

THE TOUCHING OF THOMAS



APRIL 19. 2026



***ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH***

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**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA , ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK
AND**

METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

**HIS GRACE BISHOP THOMAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON, OAKLAND , AND MID-ATLANTIC**

REVEREND FATHER SERAPHIM MOSLENER

***Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (John 16:23)
When a new person is baptized or Chrismated we say to that person, "Welcome Home!" The Church is where each person voluntarily belongs as one who believes in and belongs to Christ .***

We take this opportunity to welcome those guests worshipping with us.

***Anyone wishing to request prayers for Health and Well-being, or a Trisagion prayer,
please contact Fr. Seraphim***

The Orthodox Church understands that the sacraments we experience are a fundamental part of the sacred life of a worshipping community that shares in "one body...one faith". (Eph. 4:5). Thus, we can only share Communion with those who are Orthodox and who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and Confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are not properly prepared, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing and then to take a piece of the blessed bread.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

Sunday of Thomas the Apostle, Called "The Twin"

Hieromartyr Paphnoutios of Jerusalem; Tryphon, patriarch of Constantinople

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Choir: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*twice*)

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. (***Refrain***)

Glory... Both now... (***Refrain***)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee. (***Refrain***)

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. (***Refrain***)

Glory... Both now... **O, only begotten Son and Word of God...**

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those that hate Him flee from before His face.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire. (***Refrain***)

So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad. (***Refrain***)

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein. (***Refrain***)

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

THE EPISTLE

*Great is our Lord, and great is His strength.
Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good.*

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (5:12-20)

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said: "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

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MEGALYNARION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE ONE

O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THOMAS SUNDAY

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, praise thy God, O Zion. Alleluia

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, you have believed because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

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THE SYNAXARION

On April 19 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Hieromartyr Paphnoutios of Jerusalem; and Tryphon, patriarch of Constantinople.

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

Verses

***If the seals of the Virgin's womb and of the grave did not hinder Thee,
How could the seals of the doors hinder Thy might, O Savior?***

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha" because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. Starting with this day, the Church dedicates Sunday to the celebration of the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered on Pascha, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate with His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's wounds—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later, Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel His wounds. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ.

APRIL/MAY SERVICES

APR. 18TH SATURDAY — 5PM GREAT VESPERS

APR. 19TH SUNDAY — THOMAS SUNDAY

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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APR. 25TH SATURDAY — 5PM GREAT VESPERS

APR. 26TH SUNDAY — MYRRH BEARERS

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO VESPER SERVICES
BEGINNING MAY 1ST. THROUGH AUGUST.**

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MAY 03RD SUNDAY — SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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MAY 10TH SUNDAY - SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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MAY 17TH SUNDAY — SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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MAY 24TH SUNDAY—FATHERS OF THE 1st COUNCIL

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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MAY 31ST SUNDAY — PENTECOST

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

NOTE: There will be NO FASTING on Wednesdays and Fridays until the Feast of the Ascension, for the whole FORTY days. (This was the Decision of the Holy Synod of the Church of Antioch in 1997.)

PRAYERS ARE OFFERED FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF:

Fr. Steven, Kh. Paraskeva, Carol, Debbie, Trish, Shannon, Justin, Perry Sassic & family, Roddy, Jan, Fr. Andrew, Frank, Charlene, Cindi, Harriet, Joann, Cindy, Ray, Marlene, Julianna, Elias, Carrie, Oliver, Pauline, Despina, Julius, Jonathan, Kristen, Luca, Sam, Michael, Esteven, Phephile, Kyriel, Justin, Levon, Aiden, Kayla, Joni, Kirsten, Jonathan K., Andrew, Rosemary and Patti..

FOR THOU ARE THE RESSURECTION, THE LIFE, AND THE REPOSE OF THY SERVANTS WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP ESPECIALLY:

Prayers are offered in memory of.....

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) A children's SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS will begin on Sunday, April 19 (St. Thomas Sunday) following Divine Liturgy and continue through May 31st. The class will be taught by Jessica Hill. Children of all ages are welcome. The students and teacher will receive communion first each Sunday and be dismissed to their class in the room behind the altar.

2) Fr. Seraphim has not yet received permission to be retired. He will keep all updated.

3) Donations for the severe humanitarian crisis in Antiochian Archdiocese of Mount Lebanon & Zahle are still being accepted throughout the remaining Sundays in this month. Please consider on making a financial offering to support this urgent relief efforts.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“When the doubting disciple touched the wounds in his Master’s body, He cured the wounds of our unbelief, Thomas’ unbelief was of more advantage to our faith than the faith of the believing disciples, because when he was led back to faith by touching Jesus, our minds were relieved of all doubt and made firm in faith. (St. Gregory the Great)

THE STORY OF ST. THOMAS

Each year on the Sunday following the Resurrection, our Church remembers the incident involving St. Thomas, with its remarkable turning of doubt into faith. When Christ was crucified, the apostles fled in fear. For all of them, life had lost its meaning; their hopes and dreams were shattered as the Lord was laid in the tomb. But they came together Sunday evening after the crucifixion, seeking comfort in their sadness.

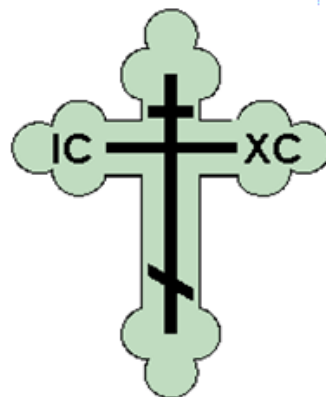
It was then that the Risen Christ suddenly appeared in their midst. They looked at Him and couldn't believe their eyes. But Jesus spoke to them, showed them His wounds and convinced them of the reality of His presence. They rejoiced with renewed hope.

But Thomas was not present that evening. Later, when the Apostles told him the good news of the Resurrection, he replied, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails...and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

A week passed by. On the Sunday after the Resurrection, once again the apostles were gathered together. This time Thomas was there. In spite of the locked doors, the Risen Christ again suddenly appeared amongst them and greeted them with words of peace. He called Thomas to His side and had him place his fingers in the wounds and see for himself, saying: "Do not be faithless, but believing."

Thomas did as the Lord had asked. Then he fell to his knees and cried out: "My Lord and my God!" His doubts were gone, replaced by a deep and abiding faith, Jesus then responded, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."

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**CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
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**OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment**