

LET US FOLLOW ST. THOMAS IN BELIEF

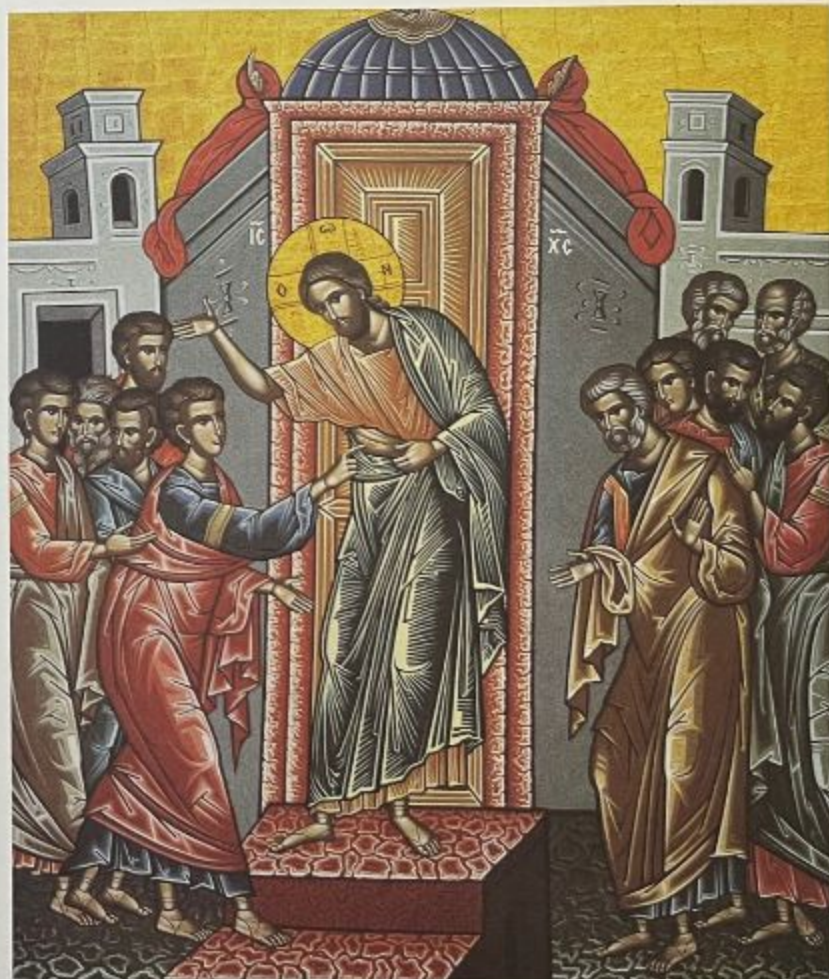
Each year, on the Sunday after Pascha, our Church tells the story of Doubting Thomas. Imagine the unending compassion of Christ, who let Himself be examined by His wavering apostle. This was done to assure Thomas of the reality of the Resurrection. One of the proofs Jesus offered to show were the wounds of His body. The sacred wounds were visible on His hands, feet, and in His side, where the spear had pierced the flesh.

The most beautiful hands are those that bear the marks of service and sacrifice. These were hands that Christ showed to His Apostle. Today, too, those who render faithful service in the name of Christ will share in the blessedness of the resurrection.

Happily, St. Thomas' story doesn't end with unbelief, but with belief in the resurrected Lord. We all may have our moment of doubt; but let us bring them to Christ, as Thomas did. Let us join him in proclaiming this day our faith in the Savior: "My Lord and my God!"

The Troparion for the day eloquently proclaims: "When the tomb was sealed, O Christ our God, Thou the Life didst rise from the grave; and when the doors were closed, Thou the Resurrection of all, didst stand among Thy disciples, and through them, according to Thy great mercy, didst renew a right spirit within us."

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Church Calendar: Check the link: <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/calendar.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES SUNDAY APRIL 27, 2025

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

Christ Is Risen! Indeed, He Is Risen!

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

*Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

*المسيح قام من بين الأموات، ووطىء الموت بالموت، وهب الحياة للذين في القبور.

*Χριστός ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν ἡρισάμενος “

Verily, Jesus is Risen from the tomb, as He had foretold, and hath bestowed life eternal upon us, and Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

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.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

MEGALYNARION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE ONE

O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee.

We Celebrate Today

On April 27 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop of Jerusalem and the kinsman of the Lord; and John the Confessor, Abbot of the Monastery of the Chaste.

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

If the seals of the Virgin's womb and of the grave did not hinder Thee,

How could the seals of the doors hinder Thy 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 immediately hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. Starting with this day, the Church dedicates Sunday to the celebration of the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered on Pascha, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate with His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's wounds—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later, Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel His wounds. 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 and divine Natures of Christ.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Gail Lee, Joy Logue, Sue Thomas, Dolores Nosser, Hugh Cummings, Rick Collins, George Michael Nasif, Lynne Abraham, Kh. Janet Henderson, Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas, Maha Habeeb, George Nasif, Deacon Terry, Michael Farris, Athena, Georgia, Andrea Simon, Chuck Abraham, Timmie Fedell, Sandra Evans.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries April. Omar Logue (28), Inesa Blackburn (30).

May. Jay Jabour (5), Hugh & Tatiana Cummings, Donna Thornton (16), Mickey & Jaymie Fedell (18), Cole & Janet Gleason (20), Gregory Thomas, Dobie & Julie Nosser, Robert & Janet Angelo (23), Frank & Mary Mousa (26), Cole Gleason, Kevin & Stacey Mahoney (27).

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour are offered by Buddy, Janice & Brian Strickland, & their families.

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

+Fast free There will be no fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays, not only during Bright Week but until the Feast of the Ascension May 29th, for the whole forty days. (This was the decision of the Holy Synod of the Church of Antioch in 1997).

The Church Fathers Teach

"He says: I was dead, and behold, I am alive for, evermore, amen; and you also will be alive forever. This is the meaning of the words of Him Who arose: I am the first and the last; I am He that liveth and was dead for you, for your redemption from death, and I; that is: I conquered your death by My innocent death for your sake, and behold, I am also forever and will sit with My Father on His throne; I was not separated from Him, even though I was on earth accomplishing My great work for you who are subject to sin and death. (+St. John of Kronstadt, Homily on Pascha).

Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

DIVINE LITURGY APRIL 27, 2025

"DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM"

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

THE EPISTLE

Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy 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 with one accord in Solomon's porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they 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 and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 to you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I 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; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, you have 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 that believing you may have life in His Name.