

St. Michael's Orthodox Church

+ OLD FORGE, PA + ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA + WEEKLY BULLETIN +

Sunday, May 1, 2022 St. Thomas Sunday



Hymns for Today

Troparion St. Thomas Sunday Tone 7

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!

Kontakion: Tone 8

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!"

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 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."

Gospel: 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 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,

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!

“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

THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, May 1, 2022

Hours @ 9:15 AM; Divine Liturgy @9:30

** 2:00 Grave Blessing at Sibley Cemetery, followed by Grave Blessing at Minooka.

The church will be open Wednesday afternoons from 11a.m.-1:30p.m. Come pray and a light candle for you loved ones and for the life of the world

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, May 7th

Great Vespers, 5:00 pm

Sunday May 8th

Hours@ 9:15 am, Divine Liturgy @ 9:30

Announcements:

I am working on the website and will be changing the look here soon but wanted to let everyone know we now have the ability to accept tithes, donations, etc online for those who want to redeem points or rewards using credit cards or debit cards. You can use PayPal or [tith.ly](https://www.tith.ly). If you order from Amazon, click on the link from the website and select St. Michaels and a portion of your order will be donated to the church.

<https://www.stmichaelof.org/donate>

I try to keep the calendar update as much as possible with upcoming events. You can view the calendar here: <https://www.stmichaelof.org/schedule>

Dr Paul Witek will be ordained to the Priesthood on May 21 at All Saints in Olyphant. All are invited. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will begin a 9 a.m.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Living: Shut-ins and ill: Matushka Paula Soucek, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mike Jadick, Bernie Elko, Rose Krenitsky, Margaret Pregmon, Dr. David Lezinsky, Fr. John Nightingale, Stella Krenitsky, Marie Buranich, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Rosemary Kuzmich, Sandra Pritchuk, Marie Pasternak, John Pritchuk, Nadia Macheska, Sandy Batton, Paula Stavisky, Al Pritchuk, Dr. Eli Stavisky, Evelyn Bunevitch.

Recently Departed: Archbishop Paul, OCA bishop of our Midwest Diocese

The Church sees in Thomas' unbelief an opportunity for great faith. Thomas rose to the occasion recognizing Jesus and calling Him both Lord and God. In this example there is hope for all of us who find ourselves from time to time shaken by doubt. But doubt itself is not a sin because it can lead to a deeper and greater faith. If we choose to explore the doubt and search diligently for answers, then God will reveal Himself for doesn't He tell us, "Seek and ye shall find; knock and the door will be opened for you"?...Thomas had this choice. He doubted, yes, but when presented with the Truth he immediately embraced it. He could have turned away and continued forever in the darkness of disbelief. The choice between heaven and hell was his that very day and he chose wisely. The same choice is presented to us day by day, moment by moment. If we refuse to love, then we have also chosen to reject God's love. The anxiety we feel when we face those we will not love is the direct result of our personal rejection of God's love in our lives.

Fr. Anthony Hughes