

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley
a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406 stmichaelvannuys.org

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
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**New Sunday (Anti-Pascha)
Commemoration of the Act of Thomas the Apostle,
Called “The Twin”**

Hieromartyr Basil, bishop of Amasea with Venerable Glaphyra;
Stephen, bishop of Perm; Venerable Ioanikios of Devitch in Serbia

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Apolytikion for Thomas Sunday (Tone 7)

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 (Tone 8)

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 ointmentbearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

Daily Readings

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 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 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 (for Thomas Sunday)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is 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.

OFFERINGS

A special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

for Art & Cathy Danks who recently celebrated their wedding anniversary (April 18). May God grant them many years!

by Gloria Mittry for her husband, Ameen “Babe” Mittry, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. May God grant him many years!

for the ninth birthday of Kiera O’Dea (April 22) by Marcia O’Dea; also remembering Robin (April 14) and Brian (April 18). May God grant them many years!

for the healing of Robin Mitchell by Linda Mitchell

beseeking God’s healing mercy for Dr. Eugene Sayfie by Mae Tortolano

for the safe delivery of the newborn daughter of Maha & David Alexander

for the continued health of Dolores Cardelucci

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*NOTE: There is **no** fasting for the forty-day period: from Easter to the Feast of the Ascension (June 6th)*

**Commemoration of The Myrrh-Bearing Women,
The Pious Joseph of Arimathea and the Righteous Nicodemus**

Great Vespers – Saturday, May 2nd, 5 p.m.

Orthros – Sunday, May 3rd, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

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April 26, 2020

Beloved in Christ,

With great joy we proclaim that Christ is risen! المسيح قام! Χριστος ανέστη!
Χριστος Воскресе! Cristo ha resucitado! Hristos a înviat! Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!
Truly, He is risen!

In the words of Saint John Chrysostom: "...the Savior's Death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it, has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive... It took a Body and it met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen..."

I want to express my personal thanks and the appreciation from our faithful for the help we've received in this unique time in the history of our Church as we weather the storm of a major public health crisis. And even by facing all that we have, it is my sincere prayer that we have clearly heard in the Paschal proclamation: "...for lo, through the Cross, joy has come into all the world! Ever blessing the Lord let us sing His Resurrection! For in that He has endured the Cross, He has destroyed death by Death!

Celebrating comes with whole hearted preparation. The more the preparation, the greater the celebration. Our time together during Great Lent and Holy Week has again been glorious. We pray that we will be able to celebrate the Feast in our new church sanctuary in the next year. Our ability to fulfill this task will be achieved as God wills through our dedication and commitment. I am truly thankful for those of you who have been faithful in fulfilling their pledge to our Capital Funds Campaign and all who have been regular contributors to our project. The many sacrifices of our founders and faithful parishioners through the years have thankfully helped us to begin a new era in the life of our parish. Our community continues to grow and all of our ministries are involving many of our new members by offering their talents and skills in service. There are many opportunities for everyone to have a part in the many tasks ahead of us for the glory of God.

I trust that this has been a meaningful season of illumination for you and your family. May the joy of the Paschal Feast fill your life with all that God truly desires for us: those imperishable gifts that are truly not of this world.

Christ is risen!

Father Timothy Baclig

Pastor



The Epitaphios (*E-pee-TAH-fee-os*), which has been placed on the altar — representing the Tomb of Christ, will remain on the altar until the Feast of the Ascension (Thursday, May 28th). At that time, the image of Christ will be returned to the Cross. The image of the entombed Christ, however, is a permanent part of the altar as the “tablecloth” (*Antimension*; *Anti-MEN-see-on*), resting under the Gospel Book. It is opened for the “anaphora” (time of the offering in the Liturgy), at the second part of the Divine Liturgy, when the bread and wine are placed on the altar for consecration. It is a cloth sign by the Metropolitan Archbishop and is the church’s credentials as a canonical Orthodox Church of Apostolic succession.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Live-streaming Sunday Orthros and Liturgy

Plan to view all of our scheduled church services on-line by logging on to: either **FaceBook** or **YouTube** via our parish website: <www.stmichaelvannuys.org> Your church offering may be made on-line via our website "Donation" tab or by mailing your check to the church at: 16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406

Zoom Meetings Scheduled [Please note the "security password"]

Pre-K - 4th Graders — Friday, April 24 at 3:30 p.m. **Use the log provided in a direct e-mail and use the security password**

Teens — Sunday, April 26, 11:45 a.m. "The Relationship Project;" **Use the log provided in a direct e-mail and use the security password**

Young Adults — Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 2 p.m. Log on to: **Use the log provided in a direct e-mail and use the security password**

Antiochian Women — Wednesday, April 29 at 6:45 p.m. **Use the log provided in a direct e-mail and use the security password**

5th and 6th Graders — Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. **Use the log provided in a direct e-mail and use the security password**

Note: Father Timothy would welcome scheduling a Zoom Meeting with you and your family at any time by appointment.

