

St. Thomas Sunday
1st Sunday after
Pascha

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*Acts 5:12-20*  
*John 20:19-31*

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Homily
Fr. Marc Dunaway
Epistle Reader:
Tim Terrell

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

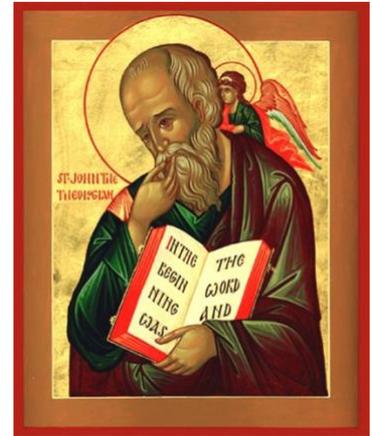
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## *Weekly Bulletin*



*Sunday, May 9, 2021*  
*And the Days Following*

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His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Great and Holy Pascha 2021

O Thy divine and beloved and most sweet voice! Thou hast promised that Thou wouldst be with us unto the end of the world, O Christ; and we faithful rejoice, having this as an anchor of hope.

Ninth Ode of the Paschal Canon

Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Parish Council Members, and beloved faithful:

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

Pascha is the joyful revelation that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Although the world and the devil, sin and death, threw everything they had against Christ, God is still with us. His resurrection gives us boldness to face every difficulty with unflinching trust in God.

During this past year, we have needed this "anchor of hope," as the winds and waves of crisis have beat against the ship of the Church. We still do. Let us rejoice that, in a world of uncertainty, Pascha's promise is sure and true!

Praying that Paschal joy will blaze forth in your hearts, I remain,

Yours in the Risen Lord,

+JOSEPH
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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Service Schedule for This Weekend

- ❖ Saturday, May 8, Vespers 7:15pm – ALL
 - ❖ Saturday, May 9, Matins/Liturgy 9/10am – OLIVET/SINAI
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Parish Events and News

From Pascha to Pentecost – What Next for Liturgies?

Dear Faithful and Friends of Saint John's,

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

First, I want to thank all the clergy and the chanters and choir singers for the beautiful Holy Week services we shared last week. In spite of the circumstances of this unique time, everything seemed to go very well. I know many enjoyed the Agape Vespers on Sunday and the opportunity to visit together outside and share a meal. As we move through this season of Pascha and towards the celebration of Pentecost on June 20, we can take one more step towards our normal gathering as a community.

In Friday's Anchorage Daily News, Megan Clancy, the Medical Director of Infection Control at Providence Hospital in Anchorage, wrote about the end of this pandemic, "*We are close, but we are not there yet.*" I think this is a fair statement most can agree with. So as much as we might wish, we cannot simply throw caution to the wind and gather with no considerations for the pandemic. Here, then, is how I propose we will take another step forward and still be safe and sensible.

One Sunday Service, Two Groups

We will have only one Sunday service each week. Two groups will be assigned to have a place in the Nave and Narthex on one Sunday, and the other two will be assigned to the Nave and Narthex on the following Sunday. Those not assigned can still participate by coming to the Cathedral and standing in the basement to watch the service on-screen, and then come upstairs when it is time to receive Communion. This means every family can go to liturgy every Sunday, if they want to: one Sunday upstairs, one Sunday downstairs. I heard from several who participated in Liturgy downstairs during Holy Week that the experience was good, much better than they thought it might be. Since we have only two Sundays left until School is out, we will soon be able to leave the basement set up just for this purpose. For this coming Sunday, the groups upstairs will be Olivet/Sinai. The next Sunday, May 16, will be for Tabor/Zion. After this, these groupings will alternate. A schedule will be posted on our website as usual.

Important Things to Note

- Matins will begin at 9am, but we will make some adjustments so that Matins lasts only one hour and the Divine Liturgy can start right at 10am. So please aim to arrive at the beginning of Liturgy to hear the priest announce, "*Blessed is the Kingdom....*"
- The capacity of the Nave will be limited to the number of chairs in the Nave. So please stand only where there are chairs, and be sensitive to other people who might want to observe the familiar social-distancing. In other words, ask before sitting right next to someone. The chairs will remain in the arrangement they were for Holy Week. Overflow for the assigned groups will be into the Narthex and then into the basement if necessary.
- Masks are still required in the Cathedral, upstairs and down. This is still mandated by the Anchorage Municipality, and it is also an important level of precaution for us at this time. From all that we have learned about Covid over the last year, participating in a Church service, standing close to other people for an extended time, and singing is one of the settings most susceptible to spreading a respiratory virus. Good air circulation is helpful, and we have a system that circulates our inside air well. Just three days ago I learned that after Holy Week all the monks in one Orthodox monastery

- in the United States got Covid and some are hospitalized. So it also should be re-stated that if you are sick, please stay home.
- Now that spring weather is here, we will set up a place outside under a canopy for coffee and snacks to be available after Liturgy. For now we will purchase simple, pre-packaged snacks. Coffee set-up and clean-up will be organized soon, so please be ready to help.
- Livestreaming Sunday morning services will continue for the summer.

How Long Will We Do This?

