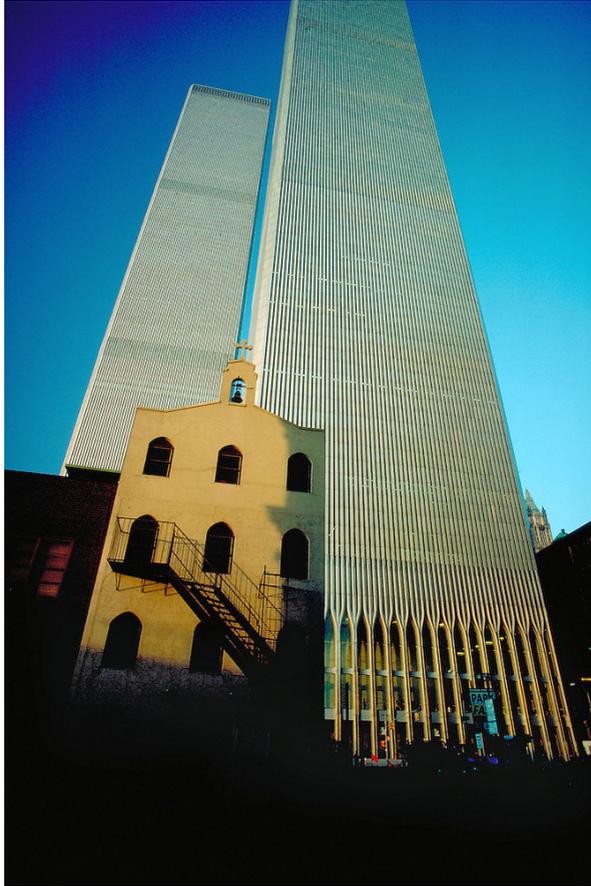


Sunday before Holy Cross

2022-09-11

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 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

***Apolytikion* of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4)**

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

***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 the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4)**

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

Epistle

Galatians 6:11–18

Brethren, see how large a letter I have written to you with my own hand. As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the Cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised do themselves keep the Law; but they desire to have you circumcised, that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

through Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. Henceforth, let no one trouble me; for I bear in my body the brand-marks of the Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Gospel

John 3:13–17

The Lord said, “No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

Synaxarion

On 11 September, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos, and we commemorate our righteous Mother Theodora of Alexandria.

Aspect and mind Theodora maketh manlike,
And shameth the great mind before her departure.
On the eleventh, Theodora resteth with the last sleep.

Urged on by a fortune-teller, Theodora committed adultery with another man. Her conscience immediately began to trouble her, and she cut off her hair and dressed in men’s garb, then went off to the men’s monastery of Octodecatos under the man’s name of Theodore. Her labors, fasts, vigils, meekness and tearful repentance were a source of wonder to all the brethren. Driven out of the monastery, she spent seven years wandering in the forests and deserts, caring for a harlot’s child. Theodora overcame all devilish illusions by making the sign of the Cross;

they all vanished like smoke. After seven years, the abbot of the monastery received her back, and she lived there in asceticism a further two years and then entered into rest in the Lord in the year 490. Only then did the monks learn that Theodora was a woman, when an angel appeared and explained everything. Thus God glorified this true penitent, who, with heroic endurance, spent nine years repenting of one sin.

On this day, we also commemorate the Righteous Euphrosynos the Cook; Martyrs Demetrios, Evanthia, and Demetrianos; and Venerable Sergios and Herman of Valaam. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday	Paraklesis	18:00	Holy Trinity
Wednesday	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Life-Giving Cross	08:30	St. Thomas
Saturday	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for St. Sophia	08:30	Holy Trinity
	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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