



St. Mary Orthodox Church

WEEKLY BULLETIN | APRIL 27, 2025

Tone 1 · 2nd Sunday of Pascha
Antipascha · St. Thomas Sunday

Today's Schedule

9am — Matins

10am — Divine Liturgy, 40-Day Memorial
for Dsa. Krystalia F. and all departed
parishioners

Following the service:

Fellowship Hour: Volunteer Appreciation
Day Luncheon

2pm — Blessing of Graves

This Week at St. Mary's

3rd & 6th Hours — Monday through Friday, 7:30am-8am weekly

MONDAY, APRIL 28

Parish Council | 7pm-9pm

Reel Women Outing | *time TBA*

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Philokalia Book Group | 3pm-4pm

SATURDAY, MAY 3

No vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Holy Myrrhbearers

Matins & Liturgy | 9am-11:30am

Church School | 12pm-1pm

Office Closure | April 29-May 6



Fellowship Hour Groups

Week 1: A-D ← Next Week's Host

Week 2: E-Kl

Week 3: Kn-Paf

Week 4: Pag-Z

Week 5: Entire Parish

Parish Priest: Fr. David Subu | Parish Council President: David Dill
7223 Roosevelt Ave, Falls Church, VA 22042 | 703.280.0770 | stmaryorthodox.org

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 7. Troparion from the Pentecostarion

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

Glory; both now. *Tone 8. Kontakion from the Pentecostarion*

THOMAS touched Your life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, * when You came to Your Apostles through closed doors. // He cried out with all: “You are my Lord and my God!”

PROKEIMENON

In the third tone: Great is our Lord and abundant in power; / His understanding is beyond measure!

∇ *Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!*

EPISTLES

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (5:12-20)

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. And believ-

ers 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. And the multitude also gathered from the cities close to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented with unclean spirits, and they were healed, every one. Then the high priest rose up and all they that 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.”

Alleluia, Tone 8:

∇ *Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!*

∇ *For the Lord is a great God and a great King over all the earth!*

GOSPELS

The Reading from the Holy Gospel According to St. John (20:19-31)

The same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the

— *The Trisagion in Other Languages (Transliterated)* —

Romanian: Sfinte Dumnezeule, Sfinte Tare, Sfinte Fără de moarte, Miluiește-ne pe noi

Church Slavonic: Svyati Bozhe, Svyati Krepki, Svyati Bessmertni, pomiluy nas

Arabic: Qudduson illah, Qudduson ilqawi, Qudduson illadhi, la yamoot urhamna

Greek: Agios O Theos, Agios Eeskhros, Agios Athanatos, eleison imas

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.

INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET"

The Angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, rejoice O pure Virgin! Again, I say rejoice! Your son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself he has raised all the dead. Rejoice, rejoice O ye people.

Shine, shine! Shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shown on you. Exult now, exult and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection, the Resurrection of your Son.

COMMUNION HYMNS

- ✞ Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!
- ✞ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



ANTIPASCHA: ST. THOMAS SUNDAY

Thomas, one of the Twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other Disciples therefore said unto him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said unto them, 'Unless I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and

put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.'

This is pretty much what Thomas is known for both by us and the general population. He is thus nicknamed "Doubting Thomas" or "Thomas the Doubter." This scene summarizes the man Thomas despite his tenacious faith when he exhorted the Twelve to go with Jesus when He had proposed to return to Judea to visit the four-day-dead Lazarus. Recall his words: "Let us also go," Thomas exhorts, "that we may die with Him" (Jn. 11:16). Certainly, one doesn't make such life-altering statements glibly, and they certainly aren't the fruit of doubt. And yet, this one scene post-Resurrection is how most of us remember the Disciple Thomas, Apostle to India and martyr for the Lord Jesus!

