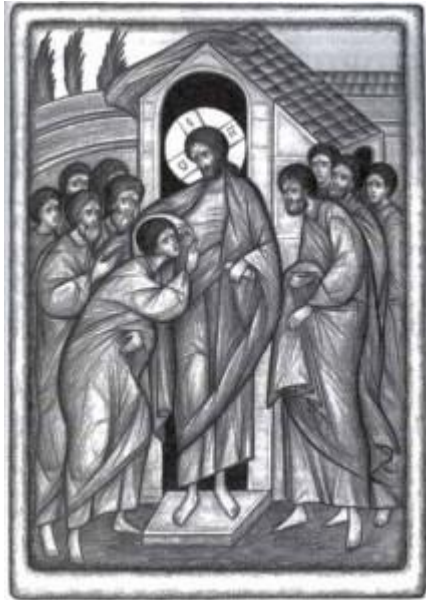


# *St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley*

## **Sunday, May 8, 2016 Second Sunday of Pascha**

**St. Thomas the Apostle  
Matins, 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM**



*Pastor:*

Father Andrew Kishler

*Parish Council officers:*

President, Mark Kerasotes  
Vice President, Dee Khoury  
Secretary, Lynette Forsa  
Treasurer, Anysia Medawar

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St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
The Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH  
The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest  
[www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)



**Today's Epistle Reader:** Mark Kerasotes

**Today's Holy Bread and Coffee Hour:** Memorial for Amelia Malooley

**Next Sunday's Coffee Hour:** Matt and Nan McNatt

*Hymns of the Day, immediately after the Small Entrance:*

**Entrance Hymn:** In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

**Troparion for St. Thomas Sunday (Tone 7):** While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

**Troparion for St. John the Evangelist (Tone 2):** O Apostle John, speaker of divinity, the beloved of Christ God, hasten and deliver thy people powerless in argument; for He on Whose bosom thou didst lean accepteth thee as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the cloud of the stubborn nations, asking for us safety and the great mercy.

**Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8):** O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: 'Rejoice!' And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those who had fallen!

*The Hymn to the Theotokos for the Paschal season:*

O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee.

The angel spake to her that is full of grace, saying, 'O pure Virgin, rejoice; and I say also, Rejoice; for thy Son is risen from the tomb on the third day!' Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord hath risen upon thee. Rejoice and exult now, O Zion, and thou, O pure one, Theotokos, rejoice at the Resurrection of thy Son!

## **THE EPISTLE**

For St. John the Evangelist

His sound hath gone forth into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

### **The Reading from the First Epistle of St. John. (1:1-7)**

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us – that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

## **THE GOSPEL**

For the Sunday of St. Thomas

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

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them 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. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I 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; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe.”

Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the 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.

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

*For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, see our website, [www.stgeorgeorthodox.org](http://www.stgeorgeorthodox.org).*

- **Christ is risen, and Happy Mother's Day!** Mother's Day is a great joy to many, and a difficult time for others. One thing we can all do is remember in prayer today all of our mothers, living and departed. May God remember all of our mothers!
- **Wednesday, May 11:** Evening Prayers for Pascha, 6pm. Father Andrew will be available for confession and/or anointing.
- **Saturday, May 14:** Vespers, 6pm.
- **Next Sunday, May 15: Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women.** Matins, 9am; Divine Liturgy, 10am.
- **Also next Sunday:** May Parish Council meeting, after Liturgy and coffee hour.

*Blessings to all of you on this holy occasion of our Lord's resurrection from the dead! A special thank you to all who worked hard to make Holy Week and Easter a success for us again this year: our chanters, readers, altar servers, decorators, cooks, and anyone else who gave of their time and resources. Many thanks for your kind greetings and gifts to the church and to my own family during this time.*

*~Fr. Andrew*

This year's **Parish Life Conference** will be June 22-26 in Livonia, Michigan. Please consider attending this excellent event on behalf of our church!

We are also pleased to announce that **His Grace Bishop Anthony** plans to visit us in Spring Valley, the weekend of October 15 and 16. More information will follow as we draw closer to that date.

