



St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

2300 W. Huntington Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808 • (302) 995-6775

Sunday April 15, 2018 ANTIPASCHA. 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 1. St. Thomas Sunday.

Apostles of the Seventy: Aristarchus, Pudens and Trophimus (ca. 67). Martyrs Basilissa (Vasilissa) and Anastasia of Rome, disciples of Apostles Peter and Paul (1st c.). Martyr Suchias and his company in Georgia (2nd c.). Martyr Sabbas the Goth, of Wallachia (372).

This Week's Schedule

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Saturday 4/21 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 4/22 Hours 8:40 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

followed by Coffee Hour & Church School

Reader Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>3RD HOUR</u>	<u>6TH HOUR</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>
Apr-15	BUNITSKY	BUNITSKY	LEWIS
Apr-22	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Apr-29	SOUDER	SULPIZI	CAREY
May-6	LEWIS	PECK	PECK
May-13	BUNITSKY	BUNITSKY	FINCK

Hymns and Prayers

Priest: "Blessed is the Kingdom ... "

Choir: "Amen."

Priest: "Christ is risen from the dead ... " (2 ½ times)

Choir: "and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!"

(The Divine Liturgy is begun in this manner until the Leavetaking of Pascha.)

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.
Renew in us through them an upright spirit,//
by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

Tone 8 Kontakion *(from the Pentecostarion)*

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!"

(The Trisagion is sung)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power! His understanding is beyond measure! (Ps 146/147:5)

v: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! (Ps 146/147:1)

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."

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! (Ps 94/95:1)

v: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth. (Ps 94/95:3).

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.

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!

With Himself He has raised all the dead."

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on thee.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the Resurrection of thy Son!

Communion Hymn

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Priest: "In the fear of God ..."

Choir: "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord ..."

Priest: "O Lord, save Thy people ..."

Choir: "Christ is risen from the dead ..." (sung once, instead of "We have seen the True Light ...")

Priest: "Always, now and ever ..."

Choir: "Let our mouths be filled ..."

(At the Dismissal, the Priest says: "Glory to Thee, O Christ....," and the choir sings "Christ is risen from the dead...." (thrice).

And unto us He has given eternal life.
Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!

This Week's Announcement

Paschal Celebration Thanks A special Thanks to all who helped to make our Lenten and Paschal experience so joyful! May our Lord continue to bless the parish of St. Michael's with health, happiness, and many blessed years!

Study Group to Resume Our Study group will resume this Thursday April 19th at 10 am with "Courage to Pray" by Met. Anthony Bloom. All are welcome to join us.

Parking at the Church We continue to ask individuals to please park in the designated areas. The parish council realizes that parking close to the church is limited, however for safety sake please do not park in the fire/ambulance lanes. We need to keep these areas open in case of any emergency. We ask that if the parking lot is full please park on the street and be sure not to block anyone in. Thank you!

Greeters Ministry In response to the Paschal season and after discussions with the parish council we would like to, once again, start a greeter's ministry. St. Michael's has been blessed with several guests and visitors and what a better way to respond to those who are sent to us than offering a formal welcome. We are looking for at least two people willing to volunteer to lead and organize this ministry. Please consider your calling to be a greeter and see Fr. Barnabas or Jeff Kendall for more details.

Christ is Risen!

This Bright Week, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord and enjoy the festal services, is a good time to think about the deepest meanings of Christ's saving actions for us.

Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev's book "The Mystery of Faith: An Introduction to the Teaching and Spirituality of the Orthodox Church" can guide us in this thinking. Originally published in 2002, the book has been offered in a new (2011) edition by Saint Vladimir's Seminary Press (<http://www.svspress.com>), with a foreword by Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia.

The book's final chapter, entitled "The Life of the Age to Come", discusses death and resurrection, prayer for the departed, the last judgment, and hell.

