

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson

Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Andrew Romanofsky

Parish Council Vice President: Dean Inferrera



Sunday, April 23, 2017

Gospel: John 20:19-31

St. George: John 15:17-16:2

Tone 1

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

St. George: Acts 12:1-11

Antipascha (2nd Sunday of Pascha): St Thomas Sunday

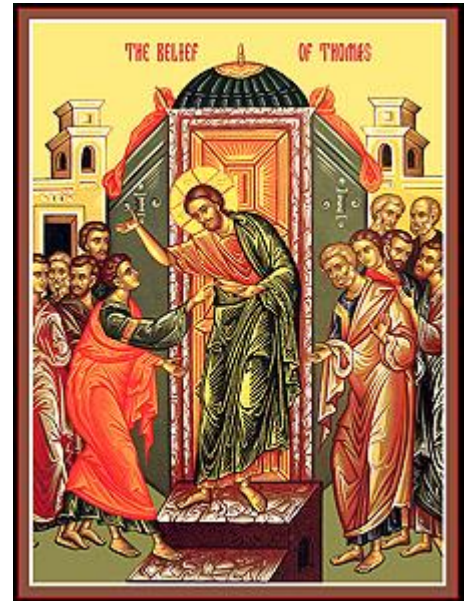
Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Victorybearer and Wonderworker George (303). Martyr Alexandra the Empress, wife of Diocletian (303). Martyrs Anatolius and Protoleon, soldiers converted by witnessing the martyrdom of St. George (303).

Troparion – Tone 7

From the sealed tomb, You did shine forth O Life! / Through closed doors You did come to Your disciples, O Christ God! / Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, / By the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!

Troparion – Tone 8

Thomas touched Your life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, / When You did come to Your apostles through closed doors. / He cried out with all: You are my Lord and my God!



Antipascha: St Thomas Sunday

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Maria Bachinsky on her birthday (4/21), offered by her husband Steven Bachinsky.

Sylvia Bachinsky, on her birthday (4/23), offered by her father Steven Bachinsky.

Matushka Rebekah Markewich, receiving medical treatment; **Matushka Charlene Garklavs** and her unborn child and **Newborn Anna Chaikivskyi**, born to Matushka Oksana and Father Volodymyr, on Thursday, April 21, offered by Archbishop Michael and the Diocese of NY/NJ.

In Memory of:

Dr. Leonid Stefy, offered by his daughter-in-law Lore Stefy.

Adele Taran, offered by her daughter Holly, Dawson family and Taran family.

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, April 23rd

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, April 29th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, April 30th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, May 6th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, May 7th

9:30 am: No Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
9:45 am: General
Confession
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, May 13th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, May 14th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Bulletin Sponsors

***Lore Stefy, Holly Dawson
& family and Steven
Bachinsky***

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 3rd Tone:

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power! His understanding is beyond **measure!**
(*Psalm 146:5*)

vs. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!
(*Psalm 146:2*)

Another, Tone 7 (St. George):

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.
(*Psalm 63:11*)

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high Honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested 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 and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

St. George: Acts 12:1-11

In those days, stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

Alleluia in the 8th Tone:

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

(Psalm 94:1)

vs. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth.

(Psalm 94:3)

Another, Tone 4 (St. George):

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

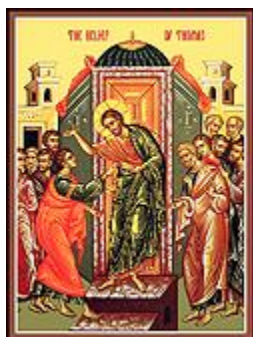
(Psalm 91:12)

Gospel: John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them 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. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I 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; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the 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.

St. George: John 15:17-16:2

These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.' But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.



Antipascha: St Thomas Sunday

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as "Antipascha." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek.

"Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Joy of all the Sorrowful" founded in 1966



Bulletin Sponsor: Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

Memorial Candles: Candles be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one.

Private Confessions: Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times.

General Confession: Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

Pannikhida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:

OrthodoxChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com ; reader.charles@hotmail.com or rsub-deacon.vlashi@outlook.com

The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Parish News

We are Blessed to be able to distribute the Holy Fire from the Jerusalem Patriarchate which manifests itself each Pascha Night since the time of the Lord's Resurrection. The Holy Fire currently rests on our Alter in Mays Landing.

With the rain, we will postpone Grave Blessing until Memorial weekend when we may have two possibilities for Blessings Sunday and Monday.



NY/NJ Diocese News

SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY: from doubt to belief

"My Lord and my God!"



Congratulations to these members of our Diocesan Family:

Archpriest Michael Dudas, awarded the Jeweled Cross, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, in the Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection, New York NY, on Holy Saturday, April 15, 2017.

Presbyter Nilus Lerro, awarded the Gold Cross and elevated to the rank of Archpriest, by Archbishop Michael, in the Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection, New York NY, on Holy Saturday, April 15, 2017.



