



SAINT INNOCENT

ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

**2nd Sunday of Pascha
St. Thomas Sunday**



**7301 Rivoli Road, Macon, GA 31220
478-994-1648, www.st-innocent.org
Priest Theophan Buck**

Troparion and Kontakion

Tone 7 Troparion *(from the Pentecostarion)*

From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life!
Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy
Disciples, O Christ God. Renew in us through them
an upright spirit,// by the greatness of Thy mercy, O
Resurrection of all!

Tone 8 Kontakion *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager
hand, O Christ God, when Thou camest to Thine
Apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all:
“Thou art my Lord and my God!”

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

¹² And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. ¹³ Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. ¹⁴ And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. ¹⁷ Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, ¹⁸ and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. ¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened the

prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰“Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”

Gospel: John 20:19-31

¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace *be* with you.” ²⁰When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²²And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”

Holy, Glorious Apostle Thomas

The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas was born in the Galilean city of Pansada and was a fisherman. Hearing the good tidings of Jesus Christ, he left all and followed after Him. The Apostle Thomas is included in the number of the holy Twelve Apostles of the Savior. According to Holy Scripture, the holy Apostle Thomas did not believe the reports of the other disciples about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe” (John 20:25). On the eighth day after the Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the Apostle Thomas and showed him His wounds. “My Lord and my God,” the Apostle cried out (John 20:28). “Thomas, being once weaker in faith than the other apostles,” says Saint John Chrysostom, “toiled through the grace of God more bravely, more zealously and tirelessly than them all, so that he went preaching over nearly all the earth, not fearing to proclaim the Word of God to savage nations.”

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” In Slavonic, it says, “The Belief of Thomas.” When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

According to Church Tradition, the holy Apostle Thomas founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia,

Ethiopia and India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr's death. For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Meliapur [Melipur], the holy apostle was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally, pierced with five spears, he departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of the holy Apostle Thomas are in India, in Hungary and on Mt. Athos.

OCA.org "Holy, Glorious Apostle Thomas"

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2009/10/06/102885-holy-glorious-apostle-thomas>

Many Years!

<i>Birthdays</i>	20	Stephen Davis
	28	Daniela Galdau
	29	Gheorghe Codreanu
	2	Oliver Hough
		Quintin Curington

<i>Anniversaries</i>	23	Igor & Olha Osobov/Tsarkovsk
	2	Paul & Kimberly Guest

Announcements for Sunday, April 26, 2020:

- **Virtual Coffee Hour:** We will have a virtual coffee hour at 12:00pm after the live-streamed Liturgy. Please check email or Realm for details and a link to access via Zoom.

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy this morning.

There are green service booklets in the entrance area of our Church that will help you follow along with the service if you like. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the cross and receiving the Holy Bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Please join us for coffee hour in the Parish Hall!