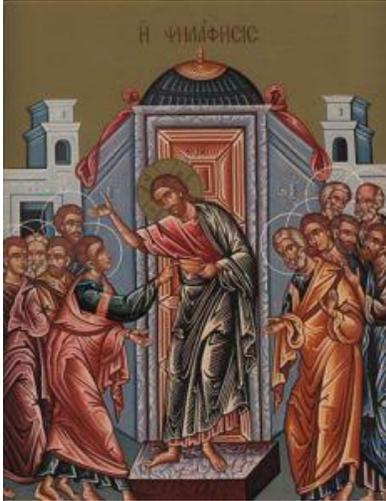


**FATHER ANTON'S WORDS OF WISDOM:** This Sunday is dedicated to St. Thomas the Apostle, often referred to as "The doubting Thomas." Thomas is not unlike most of us, he believed so long as there was proof of what he was looking for; otherwise not only did he doubt, but he did not believe at all.



Science has answered many questions and solved many mysteries since the time of Christ, and it has even studied prayer. It concluded that prayer did make a difference both for the one praying and the one being prayed for, and could offer no explanation.

Christians believe because we have experienced and seen God working in our lives. We also know that there are certain events or situations that happen that are beyond human explanation such as COVID-19; therefore there must be someone greater than ourselves whom we cannot see but is participating in our lives. I believe that all that was to be revealed has come to us through Christ, but I also believe that this revelation is exposed to us slowly, over time, through the Holy Spirit, since it is only when we are ready that God reveals our next challenge.

Think of how the Church has developed over the years; look at how society has changed. The problems that we face are not the ones the people did over 2000 years ago, and our experience of the Risen Christ is different than those that had Him walk among them. Medicine has helped us to understand that not everything is the product of evil, and we ourselves know that whenever something can't be explained, especially a tragedy that takes human life there's usually one person that is always to blame: "God." Somehow we still look at God as the punisher, the one who needs to get even. Jesus told us time and time again that God needs to be experienced as a loving Father.

He taught us that God is the great "Forgiver and Healer" that He is full of mercy and compassion - yet we doubt. Jesus taught us that we should look for spiritual food rather than the materialism of our society - yet we doubt. Jesus taught us that we are merely companions on a journey and that our true home is not of this world - yet we doubt. Jesus taught us that he would be with us always - yet we doubt. Jesus taught us that faith could move mountains, yet we haven't moved any. Jesus taught us that love is the centre of all existence, yet we doubt.

Yes, really we are much like Thomas, but if we listen closely we can hear Jesus call to us: "Come to me, and see that it is I who love you into life. Come to me and see that I am the good Shepherd, I know you and you know me. Come to me and understand that I am full of mercy and compassion; and I will not allow you any situation that you and I can't handle

together. Know that My Love is unconditional and that I am with always, even unto the end of time." This is the Risen Christ that I believe in... do you?

**LET US PRAY: Loving Jesus, just a week ago I celebrated your passion and resurrection, and now already I begin to doubt. In my moments of confusion and desperation I so often feel alone and then I remember: I did not invite you to share those moments with me. Lord, I believe that you are the Risen Christ, help me to put that belief into everyday practice. Let me recognize your life in all I see: the rich, the poor, the sick and the lonely, the addict and the alcoholic, the believer and unbeliever. Let me discover my own risen life right here, right now, as I choose to be your disciple. Lord you have raised me up as a new creation; you have given me the gift of forgiveness. You have given freely to me the gifts of faith and grace and eternal life, today I cry out "My Lord, and my God...I believe." Amen.**