



Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

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HOLY MYSTERIES

VISITATIONS OF THE SICK AND INFIRM – If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Father Stephen at the Rectory. Our hospitalization code for Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals is **UKR**.

EMERGENCY CALLS – Please call the Rectory anytime (day or night) in an Emergency!

BAPTISMS – Celebrated by appointment.

CROWNING IN MARRIAGE – Please discuss timing with Father prior to setting a date. At least six months notice is needed. There are three 2-hour courses that must be attended prior to the Wedding.

BULLETIN DEADLINE – The deadline for getting information printed in the Weekly Bulletin is Wednesday.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS – For the Needs of the Parish; 2nd Youth Ministry

May 12, 2024
Volume 60: Number 19
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of May 12 - 19, 2024
Celebrating our 97th year of Service to the Lord



Sunday, May 12- Sunday of St. Thomas – Mother's Day

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Panakhya: +Pani Matka Anna Hrynshyn (6 Yrs.)

Panakhya: +Thomas Kaspryzak (3 Yrs.)

Panakhya: +Volodymyr Krasopera (40th Day)

Mother's Day Luncheon

Monday, May 13

6:00 PM – Making Meals for the Homeless

Tuesday, May 14

6:00 PM – Pre-Board Supper

6:30 PM – Parish Board Supper Meeting

Thursday, May 16

7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Panakhya: +Father Bazyl Zawierucha (6 Yrs)

Saturday, May 18 - VISITATION OF THE CEMETERIES

9:00 AM – Riverview

10:00 AM -Lawncroft

11:30 AM - Gracelawn

1:00 PM – Veteran Cemetery

Sunday, May 19- Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

SCRIPTURE READINGS

St. Thomas Sunday – Matins: Matthew 28:16-20; Liturgy: Acts 5:12-20; John 20:19-31

Monday – Acts of the Apostles 3:19-26; John 2:1-11

Tuesday - Acts of the Apostles 4:1-10; John 3:16-21

Wednesday - Acts of the Apostles 4:13-22; John 5:17—24

Thursday - Acts of the Apostles 4:23-31; John 5:24-30

Friday –Acts of the Apostles 5:1-11; John 5:30-6:2

Saturday - Acts of the Apostles 5:21-33; John 6:14-27

Sunday of the Myrrh Bearers – Matins: Mark 16:9-20; Liturgy: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7; Mark 15:43-16:8

"A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS"

A very beautiful story is related of a boat out at sea carrying in a father and his little daughter. As they were steering for the shore they were overtaken by a violent storm which threatened to destroy them. The coast was dangerous. The mother, at the home by the seashore, lighted a lamp and started up the worn stairway to the attic window.

"It won't do any good, mother," the son called after her. But the mother went up, put the light in the window, knelt beside it and prayed. Out in the storm the daughter saw a glimmer of gold on the water's edge. "Steer for that," the father said. Slowly but steadily they came toward the light, and at last were anchored in the little sheltered harbor by the cottage. "Thank God," cried the mother as she heard their glad voices and came down the stairway with the lamp in her hand. "How did you get here?" she asked. "We steered by mother's light," answered the daughter, "although we did not know what it was out there."

"Aha!" thought the boy, who was not known for being as very descent type of person. "Perhaps it is time that I was steering by my mother's light." And before he went to sleep that night he surrendered himself to God and asked Him to guide him over life's rough seas. Months went by, and finally the boy was discovered to have an incurable disease. The doctor carefully examined him and just shook his head hopelessly. It was another stormy night when the doctor came for the last time. "He can't live long," was his verdict. The dying young man looked up into the troubled faces and said, "Do not be afraid for me. I shall make the harbor, for I have been steering by mother's light."

The Word of God advises each person, "And do not despise your mother..." (Proverbs 23:22b). In an age where respect is so seemingly lacking, it is evident that honor to one's mother is also passe and antiquated. Yet there are countless numbers of men, world famous, who have paid the highest tribute possible to their mothers. Abraham Lincoln once said, "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." And an old saying, theologically unsound, yet expressing a deep respect for mothers and motherhood, says: "God could not be everywhere so He made mothers."

