

St. Thomas Orthodox Church

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

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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.*

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND THE
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR
BARBARA AND THE VENERABLE JOHN OF DAMASCUS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011

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

- ❖ **Confessions** – There is an ancient tradition of giving confession quarterly—often timed with the fasting seasons of the church. If you have not done so already, please make plans to have your confession this Nativity season. Fr. Lucas will hear confessions before and after Great Vespers, during Matins, and by appointment.
- ❖ **Angel Tree** – You may have noticed our Christmas Tree in the parish hall. This year we are once again participating in the Angel Tree project. Please donate gifts to benefit the Crittenon Center. Gifts should not be wrapped, but may be placed in a gift bag along with “angel tag” from the tree needs to be included with the gift. All gifts need to be turned in at church by Sunday, December 11.
- ❖ **Poinsettias** – If you wish to donate a poinsettia please fill out a card located at the candle stand. Please put the card and your donation in the yellow envelope provided and then place them into the collection tray.
- ❖ **2012 Holy Bread and Coffee Hour Chart** – The new Holy bread chart for 2012 is now posted on the Bulletin Board in the Church Hall. Please reserve your favorite dates as soon as possible! If you have any questions please call Barb Lammers at 252-0124.
- ❖ **Youth and Family Event** - In January, all of the youth and parents are invited to a meeting for an evening of fellowship and discussion. Details to come.

A Word from the Saints - Abba Apollo

“When you see your brother, you see the Lord your God.”

-The Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Epistle

Ephesians 3:23-4:5

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith.

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you



are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Gospel

Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten

herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.



Today

- ❖ **Altar Bread** - Today's altar bread is offered by Ag Yanney and Yvonne Pape.
- ❖ **Gifts** – Today we will give a special gift for all of our youth at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Upcoming Services and Events

- ❖ **Liturgy for St. Nicholas** - We will celebrate an evening Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Nicholas on Mon, Dec 5 at 6:30 pm.
- ❖ **Ladies Club Meeting** – There will be a Ladies Club Meeting on Tue, Dec 6 at 6:30pm at Red Lobster. There is an optional \$5 gift exchange.
- ❖ **Daily Vespers and Study of the Life of Christ** – This Wednesday at 6:30 will celebrate Daily Vespers and have the third installment of our study. Those who are able are invited to read chapter 9 (miracles) of *The Jesus I Never Knew*.
- ❖ **Annual Parish Meeting** – The Annual Parish Business Meeting will take place on Sun, Dec 11 directly after the Divine Liturgy in the Parish Hall.
- ❖ **Liturgy for St. Herman** - We will celebrate a morning Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Herman of Alaska on Mon, Dec 12.
- ❖ **Liturgy for St. Ignatius** - We will celebrate an evening Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch on Mon, Dec 19 at 6:30 pm.

Variable Hymns of the Divine Liturgy

Ressurrectional Troparion - Tone 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of St. Barbara – Tone 4

Let us honor the all-revered Saint Barbara; for she demolished the gins of the adversary, and escaped from them like a sparrow by the help and weapon of the Cross.

Troparion of St. John of Damascus – Tone 8

Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness, luminary of the world, God-inspired adornment of hierarchs, O wise John of Damascus, by thy teachings thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the Spirit. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

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 Forefeast of the Nativity- Tone 3

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O Earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings! With the angels and the shepherds now glorify him Who is willing to be gazed upon as a young child who before all the ages is God.