



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

Wednesday, May 8

6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study

Saturday, May 11

4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, May 12

9:00 am Adult Education
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Mother's Day Brunch

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

Antipascha – St Thomas Sunday

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

May 5, 2019

Announcements

➤ Today, weather permitting, **we will bless graves as is our custom** on St Thomas Sunday (in anticipation of Tuesday's 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 next Sunday, May 12. **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. We are also in need of male volunteers to set up, cook, and clean up.

➤ **Our May hoagie sale** will be held on Wednesday, March 29. 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, May 26. Orders can be picked up between noon and 1 pm May 29 at the church hall.

Paschal Greeting

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

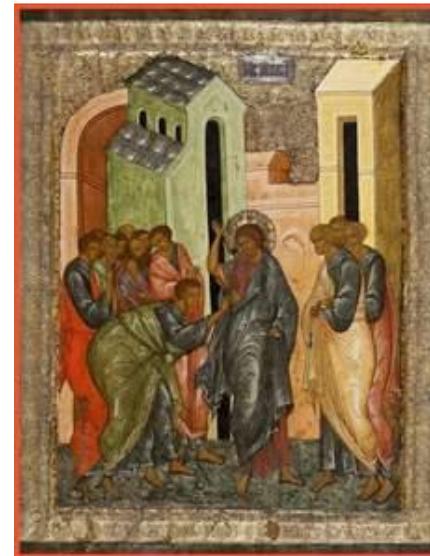
(Russian)Christos voskrese!
Voistinu Voskrese!

(Greek)Christos anesti!
Alithos anesti!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be Hospitalized;* Jack Saban (VA). *Home:* Georgiann Robes. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Olga Bednar, Garnette Kerchum, Olga Tryszyn, Mary Zapp.

Vigil Lights **from Mat. Nancy K. Mell and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family and Michelle Bittner. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of (sisters) Doris & Marsha, Michelle Bittner and Jack Saban. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, Ann Polny (2005) and (cousin) Michael Wasilko; for the health of Marsha on her Birthday~ Many Years. **From Suzy Polny** for the departed servant, William Smythe III; for the health of Larry, Jan Widel and Michelle Bittner. **From John Mahalchak family** for the health of John, Cheryl, Johnny, Kayla, Devo and Baby Patel. **From Cathy Namisnak** for the health of Lindy Hamilton on her birthday. **From Alina** for the health of Victoria. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the health of our grandsons Michael & Alex on their college graduations and for our family. **From Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Pete. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family; special intentions.



Resurrection Doubt

"Those to whom Christ has given light as He has risen, to them He has appeared spiritually, He has been shown to their spiritual eyes. When this happens to us through the Spirit He raises us up from the dead and gives us life. He grants us to see Him, who is immortal and indestructible. More than that, He grants clearly to know Him who raises us up (Eph. 2:6) and glorifies us (Rom. 8:17) with Himself, as all the divine Scripture testifies. These, then, are the divine mysteries of Christians. This is the hidden power of our faith, which unbelievers, or those who believe with difficulty, or rather believe in part, do not see nor are able at all to see." *St. Symeon the New Theologian - "A Clear Vision of Christ's Resurrection"*

"But He who descended into the regions beneath the earth came up again; and Jesus, who was buried, truly rose again the third day. And if the Jews ever worry thee, meet them at once by asking thus: Did Jonah come forth from the whale on the third day, and hath not Christ then risen from the earth on the third day? Is a dead man raised to life on touching the bones of Elisha, and is it not much easier for the Maker of mankind to be raised by the power of the Father? Well then, He truly rose, and after He had risen was seen again of the disciples; and twelve disciples were witnesses of His Resurrection, who bare witness not in pleasing words, but contended even unto torture and death for the truth of the Resurrection. What then, shall every word be established at the mouth of two of three witnesses, according to the Scripture, and, though twelve bear witness to the Resurrection of Christ, art thou still incredulous in regard to His Resurrection?"

St. Cyril of Jerusalem - Excerpt on the Resurrection



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.

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.

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.

Today in Church School

Today's lesson: The Protestant Reformation (Pt 2)

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was Henry VIII? Why did he want the Church of England to be separate?
- What are some other Protestant Christian denominations? How do their teachings differ from Orthodoxy?
- How is the Church supposed to resolve disagreements?
- Why are there so many Protestant denominations?
- How can you share the Orthodox faith with other Christians?

Suggested activities at home:

- Discuss with your child how to respectfully share their Orthodox faith with others.
- Prayer: Lord, may all Christians be united again someday, as You are one.

Healing Thomas

The Lord came [to Thomas] a second time; He offered His side for the unbelieving disciple to touch, held out

His hands, and showing the scars of His wounds, healed the wound of his disbelief.

Dearly beloved, what do you see in these events? Do you really believe that it was by chance that this chosen disciple was absent, then came and heard, heard and doubted, doubted and touched, touched and believed? It was not by chance but in God's providence. In a marvelous way God's mercy arranged that the disbelieving disciple, in touching the wounds of his Master's body, should heal our wounds of disbelief.

The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples. As he touches Christ and is won over to belief, every doubt is cast aside and our faith is strengthened. So the disciple who doubted, then felt Christ's wounds, becomes a witness to the reality of the resurrection.

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.