

**WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS & GUESTS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY!**



**ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER PARISH  
ПАРАФІЯ СВ. МИКОЛАЯ ЧУДОТВОРЦЯ**

**Pastor: Fr. Yuriy Vyshnevskyy**  
Emergency: 250.891.4507  
Church: 250.384.2292 Hall: 250.384.2255  
Facebook: [facebook.com/stnicholasvictoria](https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasvictoria)  
1112 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria, BC V8T 1G1  
Web: [www.stnicholasparish.org](http://www.stnicholasparish.org) E-mail: [stnicks@telus.net](mailto:stnicks@telus.net)  
Tue-Sat DL - 9am; Sat Vespers-6pm; Sun DL - 10am

*The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster  
Bishop: Most Rev. Ken Nowakowski  
[www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca)*

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER - ДРУГА НЕДІЛЯ ПІСЛЯ ПАСХИ**

The disciples were assembled on the eighth day, and the Saviour appeared to them! He gave them peace and said to Thomas: Come, apostle! Feel my hands, which were pierced by the nails! Most wonderful doubt of Thomas! It brought the hearts of the faithful to knowledge! My Lord and my God, glory to You!

Thomas, who is called the twin, was not with the disciples, Christ, when You came to them through closed doors. Therefore he doubted their word. You did not reject him for his faithlessness! When he saw Your side and the wounds in Your hands and feet, his faith was made certain! Having desired to see You, he confessed You to be truly God, not only man, crying: My Lord and my God, glory to You!

After Your rising, Lord, though the doors were shut, You came to Your assembled disciples. You granted them peace. Even Thomas believed, seeing Your hands and side! He confessed You as Lord and God, Who save those who hope in You, Lover of mankind!

Eight days after Your Resurrection, Lord, You came to Your apostles proclaiming: Peace be with you all! To the doubting disciple, You showed Your hands and side. He believed and cried to You: My Lord and my God, glory to You!



*Thomas Sunday*

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP AFTER DIVINE LITURGY!**

<b>SUNDAY HYMNS</b>	
OPENING HYMN	Христос Воскрес! Ликуйте Нині/Rejoice! For Christ Is Risen! pg. 196-197
COMMUNION HYMN	Согласно заспіваймо / Let Us Sing and Chant Our Praise. pg.188-190
CLOSING HYMN	Христос воскрес! Під Небозвід/The Lord Is Risen from the Dead pg.198-199

*Please join us today in singing our Sunday hymns!*

<b>SUNDAY &amp; DAILY SCHEDULE</b>		
SUNDAY, April 23	Divine Liturgy - for the Parishioners of St Nicholas Parish	10:00 AM
MONDAY, April 24	NO SERVICES	
TUESDAY, April 25	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:00 AM
WEDNESDAY, April 26	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:00 AM
THURSDAY, April 27	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:00 AM
FRIDAY, April 28	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:00 AM
SATURDAY, April 29	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom Vespers	9:00 AM 6:00 PM
SUNDAY, April 30	Divine Liturgy - for the Parishioners of St Nicholas Parish	10:00 AM

*Please Note: to request a Divine Liturgy for a special intention, please see Fr. Yuriy to arrange for it!*

<b>SUNDAY EPISTLE READERS</b>			
DATE	READING	UKRAINIAN	ENGLISH
SUNDAY, April 23	Act. 5: 12-20	Glikeria Iwanuck	Caroline Smudy
SUNDAY, April 30	Act. 6: 1-7	Andrij Pelekhatyi	Rita Vanderven
SUNDAY, May 7	Act. 9: 32-42	Liliia Palyvoda	Darryl Huculak
SUNDAY, May 14	Act. 11: 19-30	Motria Koropecy	Graciela Spaciuk-Schwarz

*Thank you, Epistle readers, for your service in proclaiming God's Word!*

<b>PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>PASTORAL MINISTRY &amp; HOLY MYSTERIES</b>
CHAIRPERSON.....Alec Rossa - 250.472.3374	CONFESSIONS.....1/2 hour before Liturgy
VICE-CHAIRPERSON.....VACANT	EUCCHARIST.....for the sick - any time
SECRETARY.....Cindy Lazaruk - 778.677.9072	BAPTISMS.....by appointment
TREASURER.....William Vanderven - 250.478.1458	MARRIAGES.....six months notice should be given to the parish priest, and he should be contacted before any other arrangements are made
FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....David Newberry - 250.598.8197	FUNERALS.....by appointment
FUNDRAISING/HALL RENTAL.....Robert Herchak - 250.386.7872	ANOINTING.....any time
MAINTENANCE.....Murray Chapman - 250.658.4769	HOSPITAL VISITS.....any time
LITURGICAL COMMITTEE...Motria Koropecy - 250.658.3051	
MEMBER AT LARGE.....Liliia Palyvoda - 250.857.1683	
VIBRANT PARISH.....Darlene DeMerchant - 250.727.3837	

