

St. Mary's Orthodox Church
217 First Street – Coaldale Pa 18218-1602
Phone.....570-645-2772
OUR WEBSITE...www.stmarysnativity.org

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky

Sunday, May 1, 2022
Choir Director: Wash King

ANTIPASCHA – ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

<i>Christ is Risen!</i>	<i>Indeed, He is Risen!</i>
<i>Christos Voskrese!</i>	<i>Voistinu Voskrese!</i>
<i>Christos Anesti!</i>	<i>Alithos Anesti!</i>
<i>El Messieh Kahm!</i>	<i>Hakken Kahm!</i>
<i>Cristos a Inviat!</i>	<i>Adevarat a Inviat!</i>

Services:

Sunday, May 1	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by fellowship – St. Thomas Sunday
Saturday, May 7	4:00 PM – Great Vespers, Confession
Sunday, May 8	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship – Holy Myrrhbearing Women
Saturday, May 14	4:00 PM – Great Vespers, Confession
Sunday, May 15	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Parastas and Fellowship

We WELCOME all our visitors today! We want to let you know that we are **so glad** you came to pray with us. **Please come again;** join us after the Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall for Coffee Hour.

If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our Church Family.

Please Note: Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.

Prayer List:

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic,
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan,
Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Karen Harkins, Nancy King, John King, Michael Kulick, John & Olga Kushnir, MaryAnn & Paul Macenka, Mary Maholick, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Mary Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak.

If anyone is in need of a priest, please call Father James Weremedic at 570-645-2772.

Visitation of the Sick and Infirm: If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Fr. James at the Rectory. Emergency Calls: Please call the Rectory (570-645-2772) anytime (day or night) in an emergency.

Candles (May 1)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **Sal Herbert** offered by Millie O'Shura

Altar Candles... In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Vigil Crosses... For the Health of **Irene Puschak** offered Ted Bogosh

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of **Michael Harb** offered by Jeanne & John Cannon

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Rose (Winsko) Maliniak** offered by Friends

May Birthdays:

2- Lynn Sharpe, 17- Russell King, 17- Julia Forte, 21- Lindsey Ruch,

31- Marie Skripnek **Please note:** *If you do not see your name on the birthday list, please let Gloria Bench know, and she will gladly add your birthday to the list.*

Financials 4/18-24/22 Holy Week:

Operating Acct:

Candles 264 - Altar Candles 90 - Offerings 457 –

Non-Envelope 925 Holy Days 466 – Paska 810 - Donations 564 = Total

\$3,576.00. Building Fund 180 - Easter Flowers 165

Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Thank you!

Fellowship Hour Hosts

May 1	John Evetushick
May 8	Helen King
May 15	Weremedics
May 22	Lynn Sharpe
May 29	Lena Marie Berezniak

There is a sign-up sheet for **Coffee Hour** in the vestibule if you would like to host.

Coming Event – Chinese Auction -- Sunday – May 15, 2022

Donations and gifts are needed.

Please bring to church or call Helen King for pickup at 570-645-9484

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.

If you have any Redner receipts, please call or get them to Helen King

Please use your Boyer's card when shopping at Boyers; if you need one call Helen King

ABOUT DOUBT AND FAITH

Today is known as ST. THOMAS SUNDAY. Two great but contrasting themes present themselves on this Sunday following our Lord's Resurrection.

The first theme we will explore is DOUBT by this Apostle. Informed that Jesus had risen from the dead and had in fact appeared to the other disciples, Thomas proclaimed: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails . . . and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." Yes, Thomas doubted. Indeed, it is human to doubt, but this imposes an obligation to search and resolve the doubt. Thomas returned to the company of believers, and in the end falls at the feet of the Risen Savior, proclaiming: "My Lord and my God!"

The other theme is our Lord's COMPASSION and LOVE. He did not forget Thomas and wipe his name off the slate of Apostleship. Eight days after the Resurrection, when the Apostles had again gathered behind locked doors, the Risen Lord appeared and quickly called for Thomas to come . . . "Reach here your finger, and behold my hands, and reach here your hand and thrust it into my side, and be not faithless but believing."

But there is also an appeal to people today: Jesus said "Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed." Among those "blessed" we may number ourselves if we proclaim with St. Thomas: "My Lord and my God!"

ANTIPASCHA. 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA. Tone 1. St. Thomas Sunday. Prophet Jeremiah. Ven. Paphnutius, Abbot of Boróvsk. New Martyrs Euthymius, Ignatius, and Acacius, of Mt. Athos. Hieromartyr Macarius, Metropolitan of Kiev. Martyr Bata the Persian. Rt. Blv. Tamára, Queen of Georgia. Ven. Nikēphóros of Chios. "Unexpected Joy" Icon of the Mother of God.

Troparion — Tone 7 - 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!

Kontakion — Tone 8 - 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!

Acts 5:12-20 (Epistle)

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."

John 20:19-31 (Gospel)

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.

