Hymns for Great and Holy Pascha

Christ is risen from the dead
dragging down death by death
and to those in the tombs
He has granted life.

Thomas Sunday Apolytikion

While the tomb was sealed, Thou O Life,
didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God;
and while the doors were shut,
Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all,
renewing through them an upright Spirit
in us according to Thy great mercy.

Kontakion

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One,
yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades,
and didst arise as victor, O Christ God,
calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice,
and giving peace unto Thine Apostles,
O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

Hymn to the Theotokos

You are the shining torch lamp and the Mother of God,
the immeasurable glory who is exalted over all creatures;
in hymns of praise you do we magnify.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, praise your God, O Zion.
Instead of “We have seen the light…”
Christ is risen from the dead
dragging down death by death
and to those in the tombs
He has granted life.

Scripture Readings for Thomas Sunday

The Orthros Gospel according to Matthew, 28:16-20

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee,
to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.
And when they saw Him they worshiped Him; but some doubted.
And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you;
and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen.”

Epistle Acts of the Apostles, 5:12-20

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles.
And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico.
None of the rest dared join them, but they were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood
among them and said: “Peace be with you.” Then

The Gospel according to 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 Him; and they 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 believing you may have life in His name.
The week after Pascha (Easter), the Church celebrates the Sunday of Thomas. This Sunday is also called the Sunday of (in Greek: Ἀντίπασχα) “Antipascha” because it commemorates several appearances of the risen Christ to His disciples. “Antipascha” means “in the place of Pascha” and not “in opposition to Pascha.” It is a “second” Pascha in the same way that every Sunday and every Divine Liturgy is a unique celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.

The underlying theme of the Sunday of Thomas is the mystical reality of signs. The Epistle (Acts 5:12-20) says, “Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles.” But in the Gospel (John 20:19-31), it is Christ Himself who presents the signs. The Gospel readings from Pascha to Pentecost are taken from the Gospel of Saint John for a reason. This Gospel is called the “Spiritual Gospel” because it reveals the Person of the God-Man Jesus Christ through symbolic theology more than historical events, as told in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke).

On the Sunday of the Resurrection — the “Eighth Day” — Jesus is seen by the women who had come to the tomb. The women then go and tell the Apostles. This is why Saint Mary Magdelene is called the “Apostle to the Apostles.” Later, the Lord appears to two disciples traveling on the seven-mile road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. When they arrive, the Lord sits at the table with them, He takes bread, blesses it, and gives it to them. At once, their eyes are opened, and they know it is Him. He then vanishes from their sight.

After this encounter, the Lord appears before the other disciples in Jerusalem. Even with locked doors, Jesus comes, stands among them, and says, “Peace be with you.” The Lord does not rebuke the disciples for abandoning or betraying Him, nor does He recount His passion, death, and descent into Hades. The first thing our Lord gives to them is peace. “Antipascha” means “in the place of Pascha” and not “in opposition to Pascha.” It is a “second” Pascha in the same way that every Sunday and every Divine Liturgy is a unique celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.

The following Sunday, the doors were again shut. Jesus appears, stands among them, and again says, “Peace be with you.” Then, with divine love, He says to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Put your hand in my side. Do not be faithless but believing.” Jesus demonstrates to him, and to all of us, that He was not a ghost but the risen Christ. It is then that Thomas makes one of the greatest confessions about the divinity of Christ in Scripture, “My Lord and my God!”

As a result, the Church refers to Thomas’s disbelief as “good” in our hymns, “Oh, how good is Thomas’s unbelief!” (in Greek: Ὡ καλὴ ἀπιστία τοῦ Θωμᾶ). It is “good” because it is based on a desire to find Christ and to meet Him directly and personally. If Thomas had not asked to touch the prints of the nails, we would not know without a doubt that Christ was Resurrected both in body and spirit. If Thomas had not doubted, we would not have this assurance. Thus, Thomas’s unbelief helps form our belief.

Jesus says to Thomas, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” These words refer to us, the “blessed who have not seen.” We have not touched His side, and we have not put our fingers on His scars. But we believe yet believe.” These words refer to us, the “blessed who have not seen.” We have not touched His side, and we have not put our fingers on His scars. But we believe even if we have not seen.” We have not touched His side, and we have not put our fingers on His scars. But we believe as “ministers of peace” (Luke 10:1-6). “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” He then breathes on them and says: “Receive the Holy Spirit.” In this way, the Lord empowers them for the ministry that lies ahead and gives them apostolic authority.

One of the Apostles, Thomas, was not with them when Jesus appeared. The other disciples tell him, “We have seen the Lord.” Thomas replies, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails in His hands and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.” Yet, Thomas’ absence the first time the Lord appears to the disciples was part of God’s Providence.

May we continue to grow in our faith in Christ, as the Holy Apostle Thomas did. When we encounter doubt, may it be an opportunity to ask Christ to reveal Himself more fully. Let us be inspired by Thomas and open our hearts to Christ and His peace. Christ is Risen!
Events & Announcements

Mother’s Day Luncheon

Today!

The men of Sts. Peter & Paul invite everyone to honor the mothers, grandmothers, and godmothers of our parish! Please join us for our annual luncheon following the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to celebrating with all of you!

Gentlemen, if you are looking for a way to honor our mothers, please consider gifting one of the items on the Quiet Room Registry!