*Do you have an announcement for the bulletin?*

*Please contact Fr. Andrew no later than Friday each week for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.*

# Sunday Volunteer Schedule

	Holy Bread/Coffee Hour	Epistle Reader
<b>TODAY</b>	Memorial for Amelia Malooley	Kenneth Wiltse
<b>Sunday, May 15</b>	Matt and Nan McNatt	George Forsa
<b>Sunday, May 22</b>	George and Mona Kaleel	David Anderson
<b>Sunday, May 29</b>	Kishler, Buss, and Anderson	Matthew McNatt
<b>Sunday, June 5</b>	Mitch Kaleel and family	Matthew Rowan
<b>Sunday, June 12</b>	John/Melanie Thompson	Mike Kasap
<b>Sunday June 19</b>	Ron/Dottie Malooley	Mark Kerasotes



## :: Synaxarion Reading for the Sunday of St. Thomas ::

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the inauguration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha" because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday of the Resurrection, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ.

By the intercessions of Thine Apostles, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.



**BIBLE READINGS FOR HOLY WEEK  
MAY 8 – MAY 15**



**St. Thomas Sunday, May 8:**

1 John 1:1-7 / John 20:19-31

**Monday, May 9:**

Jonah 4\* / Acts 3:19-26 / John 2:1-11

**Tuesday, May 10: Holy Apostle Simon the Zealot**

Joshua 5:10-15 / 1 Corinthians 4:9-16 / Luke 6:12-19

**Wednesday, May 11:**

Exodus 13:20-14:18 / Acts 4:13-22 / John 5:17-24

**Thursday, May 12:**

Exodus 14:19-31 / Acts 4:23-31 / John 5:24-30

**Friday, May 13:**

Exodus 15:1-21 / Acts 5:1-11 / John 5:30-6:2

**Saturday, May 14:**

Acts 5:21-32 / John 6:14-27

**Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women, May 15:**

Acts 6:1-7 / Mark 15:43-16:8

*\* Old Testament readings are Paschal prophecies, taken from the Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday.*

**“YOU CANNOT ALWAYS DEPEND ON PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED THE WAY YOU WANT THEM ANSWERED BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS DEPEND ON GOD, THE LOVING FATHER OFTEN DENIES US THOSE THINGS WHICH IN THE END WOULD PROVE HARMFUL TO US. EVERY BOY WANTS A REVOLVER AT AGE FOUR, AND NO FATHER YET HAS EVER GRANTED THAT REQUEST. WHY SHOULD WE THINK GOD IS LESS WISE? SOMEDAY WE WILL THANK GOD NOT ONLY FOR WHAT HE GAVE US, BUT ALSO FOR THAT WHICH HE REFUSED.”**

**~ ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN, *THE WARTIME PRAYER BOOK***

**:: Paschal Letter 2016 from His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph ::**

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

We greet you with great joy and love as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. I wish to share with you this beautiful Paschal Oration by St. Gregory the Theologian as my pastoral message for Pascha:

*Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him.*

*Yesterday I died with Him; Today I am made alive with Him.*

*Yesterday I was buried with Him; today I am raised up with Him.*

*Let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us...ourselves, the possession most precious to God and most proper.*

*Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us.*

*Let us become divine for His sake, since for us He became man.*

*He assumed the worse that He might give us the better.*

*He became poor that by His poverty we might become rich.*

*He accepted the form of a servant that we might win back our freedom.*

*He came down that we might be lifted up.*

*He was tempted that through Him we might conquer.*

*He was dishonored that He might glorify us.*

*He died that He might save us.*

*He ascended that He might draw to Himself we who were thrown down through the fall of sin.*

*Let us give all, offer all, to Him who gave Himself as a ransom and reconciliation for us.*

*We needed an incarnate God, a God put to death, that we might live.*

*We were put to death together with Him that we might be cleansed.*

*We rose again with Him because we were put to death with Him.*

*We were glorified with Him because we rose again with Him.*

*A few drops of blood recreate the whole of creation.*

*- St. Gregory the Theologian, from the Paschal Orations*

It is my prayer that the Light of the Empty Tomb will bring us the peace and joy which can only come from above. Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Yours in the Risen Christ,

+Joseph

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America