**Bequests & Wills:** Leaving a bequeath is a process of giving a donation through your will. It is simply a distribution from your estate to a charitable organization through your last will and testament. It can be as small or as large a donation as you wish. It is important that you talk to your lawyer about the process. In your kindness please remember St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Church in your bequeath and will. If anyone wishes to make such a bequeath in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to St Nicholas the Wonderworker Ukrainian Catholic Parish - 1112 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria BC, V8T 1G1, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate), to be used for the benefit of the parish and it's pastoral activities."

### Vibrant Parish Prayer

O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth! Because of your indescribable love for us, you sent your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - The Way, The Truth, and The Life - and our Salvation. In His name, we turn to You. Strengthen our hearts and minds in Christian love and in unity of purpose as we strive to build a Vibrant Parish. Give us the grace to model our lives according to the Word of God. Instill in us the desire to pray and to celebrate the Holy Mysteries as one Christian Family in our Parish Community. Inspire us to follow Your great command to be a servant to the less fortunate among us! Grant this, O Lord, through the mercies and love for mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Good and Life-Giving Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen!



**THE VIBRANT PARISH**  
**A PLACE TO ENCOUNTER THE LIVING CHRIST**  
Through the word, the Holy Mysteries & Prayer,  
Serving One's Neighbor, Leadership  
Fostering & Serving Unity and Missionary Spirit  
(His Beatitude Sviatoslav)



### Молитва Живої Парафії

Господи Ісусе Христе, Пастирю Добрий, як колись Ти пригорнув заблуканих овечок, щоб вони пізнали Твій голос і були Твоїм стадом, так і сьогодні глянь ласкаво з небесних висот на нашу парафію та зішли на неї Твого Святого Духа, щоб вона була місцем пізнання радості Доброї Новини. Скріплюй нас Твоєю присутністю та єднай нас кожночасно в молитві. Даруй нам духа служіння ближньому, щоб у нашій парафії кожний міг зустріти Тебе, милостивого Бога. Благослови наш духовний провід Твоєю мудрістю і дай, щоб ніхто з нас не шкодував ні часу, ні талантів, ні матеріальних дібр для розбудови Твого царства. Єднай нас у мирі та злагоді, щоб ми були Твоєю спільнотою любові. Всели в нас місійного духа, щоб ми стали тим світилом євангельського слова, молитви і добрих діл, що кличе кожного до участі в Божественному житті, щоб славилось, Спасе, Твоє Ім'я з безначальним Твоїм Отцем та пресвятим, благим і животворящим Твоїм Духом нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

### DIVINE LITURGY PROPERS

*The Divine Liturgy - An Anthology for Worship: Liturgy - pg. 388-461; propers - pg. 516, 828*

#### Antiphon 1

**Verse:** Shout to the Lord, all the earth, \* sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.

**Verse:** Say unto God, “How awesome are Your works\* Because of the greatness of Your strength Your enemies will flatter You.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.

**Verse:** Let all the earth worship You and sing to You,\* let it sing to Your name, O Most High!

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.

**Glory: Now: Only-begotten Son...**

### **Antiphon 3**

**Verse:** Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God, our Saviour

**Refrain:** Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

**Verse:** Let us come before His face with praise, and acclaim Him in psalms.

**Refrain:** Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

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

**Refrain:** Son of God, risen from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

**Troparion, Tone 7:** While the tomb was sealed, O Christ God, You dawned as life from the sepulcher, and while the doors were shut, You came to Your disciples, the Resurrection of all, renewing a right spirit in us through them, according to Your great mercy.

**Glory: Now: Kontakion, Tone 8:** With his searching hand, Thomas explored Your life-giving side, O Christ God. For when You entered while the doors were shut, he called out to You with the rest of the Apostles: You are my Lord and my God!

**Prokeimenon, Tone 3:** Great is our Lord and great is His strength,\* and of His knowledge there is no end. **Verse:** Praise the Lord, for a psalm is good; may praise be sweet to our God.

