

Bulletin sponsors this week are for:**The health of:**

Fr. Matthew, on his birthday, offered with love by his family

The memory of:

Adele Taran, mother of Mat. Holly

Acts 5:12-20 (2nd Sunday after Pascha)

Acts 12:1-11 (St. George)

Readings: **John 20:19-31** (2nd Sunday after Pascha, ANTIPASCHA, Thomas Sunday)

John 15:17-27; 16:1-2 (St. George)

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."

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.

Sunday Services:

Hours - 9:40 AM	Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM
General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month	
Private Confession - by appointment, contact Fr Matthew Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month	

Coffee hour - after Divine Liturgy.

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

Church School is now meeting every week after Communion.**Announcements:**

- The next meeting of the Parish council will be next Sunday, April 30th, after coffee hour.
- Please remember our Parish Family in your prayers, especially Lore Stefy, Bill and MaryAnn Kuzemchak, Alex Guedes, Susan, Mike, Jonathan and Gabrielle Guedes.
- Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.
- Donations are being accepted for an outdoor chairlift to be used on our steps.

Reminders:

- Please consider mailing your weekly donation to our treasurer:
Church of the Mother of God, c/o Holly Dawson, treasurer,
111 Main Ave, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their donations.
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org** (there is no longer a sign up sheet at the candle stand).
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

Antipascha: Saint 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.

*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!*

Kontakion – Tone 8

Great Martyr George the Wonderworker:

*As the liberator of captives and defender of the poor,
physician of the sick, and champion of kings,
O Victory-bearer Great Martyr George,
intercede with Christ God to save our souls.*

Troparion – Tone 4

*You were cultivated by God, and you showed yourself as a most honorable
cultivator of piety;
and you harvested for yourself the sheaves of virtue;
for having sown in tears, now you reap with joy;
and having contested unto blood, you received Christ.*

By your intercessions, O Saint, you obtain the forgiveness of sins for all.

Kontakion – Tone 4

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/04/23>

Please check the website of our Diocese: nynjoca.org/

and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: www.oca.org/

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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The Most Reverend Michael

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce,

Temporary Rector

Email: searbks1@verizon.net

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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



**Christ is
Risen!**

**Indeed he
is risen!**

Antipascha: Saint Thomas Sunday

*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 7

April 23, 2023

Today the Church remembers:

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) • New Martyr Lazarus of Bulgaria

ANTIPASCHA
2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Tone 1