



Holy Apostle Thomas

TROPARION OF ST. THOMAS

Thou wast a disciple of Christ and a member of the divine choir of Apostles, by thine unbelief thou didst make known Christ's Resurrection, and by touch thou wast assured of His holy Passion, O all-glorious Thomas, and now pray that we be granted peace and great mercy.

MEGALYNARION OF ST. THOMAS

Doubting, thou did come forth to touch His side; yet the resurrection was confirmed by thine unbelief. Henceforth, all have been taught by thee to serve Christ, O Thomas, who did end thy course well by holy martyrdom.

ST. THOMAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1201 N. Llano Street
Fredericksburg, Texas

THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

FATHERS OF THE
FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNSEL

Sunday, June 1, 2025

*Antiochian Diocese of
Wichita and Mid-America*

Primate
His Beatitude, the Patriarch of
Antioch, JOHN X

Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of All North America
His Eminence, Metropolitan Saba

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Sunday, June 1, 2025; The After-Feast of the Ascension

Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Martyr Justin the Philosopher & companions at Rome; Archimandrite Justin Popovic of Serbia

EIGHTH EOTHINON GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John (21:1—14).

At that time, Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and He revealed Himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to Him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any fish?” They answered Him, “No.” Jesus said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was naked, and sprang into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and dine.” Now none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.

THE SYNAXARION

On June 01 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Martyr Justin the Philosopher and his companions at Rome; and Archimandrite Justin Popovic of Serbia.

On this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the first Ecumenical Council of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, which took place in Nicaea in Bithynia. Arius, the notorious heretic, began to blaspheme against God and His Son the Word, saying that the latter was not God consubstantial with the Father, but that He was created as a stranger to the Substance of the Father and His glory. Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, tried to constrain Arius from disturbing the faithful with this teaching; even though Alexander excommunicated him, Arius did not cease his blasphemy, which spread throughout the Church in all nations. Thus, Emperor Constantine the Great called the First Ecumenical Council, which gathered bishops and teachers in the Church from all lands. They all proclaimed, as by one mouth, the equality of the Son of God with the Father in Substance, thus laying down the noble Confession of Faith, The Creed, which we Orthodox Christians recite to this day. The Church regards these divine Fathers as preachers of the Faith next to the holy Apostles.

Verses

O ye light-bearing stars of the spiritual firmament, enlighten my mind with your rays.

Verses Against Arius

Calling the Son a stranger to the Father’s essence, Arius proved to be a stranger to God’s glory.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE TWO

While celebrating on this day the holy Fathers’ memory, O all-compassionate Master, we pray Thee by their entreaties to save Thy people and Thy flock from all the harm of heresies and deem all worthy to extol the Father, Word and All-holy Spirit with glory and honor.

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (20:16—18, 28—36)

In those days, Paul was determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if possible, to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the priests of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops, to shepherd the church of the Lord and God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know that after my departure ravenous wolves will enter among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, remain watchful, remembering that for three years I did not cease to admonish every one, night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by such laboring we ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down on his knees with them all, and prayed.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (17:1—13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

APOLYTIKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE FOUR

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, making them confident through the blessing that Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

WELCOME TO VISITORS

If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you joined with us in prayer today. Please leave your email address with Fr. Methodios if you would like to receive this bulletin and the services. If you are interested in studying the Orthodox faith systematically, please come to the catechumen classes, and speak to Fr. Methodios at 512-632-8188, or contact him at methodios102@yahoo.com.

REGULAR SERVICES

WEDNESDAY (7:00 p.m.) — Paraklesis
SATURDAY (6:00 p.m.) — Great Vespers
SUNDAY (9:00 a.m.) — Orthros
(10:00 a.m.) — Divine Liturgy
Confessions by appointment — contact the Pastor.

FASTING

This week observe regular fasting on Wednesday and Friday. Next week, June 9 to 13, is a fast free week following Pentecost. June 16 begins the Apostles' Fast, regular fasting but wine and oil are allowed, except on Wednesdays and Fridays. This fast ends on June 28.

CATECHUMEN CLASS & BOOK STUDY

Catechism class will meet June 15 during social hour. Classes will also be streamed on Zoom, Meeting ID 303 479 4823; Passcode 878497, and be available on the parish website. The book study is in recess. We are looking for another book to cover. Contact Fr. Methodios if you have a preference. Zoom Meeting ID 303 479 4823; Passcode 878497.

VISIT BY ARCHIEPISCOPAL VICAR

On Saturday, May 31, and Sunday, June 1, Archimandrite Calinic, our Archiepiscopal Vicar, will be visiting St. Thomas. All children are invited to meet with Fr. Calinic from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. on Saturday. If you RSVP'd, share a meal at St. Thomas with Fr. Calinic following Vespers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays during social hour.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

The Parish Life Conference for the Diocese of Wichita will be June 11 to 14 in Norman, Oklahoma. Additional information can be found here: <https://antiochianevents.com/wichita>

The national Archdiocese Convention will be July 21 to 25, in Chicago. Additional information can be found here: <https://www.ac2025chicago.org/>

COUNCILS

[We] call the attention of the reader to the fact that in this, as in every other of the Seven Ecumenical Councils, the question the Fathers considered was not what they supposed Holy Scripture might mean, nor what they, from *a priori* arguments, thought would be consistent with the mind of God, but something entirely different, to wit, what they had received. They understood their position to be that of witnesses, not of exegetes. They recognized but one duty resting upon them in this respect —to hand down to other faithful men that good thing the Church had received according to the command of God. The first requirement was not learning, but honesty. They question they were called to answer was not, What do I think probable, or even certain, from Holy Scripture? But, What have I been taught, what has been intrusted to me to hand down to others? When the time came in the Fourth Council to examine the Tome of Pope St. Leo, the question was not whether it could be proved to the assembled fathers from Holy Scripture, but whether it was the traditional faith of the Church.

—Henry R. Percival, *The Seven Ecumenical Councils*, Veritatis Splendor Publications, 2013, p. 66.