**Prokeimenon, Tone 7:** The just man shall be glad in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

**Epistle - Act 5:12-20 - A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:** In those days through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors,

brought them out, and said, 'Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.'

**Alleluia, Tone 8:** *Verse:* Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim God our Saviour. *Verse:* For God is the great Lord and the great king over all the earth. *Verse:* The just man shall flourish like the palm tree; and he shall grow like the cedar in Lebanon. *Verse:* They who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish the courts of our God.

**Gospel - John 20:19-31** - *When the evening arrived* on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*Instead of "It is truly..." we sing:* The Angel cried out to the One full of Grace: O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, Rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and raised the dead. Let all people rejoice! Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem.\* Praise your God, O Sion.\* The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance;\* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear.\* Alleluia, alleluia,\* alleluia.

*Instead of "Blessed is He" we sing:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life (*Ix*).

*Instead of "We have seen the true light" we sing:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life (*Ix*).

*Instead of “Let our mouths be filled” we sing:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life (3x).

*Instead of “Blessed be the name of the Lord” we sing:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life (3x).



**Тропар, глас 7:** Хоч запечатаний був гріб,\* як життя із гробу возсіяв ти, Христе Боже,\* і, хоч замкнені були двері,\* ученикам представ еси, як воскресення всіх,\* дух правий через них обновлюючи нам,\* по великій твоїй милості.

**Слава: Нині: Кондак, глас 8:** Допитливою десницею життєдайні твої ребра Тома провірив, Христе Боже, бо, хоч замкнені були двері, як ти увійшов, він із іншими апостолами кликав до тебе: Господь еси і Бог мій.

**Прокімен, глас 3:** Великий Господь наш і велика сила його,\* і розумові його немає міри.  
*Стих:* Хваліте Господа, бо благий псалом, Богові нашому нехай солодке буде хваління.

**Прокімен, глас 7:** Радіє праведний у Господі, до нього прибігає; всі праві серцем веселяться.

**Апостол - Ді. 5:12-20 - 3 книги Діянь Св. Апостолів читання:** Тими днями руками апостолів робилося багато знаків і чудес у народі. Усі вони перебували однодушно у притворі Соломона, і ніхто сторонній не насмілювався до них пристати; однак народ хвалив їх вельми. Віруючих дедалі більше й більше приставало до Господа, сила жінок і чоловіків; так, що й на вулиці виносили недужих і клали на постелях і на ліжках, щоб, як ітиме Петро, бодай тінь його на когонебудь з них упала. Сила людей збиралась навіть з довколишніх міст Єрусалиму, несучи хворих та тих, що їх мучили нечисті духи, і вони всі видужували. Устав тоді первосвященик і всі ті, що були з ним, – то була секта садукєїв, – і, повні заздрощів, наклали руки на апостолів і кинули їх до громадської в'язниці. Але вночі ангел Господень відчинив двері в'язниці й, вивівши їх, мовив: “Ідіть і, ставши в храмі, говоріть до народу всі слова життя цього.”

**Алилуя, глас 8:** *Стих:* Співаймо радісно Господеві, вітаймо Бога Спасителя нашого. *Стих:* Бо Бог великий Господь і Цар великий по всій землею. *Стих:* Праведник квітнучиме, немов пальма; він виженеться вгору, мов кедр ливанський. *Стих:* Посаджені в Господнім домі, вони на дворах Бога нашого квітнуть.

**Євангеліє - Івана 20:19-31** - А як звечоріло, того самого дня, першого в тижні, – а двері ж були замкнені там, де перебували учні: страхались бо юдеїв, – увіходить Ісус, став посередині та й каже їм: «Мир вам!» Це промовивши, показав їм руки й бік. І врадувались

