

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA
SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE,
CALLED "THE TWIN"
GREAT-MARTYR GEORGE THE TROPHY-BEARER

APRIL 23, 2023



ST. NICHOLAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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CLERGY

His All Holiness, JOHN X
Patriarch of Antioch and all the East

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

Very Reverend Michael Nasser
Pastor of St. Nicholas ▪ 616-216-3537 ▪ frmichael@stnicholasgr.com

V. Rev. Elias Mitchell
Rev. Theodore Sirotko
Rev. Mykel Giannakakos
Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey

Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson
Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff
Rev. Deacon John Kaufman
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book and taking a visitor's packet both located on the table in the Narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, so feel free to join us for refreshments & fellowship in the Cultural Center.

We believe **Holy Communion** to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith is encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, & regular confession are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

WHO WE ARE

St. Nicholas Church is a worshipping community, living and sharing the Faith Christ gave to the Apostles.

Our parish exists to seek and share Christ's love so that all will find eternal life in Him.

We would love to share more about our Orthodox Faith with you. Our website and our bookstore are great resources to assist you in learning more about us and what we believe! Also, feel free to make an appointment with our pastor.

We trust that you will experience Christ's presence as you worship with us today.



HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

HYMNS

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. THOMAS SUNDAY (TONE 7)

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.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE (TONE 7)

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor; healer of the infirm, champion of kings; victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God; for our souls' salvation.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA (TONE 8)

O Christ our God, though Thou didst descent into the grave, yet didst Thou overthrow the power of Hades and rise as an Immortal Conqueror. Thou didst greet with joy the myrrhbearing women, and to Thine Apostles hast sent Thy peace, and to the fallen, O Lord, didst bring resurrection.



EPISTLE

*The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord.
Hear my voice, O God.*

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11

In those days, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

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 OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessing of Ashton David Giannakakos and his parents Fr. Mykel and Kh. Sarah. May God grant Ashton and his parents many years!

In loving memory of the Servant of God, Wade Abraham, on his 8-year falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Dan & Kathy, Marilyn, Diane & Pat, Linda, Janet & Mark and families. May his memory be Eternal! *We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor produced by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 1:3*

CHRIST IS RISEN ! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Arabic:	Al Massih Qam! Haqen Qam!
Greek:	Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!
Russian:	Khristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Armenian:	Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh harootiunun Krisdosee!!
Romanian:	Hristos a Inviat! Adevarat a Inviat!
Ethiopian:	Christos Tensiou! Bahake Tensiou!
French:	Le Christ est Ressuscite! En Verite Il est Ressuscite!
German:	Christus ist Erstanden! Er ist Wahrhaftig Erstanden!
Spanish:	Christo ha Resucitado! En verdad, ha Resucitado!
Italian:	Cristo é risorto, é veramente risorto!
Mandarin:	Jīdū fùhuóle Tā zhēn de fùhuóle

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On April 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy and glorious Great-Martyr George the Trophy-bearer.

Verses

George, the cutter-down of all his foes in battles,
is gladly cut down of his foes by beheading.

On the twenty-third, George's neck was seized by the brazen blade.

George was born in Cappadocia the son of wealthy and virtuous parents. His father suffered for Christ and his mother then moved to Palestine. When George grew up, he entered the military, and came into the service of Emperor Diocletian. The most famous George's miracles are depicted in iconography. Near Mount Lebanon was a large lake, inhabited by an enormous dragon-like serpent. Coming out of the lake, it devoured people, and the breath from its nostrils poisoned the air. George rode up on his horse with spear in hand. Crossing himself, he rushed at the serpent saying, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." After George killed the serpent, twenty-five thousand men, plus women and children, were then baptized. Diocletian eventually had George and his wife, Alexandra, beheaded in 303. George is known as the Victory-bearer, or Trophy-bearer, not only for his military achievements, but for enduring martyrdom.

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.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*Names are added to the Prayer List for one week by offering Holy Oblation
or for up to 40 days in the case of an ongoing serious illness.*

LIVING

Metropolitan PAUL
Archbishop JOHN

Priest Mykel Giannakakos
Priest Steven VanBronkhorst

And all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty
in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Africa
and throughout the world.

Kh. Sarah Gianakakos

Kevin Mitchell

Ashton David Giannakakos

Michael Ellis

Attallah Amash

Russ Adolphson

Mary Ann Maloley

Sandy Bourgyne

Audrey Nicoloff

Jaqueline Mitchell

David Corey

Susan Smoley

Joe Corey

Stephen Palumbo

Dan Abraham

Gary Palumbo

DEPARTED

NEWLY DEPARTED

Judy Herman

And all the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence,
and poverty in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon Ukraine, Africa
and throughout the world.

Wade Abraham