

THE STORY OF ST. THOMAS

Each year on the Sunday following the Resurrection, our Church remembers the incident involving St. Thomas, with its remarkable turning of doubt into faith. When Christ was crucified, the apostles fled in fear. For all of them, life had lost its meaning; their hopes and dreams were shattered as the Lord was laid in the tomb. But they came together Sunday evening after the crucifixion, seeking comfort in their sadness.

It was then that the Risen Christ suddenly appeared in their midst. They looked at Him and couldn't believe their eyes. But Jesus spoke to them, showed them His wounds, and convinced them of the reality of His presence. They rejoiced with renewed hope.

But Thomas was not present that evening. Later, when the Apostles told him the good news of the Resurrection, he replied: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails . . . and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

A week passed by. On the Sunday after the Resurrection, once again the apostles were gathered together. This time Thomas was there. In spite of the locked doors, the Risen Christ again suddenly appeared amongst them and greeted them with words of peace. He called Thomas to His side and had him place his fingers in the wounds and see for himself, saying: "Do not be faithless, but believing."

Thomas did as the Lord had asked. Then he fell to his knees and cried out: "My Lord and my God!" His doubts were gone, replaced by a deep and abiding faith. Jesus then responded, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."

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WELCOME VISITORS AND GUESTS

Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor Card. We invite you to join us for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall following the Liturgy.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the chalice for Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after the Liturgy.

