

Circumcision of Our Lord

2023-01-01

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 Circumcision of Christ (Tone 1)**

Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself without change, O greatly-compassionate Master, though being God by nature; fulfilling the Law, Thou willingly receivest circumcision in the flesh, that Thou mightest end the shadow and roll away the veil of our sinful passions. Glory be to Thy goodness unto us. Glory be to Thy compassion. Glory, O Word, to Thine inexpressible condescension.

***Apolytikion* of St. Basil the Great (Tone 1)**

Thy sound hath gone forth into all the earth, which hath received thy word. Thereby thou hast divinely taught the Faith; thou hast made manifest the nature of all things that be; thou hast adorned the ways of man. O namesake of the royal priesthood, our righteous Father Basil, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

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

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

***Kontakion* of the Circumcision of Christ (Tone 3)**

Now the Lord of all that is doth undergo circumcision, in His goodness cutting off the sins and failings of mortals. He this day doth give salvation unto the whole world; and the hierarch and bright daystar of the Creator now rejoiceth in the highest, Basil the wise and divine initiate of Christ.

Epistle

Colossians 2:8–12

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in Him, Who is the head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.



Gospel

Luke 2:20–21,40–52

And it came to pass that the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when they saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why hast Thou treated us so? Behold, Thy father and I have been looking for Thee anxiously." And Jesus said to them, "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

Synaxarion

On 1 January, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Circumcision in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ; it being the eighth day after His birth, we commemorate also the giving of the Name of Jesus.

Christ being circumcised, the Law is cut off;
and the Law being cut off, Grace is brought in.
He that in six days made the earth and heavens,
now upon the eighth taketh the name of Savior.

The Divine Child was presented in the Temple and circumcised according to the Law existing in Israel since the time of Abraham. The Old Testament circumcision was the proto-type of the New Testament baptism. The circumcision of our Lord shows that He received upon Himself the true body of man and not just seemingly, as was later taught of Him by heretics. Our Lord was also circumcised because He wanted to fulfill the entire Law which He Himself gave through the prophets and forefathers. Thus, the Apostle Paul declares: "For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation" (Gal. 6:15).

On this day we also commemorate our Father among the Saints Basil the Great, archbishop of Cæsarea in Cappadocia.

Though he hath died, Basil in the Lord yet liveth;
and he liveth with us, speaking from his writings.
On January first thou didst die, O Basil.

While still unbaptized, Basil spent fifteen years in Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences. His colleagues at that time were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years, he was baptized in the river Jordan. He was Bishop of Cæsarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. Basil fully deserved the title “Great.” In liturgical services, he is referred to as the “bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics.” Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him, which we will celebrate today. Basil reposed peacefully in A.D. 379.

On this day, we also commemorate the new-martyr Peter of the Peloponnesos. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday	<i>Paraklesis</i>	18:00	Holy Trinity
	Ladies Club	18:30	Glen Oaks
Wednesday	Daily Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas
Thursday	Great Hours, Vespers, Divine Liturgy, and Great Blessing of the Waters	08:30	St. Thomas
	Orthros, Divine Liturgy, and Great Blessing of the Waters	08:30	Holy Trinity
Friday	Blessing of the Missouri River	11:30	Marriott Riverfront
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist	08:30	Holy Trinity
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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