As we celebrate Mother's day, let those homes that have the shining example of Christian living in mother's daily life and activity truly thank God for the rich blessing that money cannot buy. Let us remember our Mothers today and everyday, living and deceased, and say a prayer of thanksgiving for all that they have done for us. Mom, for all you do, this Day is for you.

SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS

St. Thomas represented all men in his doubt and spoke for all Christians in his profession of faith: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). The confession of St. Thomas was to become the Creed of the early Christians. We can today feel sympathy for Thomas because he behaved like a man trapped by scientism, the belief that only what can be observed and measured is true. Thomas demanded observation: "I shall never believe it without probing the nail prints in His hands, without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into His side" (John 20: 25). Yet, Christ came to him; Thomas experienced the presence of Christ and believed.

This experience of the presence of Christ is repeated in all our lives. To understand this we must realize what John is proclaiming to us in the Gospel. The disciples met in a locked room, suggested in tradition as the same upper room where the first Eucharist (the Last Supper) was held., They met on Sunday, the traditional day for the Eucharist. Jesus appeared suddenly, even though the doors were locked, and greeted His disciples with peace. Our Lord gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. St. John is pointing out that our experience of Christ our God takes place in the Divine Liturgy.

Our "upper room" is now our Church, where the community, represented by the disciples, gathers every Sunday. They celebrate the presence of Christ our God in the Eucharist by repeating the memorial of His love towards us, as He had commanded. In the Liturgy, the priest greets the community with peace. Every Liturgy is also the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the priest blesses the people, asking that "the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you" (Introduction to the Anaphora of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom). In the Anaphora, the priest prays: "We implore, pray and entreat you, send down Your Holy Spirit upon us" (Epiclesis, Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom). In all these ways we see that the Liturgy reproduces for us the experience of St. Thomas: the presence of Christ, our Lord and God.

The Liturgy is our act of faith in Christ. We come to Church because we believe that there we can hear God's word to us and receive Him by partaking in the Eucharistic Banquet, the mystery of His presence. The Eucharist is our act of faith in the living Christ, it is the mystery in which we "taste and see how good the Lord is" (Psalm 34:9).

There is still more to this mystery. Faith is usually thought of as something private and personal. A man can have faith inside himself even if he never expresses it. However, we cannot divide man that way. Christ did not appear to Thomas when Thomas was not with the disciples, the representation of the Church. He found faith in the presence of God's believing community. The Liturgy, where we gather together as a local Church to worship Christ, our Lord and God, is our act of faith.

*This article is written by the Very Rev. Lawrence Barriger, \Pastor of St. Michael Orthodox Church in Freeland, PA. It was taken from **The Church Messenger**, the official publication of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA. It is an excellent source of articles on the Orthodox Faith. Annual subscriptions are \$12.00 and can be sent to Very Rev. John A. Baranik, 312 Garfield Street, Johnstown, PA 15906.*

LITURGICAL INSIGHTS

By Father Lawrence Barriger

POST PASCHAL DEPRESSION

"It is so sad to part with lent and the Week of Pascha. I am always grieved by the closing of the sanctuary gates on the Saturday of St. Thomas and in general by the ending of bright week. They still sing "Christ is Risen", but everything becomes more difficult, as if the gates of the kingdom of heaven have really closed, those gates which have only just been opened in answer to our prayer and fasting. People plunge themselves once more with a sort of ravenousness into futile, worldly pursuits, and the churches become empty." ----Father Alexander Elchaninov



The Sunday of St. Thomas, the second Sunday of Pascha, is known among Western Christians as "Low Sunday". While this name is unknown in the Orthodox tradition, it is perhaps appropriate for what we encounter in most Orthodox Churches on St. Thomas Sunday.

Gone are the crowds of worshippers; gone are the penitents waiting for confession; the lines waiting to receive the Eucharist. Fasting and prayer become a memory as we once more "plunge ourselves ravenously into our futile, worldly pursuits," and the churches become empty. Low

Sunday indeed!

