND DURING DIVINE LITURGY. THE BULLETINS CANNOT BE LEFT ANYWHERE IN THE CHURCH.



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon
Українська Католицька Єпархія Саскатуну



On Monday, March 29, 2021 the province of Saskatchewan, along with Dr. Saqib Shahab, Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer, announced a revised public health order for Regina and District.

Act to Reduce COVID-19 Transmission in Regina

There is an elevated risk of COVID-19 in Regina due to community transmission of variants of concern.

It is recommended that Regina and area residents - particularly those over age 50 - should not consider increasing their household bubbles to include 2-3 households up to 10 people. They should consider remaining with their current household only.

While worship services throughout the province will be able to expand to 30 per cent of capacity or 150 people, whichever is the lesser number starting March 19, places of worship in Regina and adjacent communities will remain at the current capacity level which is a maximum of 30 individuals, with required physical distancing and masking guidelines. This will remain in effect until April 12, 2021 and will be evaluated at that time.

The adjacent communities include: Belle Plaine, Pense, Grand Coulee, Lumsden Beach, Regina Beach, Craven, Lumsden, Edenwold, Pilot Butte, White City, Balgonie, Kronau, Davin, Gray and Riceton.

All residents of Regina, those who work in Regina and area and those who are planning travel to the region, are asked to abide by all best personal protective measures at this time to avoid further restrictions. Minimize the risk in the city and throughout the region.

- * **Wear your mask in all public places including all workplaces**
- * **Wash non-medical masks daily**
- * **Maintain physical distancing**
- * **Wash your hands frequently**
- * **Reduce activities outside of your home. Order take-out or curbside pick-up. If you are able to work from home, work from home at this time.**
- * **Avoid all unnecessary travel to and from Regina.**
- * **The Provincial government has asked that anyone who is scheduled to have a vaccine within a few days of a religious service, not to go to worship that day and to wait until after they have received the vaccine, especially those who are over 60.**

Please note: Due to the revised Public Health order regarding places of worship, St. Athanasius Church will allow 30 people to attend services as per Public Health Act of Saskatchewan. **Please continue to register for all services.**

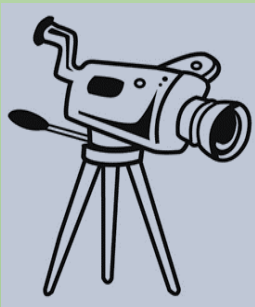
SUNDAY LITURGIES: If you wish to attend Liturgy on Sundays, please contact Rosanne Miller, 306-543-5773, to confirm your attendance (**preferably by Noon on Saturday**). This is a reminder that this process must be followed for **EACH** Sunday. You can leave a message for Rosanne if she is not home, and she will confirm whether or not there is space for you. Thank you for your cooperation.

WEEKDAY LITURGIES: If you wish to attend weekday Liturgies, please register by calling Fr. Vasyi at 306-519-9030.

Please join our services by visiting our website and clicking on the Livestream icon:
<https://st-athanasius.ca/> or on Facebook:

<https://facebook.com/reginaukrainiancatholicnorth/live>

TO ALL PARISHIONERS: During our Livestream and Videotaping, the video may capture the likeness of those parishioners sitting in the pews during our services. This video will be kept for a maximum of 45 days. Other than those who choose to view the livestream as it happens, the video will not be released to third parties.



As our video will stream on Facebook, we will comply with that website's regulations.

If you are uncomfortable being on video, please advise the Greeters when you enter the church and they will place you in a pew where you will not be captured.

Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!
Risen!

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is

EASTER REFRAIN: *Christ is risen from the dead, by death He conquered death, and to those in the graves He granted life.*

END OF LITURGY: He granted us eternal life, we exalt and glorify His Resurrection.

SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS

Please join us at 9:15 a.m. for Resurrection Matins & Divine Liturgy (preregistration and & livestreaming)

NOTE: Please remember that from Resurrection Sunday up to Ascension Thursday, we stand to pray. Note also that from Easter Sunday to Ascension Thursday, at daily Liturgies, the

Sunday antiphons are recited and the tropar, kondak, etc. are read from the preceding Sunday bulletin. The Epistle and Gospel are of the day.

TROPAR (Tone 7): Though the tomb had been sealed, from the tomb You arose, O Life and Christ our God. Though the door had been locked, You appeared among the disciples, O Resurrection of all; and thus You restored an upright spirit for us according to your great mercy.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and for ever and ever. Amen!

