

+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor

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DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

GREAT-MARTYR GEORGE THE TROPHY-BEARER

Christ is Risen / Χριστός Ανέστη / المسيح قام



The Holy and Glorious Great-Martyr George the Trophy Bearer and the Holy Apostle Thomas Touching the Savior's Side

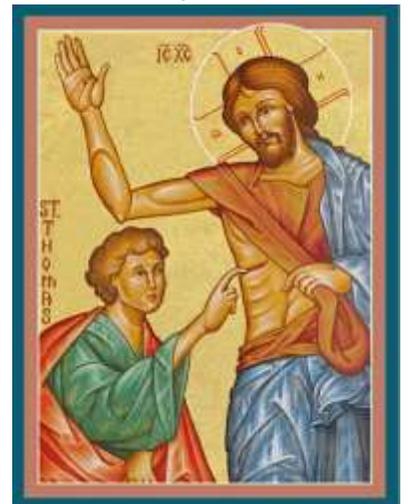
On April 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy and glorious Great-Martyr George the Trophy-bearer.

George was born in Cappadocia the son of wealthy and virtuous parents. His father suffered for Christ and his mother then moved to Palestine. When George grew up, he entered the military, and came into the service of Emperor Diocletian. The most famous George's miracles are depicted in iconography. Near Mount Lebanon was a large lake, inhabited by an enormous dragon-like serpent. Coming out of the lake, it devoured people, and the breath from its nostrils poisoned the air. George rode up on his horse with spear in hand. Crossing himself, he rushed at the serpent saying, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." After George killed the serpent, twenty-five thousand men, plus women and children, were then baptized. Diocletian eventually had George and his wife, Alexandra, beheaded in 303. George is known as the Victory-bearer, or Trophy-bearer, not only for his military achievements, but for enduring martyrdom.

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

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. Starting with this day, the Church dedicates Sunday to the celebration of the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered on Pascha, 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 with His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's wounds—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 His wounds. 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.



THE EPISTLE

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Hear my voice, O God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (12:1-11)

In those days, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

الرسالة (للقديس جاورجيوس)

يَفْرَحُ الصِّدِّيقُ بِالرَّبِّ، اسْتَمِعْ يَا اللَّهُ لِصَوْتِي

فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ. (11-1:12)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ أَلْقَى هِيرُودُسُ الْمَلِكُ الْأَيَادِي عَلَى قَوْمٍ مِنَ الْكَنِيسَةِ لِيُسَيِّئَ إِلَيْهِمْ. وَقَتَلَ يَعْقُوبَ أَخَا يُوحَنَّا بِالسَّيْفِ. وَلَمَّا رَأَى أَنَّ ذَلِكَ يُرْضِي الْيَهُودَ، عَادَ فَقَبِضَ عَلَى بَطْرُسَ أَيْضاً، وَكَانَتْ أَيَّامَ الْفَطِيرِ. فَلَمَّا أَمْسَكَهُ جَعَلَهُ فِي السِّجْنِ وَأَسْلَمَهُ إِلَى أَرْبَعَةِ أَرْبَاعٍ مِنَ الْعَسْكَرِ لِيَحْرُسُوهُ، وَفِي عَزْمِهِ أَنْ يُقَدِّمَهُ إِلَى الشَّعْبِ بَعْدَ الْفِصْحِ. فَكَانَ بَطْرُسُ مَحْبُوساً فِي السِّجْنِ، وَكَانَتْ الْكَنِيسَةُ تُصَلِّيُ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ أَجْلِهِ بِلَا انْقِطَاعٍ. وَلَمَّا أَرْمَعَ هِيرُودُسُ أَنْ يُقَدِّمَهُ، كَانَ بَطْرُسُ فِي تِلْكَ اللَّيْلَةِ نَائِماً بَيْنَ جُنْدِيَيْنِ مُقَيِّداً بِسِلْسِلَتَيْنِ، وَكَانَ الْحُرَّاسُ أَمَامَ الْأَبْوَابِ يَحْفَظُونَ السِّجْنَ. وَإِذَا مَلَكَ الرَّبِّ وَقَفَ بِهِ وَنُورٌ أَشْرَقَ فِي الْبَيْتِ، فَضَرَبَ جَنْبَ بَطْرُسَ وَأَيْقَظَهُ قَائِلاً: «قُمْ سَرِيعاً». فَسَقَطَتِ السِّلْسِلَتَانِ مِنْ يَدَيْهِ، وَقَالَ لَهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ: «تَمَنِّطِقْ وَاشْدُدْ نَعْلَيْكَ». فَفَعَلَ هَكَذَا. فَقَالَ لَهُ: «الْبَسْ رِدَاءَكَ وَاتَّبِعْنِي.» فَخَرَجَ يَتْبَعُهُ - وَهُوَ لَا يَعْلَمُ أَنَّ مَا فَعَلَهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ كَانَ حَقّاً بَلْ يَظُنُّ أَنَّهُ يَنْظُرُ رُؤْيَاً. فَلَمَّا جَارَا الْمَحْرَسَ الْأَوَّلَ وَالثَّانِي، انْتَهَيَا إِلَى بَابِ الْحَدِيدِ الَّذِي يُؤَدِّي إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ فَأَنْفَتَحَ لهُمَا مِنْ دَاتِهِ، فَخَرَجَا وَتَقَدَّمَا زُقَاقاً وَاحِداً وَلِلْوَقْتِ فَارَقَهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ. فَرَجَعَ بَطْرُسُ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: «الآنَ عَلِمْتُ يَقِيناً أَنَّ الرَّبَّ أَرْسَلَ مَلَائِكَةً وَأَنْقَذَنِي مِنْ يَدِ هِيرُودُسَ وَمِنْ كُلِّ مَا تَرَبَّصَهُ بِي شَعْبُ الْيَهُودِ.»