Some people rejoice to see the end of Lent; now that it has ended they can go back, as Father Elchaninov points out, to their "normal" life. For them Jesus is still

dead, even though they may say "Christ is Risen!" Their quick return to the "world" shows that they believe secretly that Jesus is still entombed in the Church. He is a pious "custom and tradition of our people" to be respected, even venerated, but certainly not the central figure in their lives.

Others have discovered through the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ that their "normal" lives are in fact "abnormal". The celebration of the Resurrection has shown them that the Risen Christ holds out the promise of a changed life, a transfigured life.

Like Father Elchaninov these people are saddened to see the Royal Doors close at the end of Bright Week because the temptation is for them to go back to what they were before Lent and the Resurrection. Having discovered the "true life" in the Resurrected Christ they dread returning to the "false life" that they lived before. They suffer from "Post Paschal Depression".

However, we should not be disheartened on St. Thomas Sunday. For this was the situation with the very first Pascha. Hundreds of people, if not thousands, welcomed Jesus as the messiah on the first Palm Sunday. The same crowds heard Him preach in the Temple and shouted "Give us Barabbas" and "Crucify Him!"

We must note that the Risen Savior did not appear to any of these people; He did not appear to Pontius Pilate or King Herod or any of the Sanhedrin.

ON SEEING THE LORD

Instead, He appeared to the small group of Disciples and Apostles, those faithful who had followed Him "from Galilee" and not to these others at all.

Perhaps the second Sunday of Pascha should be regarded as the "secret Pascha". A time when the Risen Christ appears to comfort, not the lukewarm in their faith, not those who have come to sample the Paschal foods, or to fulfill their traditional "Easter duty".

But rather the Risen Christ appears to comfort and strengthen those faithful who experience the rhythm of Church life Sunday after Sunday, Feast after Feast. He appears to those who contribute their time and money generously to support the Church and the Gospel. He appears to those who have found in their hearts the door to the Kingdom of heaven.

The Sunday of St. Thomas is a liturgical remembrance of how the Risen Savior appeared to the disciples huddled together in fear behind the locked doors of the Upper Room. In the same way the Lord appears to the faithful members of the Church. They are not locked in the Upper Room but they are locked once more in the same problems and cares and anxieties that they had before Pascha.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

However, there is one fact that those who suffer from "Post Pascha Depression" need to remember: Christ is Risen! The Resurrection is not the end of Pascha but only the beginning. We often feel that the longer prayers and additional Lenten services as well as our fasting are things that we do to somehow "pay God back" for all that He has done for us. When the end of lent comes we feel that the debt has been settled for this year.

But we cannot pay God back for the gift of His Christ, for the Cross and the Resurrection. But we can show our love by keeping His commandments. On the night before He died, Jesus told the Apostles, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 15:10). We must struggle everyday, in the joys and sorrows of life, to always keep before us both the Cross and the Empty Tomb. The struggle begins anew, not on the first day of next Lent, but on St. Thomas Sunday.

**HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY!!!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Wendy Dewhurst, 5/12; Chuck Redden, 5/12; Steven Andreas, 5/14, Adam Duncan, 5/17, Sophia (Sonya) Patronik, 5/17, Max Roch, 5/17, Alexander Beaudean, 5/18 & Nicholas Beaudean, 5/18. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy & blessed years!

PREPARING DINNERS FOR THE HOMELESS – Monday, May 13 beginning at 6:00 PM.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)

May 5 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta
May 12 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas
May 19 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas
May 26 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik
June 1 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik
June 8 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow

DONATIONS (CREDIT CARDS) ACCEPTED – for those who are interested, we can accept donations to the Church through credit cards. See Mark Andreas for details.

