

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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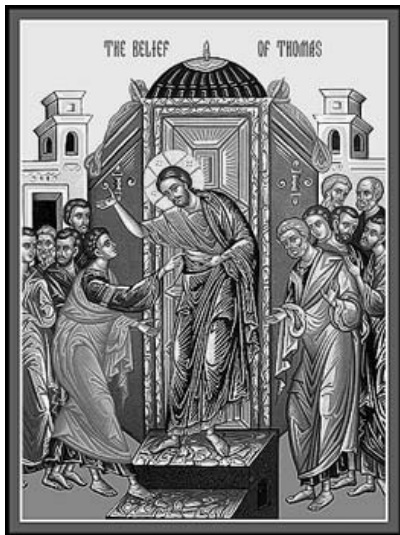
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Send announcements for the bulletin and/or website to bulletin@stjohnorthodox.org

Send announcements to be emailed to all members to announce@stjohnorthodox.org

St. Thomas Sunday May 1, 2011



Today the fragrance of spring is shed forth, and the new creation shall rejoice. Today the locks shall be lifted from the doors with the faithlessness of the beloved Thomas, as he shouteth out, Thou art my Lord and my God.-Orthros of the Feast

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.

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 hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday following the Resurrection, 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 before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. 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 also clearly illustrates the two Natures of Christ: the human and the divine.

By the intercessions of Thine Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.
(Synaxarion of the Feast)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, May 1 – St. Thomas Sunday - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am followed by Blessing of the Cemetery; Marriage Blessing of Dwayne and Allyson Gross, Lunch following

Tuesday, May 3 – Vespers 6:00pm; Study Group at Townsend's 7:00pm

Friday, May 6 – Spiritual Circle 9:30am

Saturday, May 7 – Consecration Service, Matins and Divine Liturgy at Holy Myrrhbearers, Bonners Ferry 9:00am; Great Vespers at St. John's 6:00pm

Sunday, May 8 – Commemoration of the Myrrh-Bearing Women, Pious Joseph of Arimathea & Righteous Nicodemus - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School and Lunch following

EPISTLE READERS

May 1 - Sbdn. Barnabas Schaefer

May 8 – Joy Corey

May 15 - Tabitha Townsend

May 22 - Sbdn. Mark (Eric) Townsend

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of May 2 – Schaefer

Week of May 9 - Goolsby

Week of May 16- Townsends

Week of May 23 - Fellegy/Holman

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

May 1 - Team 6 - Ayoub, Wood, Bryant

May 8 - Team 2 - Corey, Tecca, Roth, Ranson, Holman

May 15 - Team 3 - Garbinski, Tourous, Jenkin, Weddle, Ayres, O'Daniel

May 22 - Team 4 - Townsend, Rush, Caldaroni, Sanman, Handeen, Stillman

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Paul Truebenbach, Ed Mattmiller, Cecilia (Tim Peterson's Grandmother), Vasso Papachristos, Jordan (Ken Sanman's daughter), Levi (Fr. James Bernstein's grandson), Mike Kerr, Katrina (Mike Kerr's wife), Tonja (Lavonne Ayoub's sister), Rita & Kent Little (friends of Trudy Olinger), Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's Mother), Susan and parents Coo and Lou (friends of Jenny Dancy), Ron Mulder (uncle of Barbara Schaefer) Elena & Vitaly w/reposed son Stefan (friends of Teccas), Russell & Samantha & newly reposed infant (Chelsea Stillman's brother & wife & baby), Teri Hundt (sister of Tiffany Gallatin), Robin and her unborn baby girl (Joanna Townsend's cousin), Inna Epling, Moses Kemper, Pam, Susan, Marc (Jenny Dancy's sister-in-law and friends), Crystal, Riley, Emily, Boston, Caleb, Anders and Cindy (family of Bartimaeus), Patricia, David, Bonnie, Stori, Brooke and Endin (family of Trudy Olinger), Jacob Hunter (Dan Monaghan's cousin in Afghanistan), Pamela Olsen, Jill Foss (friend of Jeane Wood), Nancy Corey (Ed Corey's sister), Jamie Landers, Nikolai Kupcow, George Kucera.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

William Brisbane (Nanette's father), Jack (Dianne Nolan's father), Dominic & Pasquale (brother and brother-in-law of Lucille Horton), Milic Milojevic, Wilma Young (Steve Wood's mother), Gene (Sbdn. Barnabas' Uncle) Gary Butler & Doris Owens (family of Bartimaeus)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

O Lord Our God, Crown them with Glory and With Honor

Congratulations to Dwayne and Allyson Gross on the blessing of their marriage today – their 30th anniversary! May God grant them and their family many, many blessed years!

Sunday School

We are beginning Sunday School again next Sunday, May 8th. We have some new and exciting classes available.

We are adding two new classes:

A Teen discussion group guided and taught by Eric Townsend Ages 13-16

Young adult discussion group guided and taught by Paul Truebenbach Ages 16-20

These classes will be held downstairs -the same time as Sunday School after communion, and will build upon the Gospel/Epistle or the homily. The purpose will be to discuss what was taught during service and to answer questions or to simply reflect and share.

