

April 26, 2009

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Avenue

McKees Rocks, PA 15136

412-331-1053

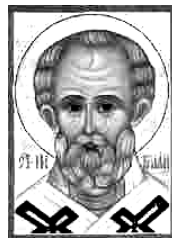
Rev. Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
(412) 299-3942

Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell, *Attached*

Ms. Doris Wasilko, *Choir Director*

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St Thomas Sunday / Antipascha (Second Sunday of Pascha)

Schedule of Services and Activities

Today

Blessing of the Graves

1:00 PM – St Alexander Nevsky Cemetery

3:00 PM – Mt Calvary Cemetery

Saturday, May 2nd – 5:00 PM

Great Vespers

Sunday, May 3rd – 10:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Graves will be blessed today at St Alexander Nevsky Cemetery at 1:00 PM and Mt. Calvary Cemetery at 3:00 PM. Everyone is welcomed to attend as we proclaim “Christ is Risen!” to those in the tombs!

Our next Hoagie/Wrap Sale will be Wednesday/Thursday, April 29/30. Orders need to be called in to 412 771-0176, faxed to 412 771-2444 or emailed to m.bittner@comcast.net by 7 pm. on Monday, April 27. Thank you for your support.

The annual Church School Picnic will be held at Moon Park, Saturn pavilion, on Saturday, May 16th beginning at 11:00 AM. All children and parents are invited! More details coming via email!

The Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School (THEOS), our local Orthodox Christian K-8 school, will be having an Open House on Wednesday, May 6th from 9:30 AM to Noon. A presentation on the importance of Orthodox education and a question and answer session with the director will be held, as well as a tour of the school. RSVP to 412-278-1494 by May 4th to attend.

Rachmaninoff’s Vigil, his most enduring choral work of the Russian Orthodox Church, will be performed by the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh on Sunday, May 17th at 3:30 PM at St Paul’s Catholic Cathedral in Oakland. Tickets are \$20. We are purchasing the tickets as a group, so you must place your order with Helene Krenitsky as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Nadia and Chris Eckert on the birth of their daughter, Adelaide, on Tuesday at Sewickely Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces at birth. Mom and Dad are doing well and big brother, Brody, is really happy! God grant the Eckert family many years!

Congratulations to Mary Hughes and Frank Kutnansky who were married in our church yesterday. May God grant them many years in their new life together!

Vigil Light Donations (Please remember the following people in your prayers): **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants (father) Charles and (Aunt) Ann Wasilko; the health of the Wasilko family, and all our ill parishioners. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents), Charles (4/20/01) & Mary and Aunt Anne Wasilko; for the health of the Wasilko family, Carol Kowalcheck and Anita Wasilko. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary; for the health of Anita Wasilko, Carol Kowalcheck, Tom Robes, Pete Kerchum, Michael Soroka and sisters, Doris & Marsha; safety for the Soldier Justin. **From Helen Cobb** for the departed servants, Ray Cobb, Fr. Vladimir & Mat. Olga, Darius Walat; for the health of George, Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Dick, Jared, Helen March Shancey, Stephanie Kowal, Raisa Burd, the Tichy, Fuller, Kasnot, Speth, Wasilko, Barsom, Soroka and Mell families. **From David Namsinak** for the departed servants, Anna Swick, Melissa, Frank & Anna Namisnak; for the health of Helen and Marsha. **From Kristie Mertz** for the health of the Bosko & Mertz families; for our parish. **From Chuck Conrad** for the health of Eva, Cindy & Barb~heal them all. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants, (parents) John & Mary Pravlochak and Steve & Anna Herko; for the health of the Pravlochak family. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, (parents & grandparents) Amelia & John, Marie & Nicholas, Ann & Frank, (brother & nephew) Nicholas & Nicholas; for the health of children, Amelia, Andrea, Richard & families, John, Theodore, Rev. Fr. Basil, Carol, St. Nicholas Church community; special intentions. **From Helen M. Shancey** for the departed servants, her husband, Richard Shancey, Norma Jean Evans, Joyce Duster, Ray Cobb, Ann Hruch, Mat. Olga, Fr. Vladimir and all deceased members of the Halajcio & Shancey families; for the health of Dr. Chris Baxter & family, Halajcio & Shancey families, Jim & Leslie Wokutch, Helen Cobb, Olga Novak & son, Bittner family, Hruch family, Wasilko family, Kasnot family, Namisnak family, Barsom family, Kovacs family, Carol Kowalcheck & family, Robes family, Steve Meno, Fr. Thomas, Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell and their families and all parishioners. God bless Reader Michael Soroka, Danny Parsons, Dale Halajcio and God Bless America. **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga Soroka; for the health grandson, Michael Lopez, Jr., Reader Michael Soroka, David Zeronski, Peter Kerchum and Joseph Nance. **From Donya Yewisiak** for the health of Carol Kowalcheck, John Barsom and Dolly Lyle. **From Charles & Natalya Tichy** for the departed servants, Aleksandra, Ilya, Anna, Michael; for the health of Nadia, Michail and Madelyn.

Christ uses Thomas' doubt to teach both the Disciples and us that we don't need to physically touch Him to have faith. But upon hearing of Christ, we can be spiritually moved by His presence to follow Him, and trust in His promise that all men will be raised on the day He appoints for judgment, and know either the eternal joy of being reunited with God or the torment of being without Him.

St. Peter heard and understood, as he writes to his flock (I Peter 1:8): "You did not see Him, yet you loved Him; and still without seeing Him you are filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls."

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St Thomas Sunday / Antipascha (Second Sunday of Pascha)

Paschal Greeting

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!
Christos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese! (*Russian*)
Christos anesti! Alithos anesti! (*Greek*)

Paschal Troparion

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

Tone 7 Troparion of the Sunday

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.

Tone 8 Kontakion of the Sunday

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God,
When Thou didst come to Thy apostles through closed doors.
He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God.

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Psalm 147)

Great is our Lord and abundant in power! His understanding is beyond measure!

Epistle (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."

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, "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.

Communion Hymn of the Sunday

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

*While Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians
who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting,
non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross
and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.
Please join us downstairs for coffee hour after the Divine Liturgy.*