



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!

This Week (updated)

Sunday, May 9

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
Grave blessings rain cancellation

Tuesday, May 11

9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am – 12:00 pm Office Hours

Wednesday, May 12

6:30 pm Daily Vespers
7:00 pm Bible Study (in person at Church)

Thursday, May 13

9:00 am Daily Matins
9:30 am – 12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, May 15

10:00 am St Alexander Nevsky Cemetery
12:00 pm Mt Calvary Cemetery
4:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, May 16

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

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

St Thomas Sunday/Antipascha

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org May 9, 2021

Announcements

➤ Everyone is invited downstairs today **after the Divine Liturgy to the Church hall for a brunch** in honor of the women of our parish on this Mother's Day. Thank you for all that you do for us! We love you! And thank you to all the men who made **today's Mother's Day Brunch** possible: Tom Hoffman (lead), the kitchen crew, servers, cleaners, and all those who donated to support today's brunch. May God bless you!

➤ **Bible Study will return to an in-person gathering this week.** We will meet in the Parish House meeting room. We are continuing our study of St Paul's Letter to the Romans. All are welcomed!

➤ The last Church School session for the 2020-2021 school year will be on **Sunday, May 23**. On this day we will honor our students and their teachers. We will also honor any high school and college graduates on that day. Please contact Fr Thomas with the names of those graduates.

PASCHAL GREETINGS

(English) Christ is risen! Indeed, He is Risen!
(Slavonic) Christos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!
(Greek) Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!
(Arabic) El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!
(Romanian) Hristos a inviat! Adevărat a înviat!
(French) Le Christ est réssuscité! En verite il est réssuscité!
(German) Christus ist auferstanden! Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!
(Spanish) Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **John Mahalchak** for the health of friends and family, especially John, Cheryl, Gregory, Daniel, Mary, baby Mack, Mallory, and Kayla Elizabeth. From **Mat. Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant of God Deacon Joseph C. Mell; for the health of family. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants Ann Polny, (cousin) Susan Wasilko; for the health of the Wasilko family; Many Years and Happy Birthday to Fr Tom and Marsha. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants Polina, Galina, Slava, Valentina, Andrei, and Bruce; for the health of Christopher, Thomas, Edward, Diana, Adnamu, and Sergey. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants Ann Polny and (cousin) Susan Wasilko; Many Years and Happy Birthday to Fr Tom. From **Chuck Wasilko** for the departed servants Ann Polny and (cousin) Susie Wasilko; for Marsha Wasilko on her birthday.

Thank You

➤ to **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** for sponsoring the bulletin and all donation categories (\$210 total) in memory of Deacon Joseph Mell.



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.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Daniel

Scripture reference: Book of Daniel

Questions to ask/review:

- What was the name of the first king Daniel and his friends served?
- What were the names of Daniel's three friends in Hebrew?
- What honor did the king give to Daniel and his friends?
- What did the king's first dream mean?
- What was the end of Nebuchadnezzar?
- Who was the second king Daniel served? Was he good or evil?
- What miracle did this king see?
- Who was the third king Daniel served?
- What did the king do to punish his wicked counselors?
- Tell the story of Daniel and the lion's den.
- Daniel sat on the "hot seat" of life many times. What are some of the trials Daniel faced? What kind of trials are you going through?
- Daniel always put God first in his life. How did he show this? Do you put God first? How do you show it?



Suggested Activities at home:

- Attend the services of Holy Week and read

Prayer: Lord, protect us in our time of trial, like you did for Daniel.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, May 9

Troparion of the Resurrection

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

Tone 7 Troparion of the Sunday

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.

Tone 8 Kontakion of the Sunday

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.

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Psalm 147)

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.

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."

The third appearance of Christ was at the Sea of Tiberias during the catching of the fish where He even ate a meal of broiled fish and honeycomb; this particular food, as He alone knew, was consumed by the Divine Fire. This event gave further proof of the Resurrection of the body - not only His, but ours in the Age to come. After this, He revealed himself on the road to Emmaus. The fifth time He appeared was in Galilee to the eleven, as it is written. From the Resurrection until His Ascension, He worked before His Disciples many signs that surpassed all nature. However, He did not reveal all these signs to very many, for it was impossible for men yet living in this world to hear such inexpressible wonders.