

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA,  
Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of all North America



His Grace Bishop JOHN,  
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of  
Worcester and New England

*St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church*  
61 Bowers Street, Lowell, MA 01854



### **NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA**

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

**April 27, 2025**

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Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Leonard Faris ~ Pastor ~ Email: [fatherfaris@comcast.net](mailto:fatherfaris@comcast.net)

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Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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### **WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sunday: Matins (Orthros) Service 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. and we should not arrive late

Sunday School: Every other Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

**Prayer Requests and Bulletin News:** All prayer requests and articles for the weekly bulletin must be submitted each week by **Noon, Monday**: emailed to Fr. Leonard at [fatherfaris@comcast.net](mailto:fatherfaris@comcast.net) call 978-452-4816, otherwise, the requests and articles will be published the following week.

### Third Antiphon

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him  
flee from before His face.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs,  
bestowing life!

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.  
So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.  
This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

### Entrance Hymn

In the gathering places bless ye 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.

### Troparion for St. Thomas, 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.

### Kontakion of Easter in Tone 8

Though thou, O deathless One, didst descend into the grave, thou didst destroy the power of hell  
and, as Victor, thou didst rise again, O Christ our God. Thou didst greet the ointment-bearing  
women, saying, Rejoice! Thou didst bestow peace upon thy Disciples, and resurrection upon those  
that are fallen.

### THE EPISTLE

*Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise ye 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 with one accord in Solomon's porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. 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 cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they laid their hands on 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

### 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 to 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 to 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 to 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, "Thomas, you have 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.

#### Prayers are being offered for the Health and Safety of:

Nora Abdelahad  
Robin Abodeely  
Elias AbouFarah  
**ANSARA:** Lorice, William, Yvette  
Ellia Armano  
Ray Beaudry  
**BORAGINE:** David & Cindy, Ida  
Bob Gendron  
Julie Grillakis  
Athanasia Grivas  
Duayne Habib  
Victoria Ishac  
Ray Mansour  
Clemence Maria  
Elaine Maria  
Doha and Salim Mitri  
Gwen Noonan  
Helen Poulos  
Tom Saad  
Laurence Skaff  
Amad Tayebi  
Nancy Husson Tafe  
**Yeghiazarians:** Dr. Vartan, Lisa &  
Genia

#### Prayers are being offered in Memory of:

Charles Abdelahad  
**ABODEELY:** Connie, George  
Adam Aiken  
**ANSARA:** Andrew, Elias  
John, Maurice, Michael  
**ARSENAULT:** Phyllis, Lionel  
**ASSALY:** Gladys, Linda  
**BAHOU:** Juliette, Laurice, Siham  
Widad Batten  
**BEAUDRY:**  
Barbara, James "Jimmy"  
**BETOR:** Lillian, Edward  
**BORAGINE:** Dorothy, Sal  
Cleopatra Bouras  
Eva Lodigian DeGrandpre  
**FARIS:** George, Elsie,  
Mary T., Mary V.  
**GHAREEB:** Elizabeth & Joseph  
Elias Grivas  
George P. Habib  
**HADDAD:** Emile & Teffaha  
**HAJJAR:** Philip & Rosalind  
Elias Hanna  
**HUSSON:** Camille, Dorothea,  
Eleanor, Joanne, Robert,  
N. Mary  
**KADIR:** Joe & Terry Husson  
Salim Khabazeh  
**LAKKIS:** Gerges, Michel  
**LOUH:** Amanda, Nuha Shahin

**LOWE:** George & Rose  
**MANOLIS:**  
Efthymios & Paraskevi  
Robert Maria  
George Matook  
Maurice Matte  
Denise McCradly  
Bassam Moussa  
Fred Noonan  
**NOONAN:** Frederick & Matilda  
**PANAGOPOULOS:**  
Paul & Lillian  
**SAAD:** Anisse, Hanna  
Mary Saati  
**SABA:** George W. & Mary  
Badawi Sabbouh  
Eleanor Shalhoup  
Fred Simon  
**SKAFF:** Chakeep, Judy,  
George M., Mildred,  
Arthur, Minnie,  
Nellie, Ricky, Stephen,  
T. Michael  
J. B. Taleb  
Alexa Tayebi  
Elaine Vieira  
Leon Yeghiazarians  
**ZAHARIAS:**  
Mary Ann & Charles  
**ZANANIRI:** Hilda, Nahil

REMEMBER TO GREET ONE ANOTHER DURING THIS SEASON  
OF RESURRECTION WITH:

**Christ is Risen!**

Al-Masih Qam!

Kristos Anesti!

Kristos A Inviat!

Kristos Voskresy!

Krisdos Haryav ee Merelotz!

**Truly, He is Risen!**

Haqan Qam!

Alithos Anesti!

Adeverat A Inviat!

Voyistino Voskresy!

Orhnyal eh Harootiunun Krisdosee

MEMORIAL SERVICE—NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 4TH

A 40 Day Memorial Service will be offered for the repose of the soul of the Handmaid of God Eva Lodigian DeGrandpre, requested by Nina Pare & Margaret Sutherland. May Eva's memory be eternal.

A Memorial Service will be offered for the repose of the soul of the Servant, Camille Husson, requested his daughter Karen Hopkinson and family. May Camille's memory be eternal.

COMING UP

Sunday, April 27, 2025    6:00 PM    Sunday School

COFFEE HOURS

**We would like to see a coffee hour each week.** For those interested in signing up to host a coffee hour please inform Fr. Leonard and put your name and the reason you are hosting it on the calendar in the back of the hall. If no one sponsors a coffee hour there will NOT be any for that day.

Please see Fr. Leonard if you have any questions.

## Holy, Glorious Apostle Thomas



The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas was born in the Galilean city of Pansada and was a fisherman. Hearing the good tidings of Jesus Christ, he left all and followed after Him. The Apostle Thomas is included in the number of the holy Twelve Apostles of the Savior.

According to Holy Scripture, the holy Apostle Thomas did not believe the reports of the other disciples about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe".

On the eighth day after the Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the Apostle Thomas and showed him His wounds. "My Lord and my God," the Apostle cried out. "Thomas, being once weaker in faith than the other apostles," says Saint John Chrysostom, "toiled through the grace of God more bravely, more zealously and tirelessly than them all, so that he went preaching over nearly all the earth, not fearing to proclaim the Word of God to savage nations."

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." In Slavonic, it says, "The Belief of Thomas." When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

According to Church Tradition, the holy Apostle Thomas founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Ethiopia and India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr's death. For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Meliapur, the holy apostle was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally, pierced with five spears, he departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of the holy Apostle Thomas are in India, in Hungary and on Mt. Athos. The name of the Apostle Thomas is associated with the Arabian Icon of the Mother of God.

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**Donna Christopulos and Julie Grillakis**

*In memory of  
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 Elizabeth and Joseph Ghareeb  
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 You are missed*

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