

Thomas Sunday

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*Acts 5:12-20*

*John 20:19-31*

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*Homily by
Fr. Marc Dunaway*

*Epistle Reader
Bradley Forbes*

*Coffee Hour Hosts:
Snider / Fletes*

St. John Orthodox Cathedral

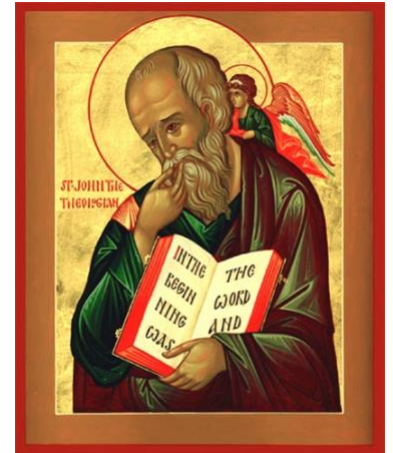
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## *Weekly Bulletin*

*Sunday, April 19, 2026*

*And the Days Following*

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O Apostle John, speaker of Deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him, therefore, to disperse the darkness of ignorance and pray for peace and great mercies to be shown upon us.

Parish Events and News



**Wedding Next Sunday
of
Alyssa Espino & Jacob Goetz
April 26 at 4:00pm**



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium)
Sundays from 12:30 – 2:00pm



Coffee Hour This Sunday - April 19, 2026 Group Mark (3) - Third Sunday of the Month

Hosts Families: Snider / Fletes

Snacks: Alexander, Artz, Burkowske, Cook, Doss, B & D Dunaway, Dyal, Espino, Fletes, P. Gillquist, Griffith, Hattenburg, Hunter, E & H Johnson, Justus, Kendall, Labrecque, Lowry, Marcus, O Medders, T & L Mellor, Northey, Palmer, Polson, Scherer, Sorensen, J & A Stiehr, A & J Temple, V. Temple, Unser, Wasile, Wolkoff

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**No Coffee Hour - Due to Wedding**



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## St. John's School Weekly News

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**BETTER THAN CRACKER BARREL**

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SAINT JOHN'S SCHOOL  
**BBQ & COUNTRY STORE FUNDRAISER**

FRIDAY, MAY 8 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

**BBQ DINNER**

\$20 - Ages 12+  
\$10 - Ages 6-11  
Free 5 and under

**RAFFLE - \$20 PER TICKET**

★ 1st PRIZE: Two Alaska Airlines Mileage Tickets  
(Max 50,000 miles each or 100,000 miles total)

★ 2nd PRIZE: Two Alaska Railroad Tickets to Denali  
(Round Trip | Adventure Class)

★

Games for All Ages  
Cake Walk  
Square Dancing

**BBQ DINNER TICKETS**

Scan QR Code to purchase online.

**RAFFLE TICKETS & VOLUNTEERS**

Call Kali Macalino  
907-696-3920

**Dear St. John's Parish,**

Join us for a fun-filled evening at St. John's School's annual fundraiser on **May 8!** This year's theme is "*Better Than Cracker Barrel Country Store and BBQ.*"

Enjoy great food, community, and a fun, family-friendly evening. Tickets are on sale now—purchase online at [sjocs.org](http://sjocs.org) or call the school office. Please see the flyer below for more details.


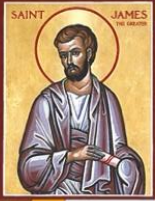
We hope to see you all there!

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## *St. James House Weekly News*

### St. James Café


COFFEE, PASTRIES,  
and COMMUNITY!





Come Sit And Enjoy A Cup Of  
Coffee and Catch Up With Friends

 **TUES & THURS**  
**8 AM - 9 AM**

- Drip Coffee
- Wild Iris Pastries
- Great Conversation



**Saint James House**



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## *News From Our Antiochian Archdiocese*



### [Paschal Greeting from our Met. Saba](#)

Great and Holy Pascha, 2026

My beloved brother bishops,  
My spiritual sons, the beloved priests and deacons,  
My beloved in Christ, sons and daughters of the God protected Archdiocese,

I greet you on this great feast, crying out with you: Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!

