

St. Sophia & her three daughters at Rome (September 17)

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. Saint Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone.



An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them.

The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith.

They subjected Saint Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage, and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword.

In order to intensify Saint Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. Saint Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

The relics of the holy martyrs have rested at El'zasa, in the church of Esho since the year 777.

(Taken from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/09/17/102638-martyr-sophia-and-her-three-daughters-at-rome>)



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

215-954-9286



Father James Thayer

215-692-0890

September 13, 2020

SUNDAY BEFORE & FOREFEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

COMMEMORATIONS:

THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY
RESURRECTION (HOLY SEPULCHRE)
CORNELIUS THE CENTURION & MARTYR
ARISTIDES THE PHILOSOPHER
HIROTHEOS THE RIGHTEOUS OF IVERON MONASTERY,
MOUNT ATHOS

Tone 5 - Eothinon 3

Orthros Gospel: St. Mark 16:9-20

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Liturgy Gospel: St. John 3:13-17

RESURRECTION 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.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS - Tone 2 - We offer thee in mediation the life-giving Cross which, of Thy goodness, Thou hast given unto us, the unworthy, O Lord. Save Thy hierarchs and Thy flock, and grant Thou peace through the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

TODAY: ORTHROS & Confession 8:45 a.m.
Baptismal LITURGY 10 a.m. (Kyriakos – Many Years!)
Removal of Crowns (Kurtz)
Outdoor Sunday School, Teens, & Catechism
Altar Boy meeting after Liturgy
Farewell Hyatts Coffee Hour after Liturgy (outdoors)

Vespers & Artoklasia for Feast of the Cross, 6:30 p.m.

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964

www.st-philip.net (215) 721-4947

Emails: office@st-philip.net nbushelli@gmail.com frjamesthayer@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 10:00 - 3:00

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (Sept 20):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Carolyn Kaminsky	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
USHERS:	Rdr. Nick & Steve K.	Dan M. & Colin M.
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	Celia-Marie Khouri For her birthday – Many Years!
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Gabriel”	“Archangel Michael”
CLEANING TEAM:	Todd & Kristi Moore	Gohl Family & Olena

Mark Your Calendar:

Saturday Liturgies (until “Normalcy”)

Masks required

Festal Liturgies during week

Thursday, Sept 24

Thursday, Oct 1

Tuesday, Oct 6

Friday, Oct 23

Virtual Fall Retreat & Meetings 2020 for Eastern Dioceses

November 12-15

Call or Email Dr. James Rossetti, DMC
Chairman, for additional details |
412.266.3089 or
jamesmrossetti@gmail.com

Feast of St. Philip

Saturday, November 14

Orthros 9 am & Divine Liturgy 10 am

Nativity Fast

November 15-December 24

Feast of the Nativity of Christ

Thursday, December 24

Royal Hours, 8 am

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, 9 am

Festal Orthros, 9:30 pm

Divine Liturgy, 11 pm

Friday, December 25

Vespers for the Synaxis
of the Theotokos, 12 pm

Saturday, December 26

Orthros 9 am; Liturgy 10 am

Pray For:

Living	Departed
N.I. Serafina	+Lida
Doris & John	+Mat. Linda (D)
APr. Gregory & Family	+Robert Joseph
James	+Timothy (B)
Lasha B	+Nicholas
Otari B	+Irene (D)
Daniel H	+Emily (H)
John	+John
Zerfenesh	
Maximos	
Luke	
Apostoli	
Peter	
Stavroula	
Nicole	

All who are suffering,
serving and rebuilding
from the pandemic

For the repentance,
healing & unity of our
country

The faithful of Beirut

For those suffering from
natural disasters in
California and Gulf States

Catechumens

Matthew,
Michael,
Shaun, Tina,
Asena

Dn. Thomas,
Elizabeth,
Elaine & all
Missionaries

New &
Expectant
Mothers &
children

SPECIAL APPEAL

Please consider making a special offering **Classic Olive Oil** to be left under the icon of St. Thekla. Thank you and may God bless your generosity!

This Week:

- Monday, Sept 14:** FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS
Strict Fast Day
Orthros 9 a.m. & Liturgy 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, Sept 15:** 6th Hour, 12 noon
- Wednesday, Sept 16:** 6th Hour, 12 noon
Little Compline 6:30 p.m.
Patristic Reading Group 7 p.m.—*Way of the Ascetics*, chap. 16
- Thursday, Sept 17:** 6th Hour, 12 noon
- Friday, Sept 18:** 6th Hour, 12 noon
Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept 19:** Divine Liturgy (Mask Required), 10 a.m.
Great VESPERS 6:30 p.m.
Baptism Prep Prayers 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept 20:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Baptismal LITURGY (Morelli), 10 a.m.
Sunday School, Teens, & Catechism
Coffee Hour
Parish Council, 12:45 p.m.

Ministry Highlights

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)

UPDATING THE Photo Directory

to encourage unity, fellowship, and ministry at St. Philip



Please submit your updated family photo, address, emails, and telephone numbers to: stphilipphotos20@gmail.com.

You may also submit a printed photo for the directory. We will have a section for Stewards, and another for Friends. Have questions?

Contact Dale Yeager ([daleyeager@live.com](mailto:daleyager@live.com)), Colin Miller (Colinmil@comcast.net) or Dn. David Hyatt (apostlephilip@gmail.com).

OFFERINGS: Candles, \$113. Collections, \$343.30. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf Ministry, \$35. Needy Fund, \$300. Stewardship, \$3,861.67. Total received: \$4,653.97.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!