



# St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

## Sunday, April 27, 2025

### Sunday of Thomas the Apostle, Called "The Twin"

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America  
His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY - Diocese of LA & the West  
V. Rev. Fr. Dr. Christopher Salamy, Pastor  
Rev. Dn. Raphael Abrahams • Rev. Dn. Serafim Grove  
Rev. Dn. Basil Ritchie • Rev. Dn. Michael Haddad • Rev. Dn. Peter Samore  
Rev. Dn. Dr. Gregory Abdalah, Pastoral Assistant • Christian Farradj, Youth Pastor  
Hnadi Bandak, Parish Life Coordinator • Harpreet Kaur, Executive Assistant to the Pastor  
Jane Romley, Parish Administrator • Matthew Peters, Ministry Lead  
Valerie Haddad, Director of Ministry, Growth & Development

#### APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY (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.

#### APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE (TONE FOUR)

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great Martyr George intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

#### THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA (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.

#### THE EPISTLE

*The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Hear my voice, O God.*

#### **The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (12:1-11)**

In those days, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

## 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.

### *THOSE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER...*

**Living:** Romy, Chase, Paul, Mary, Joshua, Peter, Richard, Anthony, Moira, Mac, Laila, Michael, Ray, Pam, Amal, Nejwa, Randa, Regan, Theresa, Kristine, Sherry, Samira, Robert, Daniel, Jane, Jillian, Sandy, Iyad, Nicholas, Elizabeth, Mary, Alexandros, Aikaterina, David and Donald

The Haddad Family offers Holy Bread in memory of their beloved husband, father, Gido, brother, and uncle, Aziz Haddad. May his memory be eternal.

David, Melanie, Alexandra, and Harrison Ghiz offer oblation prayers in loving memory of our father, father-in-law, and Giddo, George Ghiz, on the 37th anniversary of his passing (May 2, 1988). Also, in loving memory of Sally, Jazelle, Edward, David, Arlene, Albert, Francis, and all other departed members of the Ghiz, Brown, and Tibshraeny families. May their memories be eternal. For the health and well-being of David, Melanie, Alexandra, Harrison, and all other members of the Ghiz, Brown, and Tibshraeny families. Christ is Risen.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Robby and Rubia Matthew on the Baptism of their daughter Halayna Matthew. May God grant them many years.