



Welcome!

Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're 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!

This Week

Today

1:15 pm St Alexander Nevsky Cemetery
3:00 pm Mt Calvary Cemetery

Saturday, April 21

4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, April 22

9:15 am Adult Education
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School after Divine Liturgy

Paschal Greeting

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!
Christos voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese! (Russian)
Christos anesti! Alithos anesti! (Greek)

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.

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Mat. Janet Mihalick, *Choir Director*

Second Sunday of Pascha: St Thomas/Antipascha

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

April 15, 2018

Announcements

➤ Today, weather permitting, **we will bless graves as is our custom** on St Thomas Sunday (in anticipation of the Day of Rejoicing (*Radonitsa*) at our local cemeteries. 1:15 pm at St Alexander Nevsky Cemetery, and 3:00 pm Mt Calvary Cemetery. Join us!

➤ The men of our parish will sponsor our annual Mother's Day Brunch in honor of the women of our parish on Sunday, May 13. **Men of the parish** are reminded to give a **minimum** \$10 contribution to Bob Madalinsky to sponsor the cost of the brunch. Contributions must be in by Sunday, May 6.

➤ **Our March hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, April 25. Italian Hoagies and wraps are \$6.50 each and the Turkey hoagies and wraps are \$7.00 each. Orders can be placed by calling 412-974-9912, faxing 724-926-4052 or emailing rjmbmsam1@verizon.net. Orders are due on Sunday evening, April 22. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm April 25 at the church hall.



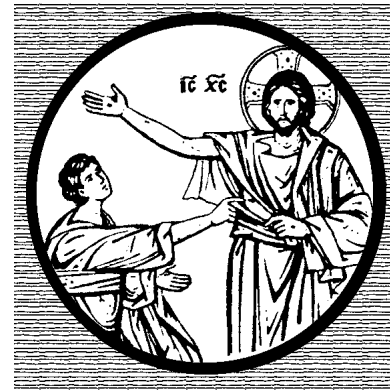
Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm: Known to be Hospitalized;** Georgiann Robes (Sewickley). *Home recovery* (none). *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Garnette Kerchum, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

➤ **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants from the Wasilko & Dyczko families and John Shaytar; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary; for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha. **From Bob & Mary Beth Madalinsky** for the departed servant, Bill Stephens. **From Raisa Burd** for the health of all our relatives and friends. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of (sister) Elaine.

Thank You

➤ **to Jim and Leslie Wokutch** who are sponsoring the bulletins for the month of April (\$60) as well as all the monthly categories of Holy Bread (\$50), Communion Wine (\$40), Candles (\$50), and Incense(\$10) in memory of Dn Joseph Mell and Olga Mell. May God richly bless them for their generosity and love for God's Church



St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

Antipascha

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." 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.

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."

Hymns and Readings for Today

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.

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 (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 (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.

Faith and Works

Touching Christ, he cried out: My Lord and my God. Jesus said to him: Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed. Paul said: Faith is the guarantee of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen. It is clear, then, that faith is the proof of what can not be seen. What is seen gives knowledge, not faith. When Thomas saw and touched, why was he told: You have believed because you have seen me? Because what he saw and what he believed were different things. God cannot be seen by mortal man. Thomas saw a human being, whom he acknowledged to be God, and said: My Lord and my God. Seeing, he believed; looking at one who was true man, he cried out that this was God, the God he could not see.

What follows is reason for great joy: Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed. There is here a particular reference to ourselves; we hold in our hearts one we have not seen in the flesh. We are included in these words, but only if we follow up our faith with good works. The true believer practices what he believes. But of those who pay only lip service to faith, Paul has this to say: They profess to know God, but they deny him in their works. Therefore James says: Faith without works is dead. (*St Gregory the Great, c 6th c*)

Today 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 him? (Christ rising from the dead was not "normal" but we know that God can change anything He wants, even death into life)
- What did Christ say at the end of the story? ("Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed")

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture before bed: John 20:24-29.
- Orthodox traditionally visit the cemetery 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.