Bible Study

Wednesday, May 15th
9:30-10:30am

Bible Study starts back up this week after a short break! Please join us as we continue our study of St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. If you would like to get caught up with our Bible Study, you can listen to Fr. Gabriel’s podcast, “Alive in Christ,” which can be found on our website.

Spring General Assembly

Sunday, May 19th

Our Spring General Assembly is coming up. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for our bi-annual meeting following the Divine Liturgy. We will discuss several items related to the church, including an overview of our budget. Please see any member of the Parish Council if you have any questions.

Sunday School

Summer is quickly approaching! The last day of Sunday School for our children is today! Please mark your calendars for our end-of-year celebration that will take place on Sunday, May 19. We will recognize the students and teachers for their dedication this year, as well as celebrate with an Ice Cream Social during fellowship!

Akathist to St Olga

Sunday, May 26th
12-12pm

Join the St Olga women’s prayer group after fellowship in the sanctuary to pray the Akathist to our Righteous Matushka Olga Michael, our newest North American saint. This group has adopted St. Olga as our patron saint, and we look to her as we continue to intercede for the many needs in our parish. We welcome new members to our group. It’s a tremendous blessing to receive regular updates, to pray for individual parishioners and others (last names and specifics are not necessary) and to know our prayers are making a difference in people’s lives. Call Vuka Mitchell with any questions at 303-589-1352. Texts will be provided on May 26.

Quiet Room Registry

Our Quiet Room will be undergoing a transformation! At the request of several parents, a registry has been established so that we may redecorate the room. If you are interested in contributing toward new furniture items for the Quiet Room, please scan the QR code to access the registry. As items are received, they will be added to the room. Many of the larger items will be moved out this week, so please be patient with us as we piece together this project.

Thank you!

2025 Parish Directory

Work has begun on the 2025 directory with everyone’s help it could be done as soon as 2026! We’re encouraging everyone to provide their own family or personal photo to include in the “Family Album” section of the Directory. If you’d like tips on taking photos that will work best in the directory or would like to schedule a time to have one taken for you, contact Rick Leonidas; 720-314-5217, rick@salmonroe.com

Taste of Orthodoxy

September 6-8, 2024

This 3-day festival is our signature event showcasing our faith and our community. It’s been 5 years (!) since the last one; we are thrilled to be bringing it back. Our festival contains Mediterranean food and pastries, beer and wine, live music, dance performances, church tours and talks, a marketplace with books, icons, and souvenirs, and lots of hospitality. Contact Nick Karis or Nicole Tsiovvaras to learn more.

Interested in helping? We are looking for people to take on the following roles prior to the festival:

Event Program Ad Sales: Sell ad space in our event program given to all attendees
Entertainment Scheduling: Book various entertainment options (bands, dance groups, choir)
Pastries Baking Lead: Coordinate the baking of all the pastries for the festival
Festival Weekend Volunteers

You can sign up for festival weekend shifts starting Sunday after Liturgy. Look for the festival table in the fellowship hall to sign up or get more information.

Camp Emmanuel

June 23-29th, 2024
Larkspur, CO

For those who haven’t registered for Camp Emmanuel yet, no worries- you still have time! Regular price registration is still open, but time is running out with ONLY 50 SPOTS available. We encourage you to register as soon as possible before prices go up more.

This is your chance to join for an unforgettable summer filled with adventure, lifelong friendship, and personal growth! Please visit https://www.denver.goarch.org/-/2024-camp-emmanuel to register.

Philoptochos

Sisterhood Brunch
Saturday, May 21st
11am-130pm

All women of the parish are invited to our Annual Sisterhood Brunch! Join us for an afternoon of friendship, laughter, great food, and mimosas! Please plan on bringing a brunch item to share. RSVP to Dana Gall by May 15 by texting her at 720-841-8040 or emailing her at danagall92@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Pizza Fundraiser Luncheon
Sunday, May 19th

Philoptochos will host a Pizza Fundraiser Luncheon during fellowship hour. Treat yourself to pizza, salad, dessert, and a drink! The cost per plate is $15 and the money raised will go towards the many charitable organizations that we support. We thank you for supporting Philoptochos!

April Monthly Service Project
Project Mexico

April’s service project is still far short of the $4,000 needed. You can make donations via the Philoptochos link on the website or contact Steve Dzialvels directly; 720-600-1204, steven_dzialvels@hotmail.com.

Icon Painting Workshop

July 15-20
St Augustine’s Antiochian Orthodox Church, Denver

This is a 6 day intensive course under the direction of visiting master iconographer Theodoros Papdopoulos from Greece. Tuition is $780 and includes all materials. Visit theodoreicons@gmail.com for more information and early registration.

Philo...
About Our Parish

We welcome visitors worshiping with us today. Our diverse church family encompasses Greek, Arab, Romanian, Serbian and Russian Orthodox Christians as well as many converts to the Orthodox Christian Faith.

The foundation of the Orthodox Church are the teachings and Holy Tradition of Jesus Christ. We follow the first Christians who began to worship Jesus Christ after the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is reserved only for baptized and/or chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared by prayer, fasting, and confession.

The Orthodox Church understands the reception of Holy Communion to be the highest expression of our faith. Both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike are invited to receive the ‘antidoro’ (blessed bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

If you are new to our Parish or just visiting, please join us for our fellowship hour following this morning’s service.

Recurring Services

Saturday Vespers - 5pm  •  Sunday Divine Liturgy - 9:30am (Orthros - 8:30am)

Visit our website for a complete calendar of upcoming services and events.

Sts Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church

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