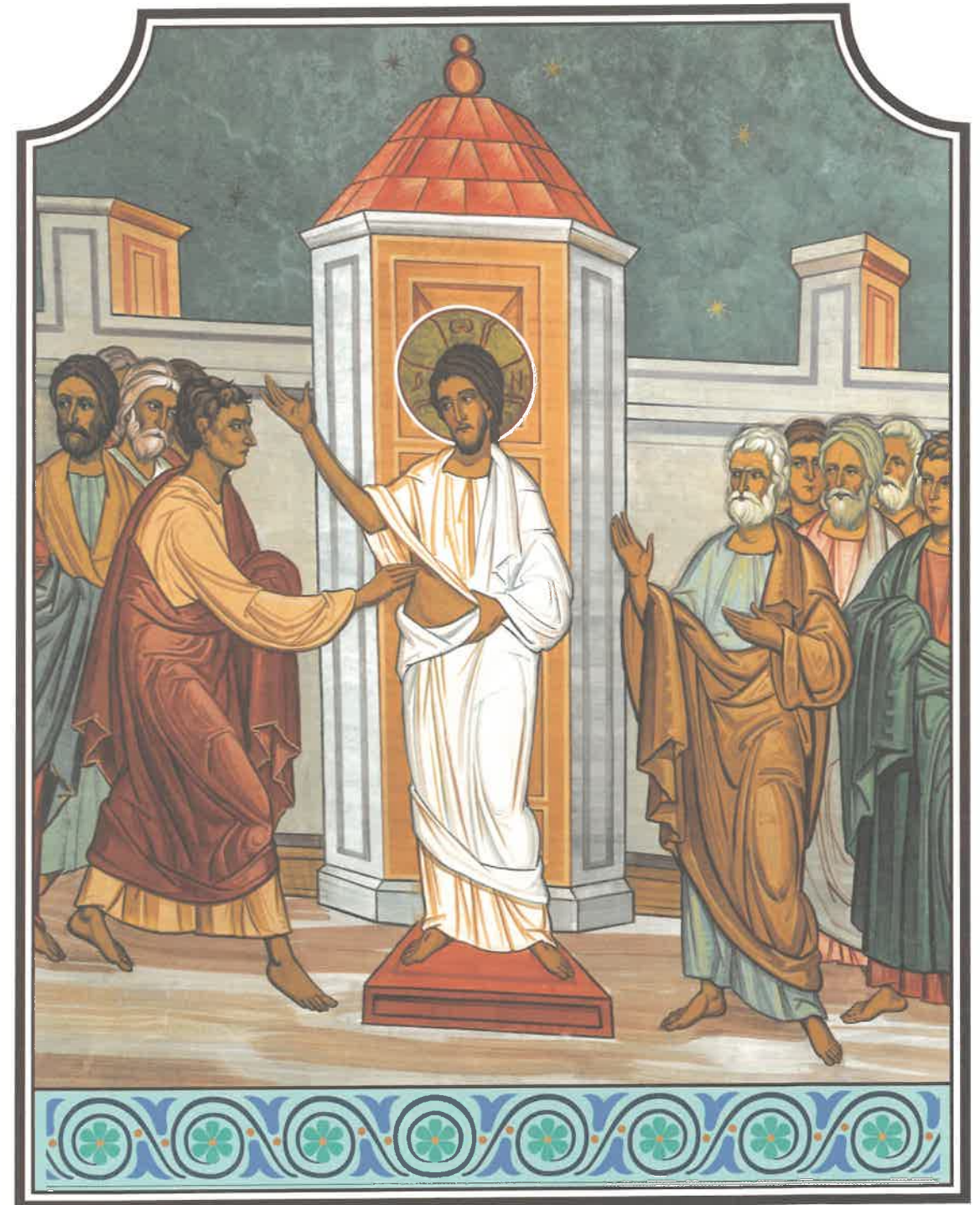
HOLY OBLATION BREAD AND MEMORIAL WHEAT

If you are offering Holy Bread, please pick up your portion on top of the chanter stand at the end of Liturgy.

If you are offering Memorial Wheat, please provide (300) 3oz Dixie cups.

Please notify the Church Office by end-of-day Tuesday.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE DUE TUESDAY END-OF-DAY.



May 12, 2024

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

5311 Mercer, Houston, Texas 77005 www.stgeorgehouston.com

Church Office admin@stgeorgehouston.com 713-665-5252 p
V. Rev. James Shadid Pastor fshadid@gmail.com 316-209-3605 c
Rev. Mark Makarios Assistant mark.makarios@stots.edu 508-685-3498 c
Chris Al-Dehneh Youth Director chrisaldehyeh@gmail.com 915-539-6901 c

HOLY OBLATION is offered in memory of Rana Rizk Shaheen by the Shaheen family.
HOLY OBLATION is offered for the health of Elias and Hanan Shaheen, Christine, Bashar, Joseph, Eliana, the Haddad family, the Shaheen family and the Rizk family by Nada Farah.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Wednesday (5/15)	6:30p Vespers
Saturday (5/18)	6:00p Great Vespers
Sunday (5/19)	8:45a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy

BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY to all Mothers, Grandmothers & Godmothers of St. George. The St. Nicholas Men Society will be offering Cake and Bean SOYO Coffee to all Moms in the Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy.

EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday mornings at 10:00a. studying the Gospel of John.
STUDY OF THE LITURGY: With Fr. Mark on Thursday mornings at 10am.
A PILGRIMAGE TO ANCIENT GREECE WITH FR. GEORGE DAHDYOUH: August 29 – September 9. You can sign up for the Pilgrimage up until May with some charges. For more information call Fr. George or the agency or pick up a flyer from the church or check out the info in the Monday email.
FOCUS HOUSTON CENTER DIAPER DRIVE: Please drop all donations in the FOCUS box in the hallway by the Church Office. (Diapers, baby wipes, baby soap & shampoo, diaper rash cream/powder, newborn formula, etc..) for a full list, please check the Monday email.
ST. GEORGE 50 + BUS TRIP: will be visiting Sts. Constantine & Helen Serbian Orthodox Church in Galveston on Tuesday, May 14. We will be given a tour and have a discussion about the history of this oldest Orthodox Church by Fr. Djordje Veselinovic. To reserve your seat please call Faika Zaid @ 713-213-3211. Space is limited. We will have lunch prepared by the ladies of the church. Buss leaves St. George at 10:00 AM.
HOUSTON MED FEST 2024: Save the date (10/26) for this year's Med Fest! Stay tuned on additional information on how you can help make this year a success! Reach out to Rana Abercia rdeeba09@gmail.com for additional information.