The Christian tradition, the author writes, inherited its belief in the resurrection of the dead from the Old Testament. A striking example of the Old Testament belief is in the words of the brothers facing martyrdom in the book of Maccabees. One brother addresses the king who is about to execute him: "Thou like a fury takest us out of this present life, but the King of the world shall raise us up, who have died for His laws." The mother of the martyred brothers declares that the Creator who made the world "will also of His own mercy give you breath and life again..."

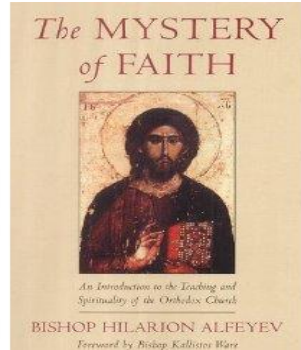
Metropolitan Hilarion writes that the practice of praying for the dead is based on the understanding "that the fate of the soul after death is not clear before the final, universal resurrection, and that the situation of the departed might be changed for the better by the prayers of the living." He cites traditional sources to show that there is a chance—not certainty—that prayer can deliver some people from hell. Saint Gregory Dialogos prayed for the emperor Trajan, a persecutor of Christians, and "received confirmation from God" that his prayers had been heard.

Universal salvation is the subject of several currently popular books. Metropolitan Hilarion summarizes the Orthodox teaching: "It would be a heresy to insist on the necessity of the salvation of all, as if this were compulsory for both God and human beings, but it is not a heresy to believe in the possibility of the salvation of all, and to continue to pray and hope for that."

The words of Saint Silouan of Mount Athos quoted in the book are a warning against hoping that our enemies will burn in hell:

"You say that so-and-so is an evildoer, and may he burn in Hell-fire. But I ask you—supposing God were to give you a fair place in Paradise, and you saw burning in the fire the man on whom you had

wished the tortures of Hell, even then would you really not feel pity for him, whoever he might be, an enemy of the Church even? Or is it that you have a heart of steel? But there is no place for steel in Paradise. Paradise has need of humility and the love of Christ, which pities all men.”



This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.

Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

'God, heal your creature, that he not be ruled by the enemy.'

St. Poemen

"God never abandons a soul that puts its trust in Him, even though it is overpowered by temptations, for He is aware of all weaknesses. A man knows the weight that can be placed on the back of an ass, a mule or a camel, and burdens each beast with as much as it can carry; the potter knows how long he must keep his clay in the fire, for if he exposes it too long to the flames, the pot will crack, and if he does not bake it long enough, it will not be fit for use. Now if a man has judgment as precise as this, how infinitely greater is the wisdom of God in judging the degree of temptation which a soul is able to bear?"

St. Nilus of Sora

Prayers for the Departed: Archpriest JohnNehrebecki, Matuska Mary Perez, Matushka Barbara Kucynda, Mark Gundersen, John Berket

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Fr. Deacon James Carpenter, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Jennifer Franchak, Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Peter Melnik, Olga Riley, Marie Holowatch, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Zack Bajuyo, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Mona Elia, Lydia Kendall, Maria and Doug Dozier, Mary Anne Farrell, Catalina(Mary) & Jeremy (John) Finck, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Benjamin, Charles, Patrica, Lubov, Marilyn Coyle, Alfred Mokhiber, Stephanie Hojnicky, Leah Reed, Jameson Edward Reed

Prayers for Women and the Child to be born: Maria Peck, Rachel Facaros, Jacquelyn Marie Wham, Rachael Irene Shatley, Stephanie Riley

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Cleaner</u>	<u>Library</u>
15-Apr	Peck/Wales	Telep/Baldychev	Finck	Skomorucha
22-Apr	Whalen/ Clause/ Gabriel	Bunitsky/Lewis	Skomorucha/Lewis	Maloney
29-Apr	O. Arshinova and Julia	Elia/Morjana	Peck/Peck	Lewis
6-May	POT LUCK - Bunitsky	Riley/Riley	Baldychev/Shatley/	Gundersen

Church School Reminder

April 15 St. Thomas Sunday Egg Hunt
 April 22 Class
 April 29 Class
 May 6 Sunday School Wrap up