



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

St Thomas Sunday - Antipascha

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

May 1, 2022

Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

Schedule This Week

- Sunday, May 1
 - 10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
 - Blessing of Graves at 1p and 3p weather permitting*
- Tuesday, May 3
 - 9:00 am Daily Matins
 - 9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Thursday, May 5
 - 9:00 am Daily Matins
 - 9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, May 7
 - 5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil
- Sunday, May 8
 - 10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
 - Mother's Day Brunch after Divine Liturgy*

To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.

Announcements

➤ We are scheduled to have our annual Blessing of the Graves today. At 1:00 pm we will go to St Alexander Nevsky Cemetery and at 3:00 pm we will meet at Mt Calvary Cemetery in McKees Rocks. However, the weather forecast is calling for thunderstorms with high winds during those times. If the storms are continuing, we will reschedule the blessing for next Saturday, May 7 at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm respectively.

➤ A reminder that on Palm Sunday we kicked off our new Pro-Life Ministry led by Matushka Joni Soroka and Mary Hoffman. We are thrilled that all the gift bags for new moms and babies have been spoken for! Please remember that your returned gift bag are due on Sunday, May 15. Your donations will help clients of the Women's Choice Network of Pittsburgh. God bless you for your generosity and love!

➤ *(From Sandi Tirpak)* I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for the cards, calls, food, love, care, donations, and guidance. Also thank you for your patient listening. You as my parish family are truly awesome! Thank you for all of the donations to make the memorial luncheon possible. Thank you to Bob Madalinsky, Mary Beth Madalinsky, and Donya Yewisiak for organizing the luncheon. I am forever in your debt! Thank you to Father Tom and Matushka Joni for being there for me and my family. We who believe in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ view death as Life Everlasting. He promises us that we will see our loved ones again. Memory Eternal Amelia! Love, Alexandria Tirpak

Prayers

➤ Ill and infirm: *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka
➤ Vigil Lights From Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From Charles A. Wasilko for the departed servant, Robert Slabe; for the health of sisters, Doris, and Marsha. From Doris Wasilko for the departed servants from the Wasilko and Dyczko families; for the health of the Wasilko and Dyczko families. From John Mahalchak family for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, and Cindy. From Tatyana Sechler for the departed servants, Bruce, Diana, Polina, Slava, Galina, Andrei, Valentina, Gina, Dylan, and Grandma; for the health of Tatyana, Daniel, Thomas, Christopher, Sergei, Andriana, Lena and Samuel. From Alexandria Tirpak for the departed servant, my beloved daughter, Amelia—Memory Eternal; for the health of my family, Elaine, Eleanor, and Tami; for special intentions..

Thank You

➤ to a generous anonymous donor who has covered the cost of our yearly subscription which enables us to livestream our Sunday Divine Liturgies to the public. May God bless them for their generosity, love for God, and desire to support our outreach efforts!
➤ to our May donors: Fr Thomas and Matushka Joni Soroka (Incense \$10) for the health and salvation of daughter, Jacqueline, on the occasion of her birthday.

Remember that you can sponsor many monthly categories including bulletin, holy bread, wine, candles, and incense. See the candle desk for info.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Doubting Thomas
Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Thomas? What happened to the other disciples? Was Thomas there?
- What did Thomas say to the other disciples? Did he believe them? Would you have believed them?
- What did Jesus do to make Thomas believe? How did Thomas respond?
- Why did Thomas doubt? Can you relate to his way of thinking? (Christ rising from the dead was not "normal" but we know that God can change anything He wants, even death into life)

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture before bed: John 20:24-29.
- Orthodox traditionally visit the cemetery on this day; visit the graves of any family members. Pray for them.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, for the Christians departed this life before us, especially (names), we pray thee give them eternal rest. Amen.

On this Sunday, the second Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the Antipascha, that is to say the re-dedication of the Resurrection of Christ, and also commemorate the event of the Holy Apostle Thomas' touching the wounds of Christ.

This commemoration is due to the ancient custom of rededicating important events. As a year would pass and the date of such an event would arrive, a commemoration was made so that such great events would not be forgotten. This is why the Israelites celebrated the Passover at Gilgal, to commemorate the passing through the Red Sea. They also commemorated the consecration of the Tabernacle of Witness that was in the wilderness and many other holy events.

Since the Resurrection of the Lord is the greatest and most important event and beyond all thought, it is rededicated not only once a year, but also on every "eighth" day. The first rededication of the Resurrection is this present Sunday, for it is truly both the "eighth" day and the "first." (*cont. below*)

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, May 1

Paschal Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Troparion of the Sunday Tone 7

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth O Life!

Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy disciples, O Christ God!

Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of All.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion of the Sunday Tone 8

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God,
When Thou didst come to Thy apostles through closed doors.

He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God.

Prokeimenon (Psalm 147) Tone 3

Great is our Lord and abundant in power! His understanding is beyond measure!

Epistle of the Sunday (Acts 5:12-20)

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and

those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

Gospel of the Sunday (John 20:19-31)

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And 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."

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the

doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: 'Rejoice, your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead.'" Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn of the Sunday

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion.



(continued from above)

It is the eighth day after Pascha, and the first day, because it is the beginning of the other days. Again, it is called the "eighth" day because it prefigures the unending day of the future age to come, which will be truly the "first" day and a day that is not divided by a single night. This is why this Sunday is called the

Antipascha, which interpreted means "in the place of Pascha." We should also know that due to the honor given Sunday by the Lord's Resurrection, the Holy Apostles transferred the weekly day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) to this most honored day.

It is also called Thomas Sunday, the reason being as follows: On the day of the Resurrection, when Christ showed himself to the Disciples in the evening, Thomas was not present, because he had not yet joined the other Disciples for fear of the Jews. When he rejoined the others, not only did he not believe what they told him about the Resurrection of Christ and the fact that they had seen Him, but he absolutely refused to believe that Christ had risen, even though he himself was one of the Twelve. God the good Master, in His true economy, waited eight days to make His love more perfect, firmly willing to truthfully verify the Resurrection and also the events that had occurred after the Resurrection. Thus, Thomas did not believe so that he could more truthfully proclaim to all the belief in the Resurrection. Therefore, the Lord came to the Apostles again while Thomas was among them. Though the doors were shut as before, He entered and granted them peace according to the custom. He then turned toward Thomas and said, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:27). Then Thomas intentionally scrutinized the Lord's side more attentively, and receiving faith through the examination, he cried, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). He said "Lord" in witnessing to the bodily form of Christ and "God" in witnessing to His Divinity. Then Christ said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). This was the second appearance of Christ.

Thomas was called "The Twin" for one of several possible reasons: either he was born a twin - one of two children born at the same time; or because he was born doubtful of the Resurrection; or because by nature the middle finger and the index finger of his right hand were joined together. Since by Divine Providence he was allowed to doubt, it was with these certain two fingers that he would probe Christ's side. Yet, others say that it is more likely and more truthful that Thomas, being interpreted, means "twin."