There is one Church Father, however, who expressed a positive take on St. Thomas' doubt. He averred that God permitted it that we might benefit from the Disciple's doubt. To be sure, Thomas did not doubt the death of Jesus, it was the Resurrection he had problems with because, quite honestly, dead men typically stay dead. So, when he heard the glorious Good News of the others who all said, "We have seen the Lord!," we can well imagine why Thomas wasn't buying it. One question is this: if we had been in his shoes would we have believed? Of course, do we now believe in the bodily Resurrection of our Lord God and Sav-

ior Jesus Christ and that it holds for us a precursor for our own resurrection when the Lord at His Coming will re-unite our souls and our bodies so that we may spend eternity in the way we spent our temporal lives? Do we believe this or have we fallen for the myth of the immortal soul that flies away, happily rid of the body, in order to live happily ever after like Casper the Friendly Ghost somewhere over the rainbow?

On this Sunday of Antipascha, that is, the Sunday "in place of Pascha," the eighth day after the Resurrection, we hear of our brother and glorious Apostle Thomas' own personal struggle with doubt. Thomas wasn't suffering from atheism, but he was suffering a severe case of doubt in light of what he knew: his Master was dead and buried, and dead men do not return to life, generally speaking, unless you were Lazarus who was the beneficiary of Jesus' power. But, the One Who had raised Lazarus was now Himself dead. Who would resurrect Him?

However, this "doubting Thomas", to his credit, believes the greatest living sign of the Resurrection – our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Unlike so many others, Thomas was willing to believe when presented with the living Sign of the Resurrection. He was willing to surrender to the Truth standing before him which is what faith is, beloved, a surrendering to God. There are those who might say that Thomas had no choice when confronted with



Your Fellowship Hour Co-Leaders

- ▶ **Week 1: A-D** — Dsa. Cathy D., Jonathan C.
- ▶ **Week 2: E-KI** — Edward H., Allison J.
- ▶ **Week 3: Kn-Paf** — Melanie K., Tom P.
- ▶ **Week 4: Pag-Z** — Elaine P., Nathan & Charity W.
- ▶ **Week 5: Entire Parish** — Dsa. Irene L., Alyssa M.

incontrovertible evidence. But, that isn't the case. There were many others during our Lord's three year ministry who saw His miracles — signs and evidence! — but who did not believe because they were not willing to yield to God. It still takes faith even when one reaches out his finger to explore the nail prints and thrust his hand into the gaping wound in the side of Jesus. Did Thomas fully comprehend the Mystery before him? Very doubtful. But, he was willing to confess in faith, "My Lord and my God!" Having rock-solid, irrefutable, incontrovertible proof doesn't always win the day. One must still confess, "I believe!" Indeed, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He Who promised is faithful. Indeed, beloved, remember Pascha!

— from Fr. David Smith's homily on St. Thomas Sunday from 2022. Read the whole sermon at www.holyspirit-oca.org/news_231026_69

Save the Date

*Services, holidays,
and other events*

MAY

Office Closure | April 29–May 6

Divine Liturgy (St. Alexis of Wilkes-barre) | Wed., May 7 @ 7am–8am

Divine Liturgy for the Midfeast of Pentecost | Wed., 7am–8am

Women's Bible Study | Fri., May 16 @ 6:30pm–8pm

Baptism: Teodorescu | Sat., May 17 @ 3pm–5pm

Men's Fellowship | Sun., May 18 @ 6pm–8pm

Parish Council | Monday, May 19 @ 7pm–9pm

Paschal Liturgy for the Leave-taking of Pascha | Wed., May 28 @ 7am–8am

Festal Vespers for Ascension | Wed., May 28 @ 7pm–8pm

Festal Liturgy for Ascension | Thur., May 29 @ 10am–11:30am

JUNE

Church School Recognition Day | Sun., June 1

Pentecost | Sun., June 8

Nats Game Outing | June 15

Apostles' Fast | June 16–28

Visit stmaryorthodox.org/calendar to stay updated on parish events and service times.

— VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY —

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Volunteers

On behalf of St. Mary, we extend our deepest gratitude to all the incredible volunteers who give their time, energy, and hearts to our church, whether through ongoing group involvement or support for one-time events. Your dedication is a true blessing to our community, and we are so thankful for the many ways you help bring our mission to life.

