

APRIL 26, 2020

BULLETIN – NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA  
SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED “THE TWIN”

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Deadline for Bulletin Submissions – 10:00 am Wednesday ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org/>

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!**  
**Christus is opgestaan! Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!**  
**Atgyfododd Crist! Atgyfododd yn wir!**

*Many Years – Birthday*

Darcy Machnee – <i>belated</i>	April 22
Andrew Beck – <i>belated</i>	April 25
Annea Lewis	April 29
Caleb Lewthwaite	April 30
James Paquette	April 30
Cameron Petras	April 30
Fr. Nathan	May 2

**ONLINE DONATING**

To donate online, go to <https://ssppaoc.org/#>. When the home page comes up, at the top right, you will see “Support Our Parish”. Select “Donate Online” and that will take you to a page with a list of possible donations and a place to pay tithes.

**DIVINE SERVICES ONLINE**

To see the list of links for accessing online services, please go here:

<https://www.antiochian.org/dashboard?name=COVID-19>

**NEEDS & SURPLUS**

If you have a surplus of

- bleach, household cleaners, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, water, canned and jarred food (especially vegetables), frozen foods, diapers, paper towels

and want to share with others in our parish who need these items, please bring them to the parish hall on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. If you have a need, please call Marilyn Spurgeon at (831) 345-5448 or email her at [mlspurgeon64@gmail.com](mailto:mlspurgeon64@gmail.com). The

Kindness Ministry Team will then work out a time/ place for items to be distributed to those in need.

**MORE ONLINE RESOURCES**

The Department of Homeschooling and other Archdiocese ministries are offering learning opportunities, support, and curriculum resources for all ages. Go here for more info:

<https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/622>

**This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul–April 27-May 3, 2020**

5/2	Sat	Great Vespers
5/3	Sun	Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy – Myrrh-bearers

**Looking Ahead –**

*Services will be conducted similarly to what is listed above until further notice from the Antiochian Archdiocese and the County of Santa Cruz. When we know more, you will be notified as to any change to this schedule. Please remember to pray at home.*

*Memory Eternal!*

*April 30 Tatiana Romanova-Grant*

**Check your email for information on the drive-by Community Dinner today. Donations are needed. Call Kriss Saad @ (831) 419-2677**

## Orthodox Tidbits

*“The Word of God came in His own Person, because it was He alone, the Image of the Father, Who could recreate man made after the Image [of God]. In order to effect this recreation, however, He had first to do away with death and corruption. Therefore, He assumed a human body, in order that in it death might once and for all be destroyed, and that men might be renewed according to the Image [of God].”  
Saint Athanasius, On the Incarnation*

This is a very different view than one of the most commonly held Western views of what Christ’s work on the Cross entailed. In the Western view, God demands that man pay for his sins through, first of all, the sacrifice of animals in the temple and then ultimately, through the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. In this view, the primary change that takes place is not in man, changing by being renewed to the image and likeness of God; but in God Himself, changing from being an angry, bloodthirsty God to one who is appeased by the death of His own Son. This is a very serious claim; it essentially states that the God of love that we know in the New Testament is not the same God as the supposedly bloodthirsty God of the Old Testament. This idea was condemned as a heresy at the Council of Nicea, AD 325.

Another point concerns forgiveness. If God truly forgives us, then no payment is necessary. If a payment is necessary, then a debt is not really forgiven completely. A good illustration is someone who cannot pay for their dinner in a restaurant. If their debt is forgiven, then they can just leave. If they, or someone else, has to wash dishes in the back, then the debt is just being paid in a different manner; it is not really forgiven.

Finally, the view of what the goal of the Christian life is is different than a commonly held Western view. The Orthodox Church views our goal as being restored completely to the Image and Likeness of God through union with Christ. We are not being saved from hell; we are saved for a life in which we are partakers of the divine nature, eternally growing in our union with Christ.

These are very important things to consider. There are many views of God that simply do not line up with what we have seen in the Holy Scriptures and in the life of the Church. Our God is Love, willing to sacrifice God the Son, Jesus Christ, in order to destroy the power of sin and death; so that we may be united with Him ever more and more, to the ages of ages. Amen.

In Christ,  
Fr. Nathan

April 26

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means “in place of Pascha” because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ’s Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday of the Resurrection, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, “Peace be unto you.” Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at the time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior’s scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. Then Thomas immediately cried out, “My Lord and my God!” But Jesus tells His Disciples, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ.

*“God will not judge us about psalmody, nor for the neglect of prayer, but because by abandoning them we have opened our door to the demons.” – St. Isaac the Syrian*