

APRIL 19, 2026
SUNDAY OF THOMAS (ANTI-PASCHA)

On this New Sunday, the Church does not move on from Pascha. She enters more deeply into it. Thomas Sunday, also called Anti-Pascha, does not stand against the Feast, but in its place, extending its radiance and teaching us that every Sunday is now marked forever by the Resurrection of Christ. In the Gospel appointed for this day, the risen Lord comes once again into the midst of His disciples though the doors are shut, and He speaks what fearful hearts most need to hear: "Peace be to you."



Thomas is too often remembered only as the doubter. But the Church sees more. She sees a man whose hesitation became the occasion for a fuller revelation of the risen Christ. The Lord does not humiliate him. He comes to him. He invites him nearer. He shows him the wounds. And Thomas, beholding the Crucified One alive, offers one of the greatest confessions in all Scripture: "My Lord and my God!"

That is why some icons are more accurately understood not as "the doubting Thomas," but as the touching or believing Thomas. For once he touched the life-giving side of the Savior, doubt gave way to worship. What stood before him was not an idea, not a memory, not a religious feeling, but the living Christ Himself.

The hymns of the Church press this mystery even deeper. "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." Thomas Sunday is not merely about evidence. It is about communion, renewal, and the birth of a truly personal faith.

And the side of Christ is more than proof of the Passion. In the Pentecostarion, it is spoken of as the ever-flowing fountain from which immortality blossoms, and from which the Church herself is formed through the mysteries. So the question of this Sunday is not simply whether Christ is risen. It is whether I will fall before Him with Thomas and say, from the depths of my own life, my Lord and my God.

Text & Icon from OCA.org



**ST. PHILIP
ORTHODOX
CHURCH**

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



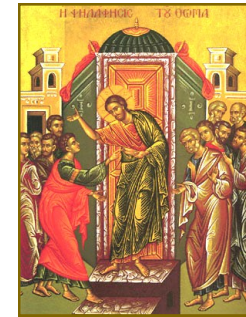
Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
215-954-9286



Father James Thayer
215-692-0890

April 19, 2026
SUNDAY OF THOMAS

CHRIST IS RISEN!



Orthros Gospel: St. Matt 28:16-20
Eothion 1

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20
Gospel: St. John 20:19-31

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.

TROPARION OF ST. THOMAS - 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!

TODAY:

- ◆ Orthros, 8:15 am
- ◆ Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am
- ◆ Sunday School & Coffee Hour, 11:15 am
- ◆ **Procession to Cemetery for Blessing of Graves, 1 pm (WEATHER PERMITTING)**

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week:

Next Week (April 26):

COFFEE HOUR: Chebeleu - Memory eternal to Vasile (20 years)

Layton/St. Justin Academy

PROSPHORA BREAD: Heather Taggart & John Child

Gabi & Catalin Tinjala

ALTAR CANDLES: - - -

Gamble - Tasso's Birthday

USHERS: Radu Chebeleu, Todd Moody, Ryan Magerr

Steve Kulp, John Hill, Mike Taggart

CLEANING TEAM: Radu C., Mary T., Anna U., Dylan H.

Catechumens

COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Miriam K., Ryan M., Daniel C.

Mike L., Dave & Darby, Steven M.

* **MANY THANKS** to all who made offerings for flowers and decoration; who provided palms and willows, olive oil, wine, rose water, and incense for the Holy Days, and red eggs for Pascha; and who gave their voices for singing and their time for cleaning.

* **THOMAS SUNDAY CEMETERY OFFERINGS** this year will be used to fund one or more "mercy graves" to be offered to bereaved families when appropriate. Please be generous.

* **IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS.** Thank you for remembering the needs of others.

This Week:

Mon, April 20: Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.

Tues, April 21: Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.

Wed, April 22: Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Great Vespers, Artoklasia & Trisagion (Radu's father, 20 years), 6:00 p.m.
FOCUS: Norristown, 7:00 p.m.
Festal Orthros, 7:30 p.m.

Thurs, April 23: Divine Liturgy (St. George), 9:30 a.m.
FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.

Fri, April 24: Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Teen Babysitting, 5:00 p.m.
Paschal Canon, 6:00 p.m.
Teen Tea w/ Abouna, 7:30 p.m.

Sat, April 25: Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m.
GREAT VESPERS, 6:30 p.m.
Confessions, 7:30 p.m.

Sun, April 26: **HOLY MYRRHBEARERS**
ORTHROS, 8:15 a.m.
DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.

OFFERINGS 4/12: Candles, \$1,167.75. Collections, \$1,809.94. Book Shelf Ministry, \$263. Flowers, \$125. One-Time Projects, \$196.49. Camping, \$100. Building Fund, \$2,123.49. Food for Hungry, \$119. Teen Fund, \$100. Teen OMYT, \$260. Kitchen Fund, \$100. Stewardship, \$2,484.52. Total received: \$10,851.19.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

DURING THE PASCHAL SEASON:

- ✦ We say or sing the Resurrection Troparion every day with our devotions.
- ✦ We continue to share the good news with the greeting, "Christ is risen!"
- ✦ We read the Book of Acts and the Gospel of John in our family Bibles.
- ✦ There is a relaxed fast on Wednesdays and Fridays. (Communion fast continues as usual.)
- ✦ In honor of the Resurrection, there is no kneeling, in Church or at home, until the Pentecost Kneeling Prayers.

Mark Your Calendar:

Mid-Pentecost
Wednesday, May 6

Ascension
Thursday, May 21

Pentecost
Sunday, May 31

Sts. Peter & Paul
Monday, June 29

Save the Date!
2026 Parish Life Conference
July 1-4

Vacation Church School 2026
August 3-7

APRIL OUTREACH
COLLECTION:
Cleaning Supplies

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of the Middle East Met. Onuphy and faithful of Ukraine The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered, St Tikhon's Seminary, St Raphael School, and those to whom they reach out. Newly Illumined Mary and Mary Newly Ordained Dcn John and family James Carol-Anna Elizabeth Wadih John Paraskevi Sister Anka Hieromonk Silouan Athena Natalia Aristides Christine Daria Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries Priest Nathan, Priest Isaac, Deacon Irenaeus, Deacon Moses, Theophanes, Jacob, John, Samuel, & all seminarians and their families Those searching for jobs, houses, spouses & monasteries Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples Families struggling to conceive Expectant and new mothers and their babies Those in mourning The people of our land and our world, and for their repentance, healing & unity	+Patriarch Ilia +Priest Timothy +Virgil +Raisa +Gloria +Stephanie (April Parish Diptychs) +Vasilios +Frederick +Mary +Vaseleka +Carl +Nieme +Mary +Haydieh +Justin +Calin +Stavros +Marianne Catechumens Matthew H Martin (Ernie) R Sean, Meghan, John T Robert S Martin (Morgan), Gabriella T Anthony V Slavek G Nevada L Josiah Casie, Ray, Gwen L Daniel, Amos, Marigold, Eleanor Shawn, Miriam, Emilie, Emerald, Elijah, Esther Jeff, Jasmin, Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob Andrew, Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Priscilla Phoebe Daniel, Jordan, Daniella, Meadow, Mason Hannah B Samuel, Emilie, Ari, Addiso Nicole P Dylan H Ryan M Tyler H Kassandra H Christopher, Nailah Benjamin-Joseph Mission Chapel: Sean & Natalie, Rosalie & Abel K David S John C Inactive: Jasper, Asher, Andrew, Michael, James