учні, побачивши Господа. І ще раз Ісус їм каже: «Мир вам!» Як мене послав Отець, так я посилаю вас.» Це промовивши, дихнув на них і каже їм: «Прийміть Духа Святого! Кому відпустите гріхи – відпустяться їм, кому ж затримаєте – затримаються.» Тома ж, один з дванадцятьох, на прізвисько Близнюк, не був з ними, коли то прийшов був Ісус. Тож повідали йому інші учні: «Ми Господа бачили.» Та він відрік: «Якщо не побачу на його руках знаків від цвяхів і не вкладу свого пальця у місце, де були цвяхи, а й руки моєї не вкладу в бік його, – не повірю!» По вісьмох днях знову були вдома його учні, а й Тома з ними. І ввіходить Ісус, – а двері були замкнені! – стає посередині та й каже: «Мир вам!» А тоді промовляє до Томи: «Подай сюди твій палець і глянь на мої руки. І руку твою простягни і вклади її у бік мій. Та й не будь невіруючий, – а віруючий!» І відказав Тома, мовивши до нього: «Господь мій і Бог мій!» І каже йому Ісус: «Побачив мене, то й віруєш. Щасливі ті, які, не бачивши, увірували!» Ще й інші численні чудеса, що їх не списано у цій книзі, вчинив Ісус на очу своїх учнів. А ції – списано, щоб увірували ви, що Ісус – Христос, Син Божий, а вірувавши, – щоб мали життя в його ім'я.

*Замість “Достойно” співаємо:* Ангел сповіщав Благодатній: Чистая Діво, радуйся. І знову кажу: Радуйся. Твій Син воскрес тридневний із гробу, і мертвих воздвигнув він; люди, веселіться. Світіся, світіся, новий Єрусалиме, слава бо Господня на тобі возсіяла. Радій нині і веселися, Сіоне. А ти, Чистая, красуйся, Богородице, востанням рождення твого.

**Причасний:** Хваліте Господа з неба, хваліте його на висотах! Бо він не захитається повіки; пам'ять про праведника буде вічна. Аلیلуя, аلیلуя, аلیلуя!

*Замість “Благословен, хто йде в ім'я Господнє” співаємо:* Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (1х).

*Замість “Ми бачили світло істинне” співаємо:* Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (1х).

*Замість “Нехай сповняться” співаємо:* Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (3х).

*Замість “Будь ім'я Господнє” співаємо:* Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю смерть подолав, і тим, що в гробах, життя дарував (3х).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to MURRAY CHAPMAN and all those who celebrated their birthdays this past week. May the Lord Our God continue to bless you abundantly and the Holy Mother of God protects you at all times. Многая Літа!

- ◆ **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND:** October 12-24, 2017. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus; an unforgettable experience with Fr, Joe Ostopowich, Sr. Angelica SSMI, brother & sister pilgrims. For details and price call Myrna Arychuk at [604.617.7200](tel:604.617.7200)
  
- ◆ **PARISH CALENDAR OF BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:** If you would like to be included in our Parish Calendar of Birthday and Anniversary celebrations, please put date in our calendar located at the church vestibule. Each week, we will list the names in our parish bulletin so we can celebrate these happy occasions together!
  
- ◆ **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please keep in your prayers LYN SALYN and other members of our parish, our family and friends who are ailing, in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join actively in their community.
  
- ◆ **TRAVELING ICON:** Anyone interested in gracing their home with Christ The Teacher Icon can call Darlene DeMerchant at [250.727.3837](tel:250.727.3837)
  
- ◆ **JOIN OUR CHOIR:** Do you enjoy singing? Please consider joining our St Nicholas Parish Choir and remember that we ALWAYS looking for new members! Contact Motria Koropecky for details at [250.658.3051](tel:250.658.3051)
  
- ◆ **CATECHISM ANNOUNCEMENT:** *"And they were bringing to Him also the infants, in order that He may be touching them; but after the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, Let alone the little children to come to Me, and cease hindering them; for of such is the kingdom of God."* We are happy to welcome all children to our St. Nicholas The Wonderworker catechism program. Weekly classes are scheduled Sunday morning during Divine Liturgy. We want your children to learn more about their Catholic faith, sacred scripture, feast days, and religious practices and customs of the Ukrainian Catholic church. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Marian Chalifoux at [250.507.1005](tel:250.507.1005)
  
- ◆ **THRIFTY'S PRE-PAID FOOD CARDS -** We all have to buy groceries. Why not have 6% of it returned back to the church at no extra charge! Cards are available in \$100, \$200, and \$500 denominations. Talk to Alec after today's liturgy to pre- order your cards. We need to sell A LOT of them! We encourage you to consider purchasing them for yourselves as gifts too.
  
- ◆ **SUNDAY COFFEE VOLUNTEERS** act as hosts and serve light refreshments following the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, providing an opportunity for the faithful to socialize with friends and visitors following their shared worship experience. We thank all of our parishioners who kind volunteer to serve refreshments. Whether you are new to the Parish, or are a long-time members, please join us for coffee.
  