Elementary class will remain the same - ages 5-13

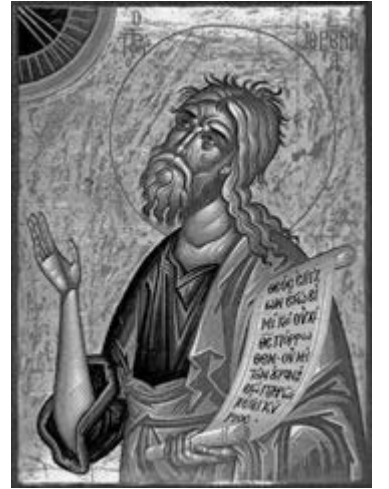
Preschool class will now have their own room: ages 1-4

The age groups are guidelines only and are not set in stone. Each individual may attend the class that is most appropriate for their maturity level, but please talk to LaVonne Ayoub about it - especially with the lower age groups.

We look forward to seeing you there!

St. Herman of Alaska Scholarship Fund - St. Herman's Scholarship Fund has been established to help students who wish to pursue, or are currently pursuing, full time study in an institution of learning (two or four year college or university) or a vocational institute. Each year one or more students, depending upon funding in the scholarship account, will be selected to receive a stipend. In order to be eligible for the stipend, a student should be a member in good standing at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Post Falls or at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Spokane or at Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Church in Bonners Ferry, and a full time student at a high school or college with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4 point scale. Academic excellence, financial need and church/community service will be taken into account in the awarding of the stipend. Please see Fr. Basil or Barbara Garbinski for an application form. June 13th is the deadline.

Jeremiah the Prophet - This great Prophet of God, Jeremiah, who loved his brethren and lamented for them greatly, who prayed much for the people and the Holy City, was the son of Helkias of the tribe of Levi, from the city of Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. He was sanctified from his mother's womb, as the Lord Himself said concerning him: "Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth from the womb, I sanctified thee; I appointed thee a prophet to the nations" (Jer. 1:5). He prophesied for thirty years, from 613 to 583 B.C. During the last captivity of the people in the reign of Sedekias, when only a few were left behind to cultivate the land, this Prophet remained with them by the permission of Nabuzardan, the captain of the guard under Nabuchodonosor. He wept and lamented inconsolably over the desolation of Jerusalem and the enslavement of his people. But even the few that remained behind transgressed again, and fearing the vengeance of the Chaldeans, they fled into Egypt, forcibly taking with them Jeremiah and Baruch his disciple and scribe. There he prophesied concerning Egypt and other nations, and he was stoned to death in Taphnas by his own people about the year 583 B.C., since they would not endure to hear the truth of his words and his just rebukes. His book of prophecy is divided into fifty-one chapters, and his book of lamentation into five; he is ranked second among the greater Prophets. His name means "Yah is exalted."



Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Greek: Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!

Arabic: El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!

Russian: Khristos voskres! Voistinu voskres!

Serbian: Cristos vaskres! Vaistinu vaskres!

Spanish: Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!

French: Le Christ est ressuscite! En verite il est ressuscite!

Swahili: Kristo amefufukka! Kweli Amefufukka!

APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Light. 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.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

THE EPISTLE

Great is the Lord, and great is His power. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure 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 together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. 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 towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested 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."

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 with 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 with 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 with 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, "Have you 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.

Holy Fire Ceremony at Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem

The Holy Fire (Greek 'Αγιος Φως, literally "Holy Light") is a miracle that occurs every year at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem on Holy Saturday, the day preceding Pascha. It is considered by many to be the longest-attested annual miracle in the Christian world, though the event has only been documented consecutively since 1106. In many Orthodox countries around the world the event is televised live.



The ceremony begins at noon when the Patriarch of Jerusalem or another Orthodox Archbishop recites a specific prayer. The faithful gathered will then chant "Lord, have mercy" (Kyrie eleison in Greek) until the Holy Fire descends on a lamp of olive oil held by the patriarch while he is alone in the tomb chamber of Jesus Christ. The patriarch will then emerge from the tomb chamber, recite some prayers, and light either 33 or 12 candles to distribute to the faithful.

The fire is also said to spontaneously light other lamps and candles around the church. Pilgrims say the Holy Fire will not burn hair, faces, etc., in the first several minutes after it is ignited. Before entering the Lord's Tomb, the patriarch or presiding archbishop is inspected by Israeli authorities to prove that

he does not carry the technical means to light the fire. This investigation used to be carried out by Turkish soldiers.



The Holy Fire is first mentioned in documents dating from the 4th century. A detailed description of the miracle is contained in the travelogue of the Russian igumen Daniel, who was present at the ceremony in 1106. Daniel mentions a blue incandescence descending from the dome to the edicula where the patriarch awaits the Holy Fire. Some claim to have witnessed this incandescence in modern times.

During the many centuries of the miracle's history, the Holy Fire is said to have descended on certain other occasions, usually when heterodox clergymen attempted to obtain it. According to the tradition, in 1099, for example, the failure of Crusaders to obtain the fire led to street riots in Jerusalem. It is also claimed that in 1579, the Armenian patriarch prayed day and night in order to obtain the Holy Fire, but the Fire miraculously struck a column near the entrance and lit a candle held by the Orthodox patriarch standing nearby. Upon entering the temple, many Orthodox Christians venerate this column, which bears marks and a large crack attributed to the bolt of lightning from the Holy Fire.

Read more at <http://orthodoxinfo.com/general/holyfire.aspx>