

**Kontakion**

*St. Thomas*

**-tone 8**

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, when Thou didst come to Thine apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all: Thou art my Lord and my God.

**Prokeimenon**

**tone 3:** Great is our Lord and abundant in power / His understanding is beyond measure!

*v:* Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

**The Reading is from the Acts of the Pure and Sainly Apostles 5:12-20**

*In those days:* through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and were filled with indignation, and 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, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

**Alleluia**

*Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!*

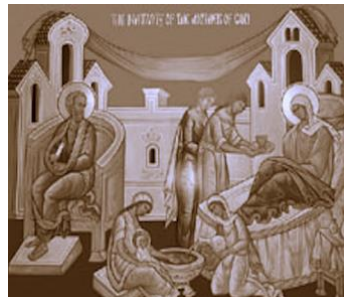
*v: For the Lord is a great God and King over all the earth.*

**The Gospel according to St. John 20:19-31**

At that time, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, 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. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also 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 them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His 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.



**Schedule**

**Sunday, April 27, 2025**

*St. Thomas*

1:00 P.M. Blessing of Cemetery  
*(weather permitting)*

**Saturday, May 3, 2025**

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, May 4, 2025**

*Myrrhbearing Women*

9:15 A.M. Church School

9:30 A.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine

**Saturday, May 10, 2025**

11:00 A.M. Parish Council Meeting

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, May 11, 2025**

*Paralytic*

9:15 A.M. Church School

9:30 A.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, May 17, 2025**

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, May 18, 2025**

*Samaritan Woman*

9:15 A.M. Church School

9:30 A.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

11:30 A.M. Blessing of Motor

Vehicles

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**

5:00 P.M. Vespers

**Sunday, May 25, 2025**

*Blind Man*

9:30 A.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Hours

Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church  
416 Ewing Avenue, Madison, IL 62060

***Sunday, April 27, 2025***

***AntiPascha and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pascha:***

***The Faith of Thomas***

<http://www.nativityofthevirgin.com/>

*"When you pronounce to yourself in your heart the name of God, of the Lord, or that of the most Holy Trinity, or of the Lord God of Sabbaoth, or of the Lord Jesus Christ, then in that Name you have the Lord's whole being; in it is His infinite mercy, His boundless wisdom, His inaccessible light, omnipotence, and immutability. Approach this all-creative, all-keeping, and all-ruling Name in your thoughts and heart with the fear of God, and with faith and love. This is why God's commandment strictly forbids us to use God's name in vain, because His name is Himself, one God in three Persons, and incomplex. Being represented and contained in one single word, although at the same time He is not contained or limited either by it or by anything that exists. This present life is not a jest nor a plaything, although men have turned it into a jest and a plaything. They heedlessly play with time, given for preparation for eternity; they play with idle words. They assemble at their friends', sit and talk idly, and then begin to play at something. They go to theatres, and there both the performers and the spectators only amuse themselves. Others amuse themselves with their mental gifts, with human infirmities or virtues, with the capability of speaking or writing well. Some even amuse themselves with food and drink, using them in excess instead of only using them for satisfying the necessities of hunger and thirst. Some amuse themselves with their clothes, with their faces; they amuse themselves with their children, instead of educating them in the faith, piety, and the fear of God. Their whole life is an amusement. But woe unto those who thus amuse themselves! O, how fearful it is to use food and drink for amusement, to eat and drink in excess! A full stomach makes a man lose faith and the fear of God, and makes him unfeeling in prayer, thanksgiving, and praise to God. A satiated heart turns"*

**Prayer Requests**

**Those in this earthly life**

Alfred  
Helen  
Trent  
Faith  
Michelle  
Janet  
David  
John  
Joann  
Priest Nikolai  
Shawn  
Selaphiel  
Margaret  
James  
Macarius  
Gabrielle  
John  
Gregory  
Archpriest James  
Kristine  
George  
Jake  
Cecelia

Gabriella & CTBB  
Shawn  
Reader Simeon  
Anna  
Elizabeth  
Edmund  
Reader Stephen  
Priest Andrew  
Popadija Joan  
Eva  
Catechumen Athanasius  
Alex  
Julia  
Martha  
Kendra  
David  
Adina  
Catechumen Mary  
Alexandra  
Mary Magdalene  
Catechumen David  
Subdeacon Jason  
Justin  
Dymphna

Hope  
Theodora  
Evangeline  
Diana  
Barbara  
Anastasia  
Maria  
Elaine  
Wilma  
Mark  
Angela  
Elijah  
Sophia  
Matushka Tanya  
Mary  
Archpriest John  
Matushka Margaret  
Matthew  
Priest Josef  
Archpriest Michael  
Reader Peter  
Patricia  
Matushka Virginia

*"away from the Lord, and becomes as hard and unfeeling as a stone. This is why the Savior carefully warns us against surfeiting and drunkenness; "And so that day come upon you unawares (St. Luke 21:34)," because of the wrath of the Lord upon us for heedlessly and idly spending the time in eating and drinking. In proportion as a man gratifies his sensuality, he becomes carnal, and drives away from himself the most Holy Spirit of God, Who cannot dwell in those who lead a carnal life. "What communion hath light with darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14)?" Such a state, worthy of tears, is experienced by very many; but, alas! they do not even recognize that they have not the Spirit of God in them - just the same as a man blind from birth is not conscious of his great loss in not seeing the light. Such men have neither faith nor love in their hearts, nor the spirit of prayer, and they avoid communion with the Church. My God, how many dangers there are in life for me! When I gratify my flesh too much, I become my greatest enemy. Remember that the celebration of the life-giving Mysteries is the unchangeable assent of the life-giving Trinity, predetermined from the creation of the world: it cannot but be. When you are celebrating the Mysteries, God the Father Himself, by His Holy Ghost, changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ - you are only an instrument. The Father Himself, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, celebrates through you the Liturgy, and consecrates the Holy Gifts. "Thou art He that offerest, and art offered," it is said, "Christ our God (Prayer of the Priest at the Liturgy during the Cherubic Hymn)." Remember therefore, the immutability of God and the truth in all His words. You will only worthily perform the sacrament of penitence when you will be soul-loving and not gain-loving, when you will be patient and not irritable. O, what great love for our neighbors' souls is necessary in order to confess them worthily, patiently, not hurriedly, and without growing angry! The priest who confesses should remember that "joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth (St. Luke 15:7, 10)." How zealously he should, therefore, strive to awaken feelings of repentance in those who confess to him, and who sometimes do not even know what to repent of as they ought! The priest should remember how the Apostle, night and day, with tears warned every one of the newly enlightened Christians (Acts 20:31). Every thought of gain in the service of God ought to be entirely thrown aside, trusting to God alone, the soul-lover, for recompense. Question concerning the sins, and teach with firmness and sincerity, and not indolently or with a divided heart. A firm word will call forth firm repentance, will speedily pierce the heart and draw forth tears of emotion and heartfelt contrition; but if the priest does not question firmly concerning the sins, but indolently and insincerely, then his spiritual children also, seeing the indolence and double-mindedness of their spiritual father, are not disposed to confess heartily, sincerely." My Life in Christ, by St. John of Kronstadt*

**Troparion**

*St. Thomas*

**TONE 7**

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life! Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy disciples, O Christ God! Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit, by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

**Those in the life to come**

Dorothy  
Matushka Olga  
Archpriest Thomas  
Metropolitan THEODOSIUS  
Archpriest Vladimir  
Archbishop PAUL  
Archimandrite Innocent  
Edward  
Francis  
Jean

Olga  
Cheryl  
Nancy  
Magdalene  
John  
Victor  
Barbara