

## Today's Scripture Readings

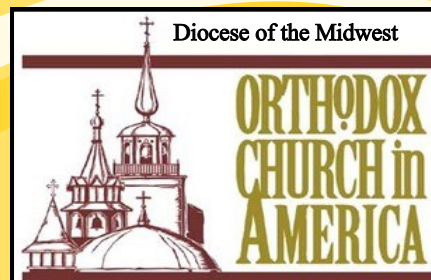
### Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

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."

### 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.

*Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!*



## Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

2238 E. 32nd St

Lorain, OH 44055

[www.OrthodoxLorain.org](http://www.OrthodoxLorain.org)

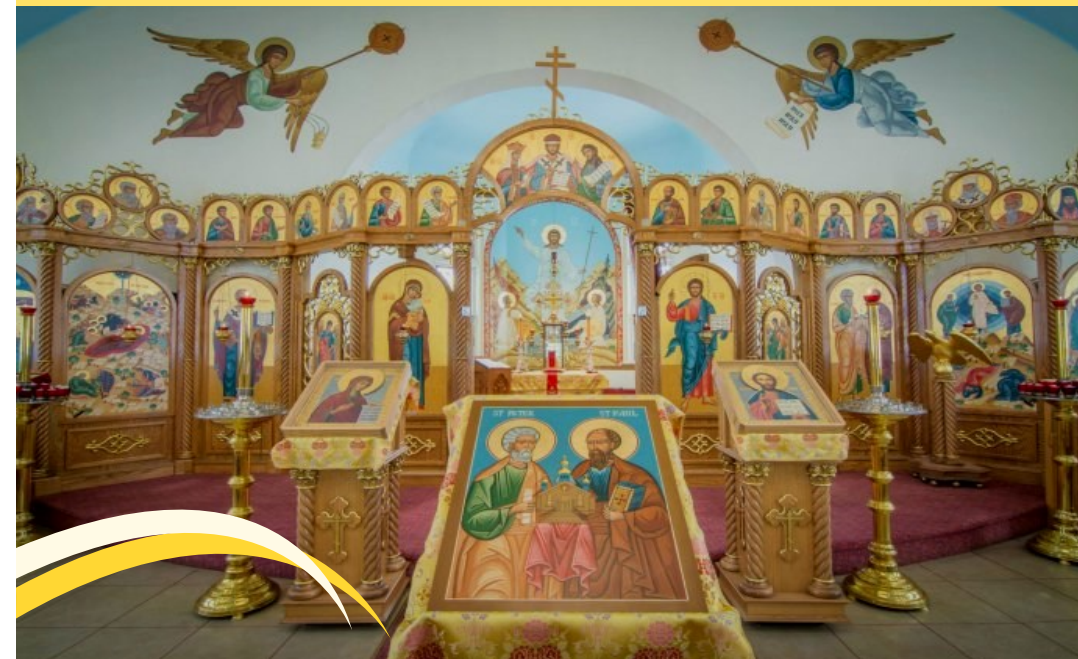
**Archpriest Joseph McCartney, Rector**

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# Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

May 12, 2024



## ANTIPASCHA St. Thomas Sunday

*St. Germanus,  
Patriarch of Constantinople  
(740)*

### Divine Liturgy

### Readings

*(Readings on Back)*

- ◆ Acts 5:12-20
- ◆ John 20:19-31

## Announcements:

### Grave Blessings

Weather permitting, NEXT Sunday, May, 19th we will meet at noon for our annual parish Grave Blessings. We will meet at the old Orthodox Monument in Elmwood Cemetery and proceed along our normal route.

### Happy Mother's Day

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we honor the profound love, guidance, and nurturing of mothers, grandmothers, and godmothers. May your day be filled with joy, love, and cherished moments!

### Continuing Education

Join us on Tuesday, May 21 for our next continuing education class focused on the profound person of Jesus Christ. Join us as we delve deeper into understanding His teachings, life, and significance in our Orthodox Faith.

### Parish Resource Directory

There is a draft of the parish directory in the back of church. Please check to see if your information is correct. If something needs to be changed or added, please make note of the correction in clear print. Initial when approved.

### Annual Food Festival Startup Fundraiser

There are envelopes on the bulletin board downstairs that you may choose to sponsor specific cost of supplies or make a general donation to offset the \$4,000 needed for food, beverages and other supplies.

### Parish Feast Day

Is Saturday, June 29th. We will celebrate with morning Divine Liturgy and an afternoon Lamb roast. Detailed flyer will be distributed soon.

## This Week's Schedule

### Tuesday, May 14

6:00pm - Parish Council

### Saturday, May 18

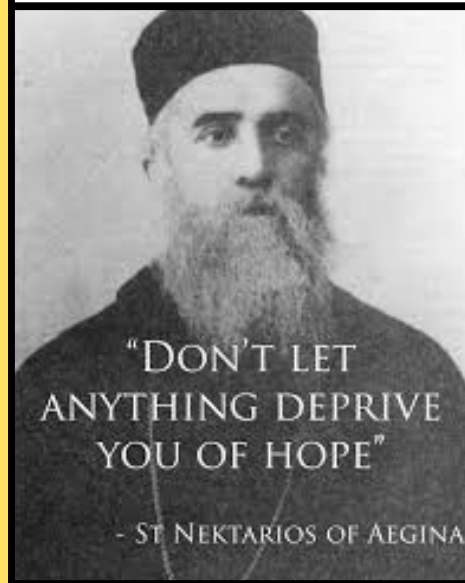
6:00pm - Great Vespers

### Sunday, May 19

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

12:00pm - Grave Blessings



"DON'T LET  
ANYTHING DEPRIVE  
YOU OF HOPE"

- ST NEKTARIOS OF AEGINA

## Antipascha—Thomas Sunday

The Orthodox Church observes the Sunday of Thomas one week following the celebration of the Sunday of Holy Pascha. The day commemorates the appearance of Christ to His disciples on the evening of the Sunday following Passover. It also commemorates the appearance of the Lord to His disciples eight days later when Thomas was present and proclaimed "My Lord and my God" upon seeing the hands and side of Christ.

