

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the health of:**

Nelly Freed on her birthday, sister of Lore Stefy

For eternal memory of:

Adele Taran, mother of Holly Dawson, offered by her family

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

Readings:

- **Acts 5:12-20**
- **John 20:19-31**

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**Sunday service:**

Hours – 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Private Confession – Half hour before any service.

See Fr Matthew for other times.

General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month

Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month

Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room

Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)
We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to visit us again.

Announcements:

- **The next meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God will be Sunday, June 1st.**
- Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets for our Paschal basket! The winner of the basket was Alexander Stefy.
- Thank you also to everyone who helped to beautify the church in preparation for Pascha. The church truly looked beautiful!
- **Blessing of Graves - Fr. Matthew will be blessing graves today after Liturgy.** Please see him for more information.
- **Reader Charles** has accepted the call to serve with an **OCMC Youth Outreach Mission Team** going to Albania June 16 to July 1, 2014. Please remember him in your prayers in his many preparations. If your heart is moved to support him financially, please speak to him for information on how to do so.

Special Announcements:

- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign-up sheet at the candle stand.
- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2014, Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200.** Partial payments are gladly accepted.

St. Thomas Sunday:

The Sunday after Easter, called the Second Sunday, is thus the eighth day of the paschal celebration, the last day of **Bright Week**. It is therefore called the **Antipascha**, and it was only on this day in the early church that the newly-baptized Christians removed their robes and entered once again into the life of this world.

In the Church services the stress is on the Apostle Thomas' vision of Christ and the significance of the day comes to us in the words of the gospel:

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" (John 20:27-29).

We have not seen Christ with our physical eyes nor touched his risen body with our physical hands, yet in the Holy Spirit we have seen and touched and tasted the Word of Life (*1 Jn 1:1-4*), and so we believe. At each of the daily services until Ascension Day we sing the **Easter Troparion**. At each of the Sunday services beginning with Antipascha, we sing the Easter canon and hymns, and repeat the celebration of the "first day of the week" on which Christ rose from the dead. At all of the liturgies the epistle readings are taken from the **Book of Acts** telling us of the first Christians who lived in communion with the Risen Lord. All of the gospel readings are taken from the **Gospel of St John**, considered by many to be a gospel written particularly for those who are newly-baptized into the new life of the Kingdom of God through death and new birth in Christ, in the name of the Holy Trinity. The reason for this opinion is that all of the "signs"—as the miracles in St John's Gospel are called—deal with sacramental themes involving water: wine and bread. Thus, each of the Sundays after Thomas Sunday with the exception of the third, is dedicated to the memory of one of these "signs."

The eighth day:

It is important to note that the number eight has symbolical significance in both Jewish and Christian spiritual tradition. It signifies more than completion and fullness; it signifies the Kingdom of God and the life of the world to come since seven is the number of earthly time. The **sabbath, the seventh day**, is the blessed day of rest in this world, the final day of the week. The "**first day of the week**," the day "**after Sabbath**"; stressed in all of the gospels as the day of Christ's Resurrection (*Mk 16:1, Mt 28:1, Lk 24:1, Jn 20:1, 19*), is therefore also "**the eighth day**," the day beyond the confines of this world, the day which stands for the life of the world to come, the day of the eternal rest of the Kingdom of God (see Hebrews 4).

- V. Rev. Thomas Hopko

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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The Belief of Thomas

Christ is Risen!

Христос
Воскресе!

Indeed, He is Risen!

Воистину
Воскресе!

*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

Today the Church remembers:

ANTIPASCHA • 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA

- **St. Thomas Sunday** • Hieromartyr Simeon, the kinsman of the Lord (107) • Ven. Stephen, Abbot of the Kiev Caves and Bishop of Vladimir in Volyn' (1094) • St. Eulogius the Hospitable, of Constantinople (4th c.)

April 27, 2014

2nd Sunday of Pascha

Pentecostarion Week 2

Tone 1.