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News

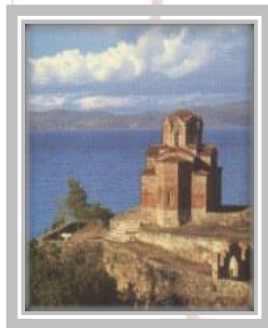
STM Press soliciting church photos for 2018 calendar

Parishes of the Orthodox Church in America are invited to submit photos that will be featured in the Saint Tikhon's Monastery Press 2018 Calendar.

“We are currently seeking photos depicting the beautiful interiors of our OCA churches,” said Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of Saint Tikhon's Monastery. “Selected photos will be featured in next year's calendar. We also hope to receive photos taken throughout the liturgical year and interior photos taken from unique angles and perspectives.”

Each parish is invited to submit a maximum of three [3] high resolution photos, which should be sent as attachments to monasteryinfo@gmail.com. Please include the parish's name and location, the name[s] of the parish clergy, and contact info.

“Photos selected for publication will be credited appropriately,” Father Sergius added. “We anticipate that 23,500 copies of the 2018 calendar will be printed.”



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, III:

Are there days gone by, O man, to which you would wish to return? They all attracted you like silk, and now remain behind you like a cobweb. Like honey they greeted you, like stench you bade them farewell. All were totally filled with illusion and sin.

See how all the pools of water in the moonlight resemble mirrors; and how all the days that were lit up with your levity resemble mirrors. But as you stepped from one day to the next, the false mirrors cracked like thin ice, and you waded through the water and mud.

Can a day that has a morning and an evening as doorways be a day?

O luminous Lord, my soul is burdened with illusions and longs for one day—for the day without doorways, the day from which my soul has departed and sunk into the shifting shadows—for Your day, which I used to call my day, when I was one with You.

Is there any happiness gone by, O man, to which you would wish to return?

Of two morsels of the same sweetness the second is the more trite. You would turn your head away in boredom from yesterday's happiness, if it were set out on today's table.

Moments of happiness are given to you only in order to leave you longing for me happiness in the bosom of the ever happy Lord; and ages of unhappiness are given to you, to waken you out of the drowsy dream of illusions.

O Lord, Lord, my only happiness, will You provide shelter for Your injured pilgrim?

O Lord, my ageless youth, my eyes shall bathe in You and shine more radiantly than the sun.

You carefully collect the tears of the righteous, and with them You rejuvenate worlds.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, CIII:

III. Us and Our Neighbors

Should We Denounce Them that have Sinned?

Do not attempt to benefit by rebukes one who boasts of his virtues, for he loves to display himself cannot be a lover of truth.

St. Mark the Ascetic, Homilies, 2.222



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon

Divine Warmth

The Divine Flame will consume you

At the very first moment you decide to turn to God, your heart begins to be warmed by the action of the Holy Spirit. Your heart is kindled with the divine flame that will transform you. This flame will consume you completely, and will melt everything of a fallen nature within you. Once this flame of divine love has been actualized within your heart, do nothing that would allow it to be extinguished. Cooperate with the Fire of God, and let it completely consume you.

Put all your effort into this spiritual transformation that is beginning in your heart. Let nothing else take center stage over this action by God that is meant to save you, and make you complete. From a little flame, this fire will burn in your heart, and nothing of your fallen nature will be able to withstand it. This flame will transform your whole being, for the action of the Holy Spirit will take you into God’s Kingdom, which resides within you.



Daily Reflection

Those in the Tombs (СΥΨΙΕ ΒΟ ΓΡΟΒΕΧ)

“Christ is risen from the dead, / trampling down death by death, / and upon those in the tombs (καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, и сущим во гробех) / bestowing life!” (Byzantine Troparion-hymn of Pascha/Easter)



So – who are “those in the tombs”? All of us, practically. “Those in the tombs” are those of us “buried,” either in our work or in a relationship, or in a “dead” indifference to work or a relationship (I realize that sounds paradoxical, but both those situations are “deadening”); or in some obsession or addiction, like an unhealthy dependency on a thing or person.

But Christ “is risen” from all our darkness, having walked through it; having confronted all our weakness, anger, resentment, fear, despondency, and insufficiency, which led Him to the Cross, – which was His calling or “vocation.” He “trampled” all our “death” and deadness, by walking through that “death,” and rising from it, as He was “called” to do by the Father, and as only He could, as the Source of Life, in His divinity and divine calling.

So I can also walk through it all today, but not on my own. I can trample death “by death,” by walking in and with Him through my vocation and responsibilities, which may, at times, – when I try to tackle them on my own, – seem dark and deadening. But, paradoxically, they (my vocation and responsibilities) are also the very thing that leads me to life, because I am called to do them. And Christ has paved the way for me, which is the way of the Cross, of not avoiding my responsibilities, but walking through them, in and with Him. So let me receive life, by walking through it, because it is “bestowed” to me by One Who knows the way out of my “tomb,” which is, paradoxically, my vocation. So let me take it up today, handing it over to Him in heartfelt prayer, and opening up to His help. “Christ is risen from the dead,” dear zillions, “trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs” - all of us, - “bestowing life!”

