

Sunday of the Fathers of the Fourth Œcumenical Council

2021-07-18

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 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of the Holy Fathers (Tone 8)

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of St. Thomas (Tone 3)

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

Ordinary *Kontakion* (Tone 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Epistle

Titus 3:8–15

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations,

so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 5:14–19

The Lord said to His Disciples: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Synaxarion

On 18 July, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Emilianos of Silistria in Bulgaria; John, metropolitan of Chalcedon; Stephen, patriarch of Constantinople; and Theneva of Glasgow.

On this Sunday, we commemorate the 630 holy and God-bearing Fathers of the Fourth Œcumenical Council, which convened in Chalcedon in 451 against the Monophysites.

Shunning opposite errors like the sea monsters Scylla and Charybdis,
The Fathers steer the Church on a straight course to safety.

The Holy Fathers were, once again, concerned with the nature of Jesus Christ. The false teaching arose that Christ’s human nature (considered by heretics as less perfect) dissolved itself in His divine nature (considered by heretics as more perfect): like a cube of sugar in a parcel of water. Thus, in that scenario, Christ had only one nature, the Divine. These false preachers were called Monophysites (“mono”, meaning “one” and “physis”, meaning “nature”), and they were led by Eutyches and Dioscorus. Monophysitism overemphasized the divine nature of Christ, at the expense of the human. The Fourth Ecumenical Council condemned Monophysitism and proclaimed that Christ has two complete natures: the divine and the human, as defined by previous Councils. These two natures function as

equally perfect, without confusion, and are neither divided nor separate. The Fathers declared that at no time did they undergo any change.
 By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday	Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Prophet Elijah	08:30	St. Thomas
	<i>Paraklesis</i>	18:00	Holy Trinity
Wednesday	Daily Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas
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](#).



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(all times are EST)

2021 Virtual Archdiocese Convention

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2021

- **3:00PM – 5:00PM** Order of St. Ignatius Meeting
- **5:00PM – 7:30PM** Antiochian Women Meeting
- **9:00PM – 10:30PM** - Teen SOYO Virtual
- **9:00PM – 10:30PM** - Young Adults Virtual Event

SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2021

- **10AM – 11:00AM** - Breakout Rooms where members can choose to join particular topics related to current parish matters such as:
 - o **Finance:** Mr. Salim Abboud, Fr. Michael Tassos, Dr. Elias Hebeka
 - o **Youth:** Fr. Nicholas Belcher
 - o **Stewardship:** Mr. William Morrison
 - o **Pandemic:** Dr. Badie Alnemr, Dr. James Rossetti
- **11:00AM – 11:45AM** - Fr. Joseph Huneycutt, guest speaker
- **11:45AM – 12:30PM** - BREAK - Lunch
- **12:30PM – 3:00PM** - General Assembly Meeting and closing
 - o **12:30PM – 1:30PM** Sayedna's speech
 - o Mr. Salim Abboud - Department of Finance
 - o Fr. Nicholas Belcher - Young Adult Ministry, Department of Christian Education, Department of Youth and Department of Camping
 - o Archdn. Emile P. Sayegh, Chancellor



His Eminence
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