

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

2021-11-28

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 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

***Apolytikion* of St. Stephen the New (Tone 4)**

Trained on the mountain in ascetical-labors, with the whole armor of the Cross thou didst vanquish the spiritual arrays of unseen enemies; and when thou hadst stripped thyself with great courage for contest, thou didst slay Copronymus with the sword of the true Faith. For both these things hast thou been crowned by God, O righteous Martyr, blest Stephen of great renown.

***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* of Preparation of Christ's Nativity (Tone 3)**

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

Epistle

Ephesians 2:4–10

Brethren, God, being rich in mercy, through His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through the trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you are saved—and raised us up together with Him, and made us to sit together with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He would show the exceeding riches of His grace, in kindness toward us, in Christ Jesus. For by grace you are saved through faith, and that is not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone

should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel

Luke 18:18–27

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.’” And the man said, “All these I have observed from my youth.” And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

Synaxarion

On 28 November, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable-martyr Stephen the New.

Wounded, O Stephen, in the head with a cudgel,

A crown which never groweth old thou rightly foundest.

On the twenty-eighth, the head of Stephen the New was crushed.

As aforesaid Hannah the mother of Samuel, so Anna the mother of Stephen prayed God to give her a son. When Anna had conceived Stephen, she asked the newly-elected Patriarch Germanus to bless the babe in her womb. He said, “May God bless him through the prayers of the holy First Martyr Stephen.” At that moment Anna saw a flame of fire issue from the mouth of the holy Patriarch. Stephen struggled in asceticism from his youth in Bithynia at the Monastery of Saint Auxentius, and helped many who came to him. During the reign of Constantine Copronymus, Stephen showed his love of Orthodoxy in contending for the Faith. Besides being a fierce Iconoclast, Constantine raised up a ruthless persecution of monasticism. He held a council in 754

that anathematized the holy icons. Because Stephen rejected this council, the Emperor framed false accusations against him and exiled him. Nevertheless, Stephen performed healings with holy icons and turned many away from Iconoclasm. Later, he was stoned, like Stephen the First Martyr; wherefore, he is called Stephen the New. Finally, he was struck with a wooden club on the temple and his head was shattered, and thus he gave up his spirit in the year 767.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Irinarchos of Sebastia and those with him. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for St. Andrew	08:30	Holy Trinity
	<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 Twitter feed](#), and on [our YouTube channel](#).



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(1-877-463-6784)

www.ocmc.org



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

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