



## 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

### Sunday, May 16

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

### Tuesday, May 18

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am – 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Thursday, May 20

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am – 12:00 pm Office Hours

### Saturday, May 22

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

### Sunday, May 23

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School



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

### Myrrhbearers Sunday

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

May 16, 2021

## Announcements

➤ The last Church School session for the 2020-2021 school year will be next **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 **Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Jacqueline Soroka; congratulations on your college graduation from IUP! From **Charles Wasilko** for the departed servant (mother) Mary; (godfather) Joe Dichko. From **Mat Joni Soroka** for the departed servants Barbara Naiser and Mat Olga Soroka; for the health of Nancy Naiser and Jacqueline Soroka. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants (mother) Mary, (grandmothers) Susan and Kathryn, and (uncle) Joe Dichko. From **Mat Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant of God Dn Joseph C Mell; for the health of family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants (mother) Mary, (Grandmothers) Susan and Kathryn, and (uncle) Joe Dichko. For the departed servants Amelia, Marie, Ann; for the health of my family; for special intentions. From the **Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family, especially John Jr., Cheryl, Gregory, and Kayla Elizabeth.

## Thank You

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



## This Week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** Esther

**Scripture reference:** Book of Esther

### Questions to ask/review:

- Tell the story of Esther, the King, Haman, and Mordecai.
- There are many ways of pressuring others into what you want of them: How did Haman pressure the king? (lies and deceit) Mordecai pressure...Esther? (the "guilt trip") Esther pressure...the king? (sweet-talking )
- Every day someone's trying to pressure us one way or another. Give examples.
- Which one pressures you the most? Are you easily pressured? Why?
- To get ahead in life, do you have to fit in with the crowd?
- How effective are you at persuading others
- If you're right, is it OK to use a little deceit to persuade people to your side? Or send them on a "guilt trip" when they don't want to do what you want?
- Can Christians use pressure to Christ's advantage? Is it right?
- Like Esther inviting Ahasuerus to dinner, how can we effectively invite others to Christ? Can peer pressure help us do the right thing?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to make wise decisions when with non-Christian friends? - What can we do to prepare for times when friends pressure us to do wrong?

### Suggested Activities at home:

Hold "Esther's Dinner Party", fixing the food and decorating for your guests.

**Prayer:** Lord, use us to invite others to discover You. Amen.

*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 Sunday, May 16

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (*Resurrection*)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (*Pentecostarion*)

The noble Joseph,  
when he had taken down Thy most pure Body  
from the Tree,  
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,  
and placed it in a new tomb.  
But Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord,//  
granting the world great mercy.

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (*Pentecostarion*)

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said:  
“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;  
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!  
So proclaim: “The Lord is risen,//  
granting the world great mercy.”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

## **Tone 2 Kontakion** (*Pentecostarion*)

Thou didst command the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.  
By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, the first mother.  
Thou didst command them to preach to Thine Apostles://  
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 8 Kontakion** (*Pascha*)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,  
Thou didst destroy the power of death.  
In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God,  
proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women//  
granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

## **Tone 6 Prokeimenon** (*Pentecostarion*)

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! (*Ps. 27:9a*)

## **Epistle** (Acts 6:1-7)

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

## **Gospel** (Mark 15:43-16:8)

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the

kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Josés observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## **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**

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**We remember the women** because they were the first to truthfully bear witness to the Resurrection, while Joseph and Nicodemus were the first to bear witness to the burial of Christ. These two facts are both true and well known by us. Nicodemus was immediately banished from the synagogue and was forbidden to rejoin it. After burying the Body of Jesus, Joseph was thrown into a deep pit; however, by the grace of God, he was delivered from it and went to his estate in Arimathea. After His Resurrection, Christ showed Himself to Joseph, who was tied in bonds, thus firmly confirming the mystery of the Resurrection. Joseph suffered a great deal at the hands of his persecutors, but he could not bear to keep silent concerning all these mystical events and boldly taught all people about what had taken place regarding Jesus. It is said that Nicodemus, was the first to proclaim in detail what had occurred at the Passion and Resurrection of Christ. Since he was one of the foremost in the Council of the Jews and a Pharisee, he knew firsthand the councils and plots of the Jewish leaders and all that had come to pass regarding the Lord. Thus, as was first stated, St. Nicodemus and St. Joseph are commemorated after the Resurrection, together with the women who saw the risen Christ, because they are true and authentic witnesses of the Burial.

Thus, the Church has designated this day, the first Sunday after Thomas Sunday, to commemorate these women who preached the Resurrection and the many other signs that confirmed and verified the Resurrection of Christ. Therefore, Christ's Church has determined to celebrate these women as the ones who were the first to behold Christ risen from the dead, who announced to all the prophecy of salvation, and who lived their lives in Christ in a fitting manner as ones who had been taught by Christ Himself.