KONDAK (Tone 8): Thomas placed his restless hand into your life-giving side, O Christ our God; and since You entered, although the doors were locked, he cried out to You with the other apostles: "You are my Lord and my God!"

PROKIMEN (Tone 3): Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to his wisdom there is no limit.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious.

EPISTLE: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (5:12-20)

In those days through the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders occurred among the people. By mutual agreement they used to meet in Solomon's Portico. No one else dared to join them, despite the fact that the people held them in great esteem. Nevertheless, more and more believers, men and women in great numbers, were continually added to the Lord. The people carried the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mattresses, so that when Peter passed by at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. Crowds from the towns around Jerusalem would gather, too, bringing their sick and those who were troubled by unclean spirits, all of whom were cured. The high priest and all his supporters (that is, the party of the Sadducees), filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and threw them into the public jail. During the night, however, an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the jail, led them forth and said, "Go out now and take your place in the temple precincts and preach to the people all about this new life."

ALLELUIA VERSES: *Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Savior.*

For God is the great Lord and the great king over all the earth.

GOSPEL: John (20:19-31)

On the evening of the first day of the week, even though the disciples had locked the doors of the place where they were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood before them. "Peace be with you," he said. "When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. At the sight of the Lord the disciples rejoiced. "Peace be with you," he said again. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound." It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas (the name means "Twin"), was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him; "We have seen the Lord!" His answer was, "I will never believe it without probing the nail prints in his hands, without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into his side." A week later, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them. "Peace be with you," he said; then to Thomas: "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand

into my side. Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!" Thomas said in response, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus then said to him: "You became a believer because you saw me. Blest are they who have not seen and have believed." Jesus performed many other signs as well -- signs not recorded here -- in the presence of his disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, so that through this faith you may have life in his name.

Instead of 'It is truly right': The Angel greeted You O full of grace, O purest virgin rejoice and again I say rejoice. Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and has raised all who were dead. O mankind rejoice!

Shine O Shine, O new Jerusalem for the glory of the Lord has surrounded you; be happy now and rejoice O Zion. And you pure Mother of God, exalt and rejoice in the Resurrection of Him who was born of you.

INSTEAD OF "Blessed is He Who comes..." Христос Воскрес! (tropar)

COMMUNION HYMN: Glorify the Lord O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SPECIAL NOTE: For those who are in church today, we will be reciting the regular prayer before communion.

For those who are watching via livestreaming, please recite the prayer below:

BYZANTINE ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

O Lord, I believe and profess that you are truly Christ,
The Son of the living God, who came into the world
To save sinners of whom I am the first.

Although I cannot now be a partaker of your mystical supper,
O Son of God,
Come at least spiritually into my heart by your Divine Grace
for the healing of my soul and body.

For I will not reveal your mystery to your enemies,
Nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas,
But like the thief I profess to you:

- + Remember me, O Lord, when you come in your kingdom.
- + Remember me, O Master, when you come in your kingdom.
- + Remember me, O Holy One, when you come in your kingdom.

O Lord, I also believe and profess, that this,
Which I would receive, and which is now
here present with us in Mystery,
Is truly your most precious Body, and your life-giving Blood.
*May I one day partake of your mystical supper again For the remission of all
my sins and for life everlasting. Amen*

- + O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- + O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.
- + O Lord, forgive me for I have sinned without number.

With Ecclesiastical Approbation. Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

INSTEAD OF “We have seen the true light...”, “May our mouths be filled...” and “Blessed be the name”:

Khrystos Voskrese Khrystos voskrese voskrese, voskrese, iz mertvykh, Smerti-u, smert' poprav, Smerti-u, smert' poprav, Isuschym vo hrobikh, Isuschym vo hrobikh, zhyvot, zhyvot, zhyvot daryvav!

or

**Arise and Rejoice! Arise and rejoice,
Arise, arise with the risen Lord. Through His death, death has gone Through His death, death has gone! Everyone who was dead, Everyone who was dead, Ever, everlasting life has won!**

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE April 12 – April 18, 2021

Monday, April 12 - Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil, Bishop of Parios (741-75); Acts 3:19-26; John 2:1-11

7:00 p.m. Online LAURC Covenant Study

Tuesday, April 13 - The Holy Priest-Martyr Artemon and those with him (284-305); Acts 4:1-10; John 3:16-21