Holy Orthodox Quotes

“Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him.”

- St. Gregory the Theologian

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.†

Romans 6:6-8, 11

knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.† For he who has died has been freed from sin.† Now if we died with Christ, we

believe that we shall also live with Him,† Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.†

6:8 When bondage to sin has died, it must be replaced with something else. For those who are baptized, the replacement is Christ's resurrected life. We shall also live with Him means both a righteous life on earth after baptism and eternal life in the Kingdom to come.

6:10 Christ was never under the control of death or sin, yet He chose voluntarily to die to sin for our sake. In Christ, we too can voluntarily die to sin through baptism. As Christ's death is once for all, so also for us there is never a second baptism. Constant repentance renews our baptism as we grow in our relationship with God.

6:11 A shift in emphasis comes here, from what Christ has done for us (vv. 1-10) to our response to Him (vv. 11-14). Reckon is an action verb, relating to faith: we lay hold of our union with Christ and thereby lay hold of every virtue.

6:12 The command to not let sin reign proves that sin's power over man is not absolute. Rather, it is something we allow by our free will. Man's will was the first aspect of human nature damaged through sin, and therefore it is the first thing Christ heals. His healing allows us to make true choices against sin. While sin continues to plague humanity, those who are baptized into Christ have the power to overcome sin through their union with Him. Lusts refers to all the passions of the flesh and spirit that make demands on the will. In Christ, a person can resist and defeat these lusts through righteous exercise of the will.'

(The Orthodox Study Bible - Thomas Nelson)

2 Corinthians 13:4

For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

Where the soul is concerned, practice is self-control accompanied by simplicity, and simplicity animated by self-control.

- St Elijah the Priest, *Gnomic Anthology*

Ancient Christian Wisdom

Love never hates anyone, never reproves anyone, never condemns anyone, never grieves anyone, never abhors anyone, neither faithful nor infidel nor stranger nor sinner nor fornicator, nor anyone impure, but instead it is precisely sinners, and weak and negligent souls that it loves more, and feels pain for them and grieves and laments, and it feels sympathy for the wicked and sinners, more than for the good, imitating Christ Who called sinners, and ate and drank with them. For this reason, showing what real love is, He taught saying, 'Become good and merciful like your Father in Heaven,' and as He rains on bad and good and makes the sun to rise on just and unjust alike, so also is the one who has real love, and has compassion, and prays for all."

- Abba Ammonas

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

Christ is risen! Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Христосъ воскресе! Krishti u ngjall! Христосъ васкрсе! Christus het opgestaan! Христосъ възкресе! Hristos a înviat! ქრისტე აღდგა! Христосъ Воскресе! Chrystus Zmartwychwsta! Le Christ est ressuscité! Kristus nousi kuolleista! Христосъ воскрес! قام > قا! قام المسبح!

Christ is risen! Christòs Anéstē! Khristosŭ recovered! Krishti u ngjall! Christ vaskrse! Het Opgestaan! Christus! Christ vŭzkrese! Hristos a înviat! Krist'e Aghsdga! Happy Easter! Chrystus Zmartwychwsta! Le Christ est ressuscité! Kristus Nousi Kuolleista! Christ voskres! ! Almsyḥ Qam! Hqa Qam

Orthodox Quote of the Day

If one understands the mysteries of spiritual life and the mystical way in which God works, he ceases worrying over what happens to him, because he accepts joyfully the bitter medicines that God gives him for the health of his soul. Such a person considers everything to be the result of his prayer, since he constantly asks from God to purify his soul.

**St. Paisios of Mount Athos
Spiritual Councils IV: Family Life p.213**

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity
St Justin Popovich: Christians, always rejoice!

"Christians, always rejoice, for evil, death, sin, the devil and hell have been conquered by Christ. But when all of this is conquered, is there anyone in the world who can bring our joy to naught? You are the lord of this eternal rejoicing as long as you do not give in to sin. Joy burns in our hearts from His truth, love, resurrection, and from the Church and His saints. Joy burns in our hearts all because of sufferings for Him, mockings for Him, and death for Him, insofar as these sufferings write our names in heaven. There is no true joy on earth without the victory over death, but the victory over death does not exist without the Resurrection, and the Resurrection does not exist without Christ. The risen God-Man Christ, the founder of the Church, constantly pours out this joy into the hearts of His followers through the Holy Mysteries and good deeds. Our faith is fulfilled in this eternal joy, insofar as the joy of faith in Christ is the only true joy for human nature."

Orthodox Faith

"There is nothing impossible unto those who believe; lively and unshaken faith can accomplish great miracles in the twinkling of an eye. Besides, even without our sincere and firm faith, miracles are accomplished, such as the miracles of the sacraments; for God's Mystery is always accomplished, even though we were incredulous or unbelieving at the time of its celebration. "Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?" (Rom. 3:3). Our wickedness shall not overpower the unspeakable goodness and mercy of God; our dullness shall not overpower God's wisdom, nor our infirmity God's omnipotence."

+ "My Life in Christ," St John Kronstadt (Dec 20)

