

Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

2023-02-05

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 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

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

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

***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

Timothy 3:10–15

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have

known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel

Luke 18:10–14

The Lord spoke this parable: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Synaxarion

On 5 February, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily. On the Sunday which falls during the After-feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord, we commemorate the Holy and Righteous Mothers of the Three Hierarchs: Emmelia (Basil the Great), Nona (Gregory the Theologian) and Anthousa (John Chrysostom).

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist.

If you resemble the Pharisee, run far away from the Temple;
For inside is Christ before Whom only the humble are acceptable.

O Creator of everything heavenly and earthly,
receive Thou from the Angels a Trinitarian song,
And from us men a noble and reverent Triodion.

In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus uses a Pharisee, a leader of the synagogue, who was regarded in public opinion as virtuous; and a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men. We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to

alert and to prepare the Christ-loving clergy and laity for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday, we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride, as we imitate the humility of the publican to ascend to the divine heights.

Through the intercessions of the wonderworking Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday	<i>Paraklesis</i>	18:00	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](#).



Holy Synod to Convene 22 February to Elect Next Metropolitan

Under the presidency of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East, the Holy Synod of Antioch will convene on 22 February to elect the next Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

In their session in Balamand, Lebanon, the Holy Fathers will consider the three nominees submitted by His Eminence Metropolitan Antonios, Patriarchal Vicar, and the clergy and laity of the Special Convention of the Archdiocese on 13 January.

The nominees, in alphabetical order by first name, are:

- [His Grace Bishop John Abdalah](#)
- [His Grace Bishop Nicholas Ozone](#)
- [His Eminence Metropolitan Saba Isper](#)

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will bless the Holy Synod's deliberations and grace the next Metropolitan to lead the Archdiocese in wisdom and holiness.

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

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