THE ANNUAL PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE: for the Diocese of Wichita & Mid-America is June 12-15 in Beaumont. Early Bird discounts end May 15, 2024. Be sure to reserve your room as well. Hotel rates for the conference start at \$99/night at the Elegante' Hotel, and there are also discounts for suites. Book now to choose the room you prefer! Register online: <https://www.antiochianevents.com/wichita>

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY CENTER

PHASE 1 OF THE FAC PROJECT is moving forward, and our fundraising deadlines are approaching. Please help reach our Phase 1 goal of \$6.5 million by making and fulfilling your FAC contribution today! Pledges and donations can be made on the St. George/FAC website or by scanning the QR code.



FAC TOWN HALL ON MAY 19TH: Do you have any questions, concerns or just looking for additional information? Immediately following services on May 19th, meet us in the hall to get the answers you're looking for. Reach out to Zach Abercia zach.abercia@gmail.com for additional questions.

STEWARDSHIP



2024 PLEDGE STEWARDSHIP "NEW BEGINNINGS": Our 2024 Pledge Campaign is now open, please prayerfully commit to your home of St. George. Please scan the QR code to the left to submit your 2024 Pledge Commitment. In an effort to simplify the pledging process, a new system (Tithe.ly) has been implemented. To donate, give towards your 2024 pledge or to set up recurring payments, scan QR code to the right.



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT EVENTS



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: VBS is back at Saint George and registration is now open! Register today (\$40 per child). Volunteers looking to help also need to fill out a form.

HOUSTON OCF MEETING: Tuesday, 5/14 at 7pm at Saint George. All Houston area college students are invited to join each week, dinner will be provided, as always. Contact Chris (chrisaldehyeh@gmail.com) for more information or to be added to the OCF GroupMe and follow @ocf_houston on Instagram to stay updated.

TEEN SOYO BIBLE BOWL TEAM: Any teens interested in representing Saint George at the 2024 PLC in Beaumont, TX for Bible Bowl, please reach out to Chris (chrisaldehyeh@gmail.com). The Bible Bowl consists of three teens and the book this year is St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Practices will begin soon, in person or over Zoom, depending on preference. For more information, check out the Monday email.

GRADUATION SUNDAY: Sunday, June 9th, following Divine Liturgy, we would like to recognize the wonderful graduates of Saint George. Students graduating high school, college, post graduate programs, and anything in between are asked to fill out the form by June 1st so a program can be made for Grad Sunday



The Gospel

The reading is 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.

FOLLOWING THE READING OF THE GOSPEL, ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME & ENCOURAGED TO COME TO THE SOLEA FOR A CHILDREN'S SERMON.

The Gospel in Arabic

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس يوحنا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر (20:19-31)

لما كانت عشية ذلك اليوم وهو أول الأسبوع والأبواب مغلقة حيث كان التلاميذ مجتمعين خوفاً من اليهود جاء يسوع ووقف في الوسط * وقال لهم السلام لكم * فلما قال هذا أراهم يديه وجنبه. فرح التلاميذ حين أبصروا الرب * وقال لهم ثانية السلام لكم كما أرسلني الأب كذلك أنا أرسلكم * ولما قال هذا نفخ فيهم وقال لهم خذوا الروح القدس * من غفرتم خطاياهم تغفر لهم ومن أمسكتم خطاياهم أمسكت * أما توما أحد الاثني عشر الذي يُقال له التوأم فلم يكن معهم حين جاء يسوع * فقال له التلاميذ الآخرون إننا قد رأينا الرب. فقال لهم إن لم أعاين أثر المسامير في يديه وأضع يدي في جنبه لا أومن * وبعد ثمانية أيام كان تلاميذه أيضاً داخلًا وتوما معهم فأتى يسوع والأبواب مغلقة ووقف في الوسط وقال السلام لكم * ثم قال لتوما هات إصبعك إلى ههنا وعاين يدي وهات يدك وضعها في جنبي ولا تكن غير مؤمن بل مؤمناً * أجاب توما وقال له ربي والهي * قال له يسوع لأنك رأيتني آمنت. طوبى للذين لم يروا وآمنوا * وآياتٍ أحر كثيرة صنع يسوع أمام تلاميذه لم تكتب في هذا الكتاب. وأما هذه فقد كتبت لتؤمنوا بأن يسوع هو المسيح ابن الله. ولكي تكون لكم إذا آمنتم حياة باسمه.

