

**Bulletin sponsors this week for:**

**Health of:**

**Fr. Matthew** Searfoorce for his birthday, requested with love by his family.  
**Richard** Dantinne, Sr. on his birthday, offered by his family with love.

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

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**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 Father Matthew  
**Pannikidas –** after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

**Sunday school meets every Sunday after Communion.**

**Announcements:**

- Thank you to everyone who participated in the **Sisterhood’s Pascha basket raffle**, including those who purchased tickets and those who donated items. The raffle was a huge success! The winner of the basket was **Tim Kirk**, who generously donated part of the basket back to a second winner, who was **Liz Pastore**. Congratulations to both winners!
- There will be a **meeting of the parish council on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**, after coffee hour.
- Anyone interested in our old safe, you are welcome to it. Just move it. The safe is small but very heavy. Please see any parish council member if you are interested.

**Reminders:**

- **Please remember the citizens of Ukraine in your prayers.** And please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.
- Bulletin sponsors, prayer requests, or announcements for the bulletin, should be **submitted by email to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)**
- 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. (There is also a donation basket at the candle stand. A **Venmo account** can also be used for donations to our parish. It is at <https://venmo.com/u/Hala-Dawson> )
- **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:**

ANTIPASCHA – (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. The services stress the Apostle Thomas' vision of Christ.

*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!*

Tone 8 – Kontakion

To read about the saints remembered today, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2025/04/27>

Please check the website of our Diocese: [nynjoca.org/](http://nynjoca.org/).  
and the website of the Orthodox Church in America: [www.oca.org/](http://www.oca.org/)  
See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org)  
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Email us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**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 Searforce,**

Temporary Rector

Email: [searbks1@verizon.net](mailto: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!*

Tone 7 – Troparion

**April 27, 2025**

**Today the Church remembers:**

**St. Thomas Sunday** • Hieromartyr Simeon, kinsman of the Lord, second Bishop of Jerusalem (107) • Ven. Stephen, Abbot of the Kiev Caves and Bishop of Vladimir in Volyn' (1094) • St. Eulogius the Hospitable, of Constantinople (4<sup>th</sup> c.) • The Burning of St. Sava's relics (13<sup>th</sup> c.)

Antipascha  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pascha

Tone 1  
St Thomas Sunday