

Sunday of Orthodoxy

2021-03-21

St. Thomas Orthodox Church

A Parish of the [Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America](#)



To our visitors...

Welcome! We hope your time with us is healing and worshipful. Please note that, although we have much respect for other Christian traditions, Holy Communion is reserved for properly prepared members of the Orthodox faith. Everyone is invited to partake of the blessed bread after the conclusion of the Liturgy.

May God's blessing be upon you!

Hymns in Today's Liturgy

Resurrectional *Apolytikion* (Tone 8)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

***Apolytikion* of the First Sunday of Great Lent (Tone 2)**

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

***Apolytikion* of St. Thomas (Tone 3)**

O Holy Apostle Thomas, intercede to the merciful God, that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of sins.

***Kontakion* for Sundays in Great Lent (Tone 8)**

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

Epistle

Hebrews 11:24–26, 32–40

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the recompense of reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and all the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of

the aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection, and others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a witness through their faith, did not receive the promise, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Gospel

John 1:43–51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, “We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” Nathanael said to Jesus, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

Synaxarion

On 21 March, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable-confessor James the New, bishop of Catania; Thomas, patriarch of Constantinople; and New-martyr Michael.

On this same day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of Saint Methodios the Confessor.

I rejoice, as I see them fittingly reverence
The icons formerly unfittingly banished

This restoration was accomplished in the year 842. Theodora's husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches.

O invariant Icon of the Father, through the intercessions of Thy holy Confessors, have mercy on us. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas
Monday	Great Compline	18:00	St. Thomas
	<i>The Relationship Project</i>	19:30	Online
Tuesday	Online Lenten Retreat	19:00	Online
Wednesday	Vespers of the Annunciation	18:00	St. Thomas
	<i>The Relationship Project</i>	19:30	Online
Thursday	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation	08:30	Holy Trinity
Friday	Little Compline with Akathist Hymn	18:00	Holy Trinity
	<i>The Road Back to Christ</i>	19:30	Holy Trinity
Saturday	Great Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas

We will stream services live and post updates on [our Facebook page](#), on [our Periscope channel](#), and on [our YouTube channel](#).

The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH,
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

The Right Rev. Bishop BASIL,
Auxiliary Bishop of Wichita and Mid-America

The Rev. Fr. Peter Cox,
Rector of St. Thomas Orthodox Church

✉: PO Box 1042
1100 Jones St
Sioux City IA 51102-1042

☎: +1(712)258-7166
✉: info@stthomassiouxcity.org
🌐: <https://stthomassiouxcity.org>