

IS SEEING REALLY BELIEVING?

On April 12, 1961, the Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin made an orbit of the earth in a space capsule that would be considered less than primitive by today's standards. This event was a shock to our government and an opportunity for the atheistic rulers of the Soviet Union to spread some anti-religious propaganda. Upon his return to earth, Gagarin was quoted as saying: "I traveled the heavens and I didn't see God anywhere."

That statement touches upon a very real problem that many have with the existence of God: "I don't see, therefore, I don't believe." Do we really need to see to believe? Science tells us absolutely! You need proof and verification for everything. But there are many things we don't see, yet we believe in them. Would anyone dare say the wind doesn't exist? Although you can't really see it, we do feel the wind and its effects. In like manner, we feel God's presence as well.

The very definition of faith is to believe in what we do not see. The reward of faith is to, one day, see what we believe in. Yes, we all live for that day when our faith becomes knowledge.

The Apostle Thomas will always be remembered for his "Yuri Gagarin" approach to life. Somehow, he could not bring himself to believe that the Lord had risen until he finally was shown indisputable proof. Although we can't be given the visual proof that Thomas received, the testimony of the Gospels — the eyewitness accounts of those who knew Christ intimately — should be more than enough for us!

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

A Gift of Blessing

Visit the Church Gift Shop.

See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

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Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2026

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

Christ Is Risen! Indeed, He Is Risen!

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

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

*المسيح قام من بين الأموات، ووَطِىء الموت بالموت، ووهب الحياة للذين في القبور.

*Χριστός ανέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν ἡρισάμενος “

Verily, Jesus is Risen from the tomb, as He had foretold, and hath bestowed life eternal upon us, and Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

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 EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

We Celebrate Today

On this day in the Holy Orthodox Church, the Sunday of Palms, we celebrate the radiant and glorious festival of the Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem.

Verses

Riding a colt, He that with a word stretched out Heaven,
Seeketh to loose mortals from brutish want of reason.

Jesus came to Bethany on the Sunday falling before the six days of the Mosaic Passover. On the following day He sent two of His Disciples, who brought Him a donkey on which He sat to enter the city. And when the great multitude heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they immediately took palm branches in their hands and went out to meet Him. All cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, King of Israel!" The branches of palm trees were a symbol of Christ's victory over Satan and Death. And the meaning of "Hosanna" is, "We pray Thee, save."

The donkey's colt, which was still an untamed animal, and impure according to the law, as well as Christ's sitting thereon, symbolize the former savagery and impurity of the Gentiles; and their subsequent taming and obedience to the holy law of the Gospel.

By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, make us victors over our deceitful passions, and deem us worthy to behold Thy brilliant victory over death and Thy radiant and life-bringing Resurrection, and have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Fr. Paul Yerger. Fr. Leo . Deacon Terry. Kh. Janet Henderson. Joy Logue. Dolores Nosser. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas. Maha Habeeb. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Drew Anderson. | Carla Leese.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries April. Tatiana Martin (18), Nicole Thornton Aramoonie, Misty Jabour (19), Rhonda Wright, Lucia Karam, Bill White (20), Anna Grace Lovins (23), Ethan Maida, Greg & Suzanne Hull (25), Mary Rantisi (26).

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour. Are offered by Rickey & Melba Mitchel & their family. 30 Years's trisagion prayer for the servant of God Michel Fedell.

+Forty Day memorial service. Trisagion prayer for the handmaid of God Sue Thomas, on April 26.

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

+The Sacrament of Chrismation for Jacob Milliken will be on Sunday April 26 during the Divine Liturgy.

+Parish Council Meeting. Tuesday April 21 @ 6:00 pm.

+Mother's Day Brunch Sunday May 10. Is Offered by Rhonda (Thomas)Wright.

+Diocese OF Miami & The Southeast 2026 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE (PLC) *hosted by St. Nicholas Church of Springdale, Arkansas June 10 - 13, 2026* If you would like to register or have any questions about PLC, please get in touch with miamiplc@antiochianevents.com

The Church Fathers Teach

Christ was Risen, and so we too must be resurrected with Christ, in order to ascend with Him. Our Resurrection is two-fold: in body and in spirit. Our bodily Resurrection will take place on the Last Day. We speak of this when we recite the Creed, the Symbol of Faith: "I look for the Resurrection of the dead." To be resurrected spiritually is to depart from our sins, to turn away from the vanities of this world, and to abide in true repentance and faith; to take up the struggle against any sin, to do the will of our Heavenly Father, to live His truth, and to follow Christ, the Son of God, with humility, love, meekness, and patience. This the new creation of which the Holy Apostle speaks when he says, "...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature...." (II Corinthians 5, 17); a new person, renewed through repentance and faith, a true Christian, a living member of Christ and an heir to the Kingdom of God.

Holy Hierarch St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

DIVINE LITURGY APRIL 19, 2026

“DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM”

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED “THE TWIN”

THE EPISTLE

Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy 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 with one accord in Solomon’s porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. 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 cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they 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 and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

The GOSPEL

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.