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as "Antipascha." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek.

New Martyr Euthymius of Mount Athos

This holy New Martyr of Christ was born in Demitsana in the Peloponnesos. His parents were Panagiotes and Maria, and he was given the name Eleutherius in Baptism. Eleutherius was the youngest of five children (the others were George, Christos, John, and Katerina).

After attending school in Demetsana, Eleutherius and John traveled to Constantinople to enroll in the Patriarchal Academy. Later, they went to Jassy, Romania where their father and brothers were in business. Some time afterwards, Eleutherius decided to go to Mt. Athos to become a monk. Because of a war between Russia and Turkey, he was able to travel only as far as Bucharest. There he stayed with the French consul, then with an employee of the Russian consul.

Eleutherius began to pursue a life of pleasure, putting aside his thoughts of monasticism. When hostilities ceased, Eleutherius made his way to Constantinople in the company of some Moslems. On the way, he turned from Orthodoxy and embraced Islam. He was circumcised and given the name Reschid. Soon his conscience began to torment him for his denial of Christ. The other Moslems began to notice a change in his attitude, so they restricted his movements and kept a close watch on him. One day Eleutherius was seen wearing a cross, so the others reported him to the master of the house, Rais Efendi. The master favored Eleutherius, which made the others jealous. He told them it was still too early for Eleutherius to give up all his Christian ways.

Rais Efendi and his household journeyed to Adrianople, arriving on a Saturday. Metropolitan Cyril, who later became Patriarch of Constantinople, was serving Vespers in one of the city's churches. Eleutherius pretended to have letters for Metropolitan Cyril, but he sent someone else to receive them. When Eleutherius told this man that he wanted Christian clothes, he became suspicious and sent him away.

Back in Constantinople, Rais Efendi gave Eleutherius costly presents, hoping to influence him to remain a Moslem. Eleutherius, however, prayed that God would permit him to escape. He ran off at the first opportunity, seeking out a priest from the Peloponnesos who lived near the Patriarchate. After relating his story, Eleutherius asked the priest to help him get away. The priest refused to assist him, fearing reprisals if he should be caught. He gave Eleutherius some advice, then sent him away. With some assistance from the Russian embassy, Eleutherius boarded a ship and sailed to Mt. Athos. At the Great Lavra Eleutherius was chrismated and received back into the Orthodox Church, and also became a monk with the name Euthymius. Euthymius read the *New Martyrologion* of Saint Nikódēmos (July 14), and was inspired by the example of the New Martyrs. He then became consumed with a desire to wipe out his apostasy with the blood of martyrdom.

Saint Euthymius went to Constantinople with a monk named Gregory, arriving on March 19, 1814. A few days later, on Palm Sunday, he received Holy Communion. Removing his monastic garb, he dressed himself as a Moslem and went to the palace of the Grand Vizier, Rusud Pasha. Saint Euthymius, holding palms in his hand, confessed that he was an Orthodox Christian, and wished to die for Christ. He denounced Mohammed and the Moslem religion, then trampled upon the turban he had worn on his head, which led the Vizier to believe that he was either drunk or crazy.

The valiant warrior of Christ assured the Vizier that he was in his right mind, and was not drunk. Euthymius was thrown into a dark cell and bound with chains. After an hour or so, they brought him out again. With flattery and promises of wealth, the Vizier tried to convince Euthymius to return to the Moslem faith. The saint boldly declared that Islam was a religion based on fables and falsehood, and that he would not deny Christ again even if he were to be tortured and slain. The Grand Vizier ordered the saint to be beaten and returned to prison. After three hours, Saint Euthymius was brought before Rusud Pasha, who said to him, "Have you reconsidered, or do you remain stubborn?"

Euthymius replied, "There is only one true Faith, that of the Orthodox Christians. How can I believe in your false prophet Mohammed?" Now the Vizier realized that he would never convince Euthymius to return to Islam, so he ordered him to be put to death by the sword. When the executioner attempted to tie the saint's hands he said, "I came here voluntarily, so there is no need to bind my hands. Allow me to meet my death untied." Saint Euthymius was allowed to walk to the place of execution unbound. He went joyfully and unafraid, holding a cross in his right hand, and palms in his left. When they arrived at the site, Euthymius faced east and began to pray. He thanked God for making him worthy of martyrdom for His sake. He also prayed for his family and friends, asking God to grant all their petitions which are unto salvation.

Then Saint Euthymius kissed the cross he was holding, then knelt and bent his neck. The executioner struck a fierce blow with the sword, but this did not behead him. He struck again, and failed to kill him. Finally, he took a knife and slit the martyr's throat. Saint Euthymius was killed about noon on March 22, 1814 in Constantinople, thereby earning a place in the heavenly Kingdom where he glorifies the holy, consubstantial, and life-creating Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, forevermore. The head of Saint Euthymius is in the Monastery of Saint Panteleimon on Mt. Athos.