THE GOSPEL (For Thomas Sunday)

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.

الإنجيل (لأحد توما)

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْحَنَّا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ. (20:19-31)

لَمَّا كَانَتْ عَشِيَّةَ ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ، وَهُوَ أَوَّلُ الْأُسْبُوعِ وَالْأَبْوَابِ مُغْلَقَةً حَيْثُ كَانَ التَّلَامِيذُ مُجْتَمِعِينَ خَوْفًا مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، جَاءَ يَسُوعُ وَوَقَّفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ". فَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا أَرَاهُمْ يَدَيْهِ وَجَنْبَهُ، فَفَرِحَ التَّلَامِيذُ حِينَ أَبْصَرُوا الرَّبَّ. وَقَالَ لَهُمْ ثَانِيَةً: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ، كَمَا أَرْسَلَنِي الْآبُ كَذَلِكَ أَنَا أُرْسِلُكُمْ". وَلَمَّا قَالَ هَذَا نَفَخَ فِيهِمْ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "خُذُوا الرُّوحَ الْقُدْسَ. مَنْ غَفَرْتُمْ خَطَايَاهُمْ تُغْفَرْ لَهُمْ وَمَنْ أَمْسَكْتُمْ خَطَايَاهُمْ أَمْسَكْتُمْ". أَمَّا تُوْمَا أَحَدُ الْإِثْنَيْ عَشَرَ الَّذِي يُقَالُ لَهُ التَّوْمَا فَلَمْ يَكُنْ مَعَهُمْ حِينَ جَاءَ يَسُوعُ، فَقَالَ لَهُ التَّلَامِيذُ الْآخَرُونَ "إِنَّا قَدْ رَأَيْنَا الرَّبَّ"، فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "إِنْ لَمْ أَعَيْنِ أَثَرِ الْمَسَامِيرِ فِي يَدَيْهِ، وَأَضَعُ إِصْبَعِي فِي أَثَرِ الْمَسَامِيرِ، وَأَضَعُ يَدِي فِي جَنْبِهِ لَا أُوْمِنُ". وَبَعْدَ ثَمَانِيَةِ أَيَّامٍ كَانَ تَلَامِيذُهُ أَيْضًا دَاخِلًا وَتُوْمَا مَعَهُمْ، فَآتَى يَسُوعُ وَالْأَبْوَابُ مُغْلَقَةً وَوَقَّفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ"، ثُمَّ قَالَ لِتُوْمَا: "هَاتِ إِصْبَعَكَ إِلَى هَهُنَا وَعَيْنُ يَدِي، وَهَاتِ يَدَكَ وَضَعَهَا فِي جَنْبِي، وَلَا تَكُنْ غَيْرَ مُؤْمِنٍ بَلْ مُؤْمِنًا". أَجَابَ تُوْمَا وَقَالَ لَهُ: "رَبِّي وَالْهَي". قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "لَأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَنِي يَا تُوْمَا آمَنْتَ؟ طُوبَى لِلَّذِينَ لَمْ يَرَوْا وَآمَنُوا". وَأَيَّاتٍ أُخَرَ كَثِيرَةً صَنَعَ يَسُوعُ أَمَامَ تَلَامِيذِهِ لَمْ تُكْتَبْ فِي هَذَا الْكِتَابِ. وَأَمَّا هَذِهِ، فَقَدْ كُتِبَتْ لِتُوْمِنُوا بِأَنَّ يَسُوعَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، وَلِكِي تَكُونَ لَكُمْ، إِذَا آمَنْتُمْ، حَيَاةً بِاسْمِهِ.

Love your Neighbor

April – Archdiocese Collection for Palm Sunday (April 9, 2023)

Each year, the Archdiocese asks each parish to take a collection to help support the Patriarchate in Antioch on Palm Sunday. This will be our "neighbor" for the month of April.