Honestly, one thing we will observe over the next period of time is if our increased gathering for services results in any virus-spreading event. Hopefully it will not, but the real possibility is still there. At this point Covid infections in Anchorage are trending down. This is largely due to the number of vaccinated people. In our parish about 60% of our adult members have been vaccinated. It would certainly increase our confidence to re-gather fully, if that number were higher, up to 70% percent or even more. Remember, a large part of our parish cannot get vaccinated, our children; and while the spread of Covid among children is much less, it does happen, and it is possible that new variants could make children more susceptible. There are parents who worry about this.

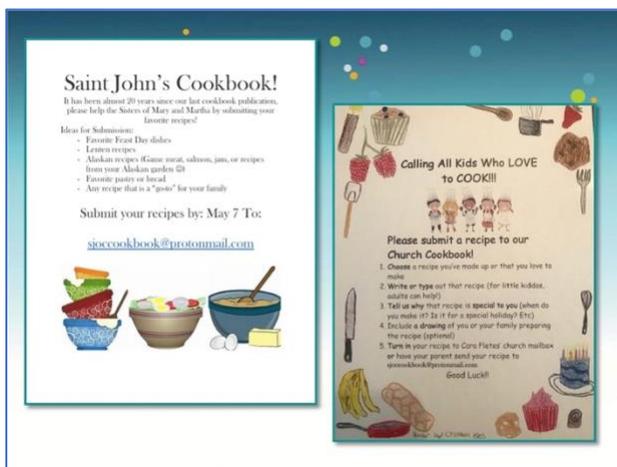
If any of this proposed above doesn't work, we will adjust. And if anything significantly changes with the spread of Covid in our larger community, we will also adjust to that as needed. Bearing all this in mind, let us continue to pray that God will lead us and take care of us; and let us continue to be kind and respectful to one another in our differences.

With gratitude for you all and all that you do,

Fr. Marc

Food For Hungry People Boxes

Remember to turn you boxes in this week. Also if you didn't save your coins, you may donate online on the church website and tag it as 'FFHP'.



Cookbook

By now you have probably gotten a call from those working on a new Church Cookbook. So don't forget to submit those recipes.

Email Correction!

Also – some have sent their emails to the wrong email address.

So make sure you have it correct and re-submit if needed. Sjccookbook@protonmail.com

Notes and Pictures from Parishioners

“Checking In” with Each Other

Remember to send in Photos: Email stjohnalaska@aol.com



Check out the **Photo Gallery** on our Website, listed under ‘About Us’. There is an album titled “**Scenes from Holy Week and Pascha**”. We had lots of beautiful photos submitted and you can find them there or by clicking [HERE](#).

Cabin For Lease

2BR cabin, 800 sq. ft. on Monastery Dr. Limited water, good for 1 or 2 people. Affordable rent! See Dn. Pat Lamb or call 862-4154.



House For Sale

Nicholas Guio’s house, located on Don Circle, is coming up for sale. We are offering it to any interested parties before we list it with a realtor. It is about 1500 sq.ft. and has 3 bedrooms, and two bathrooms. It also has an excellent well. If you are interested, please contact Denise Ray.

Yard Sale/Estate Sale

Yard sale this weekend and/or next weekend, put on Dn. Pat and David Sorensen. Located on 1st driveway of Monastery Dr. (19387 C). Lots of fancy bikes, mechanic tools, tool boxes, yard tools, fancy knives, chair saw, etc.



Northern Lights ‘Coupon Book’

The Templeton’s are offering the Northern Lights Coupon Book this year for \$50 instead of the usual \$55. The school usually sells these but were unable to do so this year. If you would like to purchase one, contact Steve Templeton at 907-227-0675.

Dates to Remember

Birthdays This Week

May 9 - Bethany Dunaway
May 12 - Ian Johnson

May 13 - Meghan Jones
May 16 - Arianna Stallman

M A N Y Y E A R S !



Anniversaries This Week

Mark & Theresa Agnew - May 11, 2019
Jesse & Andrea Stiehr - May 14, 2000

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



- * Infant - Lazarus Frizelle - 5/1/2008
- * Abner Picon - 5/1/2016
- * Presbyter Garland Peters 5/6/1979

M E M O R Y E T E R N A L !

Remembering in Prayer...



*Preston Collier
Helen Gillquist
Jan Northey
Lina Curry
Melanie Rogers
Anna Haley*

*Tom Johnson
Catherine Cowan
Mother Galina*

All Those Suffering With Covid

*Tisha Dunham
Margaret Grasse
Eloise Lamb
Phebe Dyal
Chris Grasse
Helen Maidenrath
(Coleman)
Safwat Attia
Robin Armstrong
Katie Jones*

Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month



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- * Abner Picon - 5/1/2016
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M E M O R Y E T E R N A L !

Clare House Meal - 4th Saturday of Each Month

For the Month of **MAY** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:
Saturday, May 22. Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.



The Synaxarion



Thomas Sunday

On this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, we continue with the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion of when the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

Verses

*If the seals of the Virgin's womb and of the
grave did not hold You back,
How could the seals of the doors hinder
Your might, O Savior?*

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha" because Thomas did not see for himself Christ's Resurrection and openly doubted it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicated

Sunday to commemorate the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday following the Resurrection, Jesus passed through closed doors and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be with you." He then showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus also 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 actually risen from the dead. *Eight days later, Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present.* The Master told Thomas to see and feel the scars and imprints of the nails. 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 nature and the divine nature of Christ.

By the intercessions of Your Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.