- ◆ **BE A STEWARD:** Have you ever wondered what more can you do to help our parish? Here are some suggestions: **Steward of property security**; **Steward of grounds cleaning**; **Steward of**



cleaning church; **Steward of church linen**; **Steward of outreach**; **Steward of caring**; **Steward of prayer**; **Steward of service**. Quite often, our homebound or senior members, once active in their younger years, want to find purpose in their senior years. It's not only about doing but about "BEING" present to others. Contact Fr. Yuriy **OR** Darlene DeMerchant for more information. You will be amazed how "BEING" can make a difference.

◆ **APRIL 16, SUNDAY DONATIONS:** Easter Food Fair net total: \$8,506.16; Good Friday, Apr 14, 2017: Loose collection: \$25.00; Envelope collection: \$280.00; Easter Sunday, Apr 16, 2017: Vigil lights: \$60.00; Loose collection: \$240.00; Envelope collection: \$1112.00; Candles for Easter Baskets: \$24.00; Pre-authorized donations Apr 10 to Apr 16: \$120.00

<b>CAMP SAINT VOLODYMYR; AUGUST 20-27</b>
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### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

The purpose of camp is to provide an opportunity for youth to experience God through nature and the companionship of others. Children will experience Ukrainian language and culture during camp along with games, religious activities, hikes, sports, arts and crafts, camp fires, water activities and other summer camp activities.

This marks the 34<sup>th</sup> year of our Ukrainian Catholic Summer Camp. Camp will take place in Kelowna at the OAC facility. Camp offers a wide range of activities for campers aged 7-15 (as of December 31, 2017). Registration will be available online via Eventbrite "Camp St. Volodymyr BC 2017." Early bird registration Ends July 6, 2017.

### **WAYS TO HELP**

VOLUNTEER: Camp St. Volodymyr is a nonprofit camp, run on a volunteer basis. If you are interested in helping at this year's camp as a counsellor, chef, arts & crafts or cultural coordinator please contact Jennifer. Applications forms for counsellors are due May 15, 2017. All volunteers will be subject to a criminal records check and must sign the camp code of conduct.

DONATE: We are always happy to accept food donations of vegetables, fruits, cereals, and treats for children such as cakes, cookies, as well as monetary donations. Tax receipts can be issued with donations of \$25 or more.

***For more information contact Jennifer Caldwell @ 604.220.0584 or jennsawka@hotmail.com.  
Visit our webpage via [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca)***

## **PASCHAL ARTHOS**

The term Artos (Greek: “leavened loaf”) refers to a loaf of leavened bread that is blessed during services in the Eastern Churches. A large Artos is baked especially for use at Pascha (Easter).

Near the end of the Paschal Vigil, after the Prayer behind the Ambo, a single large loaf of bread, the Artos, is brought to the priest. Depicted on the top of the Artos is either the symbol of Christ’s victory over death - the Cross, surmounted by a crown of thorns - or the Resurrection of Christ. The Artos symbolizes the physical presence of the resurrected Christ among the disciples. The priest blesses the Artos, while it is on the altar with a special prayer and sprinkles it with Holy Water. The Artos is then placed on a small table before the Iconostasis where it remains throughout Bright Week. It is customary, whenever the faithful enter the Temple, for them to kiss the Artos as a way of greeting the Risen Christ.

The significance of the Artos is that it serves to remind all Christians of the events connected with the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. While still living on earth, the Lord called Himself the Bread of Life, saying: ‘I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and He who believes in Me shall never thirst’ (John 6:35). After His Resurrection, more than once Jesus appeared to His disciples, ate before them and blessed their own food. For example, as evening fell on the first day of His Resurrection, He was recognized in Emmaus by two of His disciples as He blessed and broke bread (Luke 24:13-35).

On the 40th day after His Resurrection, the Lord ascended into heaven, and His disciples and followers found comfort in their memories of the Lord: they recalled His every word, His every step and His every action. When they met for common prayer, they would partake of the Body and Blood of Christ, remembering the Last Supper. When they sat down to an ordinary meal, they would leave a place at the head of the table empty for the invisibly present Lord and would lay bread on that place.

Remembering this custom of the Apostles, the Fathers of the Church made it their custom to put out the Artos at the Paschal Feast in memory of the appearances of the Risen Lord to His disciples, and also in memory of the fact that the Lord Who suffered and was resurrected for our justification has made Himself the true Bread of Life and is invisibly present in His church always, to the close of the age (Matthew 28:20). The Artos will be distributed at the end of the Divine Liturgy.