Thank you for Donating and Helping at the Rose Bake Sale

A huge thank you to all who donated, prepared, baked and brought other goodies for the Easter Rose Bake sale and also to those who purchased. The net amount from the rose bake sale was \$5000 and \$457 from the raffle basket. Great job ladies of St. John.

Foundation Pouring Fundraiser Luncheon on April 23rd

There will be a luncheon on Sunday, April 23rd to celebrate the pouring of the foundation. The lunch will cost \$10.

Easter Egg Hunt Thank You

Our Easter Egg Hunt and gathering was a great success with 45+kids and several parish members. Thank you for those who contributed with donations, help, and attendance. Also, if you have empty eggs please bring them so we can recycle ♻️ them for next year.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 23rd, 2023	One year memorial service for the handmaiden of God Kh. Patricia Romley. May her memory be eternal!
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Coffee Hours

April 23rd	Foundation Pouring Fundraiser Luncheon
April 30th	Sponsor Needed
May 7th	Sponsor Needed
May 14th	Rihani and Nesheiwat families for Fadi's birthday and for the good health of both families.

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew), **Nick Nicola**, **Nadia Frangieh**, **Souhila Swies**, **Noha Schulze**, **George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † Fuad and Nadia Swies in memory of **Mounir Haddad**. May his memory be eternal!
- † Patrick and Linda Cummings in memory of **Steven Sanders**. May his memory be eternal!

Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

- † Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



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- † Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum and John Dudum

-
- † Palms for Palm Sunday are offered by **Jim and Denise Dudum** for the good health of their family.



- Happy and blessed Palm Sunday!
- † Also, in memory of **John, Misadeh, Audie & Mary Dudum and Jim and Rose Romley**. May their memoirs be eternal!

St. John Orthodox Church
501 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563

You could use this QR code for your donation





Our Lady of Lebanon Church



We cordially invite you to our fundraising
lunch for the earthquake
victims of Syria

Sunday April 23rd, 2023
After the 11:00 Mass

19 Hermosa Ave Millbrae, CA 94030



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 017/2023

Great and All-Holy Pascha, 2023

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of God in this blessed Archdiocese of North America,

CHRIST IS RISEN!

You know that *Passover* comes from the Hebrew word *Pesach* which means “to cross” or “to pass over.” The Greek word *Pascha* stems from the same Hebrew word. The Ancient Arabs in the Levant used to say *fasaha* to mean that someone has crossed or passed over something.

In the Old Testament, Passover referred to the crossing of the Red Sea by the people of Moses, so it became a feast of the crossing from the land of slavery to the land of freedom. In the New Testament, however, Passover refers to crossing over from the world of enslavement to sin to the world of liberation, by God, from every chain that may pull us to spiritual and physical death.

This great feast reminds us of what God had done for us. He died and every kind of death died with Him. And He arose and raised us with Him to the fullness of life. Thus, through His death and resurrection we are able to pass from death, every kind of death, to life—the fullness of life.

I pray that you have a glorious Pascha and a personal experience of resurrection in your life.

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY
DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!**

Your Father in the Risen Christ,

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

رقم: ٢٠٢٣/١٧

عيد الفصح العظيم والمقدس، ٢٠٢٣

أحبائي إكليروس الله وشعبه في أبرشية شمال أميركا المباركة أعينكم قائلاً:

المسيح قام!

تعلمون أن كلمة الفصح بالعربية مشتقة من اللفظة العبرية "بيساح" ومنها جاءت اليونانية "باسخا" وتعني العبور. وقال العرب الأقدمون في بلاد الشام: "فَصَحَّ عن الشيء أي تجاوزه".

عنت اللفظة في العهد القديم عبور قوم موسى البحر الأحمر، وصارت عيداً للعبور من أرض العبودية إلى أرض الحرية. أما في العهد الجديد فصارت تعني العبور من عالم الاستعباد للخطيئة إلى عالم التحرر بالله من كل قيد يشدنا إلى الموت الروحي والجسدي. يذكرنا هذا العيد العظيم بما فعله الله من أجلنا: مات وأمات معه كل موت، وقام وأقامنا معه إلى ملء الحياة. وهكذا، بموته وقيامته، صرنا قادرين على العبور من الموت، كل موت، إلى الحياة، ملء الحياة.

أدعو لكم بفصح مجيد وخبرة شخصية لقيامتكم من كل ما يباعدكم عن الحياة التي لنا في المسيح يسوع.

المسيح قام من بين الأموات ووطئ الموت بالموت ووهب الحياة للذين في القبور!

في المسيح القائم من بين الأموات،

+سأبا

رئيس أساقفة نيويورك و متروبوليت أميركا الشمالية

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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