VII. *At "Commemorating our most blessed Lady. . . " the following Megalynarion:*

"O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee."

VIII. *Instead of "We have seen the true light," sing "Christ is risen" once.*

SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam!

Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Hristos a Inviat! Adeverat a Inviat!

Qom Alohu min Kubra! Tishbahtu Hilo Rabu!

Yasous Taustwal! Aown Tasous Tanastwal!

Cristo è Risorto! Veramente è Risorto!

Christus ist auferstanden!

Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

Christos Musen! Ekusen Musen!

The Troparion of PASCHA

English

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

Arabic

Al masihu qama min bain il amwat, wa watia al mawta bil mawt,
wa wahaba al hayat, lil lathina fil qubur!

Greek

Christos anesti ek nekron, thanato thanaton patesas
kai tis en tis mnemasi zoe charisamenos!

I. *After "Blessed is the kingdom" "Christ is risen" is sung three times.*

II. *At the First Antiphon:*

1. "Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His name, give glory to His praises."
(*"Through the intercessions . . ." after each verse*).
2. "Say to God: 'How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O most High.'
"Glory . . . both now. . ." *and then* "Through the intercessions . . ."

III. *At the Second Antiphon:*

1. "May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us."
(*"Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia." after each verse*).
2. "That Thy way be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee."
3. "May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him."
"Glory . . . both now. . ." *and then* "O only begotten Son and Word. . ."

IV. *At the third Antiphon:*

1. "Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face."
(*Then, "Christ is risen. . ." after each verse*).
2. "As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire."
3. "So let sinners perish at the presence of God; and let the righteous be glad."
4. "This is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein."

V. *At the Little Entrance:*

"In the gathering places bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia."

VI. *After the Little Entrance, the following are chanted:*

-*The troparion of Thomas in 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."

- *The kontakion of Pascha in 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 ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those who had fallen."

The Epistle

Great is the Lord, and great is His power. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The reading is from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure 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 Epistle in Arabic

الى كل الارض خرج صوته عظيم هو ربنا وعظيمة هي قوته

سبحوا الرب فإنه صالح

فصل من أعمال الرسل القديسين الأبطال (5:12-20)

في تلك الأيام جرت على أيدي الرسل آيات وعجائب كثيرة في الشعب. (وكانوا كلهم بنفس واحدة في رواق سليمان * ولم يكن أحد من الآخرين يجترأ أن يخالفهم. لكن كان الشعب يعظمهم * وكان جماعات من رجال ونساء ينضمون بكثرة مؤمنين بالرب) * حتى إن الناس كانوا يخرجون بالمرضى إلى الشوارع ويضعونهم على فرش وأسرة لينقع ولو ظل بطرس عند اجتيازه على بعض منهم فيبرأوا من كل علة بهم * وكان يجتمع أيضاً إلى أورشليم جمهور المدن التي حولها يحملون مرضى ومعدبين من أرواح نجسة. فكانوا يشفون جميعهم * فقام رئيس الكهنة وكل الذين معه وهم من شيعة الصدوقيين وامتأوا غيره * فألقوا أيديهم على الرسل وجعلوهم في الحبس العام * ففتح ملاك الرب أبواب السجن ليلاً وأخرجهم وقال * امضوا وقفوا في الهيكل وكلموا الشعب بجميع كلمات هذه الحياة