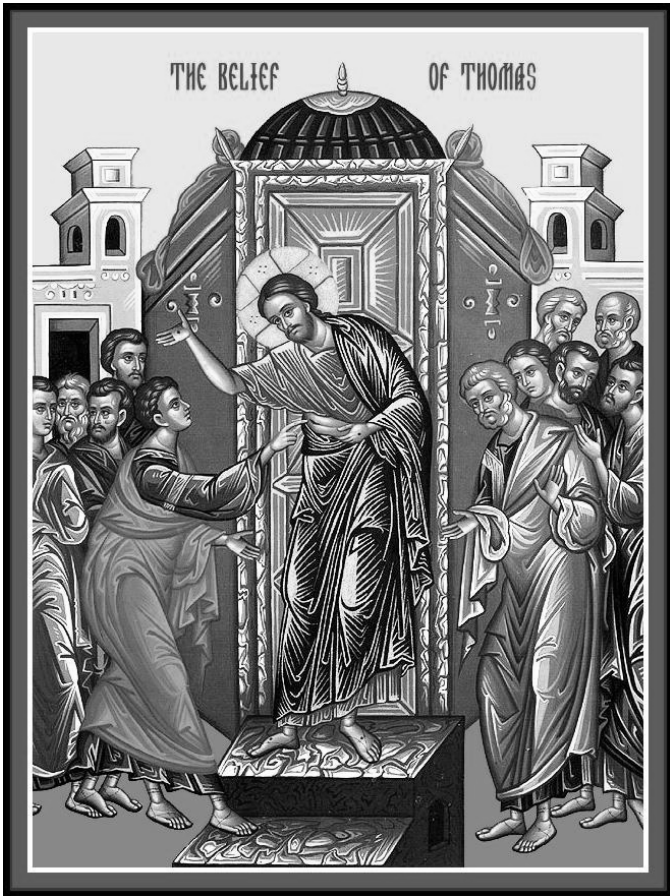




The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Thomas Sunday + April 27th, 2025 + ANTIPASCHA + Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



Please Sing Along!

Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies along with the choir throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - Acts 5:12-20

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on 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, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

Hymns for Today's Service

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life!
Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ God. Renew in us through them an upright spirit, by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, when Thou camest to Thine Apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all: "Thou art my Lord and my God!"

Gospel Reading - John 20:19-31

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, 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. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also 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 them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!

them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His 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.



This Week's Schedule DOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

THIS WEEKEND

BRIGHT SATURDAY, April 26th

Paschal Hours @ 8:40 AM
Paschal Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Parish PotLuck / Picnic @ 11:00 AM
Great Vespers @ 2 PM (*Note Time Change*)

THOMAS SUNDAY, April 27th

Hours @ 8:40 AM
Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
followed by Parish Potluck &
Childrens Easter Egg Hunt @ 11 AM,
Blessing of the Graves (weather permitting)
Holy Resurrection @ 12:30, Fern Knoll @ 2:30

For grave blessings at Fern Knoll PLEASE NOTE:

Entrance to Fern Knoll is currently inaccessible due to a bridge failure. Parishioners can park at the Misericordia Baseball Field just beyond the tree line at the back of the cemetery. Access to parking is off Lake Street, down Misericordia Way (past the Anderson Sports Center). There is a baseball game but they are going to reserve parking for us. See you there!

THIS WEEK

No open church or services this week
Thursday Bible Study is on Spring Break
(Fr. Innocent & Family on Vacation)

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NEXT WEEKEND - Myrrh-Bearing Woman

Welcome Fr. Bill Rusk, Matushka Sara & Family
Saturday, May 3rd

No Vespers this Weekend

Sunday, May 4th

Hours @ 8:40 AM, Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
followed by Church School Pancake Breakfast Sale



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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+++ Weekly / Monthly +++

Bible Study Thursdays at 11 AM. Everyone is welcome. We are reading through the Acts of the Apostles with discussions. **Bible Study is currently on break.**

ORTHODOXY 101 Saturdays @ 3:30 PM: Orthodoxy 101 is for visitors, inquirers, catechumens or anyone interested in learning more about the foundations of our faith. 1 hour followed by Great Vespers. **Orthodoxy 101 is currently on break.**

Parish Potlucks are usually the last Sunday of each month. Our next potluck is April 27th.

Friends of the Poor is usually the second Saturday of each month. **Next Friends of the Poor is May 10th**

Holy Trinity Parish Council is usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is SUN, May 18th @ 11:30 AM.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Because our next scheduled Parish Council Meeting falls on Mother's Day we will delay our meeting one week until May 18th @ 11:30 AM.