We are truly honored to have you as part of the St. Mary's family and look forward to serving with you in the upcoming year. As we continue to grow, we warmly invite both new and existing members, especially those who may have been hesitant in the past, to join our volunteer family. Every helping hand makes a difference.

To explore current opportunities, please visit the volunteer groups on Realm, or reach out directly to our volunteer coordinator, Ioana M., at her email address as listed on Realm.

We cordially invite you to join us for a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon today following the Divine Liturgy. It will be our honor to celebrate and thank you for your invaluable service and dedication.

May God richly bless you for sharing your time and talents with our parish!



Parish News & Announcements

Today is Volunteer Appreciation Day! Today's Fellowship Hour is a volunteer recognition luncheon in the honor of all church volunteers, everyone, including Parish Council members. Learn more on p.6!

TOMORROW: Join the Reel Women for a movie outing!

(Monday, April 28) — Voting is open until today (Sun., Apr 27) at 5pm. Please join the Reel Women group on Realm to vote on the movie options and to find out the timing/location of the movie. See Christina J. or Anna C. with any questions.

(\$9) Purchase your Nats Game tickets (*RSVPs due Sunday, May 18*) — Join us at National Park on June 15th to watch the Washington Nationals host the Miami Marlins! Those under two years old are free assuming they don't need their own seat. Don't forget to invite your dad for a special father's day outing! Reserve tickets with Christina Z. via email (find on Realm) by May 18th. Payment can be taken via Realm (select "Nationals Game Tickets" from the Funds dropdown menu) or via check to St. Mary Orthodox Church with "Nationals Game Tickets" in the memo line.

Mega Meal Train Alert — Support our parish's two newest baby boys by hopping on a meal train!

- ▶ **Abby and Tim** welcomed home little Harrison:
mealtrain.com/ow6e81
- ▶ **Ben and Jesse** welcomed home baby Roland:
mealtrain.com/83gv15

Connect with the parish at the Connections Corner!

Stop by during fellowship hour to check out our ministries, newsletter, or meet a couple friendly faces. It's a great place to learn for visitors, inquirers, or parishioners who want to get more involved at church.

Need something in the weekly bulletin or *The Veil*?

Contact Sophia at undertheveilofherprotection@gmail.com

Newsletter deadline | Monday, May 26 (for June/July issue)

Bulletin deadline | by end-of-day Wednesday each week



God Grant You Many Years!



Birthdays Anastasia D., David D., Michael F., James T.

Namedays Boris C., Jason L., James T.

Regularly Scheduled Activities

Sunday Liturgy | 9am Matins, 10am Divine Liturgy

Saturday Great Vespers | Saturday, 5pm-6pm

Wednesday Vespers | Wednesdays, 7pm-7:45pm

3rd & 6th Hours | Monday-Friday, 7:30am-8am

Men's Fellowship | Monthly on a Sunday TBD, 6pm-8pm

Fellowship of Moms | 4th Friday of the month, 9am-11:30am

Philokalia Book Group | Fridays, 3pm-4pm



Giving to St. Mary's

There are three easy ways to give:

- ☞ in the collection bowl in the narthex
- ☞ in the collection plate in the nave as you exit for the Fellowship Hall
- ☞ scan this QR code with your phone to give online

Thank you for your generosity!

Are you visiting? Welcome to St. Mary's!

We're delighted that you've joined us! Please feel free to watch, participate, or ask the person next to you if you have any questions. Check out the Connections Corner in the fellowship hall to learn more about us, Orthodoxy, pick up a copy of our newsletter and ministry brochure, or meet a few friendly faces.

We try to avoid entering or exiting the nave during readings, processions, or the sermon. Please note that to receive Holy Communion in our church, one must be baptized Orthodox, recently-confessed, and at peace with one's fellows. At the end of the service, everyone is welcome to come up to kiss the Cross, greet the priest, and receive blessed bread.

Please join us for fellowship hour downstairs in the fellowship hall after liturgy. We'd love to meet you!