

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

This past Wednesday we celebrated the Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle, also known as Doubting Thomas. In John 20:24-25, Saint Thomas doubts the other Apostles when they say to him “We have seen the Lord,” to which he replies “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.” Saint John Chrysostom notes something interesting about Saint Thomas’s response, which is that Saint Thomas does not say, “I will not believe *you*,” but rather, “I will not believe” (Homily 87 on the Gospel of John). He is not doubting the credibility of the apostles in their account, but he is doubting the resurrection from the dead. Saint John Chrysostom also notes that Saint Thomas does not simply say that *seeing* the risen Christ will make him believe, but he also demands to handle His wounds lest it be an apparition. When Jesus then appears to the disciples a week later, He says to Saint Thomas

“‘Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.’ Thomas answered and said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” (John 20:27-28).

All throughout the Gospels, Jesus promised and prophesied His resurrection from the dead, especially to the twelve Apostles. Saint Thomas did not believe our Lord’s promise to him. He did not trust Jesus that He would indeed rise from the dead, even though He was a faithful follower of Christ. How often are we, too, like Saint Thomas, claiming the name of Christian, but doubting our Lord’s promises He made to us. Jesus promised us an eternal Church, He promised us eternal life if we follow Him, He promised that He would remain with us always, He promised that He would return and raise us up on the last day. It is important, therefore, to reflect on the Gospels and to examine ourselves and our beliefs. Do we truly and wholeheartedly believe everything our Lord said and did? Do we heed the laws of the Church? Do we trust that our Lord will save us from sin and death? Do we believe that Jesus truly is the Son of God and Lord of Lords? That He truly rose from the dead? I could go on and on with these sorts of questions to reflect on, but an easier way would be to pray slowly with the Nicene Creed that we pray together each Sunday. Allow our Lord to reveal any areas of doubt so that He may take our unbelief and raise it to belief, so that we may too gaze upon Jesus as Saint Thomas did and exclaim “My Lord and my God!”