



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

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www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am

Second Sunday of Pascha • Great-Martyr George



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Entrance Hymn for Pascha: In the gathering places bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. O Son of God who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Troparion for St. Thomas the Apostle (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.

Troparion for St. George the Great Martyr (Tone 4): Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and support of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings: O great among martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Kontakion for Pascha (Tone 8): Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal; Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming 'Rejoice' to the myrrh-bearing women, granting peace to Thine apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

THE EPISTLE

For St. George

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.”

THE GOSPEL

For Thomas Sunday

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.



CONCERNING SILENCE

Metropolitan Saba

Silence is the language of eternal life. Blessed is he who has learned silence, which is not merely stopping speech but listening to the voice of God. Silence is not just the absence of the voice but a foreshadowing of eternal life and a perfection of its voice.

The most beautiful moments require silence. Humanity is utterly captivated by these moments, so that all signs of movement and noise that can disrupt the beauty of these moments ceases.

Silence and serenity are twins, and serenity is an internal calmness that indicates the quieting of the noisy passions that struggle inside the human being and the desires that lead to disputes. Silence is the offspring of deep peace stemming from the presence of God in the human soul.

Silence is hard for the common man, who is sinking in different concerns. Silence needs perfection and maturity fed by peace, so that the person inclines toward contemplation instead of being distracted by what is not useful and won't last.

Silence is the realization of human language's insufficiency and limitations. It is looking inward and going down deep. Pearls are found in the deep sea, while the lichens grow in shallow water, forming swamps.

Blessed is he who has experienced silence because he has found the "pearl of great price," leading him to sell everything to buy it. Blessed is he who has tasted positive silence and enjoyed it. He is someone who realized its meaning, so that it fascinated him and drew him to run after it. Blessed is he who has seen what cannot easily be seen, transfixing him so that he is captivated and holds fast to the beauties of the revelation, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9).

And we further ask: why does the contemporary person flee from silence? And preferably, we should ask: can he really be able to experience silence? Silence for him becomes synonymous with death because he lives in an environment filled with empty movement, which takes him captive because it makes him think he will die if he leaves it.

Man gets accustomed to his surroundings, so they distract him from confronting himself. Silence is the offspring of contemplation, and the many voices of our world obstruct contemplation, listening, insight, and settling into our depths.

Not only is the voice the foe of silence, but also the image and the mind busy with many passing and insignificant things, which are impoverished of the original meaning of life. Anything that distracts the mind and pulls apart the soul and disperses attention are enemies of silence.

Seek silence when the voices are loud. Seek it when words overflow with what is necessary and what is not. Seek it when the noise is increased and the tumult is multiplied and the faces are absent. For silence is a need that no one who is drowning in tumult—internally and externally—can accept.

Silence comes from listening to the voice of God in the inner calmness. Mary stayed at the feet of the Savior listening to His words, but Martha's busyness with offering hospitality made her complain about her sister, so that Christ blessed Mary by saying, "She has chosen the good part, which will not be taken from her" (Luke 10:42).

Dedicate a time to train yourself in silence. At the beginning of your worldly day, spend a few minutes with the Divine Word and reflect on your life. Then increase the time gradually, as much as your time allows.

When the passions calm within you, come under control, and go back to what they were created to be and you reach inner freedom and become the master of your life, then you will love silence, for sure, because you will have oxygen for your inner life. Whoever is used to fine jewelry can differentiate it from fake glare.

True silence translates to a constant service of others, an active service that is not rattling, a life-giving service that does not complain, a joyful service that conveys peace, and an animated service full of life.

In the midst of pain, you become aware of silence and understand its importance when you start to become free from the tyranny of self, so that you can see your Creator in His radiance and your brethren as they are.

You start real silence when you control your passions and recognize your Creator and discover the face of your Savior. Then you see existence in cleaving to His life-giving face and letting go of anything that obscures it. Your heart calls for the Savior constantly, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening" (Luke 24:29).

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Today:

- Coffee hour and church school, after Divine Liturgy

This week:

- No morning prayers at church this week
- **Wednesday, April 26:** Homeschool classes, 11am-4pm; Vespers, 7pm.
- **Saturday, April 29:** Bible Bowl practice, 5pm; Vespers, 7pm
- **Next Sunday, April 30:** Holy Myrrh-bearers Sunday.

CHURCH SCHOOL PLAY PRACTICE. On Sunday, May 7, following coffee hour, our Church School students under the direction of Elizabeth Kushiner and Maggie Kishler will perform “Road to Emmaus,” a play based on the pre-Lenten and Lenten Sunday Gospel readings. Practice schedule is as follows:

- **Saturday, April 22:** Practice for all classes except Acclimation, 4pm
- **Sunday, April 23:** Practice during church school for all classes involved except Acclimation
- **Sunday, April 30:** Practice during church school (all classes)
- **Saturday, May 6:** Dress rehearsal and lunch, 10am
- **Sunday, May 7:** Performance!

SUMMER BIBLE SCHOOL DAY CAMP will be at St. George in Cicero, June 12-15, for kids ages 6-12. Register online at www.stgeorgechi.org/camp. Fee is \$80, but please see Fr. Andrew for help with funding.

ALL SAINTS 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION is slated for the weekend of June 24-25. Mark your calendars!

The summer **PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE** for our diocese will take place at the Oak Brook Marriot, June 28-July 2. Register online at antiochianevents.org.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sunday April 23 <i>St. Thomas</i>	Doug J.	Sandy A.	Domitille	Zach C.	R - Z
Sunday April 30	Jim K.	Debbie K.	JoAnne T.	Lydia A.	A - F
Sunday May 7	Paul K.	Pat K.	Sandy A.	Alina S.	G - K
Sunday May 14	Joseph L.	Domitille	Azizeh C.	Domitille	L - P
Sunday May 21	Richard C.	Cristina P.	Nancy L.	Zach C.	R - Z
Wed. May 24 <i>Ascension</i>	Sd. Joseph	Dn. Walid	Domitille	Volunteer	Potluck
Sunday May 28	Michelle C.	Sandy A.	JoAnne T.	Lydia A.	A - F

For Sunday coffee hour, the church has been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour.

*If you have children, please monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and help them clean up after themselves. **Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour.** And of course, things go faster when we all pitch in and help!*



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

APRIL 23-29, 2023

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

During Paschaltide, the Church's lectionary readings come primarily from the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of St. John. These readings have been supplemented here with Old Testament passages from the Vespereal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday.

Sunday, April 23: St. Thomas the Apostle
Matthew 28:16-20 / Acts 5:12-20 / John 20:19-31

Monday, April 24: Mellitus, Archbishop of Canterbury
Jonah 1-2 / Acts 4:1-22 / John 4:1-4, 43-54

Tuesday, April 25: Holy Apostle Mark the Evangelist
Jonah 3-4 / Acts 4:23-37 / John 5:16-30

Wednesday, April 26: Hiero-Martyr Basil of Amasea
Joshua 5:10-15 / Acts 5:1-11 / John 5:31-47

Thursday, April 27: Holy Hieromartyr Symeon, Kinsman of the Lord
Exodus 13:17-22 / Acts 5:17-42 / John 6:1-14

Friday, April 28: Nine Martyrs of Cyzicus
Exodus 14:1-20 / Acts 6:1-15 / John 6:15-21

Saturday, April 29: Jason and Sosipater, Apostles of the 70
Acts 7:1-16 / John 6:22-27

ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
HIS BEATITUDE PATRIARCH JOHN X OF ANTIOCH
HIS GRACE BISHOP ANTHONY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO AND THE MIDWEST
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