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for God's blessing and good health for Rick, requested by Francis Soroski **(preregistration by calling Fr. Vasyl @ 306-519-9030) livestreaming**

Wednesday, April 14 - Our Holy Father Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome (655); the Newly Revealed Martyrs Anthony, John and Eustathius (1342); Acts 4:13-22; John 5:17-24

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for +Harold Brigidear 40 days memorial, requested by UCWLC **(preregistration by calling Fr. Vasyl @ 306-519-9030) livestreaming**

Thursday, April 15 - The Holy Apostles Aristarchus, Pudens and Trophimus (54-68); Acts 4:23-31; John 5:24-30

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for repose of the souls of Jean and Bill Gessell, requested by Cynthia and Ron Misko **(preregistration by calling Fr. Vasyl @ 306-519-9030) livestreaming**

Friday, April 16 - The Holy Virgins and Martyrs Agapia, Irene and Chionia (284-305); Abstention from meat and foods that contain meat. Acts 5:1-11; John 5:30-6:2

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for +Chris Bzdel, requested by Ken Bouchard **(preregistration by calling Fr. Vasyl @ 306-519-9030) livestreaming**

Saturday, April 17 - Our Venerable Father Simeon of Persia (341); the Venerable Acacius, Bishop of Melitene (431-50); Acts 5:21-33; John 6:14-27

No service Scheduled

SUNDAY, APRIL 18 - Third Sunday after Pascha. Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women, Acts 6:1-7; Mark 15:43-16:8

9:15 a.m. Rosary (preregistration by calling Rosanne @ 306-543-5773) livestreaming

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy for faithful (preregistration) livestreaming

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL: *UNIVERSAL INTENTION – Fundamental rights: We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.*

APRIL FOOD BANK ITEM: *Beans*

Christ Is Risen! Indeed, He Is Risen!

On behalf of the St. Athanasius Parish Family, I would like to thank all of those involved in bringing the Holy Week services to those of us who attended in person or via Livestream. Every year it is a very busy week in our Church, however this Easter, as well as 2020, added a number of challenges not seen before. Thanks to Phyllis Lukey along with Peter and Marion Federko for being the Holy Week choir, and to all those choir members who participated in the creation of the Christmas and Easter CD's, the Liturgical Committee members who decorated the church and participated in the liturgies, Mark Woitas for all the work on the Livestream broadcasts, and all the others who made sure everyone was safe and able to take in the Holy Week in these difficult times.

Special thanks to Father Vasyl for his leadership and to Alla Gof-Tymishak for her wonderful concert to conclude Easter Sunday. It was a special way to end the day.

*God's Blessings to all,
Kevin Korchinski
President
St. Athanasius Parish Council*

April 2021 GREETERS	
April 11	Maggie Stephen & Bernice Bzdell
April 18	Kevin Korchinski & Len Markewich
April 25	Terry & Rosanne Miller

Schedule of singers for upcoming Sundays subject to change as needed. We will continue having only limited households at one time, each sharing a microphone while respecting spacing requirements, until the spread of Covid-19 is no longer a risk.

Apr. 11 (today): Phyllis Lukey; Peter & Marion Federko

Apr. 18: Phyllis Lukey; Alla Gof-Tymishak

Apr. 25: Peter & Marion Federko; Len & Anna Markewich

May 2: Phyllis Lukey; Peter & Marion Federko

The Marian Centre continues to serve its noon meals as a carry out lunch and is grateful for all the donations of baked goods (muffins and cookies), which so many have been making for this purpose *for over twelve months now*. Thank You! Most days, we serve about 130 lunches. We

are also grateful for other items for these lunches; lunch meat and cheese, juice boxes, snacks ,granola bars, as well as fresh fruit. At present, we are only serving a limited number of clothing requests at the door, so have temporarily suspended clothing donations. We are also grateful for your prayers, and keep your special needs in ours during these ongoing days of Covid restrictions. Once again, Thank you!

LAURC COVENANT STUDY



You are invited to join a discussion about the new LAURC Covenant between the Lutheran, Anglican, Ukrainian Catholic, and Roman Catholic churches in Saskatchewan. What is a covenant? Does this mean that we are becoming one church? What will change because of the covenant? What should change? These and other questions will be explored Monday evenings, 7pm, on April 12, 19, and 26th with Nick Jesson and members of the LAURC Covenant Committee.

This online discussion is open to all but is especially directed to clergy and parish ecumenical representatives of the four covenant churches.

