

# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

## OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN Sunday April 11 2010 Antipascha St Thomas Sunday



8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219) 947-4748 (Church)  
(219) 730-4698 (Hall Rental)

Great Vespers  
Saturday - 4 PM  
Feast Days - 7 PM  
Divine Liturgy  
Sunday - 9:45 AM  
Feast Days - 9 AM  
Sunday Adult class 9Am  
Children's classes after liturgy

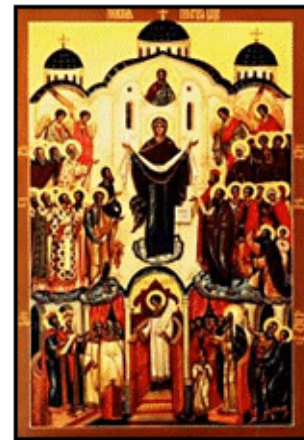
Fr. Peter Bodnar, Rector

Fr. Christopher Sarafin

All services in English

A parish of the  
Orthodox Church in America

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Protection of the Virgin Mary

**ANTIPASCHA. 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 1. St. Thomas Sunday.** Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum, disciple of St. John the Theologian (92). Ven. Jacob (James), Abbot of Zheleznobórovsk (1442), and his fellow ascetic, James. St. Varsonúfii (Barsanuphius), Bishop of Tver' (1576). Martyrs Processus and Martinian of Rome (1st c.). Ven. Pharmuthius, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.). Ven. John, disciple of Ven. Gregory of Decapolis (9th c.). St. Callinicus of Cernica, Bishop of Rimnicului in Romania (1868). The Appearance of the **"FOOTPRINT"** Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos at Pochayev.



### Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom!// Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!"

### 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 of the Tone 1 (Resurrection)

As God Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself.

Human nature praises Thee as God, for death hath vanished! Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: thou art the giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ

### 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

### Continuing Power in the Church

12 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. 13 Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. 14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 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. 16 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.

### Imprisoned Apostles Freed

17 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, 18 and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. 19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

## John 20:19-31 The Apostles Commissioned

19 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." 20 When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained."

### Seeing and Believing

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 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."

26 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!" 27 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."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."

### That You May Believe

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 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.

## **About the feast day and Icons**

**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 St 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.**

**Question: What day is called the Lord's day ?**

Answer from above: Sunday

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY...April 11 2010..

SUNDAY 11 9am Adult class, 9:45 3rd Hr 10:00 Divine Liturgy ,Church School . Fashion show at the Avalon  
TUESDAY 13 6pm Prayer Service  
SATURDAY 17 4pm Great Vespers



June 5th is  
tee off

Ahh, Our Annual Golf outing is just around the corner.

Saturday June 5th 2010

Our first hole sponsor is also already in.

it is US Congressman Pete Visclosky

Thanks again for your support Pete  
<http://www.house.gov/visclosky/>

The Power of Peter's Shadow

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## The Power of Peter's Shadow

Department of  
**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

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>.



April 11 is Thomas Sunday, when we read the well-known story of the apostle Thomas' encounter with the risen Christ. But on this day we also read a passage that reveals the extraordinary spiritual growth of another apostle, Peter.

This passage, Acts 5:15, tells us that the Spirit-filled apostles were doing many signs and wonders among the people, in a part of the Temple in Jerusalem called Solomon's Portico. The leader in this exciting work was none other than Peter, once so afraid and craven that he denied knowing Christ. But now, people "carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, so that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them."

Some might question the idea that Peter's shadow could have an effect. But Luke makes two other references to such healing power. One is in his Gospel, where we read (8:43-44) about the woman who has had flow of blood for twelve years. She comes up behind Jesus, obviously in fear and trembling, and touches the fringe of His garment. The flow of blood ceases at once. Far from rebuking her or criticizing what she has done, the Lord receives her humble declaration "in the presence of the people that she has been healed of a terrible affliction by touching His clothing. He says, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

Luke also tells us, in Acts 19:11, that God "did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul." The apostle was so revered and trusted as a healer that people took handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his body to the sick, and "diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them."

Some people still have difficulty in understanding this working of God's grace through human beings. Visitors to an Orthodox Liturgy may express discomfort at seeing worshippers venerate the hem of the priest's garment. But the examples in Luke and Acts give us a good basis to explain what is going on. The same explanation could apply to kissing the hand of a priest and asking for a blessing; the grace that comes is only in God, but it comes through the hand of His ordained servant.

Peter's new courage as he and the apostles worked among the people would soon be needed, as today's passage from Acts reveals. The jealous Sadducees arrested and imprisoned him and the others. They were rescued and released by an angel, but their release didn't mean that they could go home and relax. The angel gave specific instructions: "Go and stand in the Temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." The apostles were to return to the very place where opposition to their message was strongest and most concentrated, and were to continue delivering that message.

It was not an easy assignment, but they carried it out admirably, creating the foundation of the Church to which we can now belong.