

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.

Email: FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

April 12, 2026

St. Thomas Sunday

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, Apr 12: St. Thomas Sunday: 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy
IHO of Milan Revilak, Jr. by the Revilak Family

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Monday, Apr 13: 6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy
IHO Cathy Warhola for her Birthday (anticipated) by the Parish

Friday, Apr 17: 6:30 pm Moleben for the Sacredness of Life

Saturday, Apr 18: NO SERVICES

Sunday, Apr 19: Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women: 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Celebrated by Fr. Ron Barusefski)
IMO Michael & Hedwig by the Bacasa Family

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Celebrated by Fr. Tyler Wisniewski)

Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.

THANK YOU AGAIN: to everyone who helped decorate, clean and set up the church for the Holy Week Services.

LENTEN CHARITY 2026 COLLECTION ENDS TODAY: The parish is taking a **monetary collection** for **Community Human Services Food Pantry**. This group, based in South Oakland, helps the poor, homeless and less fortunate right here in our neighborhood. Please speak with Mary Dzurichko with any questions or make your donation today.

FR. MICHAEL WILL BE AWAY APRIL 18 – 25: In his absence, on Sunday, April 19 we will welcome Fr. Ron at the 8:00 am, and Fr. Tyler at the 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy. Please pray for Fr. Michael and his family's safe travels during their time away.

FIRST ANNUAL PITTSBURGH PRO-LIFE MARCH & RALLY: Will be on Saturday, April 18th at Schenley Plaza. Please join us on Friday night at 6:30 pm for the evening prayer service.

SAVE THE DATE: We will celebrate the 119th Anniversary of our parish on Sunday, May 31. More details to follow.

EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES (ECF): Our ECF program has begun meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm in the church hall. We hope the program will continue to grow to weekly meetings. For more information, please see Eugene Yeo.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: May God grant you many happy and blessed years!

April 2 – Scarlett Revilak

April 3 – Milan Revilak Jr.

April 15 – Cathy Warhola

April 30 – Lynne Walicki

Don't see your birthday or anniversary? Let us know so we can update the directory!

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.

ICONS AVAILABLE: There are several blessed icons in the church hall, there is no cost to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

MORNING LITURGY COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS: In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. To make it truly a time of sharing – we ask everyone to sign up to host a Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

EVENING LITURGY SOCIAL: In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. Please join us in the hall following the liturgy for fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

EPISTLE: ACTS 5: 12-20

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus, they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. Then the high priest rose up and all his companions, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and, filled with jealousy, laid hands upon the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night, the angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, led them out, and said, "Go and take your place in the temple area, and tell the people everything about this life."

GOSPEL: JOHN 20: 19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you. When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of [his] disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL: Why is it that we doubt? What prevents us from having faith and trusting in what God has promised and laid out for us? The limited range of our intellect prevents us from seeing just about anything in its entirety. There is only so much information on any subject which we can take in, process, and internalize to the extent that we can consider ourselves proficient in our understanding. For as smart as we are as human beings, the degree to which we can fully understand the world around us is considerably constrained, and even more so is our ability to fully understand the plan of God. God and His plans and His designs, which are all beyond comprehension and understanding, can appear to us as foolish, short-sighted, or even utterly void of coherence if we try to unravel and understand them by our own intellectual prowess. When we inevitably realize that we lack the necessary understanding of the full picture, we can sense that we are vulnerable, and if that

awareness of our vulnerability is left unchecked it will turn into a fear which we can only contend with by taking on the demeanor of incredulity.

St. Thomas the Apostle reacted to the news of Christ's Resurrection the way we often react to revelations which we do not yet grasp. For Thomas, he is given the gift to see the risen Lord with his own eyes and to behold the wounds, and in so doing fell before calling out in worship, "My Lord and my God." While there are certainly some who are given a similar gift to see God, His works, and/or His plan in extraordinary ways which more conventionally confirm suspicions and dispel doubts, the rest of us are given the chance for the better and more noble form of acceptance of revelation. Most of us must come to belief without seeing as Thomas did, but instead by trusting the message that has been handed to us. Most of us must make the healthy and wise recognition of the limitations of our knowledge and surrender the fear which comes from that vulnerable ignorance to Christ, and trust in the plan and directions which God has laid out for each of us. In so doing, we will have a faith greater than Thomas if we are living to believe truth when we hear rather than only choosing to believe it when we see it.

SAINT OF THE DAY: 4/12 **Our venerable father and confessor Basil, bishop of Parium** in the Hellespont, who for the cult of holy icons, suffered flogging, imprisonment, and exile. (735)

4/13 **The holy priest martyr Artemon** and his companions in the reign of Diocletian the emperor. (303)

4/17 **Our venerable father Simeon of Saba in Persia, bishop of Seleucis and Ctesiphon**, who, by the order of Sapor II, king of the Persians, was arrested and loaded with chains when he refused to adore the sun. Instead, he bore testimony to our Lord Jesus Christ with a bold and most steadfast voice. First he was tormented in a prison workhouse for a while with a hundred other companions from among bishops, priests, and other orders of clergy. Then, on the Friday of the Passion of our Lord, all of them were slain by the sword before the eyes of Simeon, who ardently encouraged each one. Finally he himself was beheaded. (c. 341)

4/17 **The venerable Acacius, bishop of Melitene in Armenia**. At the Council of Ephesus, he defended the orthodox faith against Nestorius and was then unjustly deposed from his See. (435)

ON-LINE GIVING: If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS: Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: **Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira**, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS: **Saints Cyril and Methodius**, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.