- **Mondays, April 12, 19, and 26 at 7pm on Zoom**
- **Register now at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkc--tqT-giHdGy0YPCZ_Cji3kmw4Yy9fmd**
- **Download the study guide at <https://archregina.sk.ca/sites/default/files/The%20LAURC%20Covenant%20and%20Study%20Guide.pdf>**

For further information, contact Nick Jesson at njesson@archregina.sk.ca

This study is planned by the LAURC Covenant Committee and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism

Prairie Centre For Ecumenism

535 8th Street East
Saskatoon, SK
S7H 0P9
admin@pcecumenism.ca
www.pcecumenism.ca
(306)653-1633

St. Peter's Church is hosting a Drive Thru/Pickup Supper catered by Charlotte's from Moose Jaw.

Date is April 23/Turkey & April 24/ Roast Beef.

\$20 per person.

Contact Patricia 306-530-3075 by phone or text. Payments by e-transfers or cash. Sponsored by St. Peter's Parish Council for operating cost.



The Spring Online 50/50 jackpot just keeps growing! Tickets are available here and there is still a chance to win the Grand Prize on April 16, so make sure you have tickets. Thank you for supporting Saskatchewan's Ukrainian cultural community through the Hromada Legacy Fund.



NEW 2021 Easter CD:

“Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!”

St. Athanasius Parish, Regina, Sk. is very pleased to offer a new CD of traditional Easter songs and hymns, in both English and Ukrainian!

This recording was recently completed by several members of our Parish Choir while following the 2021 pandemic protocols including wearing masks and physical distancing while recording. This was an intensive labour of love. The music that resulted is a heartfelt expression of the Joy of the Resurrection that we wish to share with you!

We hope that these traditional uplifting songs will bring a sense of new beginnings for you personally as we share this together in our homes this Easter Season and into the years to come. May this music also connect us to our past – our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and Priests in our communities who kept the richness of the Ukrainian Easter hymns, along with our beautiful traditions, alive through generations.

We are guided to center our focus on seeing our Resurrected Christ in all things, earthly and heavenly! The pandemic year has brought hardships and changes to all parts of our lives. With the Risen Christ at our side, we move forward and through to a renewed creation.

“All things are now filled light, Heaven and earth and the world beneath. So let all creation celebrate Christ's own Resurrection, for in Him is it strength.” (from Ode 3, Paschal Matins)

Our intention is to provide each St. Athanasius Parish household a CD as our gift to you. Extra physical CD's are available by contacting us at stathanasius@sasktel.net or call parish office at 306-543-8008 (Tuesday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00p.m.)

If a digital download is your preference, please contact Fr. Vasyl at vasyltymishak@gmail.com and a link will be sent to you for a download. In addition, words to these songs are on St. Athanasius website: <https://st-athanasius.ca/nl/liturgical-text>

Here is a sample of the kind of hymns you can expect to hear on this Easter CD <https://st-athanasius.ca/nl/new-easter-cd-2021>

We wish you Peace and Joy this Easter Season and beyond!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!
With Paschal Joy,
Singers & Fr. Vasyl

2021 ANNUAL EPARCHIAL APPEAL
WEEK 1 - KICK-OFF WEEKEND (APRIL 10th/11th, 2021)

2021 ANNUAL EPARCHIAL APPEAL

"GIVE & it will be GIVEN unto YOU (Luke 6:38)

This weekend marks the kick-off to our 2021 and 6th Annual Eparchial Appeal. The Appeal will run April 10th/11th to May 23rd/24th.

Our theme for this year is ***"GIVE & it will be GIVEN unto YOU"***. We already know that our Ukrainian Catholic Faithful in our Eparchy indeed give generously in all aspects of their life. We are humbly and respectfully asking you to share a small portion of the fruits of your labor to help promote our Faith and our Ukrainian Catholic Church in Saskatchewan. As in past years, the funds raised in the 2021 Annual Eparchial Appeal will go towards funding the costs of the programs offered through our Eparchial Ministries, St. Matthews Clergy Society and the Bishop Roborecki Foundation.

Over the next few weeks, you will have the opportunity to learn more about our Eparchial Ministries and how they contribute to create Vibrant Parishes as a place to encounter the Living Christ. Next week the 2021 Annual Eparchial Appeal Video will demonstrate just how important it will be to earn your support of the Appeal and the Eparchial Ministries programs.