Each year, Pascha returns as a season of light, renewing within us the strength of true life and the possibility of our transfiguration and that of the world. This is what I pray for you every day. May you remain always immersed in the joy of the Resurrection.

### **"The Resurrection and Me"**

My meditation this year on Your Resurrection, O my Christ, carried me to its very end, so I asked myself why Pascha remains an annual commemoration and does not become a daily reality in my life. I found the answer in my forgetfulness of eternal life. I realized that when I live on the level of earthly things, I see the Resurrection as no more than a joyful event. But when eternal life becomes my destination and my desire, I live it already, here and now, by the power of the life Your Resurrection has brought me, O my Lord and God.

You told us once: "And this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3). Knowing You is either on the personal level — at the level of one's very being, not merely of the mind — or it is not a knowledge that leads to eternal life. This knowledge calls for a longing for Your heavenly Kingdom, which, the more it is kindled within me, the more I taste it here on earth.

Abide with me, O Lord, that I may be strengthened by the power of Your Resurrection and fear death no longer; for life with You is life indeed, and Your absence is true death. Everything around me and within me seeks life, yet its joy quickly fades. And although I believe that the true life whose joy never fades is by You and in You, I still fear paying its price.

I want the joy of Your Resurrection without passing through the Cross; therefore, I still stumble and limp between the two. Teach me how to direct my gaze toward Your Resurrection so that, in its light, I may see the Cross as the passage to the defeat of death and all that is bound to it.

Strengthen me to overcome whatever prevents me from setting out toward You and whatever binds me to the glitter and sweetness of this world, so that I may taste Your grace when You touch me and my spiritual senses may no longer remain dull.

Today I am like the two disciples of Emmaus — troubled, anxious, and afraid of what is happening in this world. I long to be with You, for that is far better, but I cannot do it alone. I need You, and like the two disciples I call upon You: "Abide with us, Lord" (Luke 24:29), for the evening of this world has grown dark and its day is fading.

Abide with me, O Lord, that my old self may be renewed and I may become a new person, trampling underfoot all that prevents You from remaining with me.

Abide with me, O Lord, that I may know the power of Your Resurrection, carry Your Cross with joy, and bear witness to the world that it is the passageway to the Resurrection.

Abide with me, O Jesus, that I may see the world in the light of Your eyes and be a witness of joy, peace, and consolation within it.

Abide with me, that by Your Resurrection I may overcome my sins, trample my deadness, and crush my shortcomings and vices.

Abide with me, break Your bread, and give it to me, that my eyes may be opened and my heart may burn with love for You, and that I may proclaim what Your presence works within me.

So, when I cry out that You are risen, risen forever, those who hear me will believe me and know that I am not merely repeating a song I love.

Restore me and Your people, O my Christ, to an everlasting feast, so that our daily greeting may become: O my joy, Christ is risen!

Your father in the risen Christ,

**+SABA**

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

## *Notes and Pictures from Parishioners*

### **“Checking In” with Each Other**

Is there something you'd like to share? Please email [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org)



Here is the link to their registry:  
<https://www.amazon.com/wedding/guest-view/2NKWST92SHM4S>

### **A Note from Nicole Unser...**

“Greetings everyone - please enjoy this video poem I created about the bittersweet nature of Christ's Passion based on my first Pascha last year: <https://nicoleunser.substack.com/p/a-perpetual-pascha>

It is a delight worshipping with you, and I'd love to hear about your Pascha experience this year. Please reach out! [Nicole@nicoleunser.com](mailto:Nicole@nicoleunser.com)” —Nicole Unser

## *Dates to Remember*

### *'Moms with Little Ones' Reading Group - Wednesdays 10am*

We will meet at the St. James House. If you have any questions, contact Natasha Haines at 907-351-4942.



