

Venerable Paul of Thebes

2023-01-15

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. Paul of Thebes (Tone 8)**

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father Paul, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

***Apolytikion* of St. John the Hut-Dweller (Tone 4)**

Since thou hadst with fervor longed after the Lord from thy youth, thou leftest the world with its delights and nobly didst strive in valiant ascetic deeds. Thou didst pitch thy hut before the gates of thy parents; thou didst break the demons' snares, O all-blessed Father. And therefore, as is meet, hath Christ God glorified thee, O John.

***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 Presentation of Christ (Tone 1)**

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Epistle

Colossians 3:4–11

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is

idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel

Luke 17:12–19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When He saw them He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

Synaxarion

On 15 January, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Paul of Thebes.

If Thebes thinketh the gates of Egypt such a marvel,
How much greater Paul, though the gates of life departing?
Paul, Thebes’ offshoot, died the fifteenth.

He and a sister of his inherited all their parents’ wealth, but his brother-in-law, an idol-worshipper, threatened Paul that he would betray him to the authorities as a Christian if he did not hand over his share of the property. Paul gave his half of the property to his sister and went into the desert, where he lived in asceticism until his death. The spiritual heights attained by this giant of a monk are testified to by no less a person than Antony the Great, who once visited Paul and marveled how the wild animals and birds of the air ministered to him. Paul lived 113 years, and entered peacefully into rest in the Lord in the year 342.

On this day, we also commemorate our righteous Father John the Hut-dweller, who became poor for Christ's sake.

This world-denying child, his earthly hut leaving,
hath pitched a new hut for himself in Heaven.
On the fifteenth, John moved his hut.

He was born in Constantinople, an only child of rich and eminent parents. The young John fled to a monastery in Asia Minor, where he spent six years in the greatest restraint, prayer and obedience to the superior. Then the devil attacked him to return to his parents, which he did, but he dressed as a beggar and remained in their courtyard, living off the crumbs that the servants threw him and enduring much ridicule from all. He lived thus for three years, praying God that He would save the souls of his father and mother. They eventually recognized John by a precious Gospel-book which they had given him in childhood. He saved his soul and those of his parents, overcame the devil and entered into rest in the Lord in about the year 450.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Martyr Pansophios of Alexandria; and Gabriel of Lesnovo. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday	<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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