

Sunday of the Canaanite

2021-02-14

St. Thomas Orthodox Church

A Parish of the [Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America](#)



To our visitors...

Welcome! We hope your time with us is healing and worshipful. Please note that, although we have much respect for other Christian traditions, Holy Communion is reserved for properly prepared members of the Orthodox faith. Everyone is invited to partake of the blessed bread after the conclusion of the Liturgy.

May God's blessing be upon you!

Hymns in Today's Liturgy

Resurrectional *Apolytikion* (Tone 3)

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of St. Thomas (Tone 3)

O Holy Apostle Thomas, intercede to the merciful God, that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of sins.

Ordinary *Kontakion* (Tone 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Epistle

II Corinthians 6:16–7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Gospel

Matthew 15:21–28

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But He did not answer

her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, help me." And He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Synaxarion

On 14 February, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Auxentios the priest of Bithynia.

For Auxentios, the mountain was like Carmel;
who in all things, save his death, was like Elias.

On the fourteenth, Auxentios left this life.

Auxentios was a very prominent aristocrat among the noblemen and courtiers of Emperor Theodosius the Younger in Constantinople. Enflamed with love for Christ, Auxentios was tonsured a monk. When men began to praise him, he fled from their praise and settled on a mountain called Skopa near Chalcedon, which later was referred to as Auxentios' Mountain. But people found him and brought the sick to him for healing, which he did. All of this was reason for amazement, but his humbleness was cause for even greater amazement. Whenever Auxentios was implored to heal someone he defended himself with the words: "I, also, am a sinful man!" When Auxentios healed, he either invited all present to pray to God together with him for the sick person; or he first strengthened the faith in the people and then he told them that God will give to them according to their faith; or he prayed over the head of the sick person: "The Lord Jesus Christ heals you!" Thus, the miracles would not be attributed to him but rather to God. Auxentios participated at the Fourth Œcumenical Council and strongly defended Orthodoxy against the Eutychian and Nestorian heresies. In 470, the Lord took his youthful soul in old age.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Abraham and Maron of Syria; New-martyrs Nicholas of Corinth and George the tailor of Mitylene; and Venerable Cyril, Equal-to-the-Apostles and enlightener of the Slavs. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday	Daily Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas
Thursday	<i>Paraklesis</i>	18:30	Holy Trinity
Saturday	Great Vespers	18:00	St. Thomas

We will stream services live and post updates on [our Facebook page](#), on [our Periscope channel](#), and on [our YouTube channel](#).



The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH,
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

The Right Rev. Bishop BASIL,
Auxiliary Bishop of Wichita and Mid-America

The Rev. Fr. Peter Cox,
Rector of St. Thomas Orthodox Church

✉: PO Box 1042
1100 Jones St
Sioux City IA 51102-1042

☎: +1(712)258-7166
✉: info@stthomassiouxcity.org
🌐: <https://stthomassiouxcity.org>