

St. Thomas Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America

1100 Jones Street Sioux City, IA 51105
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Fr. Lucas Rice, Pastor

Sunday:	Matins	9:00 am
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
Wednesday:	Daily Vespers	6:30 pm
Saturday:	Great Vespers	5:00 pm

*Confessions are heard before and after Great Vespers and during Matins.
Counseling and consultation are available by appointment.*

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

FEBRUARY 12, 2012

To Our Visitor's Praying with us Today

Welcome! We hope your time with us is healing and worshipful. For those guests who are not Orthodox, 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 at the end of the Liturgy

Announcements

- ❖ **Fr. Lucas Out of Town** - Fr. Lucas will be out of town from Tue, Feb 14 through Fri, Feb 17. He will be attending the DOWAMA Clergy Brotherhood retreat in Wichita, KS. Wednesday Night Vespers and Education will continue as usual. Please call his cell phone in the event of an emergency.
- ❖ **Photographers Wanted** - Do you have a digital camera? Like to take pictures? We need the following photos emailed to Fr. Lucas for the Website: (1) unposed photos of our people in worship and fellowship; (2) photos of our liturgical services; (3) the baptistery with icon of Theophany; (4) iconostasis - both as a whole and each icon individually; (5) icons along the side wall. Please email to frlucas@stthomassiouxcity.org.
- ❖ **Thanks** - Nichole Headid would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts that she received on her baby shower.
- ❖ **Names for Soul Saturday Liturgy** - Please provide Fr. Lucas with the names of departed loved ones or friends that you would like to have commemorated—either by hardcopy or by email. Please submit the names by Wed, Feb 15.
- ❖ **Home Blessings!** Fr. Lucas will be contacting each household to schedule home blessings. The goal is for *everyone's* home to be blessed before Sun, Feb 26. Please email or call if you would like to request a specific date or time.

DID YOU KNOW? - THE GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE
The Great Canon is one of the greatest works of hymnography in the Orthodox Church. Although steeped in biblical imagery, it is not simply a condensation of biblical themes. In the Canon, all the human events of scripture—creation, fall, exile, return, longing, redemption—all are made personal. They become my events: my creation, my fall, my redemption. The Canon thus brings each of us into the story of Scripture and stirs us with moving imagery to realize the depths of our sin. We begin to see our exile, our distance from Christ; and from that distance, we begin to repent.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh."



But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Gospel

Luke 15:11-32

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"



Today

- ❖ **Altar Bread** - Today's altar bread is offered by the St. Thomas Ladies Club.
- ❖ **No Youth and Adult Event Today** - Instead, the Youth and Adult will be recast as our 2012 Lenten Retreat. Look for an insert in next week's bulletin.

Upcoming Services and Events

- ❖ **Adult Education** - This Wednesday after vespers (6:30 - 7:00pm), we will have the second of a three-part lesson on the Prayer of St. Ephraim. The class will be from 7:00-8:00 pm. In preparation for Great Lent, why not give 1 hour this week to learning more about our loving and living God?
- ❖ **Saturday of Souls Liturgy** - We will celebrate a Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of Souls on Sat, Feb 18 at 10:00am.
- ❖ **Correction! - Liturgy for the St. Polycarp** - We will celebrate a morning Divine Liturgy for the feast of the St. Polycarp on Thur, Feb 23 at 7:00am.
- ❖ **Forgiveness Vespers** - We will celebrate the service of Forgiveness Vespers on Sun, Feb 26 at 12:30 pm—directly after coffee hour. This early time should allow for fuller participation in this beautiful—and vitally important—service. Please see the schedule below for the rest of Clean Week.

<u>Clean Week Schedule</u>		
Mon, Feb 27	6:30pm	Great Compline with the Great Canon of St. Andrew
Tue, Feb 28	6:30pm	Great Compline with the Great Canon of St. Andrew
Wed, Feb 29	6:30pm	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Thu, Mar 1	6:30pm	Great Compline with the Great Canon of St. Andrew
Fri, Mar 2	6:30pm	Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos

Variable Hymns of the Divine Liturgy

Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Troparion of our Patron, St. Thomas – Tone 3

O holy Apostle Thomas, intercede with the merciful God that he grant unto our souls, forgiveness of offences.



Kontakion of the Prodigal Son – Tone 3

When I disobeyed in ignorance Thy Fatherly glory, I wasted in iniquities the riches that Thou gavest me. Wherefore, I cry to Thee with the voice of the prodigal son, saying, I have sinned before Thee, O compassionate Father, receive me repentant, and make me as one of Thy hired servants.