TODAY - THOMAS SUNDAY: Easter Egg Hunt & Grave Blessing. Our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Thomas Sunday at 11 AM following Divine Liturgy and a quick coffee break (for parents and the priest). Our annual Grave Blessings at Holy Resurrection & Fern Knoll Cemeteries will take place at 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM respectively. **Both of these events are weather permitting.**

NEXT SUNDAY, May 4th - PANCAKE BREAKFAST:

Come and enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast hosted by the Church School on Sunday May 4 in the basement. Breakfast menu of pancakes, sausage, pastries/muffins, fruit, juice and coffee will be served. A \$10.00 donation is greatly appreciated to benefit the Church School curriculum and trips.

The Blessing of Homes continues AFTER PASCHA for those who have rescheduled or by appointment. Check in with Fr. Innocent as to when there is availability for your visit.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays: Alexandria Rubino (5/7), Gabriel Brisk 5/10), Jeremy Haugh (5/18), Paul Meck (5/18), Becky Leonori (5/20), Zach Harvey (5/24), Jack Willis (5/24), Elaine Benczkowski (5/26), Eva King (5/30), Martha Tumavitch (5/30) **Anniversaries:** Matthew & Aimee Austin (5/15)

This week: *Anniversaries:* Eva & Stephen Nealon (4/29)



**Words of Wisdom
From the Saints & Teachers**

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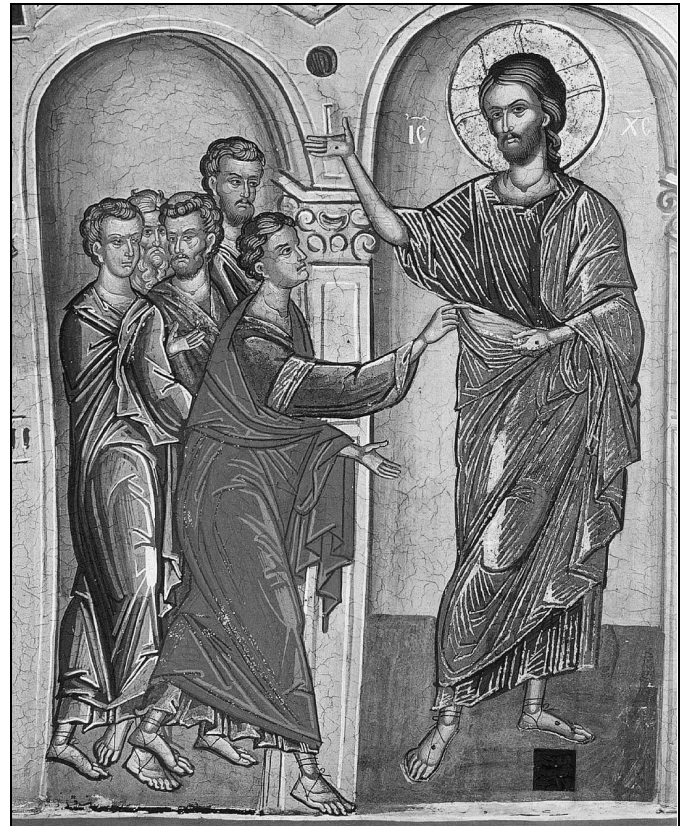
**Why is it called St. Thomas Sunday /
Antipascha?**

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

If the seals of the Virgin's womb and of the grave did not hinder Thee,

How could the seals of the doors hinder Thy might, O Savior?

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha", because Thomas did not hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection.



As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday following the Resurrection, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This also clearly illustrates the two Natures of Christ: the human and the divine.

By the intercessions of Thine Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.



The Treasury

"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. + Jesus Christ

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305
Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840
Last Week's Collection (Holy Week/Pascha) : \$7,500

Quotes for the Paschal Season

"Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the tomb.

Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it."

St. John Chrysostom - Paschal Homily (4th century)

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"Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him; today I am made alive with Him. Yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him."

St. Gregory the Theologian (4th century)

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"The sleep of death has been turned into a watchful rising. The tomb has been burst open as the womb of life. The earth has given up the dead as the sea gives up its treasures."

St. Ephrem the Syrian (4th century)

"Pascha is not the commemoration of an event, but the entrance into the Event of new life. It is the opening of time into eternity, the explosion of joy, the defeat of death not only as fact but as power over us."

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (20th century)

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"Christ is risen! That is what makes life worth living, that is what makes this world bearable. Christ is risen, and with Him, the meaning of everything has risen."

St. Nikolai Velimirovich (20th century)

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"The Resurrection is not only the victory of Christ but the beginning of our own transformation. If Christ is risen, nothing can ever be the same again."

St. Gregory of Nyssa (4th century)

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"At Pascha, the Church sees not merely the Resurrection of one man, but the renewal of the entire cosmos in Christ."

Fr. Georges Florovsky (20th century)