Lenten Study: "Building a Worshipping Community"

All of Father Timothy's presentations: "Building a Worshipping Community" are now available on-line. Visit our parish website homepage <stmichaelvannuys.org> and click onto link of the presentations on the slider: Part I - "Children in Church;" Part II - "Church Hymnography; Antiphonal Singing and Chanting;" Part III - "Iconography in the Church; Their Order and Placement;" Part IV - "The Iconostasis, Its Purpose and

Function.” Part V, soon to be available will focus on “The ‘Assembly of the Faithful’ in the Nave and Its Furniture.”

Food for the Hungry Collection - Last Call!

All Food for the Hungry collection boxes should now be turned in to the Church Office. Please write your name on your box or mail a check for the total amount to the Church Office, earmarked “FFHP” for credit on your Contribution Statement. One check from our parish will be sent to the Archdiocese for the collection. Thanking you in advance for your support.

Upcoming Events (see the foyer bulletin board for more information)

St. Michael Ladies Annunciation Tea - **Postponed to August 15**

Speaker: Mother Paraskeva of St. Barbara Monastery

Topic: “Sow to the Spirit: Preparing Now for the World to Come”

The 57th “Sweetheart Ball” - Saturday, April 25th at the
Universal Hilton Hotel (**Postponed to November 7, 2020**)

Parish Life Conference - July 1-5, 2020 (**Cancelled**)

St. Nicholas Summer Camp - July 12 to August 1, 2020 (**Cancelled**)

Antiochian Clergy Symposium - July 20-24, 2020 (**Cancelled**)

29th Annual St. Michael Annual Golf Classic - Monday, May 18
(**Postponed to Monday, November 2, 2020**)

A WORD WE NEED TO KNOW: PASCHA (*PAAS-kah*)

Easter is the focal point of the church calendar when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The word *Pascha* is the Aramaic derivation of the Hebrew word: *Pesach*, which means Passover. Jesus and most of the early Christians spoke Aramaic, and as the faith spread, the word was retained. We understand Christ to be our *passage* (or Passover) from death to life, our Pascha!

The following dialogue is said between the priest and the faithful at the end of the Liturgy:

Priest: Christ is risen!

People: Truly, He is risen! [repeated in various languages]

Al Maseeah qam! **Haq qan qam!** (*Arabic*)

Christos Anesti! **Alithos Anesti!** (*Greek*)

Kristos voskrese! **Voistinu voskrese!** (*Slavonic*)

Kristo esta resusitado! **Verdaderamente resusitado!** (*Spanish*)

Khristi ungal! **Vertet ungal!** (*Albanian*)

Le Christ est ressuscite! **En verite il est ressuscite** (*French*)

Kristos Inviat! **Adervaret inviat!** (*Romanian*)

Ua ala hou 'o Kristo! **Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!** (*Hawaiian*)

Christus is opgestaan! **Hij is waarlijk opgestaan!** (*Dutch*)

Kristus ist Auferstanden! **Sicherlich ist Auferstanden!** (*German*)

Khristus Zmartvikstau! **Zaiste Zmartvikstau!** (*Polish*)

Christos harjav i merelotz! **Orhniale harutjun Christosi!** (*Armenian*)

Kristos Tensiah! **Be-a-man Ten-si-a!** (*Tigrigna*)

Massih Miyayat! **Hatman Miyayat** (*Farsi*)

Kristo azukidde! **Kituufu azukidde** (*Luganda*)

Kristo samawa, yomi gaimashta! **Hontoni yomi gaimashta!** (*Japanese*)

Priest: Glory to His holy, third-day Resurrection!

People: We adore His holy, third-day Resurrection!

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by Death, and upon those in the tombs... **People: Bestowing life!**

Pastor's Sermon
Thomas Sunday
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
April 26, 2019

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen! المسيح قام! حقًا قام!

Today's Gospel, highlights the experience of Thomas. The many lessons that our Lord taught the disciples prior to His passion began to be brought back to their remembrance in His numerous appearances, which took place in the forty-day period following His Resurrection, prior to his Ascension.

The appearance of our Lord mentioned in today's Gospel is one of eleven Gospel readings heard in the early Orthros service each Sunday, called "The Eothinon" Gospels. Each Sunday, the Eothinon Gospel announces the Resurrection before the Divine Liturgy, similar to the Gospel read at the doors of the Church during the "Rush Procession" at the midnight service before the Liturgy.

The experience of the Apostle Thomas was unique. It is very possible that Thomas, more than any of the other Apostles was the one who actually *heard* what the Lord was saying before his death. It just sounded impossible that a Messiah, who was expected to restore the Kingdom of Israel, would face such a tragic death. Last night's Vespers service includes a section that helps us to understand what took place. In a section of the Apostika we hear: *"What a miraculous wonder, that a lack of faith became a conviction of faith..."* *"...the obstinate soul turned with fervor to true faith, 'My Lord, and my God.'"*

The transformation, which began taking place among the disciples, was significant; significant because once the disciples experienced a personal dawning and illumination they were ignited with faith and love to act with conviction. Until this happened nothing would have changed. The Lord who appeared in their midst imparted His Spirit to them (John 20:22). The content of the Gospel message that our Lord taught them had become their own message. It was the good news of the forgiveness of sins that is at the very heart of the Paschal message.

