

Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:**For the memory of:**

Adele Taran, mother of Holly, for her birthday. Offered by the Dawson family.

Readings: **Acts 5:12-20** (*2nd Sunday after Pascha*)
John 20:19-31 (*2nd Sunday after Pascha, Thomas Sunday*)

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.

Saturday service:

Vespers – 6:30 PM

(Private Confession – After Vespers by appointment.)

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
(General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)
(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School

Church School is temporarily not meeting

We are praying for all of our parishioners and their families. Let's keep praying for each other and remember to reach out and keep in touch.

Announcement:

- **We will not have Coffee Hour, Council meetings, or Sunday School** until this emergency has subsided.
- As we are asked to refrain from public gatherings, **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
 The parish still needs to pay its bills.
Thank you to everyone who has been sending in their donations.
- **The Paschal basket raffle has been postponed until it is safe for the entire congregation to meet again.**
- **The children's Paschal baskets were raffled off this week.** The winners were **Aleko Sofis** and **Jacob Vasquez-Ramishvili**. Entries into the raffle were determined by the children's attendance at Sunday School. **Congratulations, Aleko and Jacob!**

Reminders:

- **Because of the COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) pandemic, SERVICE and EVENT info, here and on our web site's calendar, may no longer be valid.**
- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by email to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- We still need sponsors for the bulletin each week as they go out via e-mail to many people. Send your \$10 donation to the treasurer two weeks in advance and we can get it into the bulletin.

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.

*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

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

THE PASCHAL TROPARION

To read more about the saints remembered today, see:
<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2020/4/26>

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

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

and our website:
<https://churchmotherofgod.org/>

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

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The Most Reverend Michael

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Dn. Edward Dawson

Attached Deacon



**Christ is
Risen**

Христос
Воскресе!

**Indeed, He is
Risen**

Воистину
Воскресе!

Antipascha:
St 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

Today the Church remembers:

ANTIPASCHA • 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA • St. Thomas Sunday •
Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea (ca. 322) • St. Stephen, Bishop of Perm (1396)
• Righteous Virgin Glaphyra (322) • St. Joannicius of Devich, Serbia (13th c.)

April 26, 2020

2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA
Pentecostarion

Tone 1 of the Octoechos