This Sunday is also called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

The Gospel reading for the Sunday of St. Thomas is often used as an exposition on faith. In it, the Holy Apostle Thomas was absent when our Lord appeared to the rest of the Apostles in a shuttered room after His Resurrection. St. Thomas joined them later and expressed doubts as to the event which the other disciples related to him, stating that he would require physical proof of such an occurrence. Eight days later, Jesus again came to the Apostles with St. Thomas present; he allowed St. Thomas to inspect and actually touch the wounds to assuage his uncertainties. Christ gently reproached him about having faith in that which cannot be seen. Most people know this as the story of "the Doubting Thomas."

The basic lesson about faith is present in the Gospel reading, but a very interesting subtext must also be pointed out. St. Thomas did not only express doubts about the appearance of our Lord; he also questioned the veracity of the other Disciples. He diminished their reliability; he exhibited a level of disunity with a group of people with whom he continuously and intimately shared nearly three years of his life. The Holy Apostle Thomas demonstrated a lack of faith in not only our Lord but also in the remainder of the Apostles.

St. Thomas could not comprehend that his Master had actually returned bodily from the grave after His Crucifixion. To the Apostle Thomas, this return from the dead was a physical and "rational" impossibility in his "universe." What he failed to understand was that God is not subject to the limitations of our "universe," because a completely different actuality exists, one in which the temporal and transcendent simultaneously and inseparably co-exist. St. Thomas could not accept the reality of the Resurrection without sensible proof even though Christ had specifically told him and the other Apostles that it was going to occur and even though his fellow Apostles swore that they had seen their risen Teacher in locked room where they had sequestered themselves. In the mind of St. Thomas, the obvious humanity of Jesus logically exceeded His proclaimed divinity; the Jesus that the Apostle perceived lived as a human, so it was understandable that His nature was only to be seen as human within an apparent reality of temporal-spatial limitations which could only produce very human consequences and outcomes; the Apostle Thomas assumed that if Jesus had in fact appeared in the room, as his brothers had described, he could not have been there bodily but only as a spirit or spirit body consistent with some Jewish theology of the time. St Thomas misunderstood the transcendence of God and as a result, he revealed his lack of faith in both Our Lord and his fellow Apostles.



Christ offered proof to St. Thomas of His physical presence and in the expanded reality that He had come to witness. He stood before the Holy Apostle and allowed him to examine His wounds in order to solidify his faith but Christ also offered a gentle reproach to St. Thomas and proclaimed the additional Beatitude: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

We as Orthodox Christians, are challenged by God to believe without seeing. We are called to expand our consciousness and our intellect to realize that what we see isn't answer to the question "Is that all

that there is?" Christ came into this world to demonstrate this very fact; the Son of God condescended to take human form and live under the same self-imposed limitations as we live, in order to demonstrate a path to salvation in the transcendent realm of Heaven. This is what He taught his Apostles and Disciples ; this is why He performed His miracles and this is why He voluntarily ascended the Cross and rose from the Tomb.

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The icon of the Sunday of Thomas depicts Christ standing in the midst of the disciples. He has appeared to the eleven in the upper room, and he is inviting Thomas to come and examine his hands and his side. Thomas is reaching out to touch the side of Jesus. He is also looking to Jesus in a manner that indicates his faith and the proclamation recorded in Scripture.

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 Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

### Troparion

*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

*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!*

### Prayers Appreciated for:

#### Living:

Archbishop Nathaniel  
Subdeacon Theophan  
Samuel  
Christine  
Dan, Marianne,  
Mat. Krystyna  
Mat. Kathy

#### Departed:

Bishop MATTHIAS  
(former Bishop of the Diocese  
of the Midwest)

#### Tall Candles

The tall center candles were  
given by  
Matushka Nadean Stoyka  
In memory of the  
Stoyka & Gillette  
Families

### WEEKDAY READINGS

#### **Monday, May 13**

*Virgin Martyr Glyceria at Heraclea*  
Acts 3:19-26  
John 2:1-11

#### **Tuesday, May 14**

*Day of Rejoicing — (Radonitsa)*  
Acts 4:1-10  
John 3:16-21

#### **Wed, May 15**

*St. Pachomius the Great*  
Acts 4:13-22  
John 5:17-24

#### **Thurs, May 16**

*St. Brendan the Navigator*  
Acts 4:23-31  
John 5:24-30

#### **Friday, May 17**

*Apostle Andronicus of the 70*  
Acts 5:1-11  
John 5:30-6:2

#### **Saturday, May 18**

*Martyr Theodotus of Ancyra*  
Acts 5:21-33  
John 6:14-27

