

# St. Thomas Orthodox Church

*A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian  
Archdiocese of North America*

1100 Jones Street Sioux City, IA 51105  
(712) 258-7166 [www.stthomassiouxcity.org](http://www.stthomassiouxcity.org)

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 AFTER THEOPHANY

**JANUARY 8, 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

- ❖ **Home Blessings!** Fr. Lucas will be contacting each household to schedule home blessings. The goal is for *everyone's* home to be blessed within the next month! Please email or call if you would like to request a specific date.
- ❖ **Email up and Running!** – Fr. Lucas' new email [frlucas@stthomassiouxcity.org](mailto:frlucas@stthomassiouxcity.org) is back up and running! Please utilize this for all church-related email.
- ❖ **Two New Education Programs** - In our new Wednesday night time slot (after Daily Vespers). We will offer two new three-session programs: see the insert for more information!
- ❖ **Holy Bread**- There are still many dates available to offer holy bread – both for Sunday and weekday liturgies. Why not commemorate an important event or favorite saint by offering Holy Bread? The sign-up sheet is in the parish hall.
- ❖ **From the Parish Council** – (1) *Willing to Serve?* Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be an opening on the Parish Council. (2) *Bookkeeping Experience* – The board is looking for anyone with a background in bookkeeping or financial software (eg., Quickbooks). Anyone interested helping in either capacity may express to a board member their willingness to serve.

### **A WORD FROM THE SAINTS** - ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

“Do not be surprised if you fall every day and do not surrender. Stand your ground bravely and you may be sure that your guardian angel will respect your endurance. A fresh, warm wound is easier to heal than those that are old, neglected, and festering, and that need extensive treatment, surgery, bandaging and cauterization. Long neglect can render many of them incurable. However, all things are possible with God.”

*-Ladder of Divine Ascent*

## Epistle

### Ephesians 4:7-13

**B**rethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.



## Gospel

### Matthew 4:12-17

**A**t that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."



## Today

- ❖ **Altar Bread** - Today's altar bread is offered by Michele and Todd Mechling

## Upcoming Services and Events

- ❖ **Election of Parish Council Officers** - Immediately following next week's liturgy (Jan 15), members of the 2012 Parish Council will meet in the Board Room to elect the officers for the coming year. Please remember our Parish Council in your prayers!
- ❖ **REVISED TIME: Liturgy for St. Anthony** - We will celebrate a morning Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Anthony on Tue, Jan 17 at 7:00 AM.
- ❖ **Ice Fishing**- Catechumen Jim Vaughn has offered to host a local ice fishing trip to Crystal Cove (South Sioux City) on either Sat, Jan 21 or Sat, Jan 28 from 1:00-4:00pm. A sign-up sheet is located in the parish hall.
- ❖ **Liturgy for St. Gregory the Theologian** - We will celebrate an evening Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Gregory on Tue, Jan 24 at 6:30pm.
- ❖ **Youth and Adult Event** - On either Fri, Jan 27 or Sat, Jan 30 (date pending) there will be a special event for our children, youth, and Adults. Each group will have a guided discussion about our faith, our parish, and how everyone can find love, healing, and hope at St. Thomas Church.
- ❖ **Liturgy for the Three Hierarchs** - We will celebrate a morning Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Three Hierarchs on Mon, Jan 30 at 7:00am.
- ❖ **Liturgy for the Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord** - We will celebrate an evening Divine Liturgy for the Feast on Wed, Feb 1 at 6:30pm.

## Variable Hymns of the Divine Liturgy

### Resurrectional Troparion - Tone 5

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.



### Troparion of Theophany - Tone 1

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, 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 Theophany - Tone 4

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord, and Thy light hath been shed upon us, who praise Thee with knowledge, saying, Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light.



## *Poinsettias*

*The following people donated poinsettias either in  
memory of or in honor of loved ones:*

Nick and Carol Corey

Michele Mechling

Dorwin Tompkins

Viona Headid

Carol Border

Phil and Judy Stevens

Dick and Sue Stevens

Paul and Barb Lammers

Yvonne Pape

Ron and Vicky Carlson

George and Becky Jacobs

Ag Yanney

**Only at St.  
Thomas!**

# **New Education Opportunities!**

- Informative
- Enriching
- Community-Building
- Free!

## **Wednesdays**

**Series 1:** January 11th,  
18th, and 25th

**Series 2:** February 8th,  
15th, and 22nd

### **Series 1**

**Guided Spiritual  
Biographies**

### **Series 2**

**A Study on the Prayer  
of St. Ephraim**