MEETINGS

PARISH BOARD – Tuesday, May 14 @ 6:30 PM

SEMINARIANS VISITING STS. PETER AND PAUL – We will have three of our Subdeacons visiting our Parish on Sunday, May 26th. More in the next Bulletin

SIGN UP SHEET FOR THE METROPOLITAN'S VISIT – His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony will be visiting our Parish for Liturgy on Ascension Thursday, June 13. We need to have a number for how many will attend the Luncheon afterwards. Please sign up at the coffee hour table. Thank you!

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of May 13 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of May 20 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly
Week of May 27 - Mark & Laura Andreas
Week of June 3 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of June 10 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration
Week of June 17 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi
Week of June 24 - Nancy Hlwiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 12 – Mother's Day Dinner

Saturday, May 18 – Visiting Cemeteries

Saturday, June 8 – Hall Rented

Saturday, June 29 – Wine Tasting Event 5PM – 8PM

Sunday, June 16 – Father's Day Dinner

Monday, July 1 – Apostles' Fast

Sunday, July 14 – Patronal Dinner

Saturday, July 20 – Hall Rented

Saturday, August 3 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, November 2 – Fall Bazaar

Tuesday, November 26 – Community Thanksgiving Service – Atonement Methodist

SCHEDULING FOR THE PARISH – Please remember that all events, work parties, use of the hall must be cleared through the calendar kept by Father Stephen so that dueling events can be avoided.

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

May 12 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

May 19 - Linda Hnatow

May 26 – Andrew Duncan

June 1 - Thomas Sulpizi

June 8 - Jean Roeth

WINE TASTING - \$35/person, \$60/ couple – Saturday, June 29 from 5-8 PM – More Later



REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevsky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Gerald Ozlanski, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Father Michael Zaparyniuk, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Pani Matka Oksanna Bazylevsky, Pain Matka Marianne Ozlanski, Matka Annette Zaparyniuk, , Alicia, Nerry, Mykola, Brennan, Henry, Deborah, Galina, Dolores, Julian, Madison, Maria, Marie, Matt, Michele, Mykola, Penelope, Rita, Ryan, Jonathan Angelo, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Joyce Bendoakas, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Irene Billon, James Bolton, Maria Borowski, Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, Thomas Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Kathy Chalfont, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Michael Dalaski, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Paula Daubert, William Dewhurst, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Margaret Durell, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Mary Eagleton, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Archantula Fanjoy, Mary Farrell, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, John Hnatow, Daniel Holoviak, Jennifer Huertes, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Ron Lazaration, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, Beth McKirachan, Fred McKirachan, Stephen McNulty, Ronald Michel, Mary Ann Michalcewicz, Michelle Michalcewiz, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry, Bernice & Ryan Pinkowicz, Daphne Pantelopulos, George Pantelopulos, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, David Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, John Serth, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Alexandra Sparco, Natalia Stanford, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Michael Synczyszyn, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Michael Tilson, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Mariel Trimble, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Peter Weremedic, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook.

THE STORY OF ST. THOMAS

Each year on the Sunday following the Resurrection, our Church remembers the incident involving St. Thomas, with its remarkable turning of doubt into faith. When Christ was crucified, the apostles fled in fear. For all of them, life had lost its meaning; their hopes and dreams were shattered as the Lord was laid in the tomb. But they came together Sunday evening after the crucifixion, seeking comfort in their sadness.

It was then that the Risen Christ suddenly appeared in their midst. They looked at Him and couldn't believe their eyes. But Jesus spoke to them, showed them His wounds, and convinced them of the reality of His presence. They rejoiced with renewed hope.

But Thomas was not present that evening. Later, when the Apostles told him the good news of the Resurrection, he replied: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails . . . and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

A week passed by. On the Sunday after the Resurrection, once again the apostles were gathered together. This time Thomas was there. In spite of the locked doors, the Risen Christ again suddenly appeared amongst them and greeted them with words of peace. He called Thomas to His side and had him place his fingers in the wounds and see for himself, saying: "Do not be faithless, but believing."

Thomas did as the Lord had asked. Then he fell to his knees and cried out: "My Lord and my God!" His doubts were gone, replaced by a deep and abiding faith. Jesus then responded, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."