Men's Book Club

### *Men's Book Club - Wednesdays 7-8pm*

The Men's Book Club will be reading *On the Incarnation* by St. Athanasius. We will do all the reading together during our meeting time, with discussion interspersed throughout.

We will be returning to our pre-Lent Wednesday schedule, meeting from 7:00–8:00 PM at the St. James House, beginning April 22.

Public-domain printouts of the text will be available at our meetings, so there is no need to purchase a copy. For anyone who would like to buy one, we will be using the Lawson translation.



### *Women's Reading Group - Thursdays at 10am*

We meet at 10am at the Senior Center Meeting Room, in the HUD building on the second floor. Hope to see you there! —Ann Patras



### *Anniversaries This Week*

Jeff & Darlene Hunter - April 22, 2026

## *Birthdays This Week*

April 20 - Anastasia Jones

April 21 - Jerry Finkler

April 21 - Kristine Lindblom

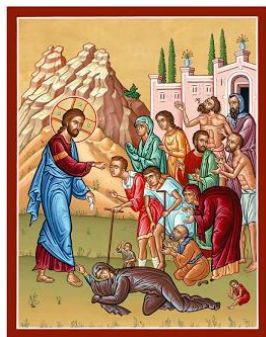
April 23 - Kathleen Cooley

April 23 - Sam Lowry

April 25 - Jessica Kies

April 26 - Rowan Griffith

*M A N Y   Y E A R S !*



## *Remembering in Prayer...*

*Matt Komar  
Zoie (Oksana's Mom)  
Dirk Moffatt  
Jan Northey  
Shirley Wolkoff*

*Jennifer Stogsdill  
Joyce Arvidson  
Sally Eckert  
Justin Clodfelter*

*We continue to pray for all those suffering in Ukraine  
and for all those suffering in Israel and Gaza, for a quick end to  
war and for peace*

## *Remembering Those Who Have Fallen Asleep This Month*



\* Kent Allen Ihde - April 13, 2000

\* Herb Enns - April 21, 2003

*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 **APRIL** – our scheduled meal that we provide Clare House is:  
**Saturday, Apr 25.** Contact Cara Fletes to see how you can help.

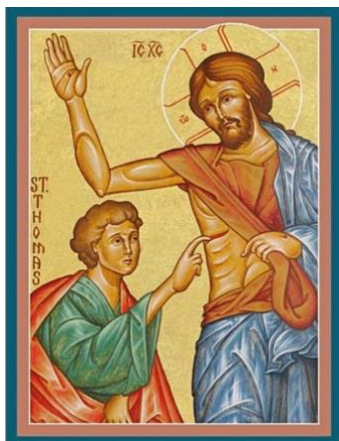


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## THE SYNAXARION

### Thomas Sunday

On April 19, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Paphnoutios of Jerusalem; Tryphon, Patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable Martyr Agathangelos of Esphigmenou Monastery on Athos; Venerable Simeon of Philotheou Monastery on Athos; Venerable John of Old Lavra in Palestine.



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 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 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.

#### **Bulletin Announcement Guidelines**

Send announcements to church email address: [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org) Have announcements submitted by Thursday or at very latest Friday 9am. If you have any questions regarding announcements – contact Maris Kelly at the church office. 907-696-2002.

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#### **Saint John Orthodox Cathedral**

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(907) 696-2002 • Fax: (907) 696-5555 • Email [cathedral@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:cathedral@stjohnalaska.org) -

Parish Council Email [parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org](mailto:parishcouncil@stjohnalaska.org) • Website: [stjohnalaska.org](http://stjohnalaska.org)

• Diocesan Website: <http://www.antiochianladiocese.org>

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Pastor: Fr. Marc Dunaway • Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Polson