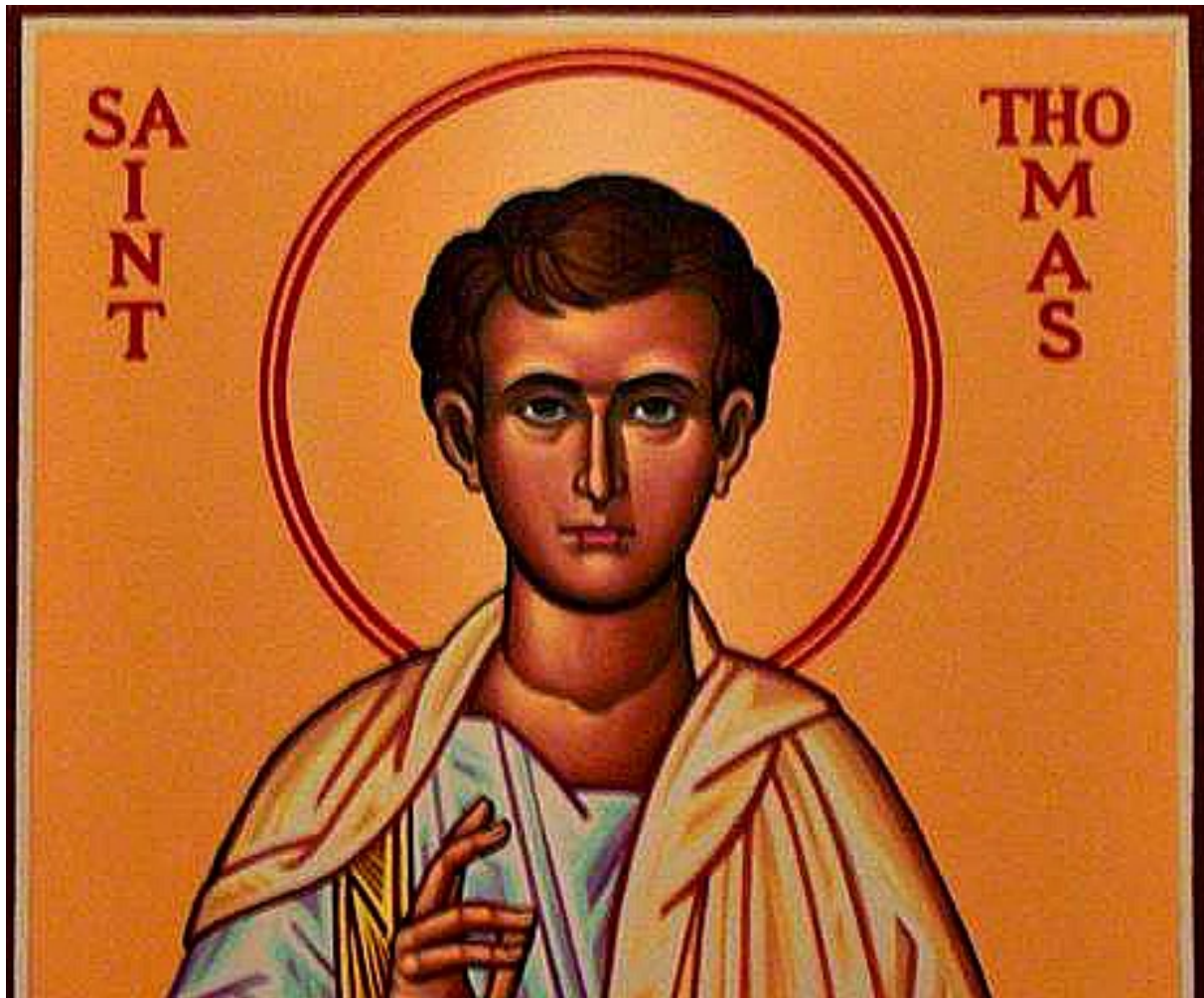


From: **St. Francis Episcopal Church** vicar@stfrancisva.org
Subject: How To Get Faith
Date: December 21, 2016 at 2:04 PM
To: Mcats2@aol.com



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St Francis





December 21, 2016

Gaining Faith

Don't doubt but believe
John 20:27

Doubting Thomas

Today is the feast day of St. Thomas on our liturgical calendar. He is famous for doubting that Jesus rose from the dead, even though he followed Jesus closely for three years. He demanded proof! He was not going to be convinced by someone else's word. He was going to see it with his own eyes and that was it. Otherwise, he would not believe anything they said about the resurrection. Do you know anyone who is like that? Are you like that? I have some of that in me. There is good news for us.

Gaining Faith

Thomas said specifically, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side I will never believe." So, Jesus answers Thomas' specific request, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side." Jesus will do that for us, too. Then Jesus goes further, as He usually does, and answers Thomas' deeper need, "Do not doubt, but believe." He created faith in Thomas. He created it by his word. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ," wrote Paul (Romans 10:17). Jesus did not expect Thomas to have faith on his own power. Jesus created faith in Thomas. So he will do with us. What is Jesus

saying to you right now? Listen for it. His word to you will bring you answers, and create faith in you.

Coming Attractions

Saturday, December 24, 2016 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:00pm

Sunday, January 1, 2017 Worship at 10:00am

Please bring nonperishable food to worship to be distributed to the Food pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Air Specialists of Virginia, Paul Leslie, General Manager that business would increase and clients would have environmentally safe facilities.

Diocese of Virginia

For all who doubt that Jesus would create faith within each one through the compassion and fellowship of the church.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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