

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN . . . VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

ABOUT DOUBT AND FAITH

Today is known as **ST. THOMAS SUNDAY**. Two great but contrasting themes present themselves on this Sunday following our Lord's Resurrection.

The first theme we will explore is **DOUBT** by this Apostle. Informed that Jesus had risen from the dead and had in fact appeared to the other disciples, Thomas proclaimed: "*Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails . . . and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.*" Yes, Thomas doubted. Indeed, it is human to doubt, but this imposes an obligation to search and resolve the doubt. Thomas returned to the company of believers, and in the end falls at the feet of the Risen Saviour, proclaiming: "My Lord and my God!"

The other theme is our Lord's **COMPASSION** and **LOVE**. He did not forget Thomas and wipe his name off the slate of Apostleship. Eight days after the Resurrection, when the Apostles had again gathered behind locked doors, the Risen Lord appeared and quickly called for Thomas to come . . . "Reach here your finger, and behold my hands, and reach here your hand and thrust it into my side, and be not faithless but believing."

But there is also an appeal to people today: Jesus said "Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed." Among those "blessed" we may number ourselves if we proclaim with St. Thomas: "My Lord and my God!"