New Sunday or “Anti-Pascha”

The Commemoration of the Act of Thomas the Apostle,
Called “The Twin”

Hieromartyr Basil, bishop of Amasea with Venerable Glaphyra;
Stephen, bishop of Perm; Venerable Ioanikios of Devitch in Serbia

المسيحُ قام من بين الأموات, ووطئ الموتَ بالموت, ووهب الحياة للذين في القبور.

طروبارية توما على اللحن السابع

لما كان القبر مختوماً أشرقت منه أيها الحياة, ولما كانت الأبوابُ مقللةً وقفت بالتلاميذ,
أيها المسيحُ الإلهُ, قيامةُ الكلِّ, وجددت لنا بهم روحاً مستقيماً, بعظيم رحمتك.

قنداق القيامة على اللحن الثامن

ولئن نزلت إلى القبرِ يا من لا يموت, إلا أنكِ حطمتِ قدرةَ الجحيم, وقمتِ ظافراً, أيها
المسيحُ الإله. وقلتِ للنسوةِ الحاملاتِ الطيبِ افرحن, ووهبتِ لرسلكِ السلام, يا مانحِ
الواقعين القيام.

الرسالة

عظيم هو ربنا وعظيمة هي قوته، سبحوا الرب فإنه صالح
فصل من أعمال الرسل القديسين الأطهار

في تلك الأيام جرت على أيدي الرسلِ آياتٌ وعجائبٌ كثيرةٌ في الشعب, وكانوا
يجتمعون بنفسٍ واحدةٍ في رواقِ سلميان. ولم يتجاسرُ أحدٌ من سائرِ الناسِ أن يُخالِطَهُم,
بل كان الشعبُ يُعظِّمُهُم. وكانت جماعاتٌ من الرجالِ والنساءِ تنضم إلى الرب
بالإيمان. حتى إنهم كانوا يخرجون بالمرضى إلى الشوارعِ ويضعونهم على فرشٍ
وأسرةٍ, حتى إذا مرَّ بطرس يقع ولو ظلَّه على أحدٍ منهم. وكانت الجماعاتُ تجيء إلى
أورشليم من المدنِ المجاورةِ تحملُ المرضى والمعذبين من الأرواحِ النجسةِ فيشفون
جميعُهُم. فقام رئيسُ الكهنةِ وأتباعه من شيعةِ الصدوقيين, وقد اشتدت نقتهم, فأمسكوا

الرسلَ والقوهم في السجن العام. ففتح ملائكة الربّ أبوابَ السجن ليلاً, وأخرجهم وقال لهم: "اذهبوا وقفوا في الهيكل, وبشروا الشعبَ بجميع كلماتِ هذه الحياة.

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارَةِ القديسِ يوحنا

في مساء ذلك الأحد, كان التلاميذ مجتمعين والأبواب مقفلة خوفاً من اليهود, فجاء يسوع ووقف في الوسط وقال لهم: "سلام عليكم". ولما قال هذا أراهم يديه وجنبه, ففرح التلاميذ حين أبصروا الرب. وقال لهم ثانية: "سلام عليكم! كما أرسلني الأب أرسلكم أنا." قال هذا ونفخ فيهم وقال لهم: "خذوا الروح القدس, من غفرت له خطاياه تغفر له, ومن أمسكتم عليه خطاياه تمسك عليه." وإن توما أحد الإثني عشر الملقب بالتوأم, لم يكن معهم حين جاء الرب. فقال له سائر التلاميذ: "إنّا رأينا الرب!" فأجابهم: "لن أوّمن إلا إذا رأيت اثر المسامير في يديه, ووضعت إصبعي في أثر المسامير ويدي في جنبه." وبعد ثمانية أيام اجتمع التلاميذ في البيت مرة أخرى, وتوما معهم, فجاء يسوع والأبواب مقفلة, ووقف في الوسط وقال: "سلام عليكم." ثم قال لتوما: "هات إصبعك إلى ههنا وانظر يدي, وهات يدك وضعها في جنبتي. لا تكن غير مؤمن, بل مؤمناً." فأجاب توما: "ربي والهي!" فقال يسوع: "أمنت لأنك رأيتني. طوبى لمن آمن ولم ير." وصنع يسوع أمام تلاميذه آيات أخرى لم تدون في هذا الكتاب, وأما الآيات المدونة هنا, فهي لتؤمنوا بأن يسوع هو المسيح ابن الله. فإذا أمنتكم تكون لكم الحياة باسمه.