In the next week or so, you will be receiving your Annual Eparchial Appeal Letter Package in the mail, which will contain detailed information on the various Eparchial ministries and programs supported by the 2021 Appeal. As it has in the last five years, your gift to the 2021 Appeal will make a significant difference and will serve as a powerful witness of God's love and mercy.

The 2021 Annual Eparchial Goal is set at \$250,000. Each Parish in the Eparchy is assigned an Eparchial Appeal goal based on the number of parish families in the Parish. This may seem like a big number, however, when broken down to an amount per each Parish Family in the Eparchy, it amounts to approximately \$100 per each Parish Family.

With gratitude and appreciation, we ask you to please find it in your heart to support the 2021 Annual Eparchial Appeal.

Please call the Foundation Office at 306-653-0183, ext 223 if you have any questions, or refer to our website at www.ucfsask.org for more information.



NOTICE: Our parish expenses continue, even though there are no large church services. Therefore, it would be very much appreciated if you could continue your support of the parish. There are a few options available to you: drop off your envelope at 54 McMurchy Avenue, mail in your cheque to 55 McMurchy Avenue, Regina, S4R 3G3, or you can also do an e-transfer to stathandeposit@sasktel.net. **PLEASE COMPLETE THE MESSAGE FIELD and DO NOT USE ALIAS NAMES WHEN SENDING AN E-TRANSFER DONATION.**

April 4: 17 regular envelopes - \$1920; 2 Building Fund envelopes - \$125; 3 Easter Flower envelopes - \$85; 22 Easter Offering envelopes – \$1855; 8 Holy Land Envelopes - \$165; 1 Lenten Mission envelope - \$20; 2 Visitor envelopes - \$350; 1 Initial Offering envelope - \$5; Loose Change - \$40.

E-Sunday Collections & E-transfers: 11 regular donations - \$1125; 1 Good Friday - \$20; 2 Holy Land - \$40.

11 Pre authorized Giving Donations - \$1775.

SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA -- SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS

Icon of Saint Thomas and Our Lord



Blessed are We Who Believe!

"Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe." There was a wonderful providence behind these words of the Savior, and they can be of very great help to us. They show once again how much he cares for our souls, for he is good and as Scripture says: He wants everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. Even so, this saying of his may surprise us.

As always, Christ had to be patient with Thomas when he said he would not believe and with the other disciples too when they thought they were seeing a ghost. Because of his desire to convince the whole world, he most willingly showed them the marks of the nails and the wound in his side; because he wished those who needed such signs as a support for their faith to have no possible reason for doubt, he even took food although he had no need for it.

But when anyone accepts what he has not seen, believing on the word of his teacher, the faith by which he honors the one his teacher proclaims to him is worthy of great praise. Blessed, therefore, is everyone who believes the message of the holy apostles who, as Luke says, were eyewitnesses of Christ's actions and ministers of the word. If we desire eternal life and long for a dwelling place in heaven, we must listen to them.

*From a Commentary on St. John's Gospel
by St. Cyril of Alexandria*

WAS THOMAS A "DOUBTING DISCIPLE"?

It's a strange fate that of the Apostle Thomas; he's the one who had the greatest expression of faith in the whole Gospel, but he is known as the unbeliever.



Thomas is the most important disciple in John's gospel; his name is named seven times – number seven indicates 'entirety, completeness' – and his name is accompanied by the expression Didymus, which means twin. Why is Thomas defined 'the twin of Jesus'? When Jesus was going to raise Lazarus, the disciples were frightened and asked "why are you going back to Judea where they want to kill you?" And Thomas was the only disciple who understood and said "let's go and die with him".

Thomas understood what other disciples didn't, even Peter before the passion of Jesus, one must not give his life for Jesus, it is because Peter understood but later. Since that moment Thomas is called 'the Didymus', the twin of Jesus, the one who most looks like Him in giving his life.

Thomas expresses his desperate need of believing in Jesus' Resurrection and pronounces that very famous phrase "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Jesus tells Thomas to put his finger into the holes in his hands and into his side, but Thomas took great care not to do it. Painters show him with his finger placed into the sores of the Lord, but Thomas didn't really do it. He expresses the highest profession of faith in all Gospels, instead. Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Peter came to realize that Jesus was 'Son of the Living God', the Son of God; Thomas realizes that he is "My Lord and My God", the highest profession of faith in all Gospels, paradoxically expressed by the one that tradition had always defined as the unbeliever.

(Cfr. Centro Studi Biblici di G. Vannucci)