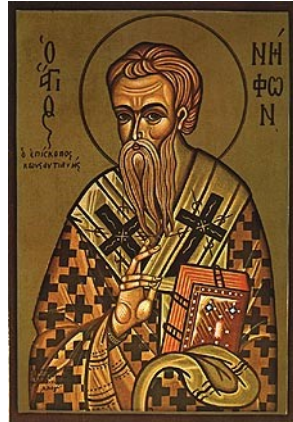


**December 23, 2018**

FOREFEAST OF & SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)

### St. Niphon the Bishop of Cyprus

Saint Niphon, Bishop of Cyprus was born in Paphlagonia, and was educated at Constantinople. In childhood he was gentle and good, and he often attended church services, but in his youth he began to lead a prodigal and sinful life. He sometimes came to his senses, and he was horrified by the extent of his fall; but believing that he was lost and could not receive forgiveness, he resumed his impious life.



He once met a friend who gazed into his face for a long time with astonishment. When Niphon asked why he was staring, the friend replied, "I have never seen your face like this before. It is black, like that of an Ethiopian." These words showed to Niphon his fallen state, and he began to cry out to the Mother of God, begging Her intercession.

After an intense and long prayer he saw that the face of the Mother of God on the holy icon was radiantly bright with a smile. From that time Niphon prayed incessantly to the Queen of Heaven. If he fell into sin, the face of the Mother of God turned away from him, but after tears and prayers, She mercifully turned toward him again.

Finally, Niphon completely turned his life around and began to spend his time in prayer and repentance. After an illness, from which he received healing from the Mother of God, he received the Holy Mysteries, and then accepted monastic tonsure and intensified his efforts, exhausting his body in the struggle against the passions.

This struggle lasted for many years, and devils often attacked Saint Niphon, but with the help of God he overcame them. He received from God the gift to discern evil spirits and defeat them, and also to see the departure of the soul after death. Already advanced in age, and arriving at Alexandria, he was pointed out to the Patriarch in a vision as one worthy to assume the office of bishop. They made him bishop of the city of Constantia on the island of Cyprus. However, he did not remain there for long. Saint Niphon knew the time of his death three days beforehand. Saint Athanasius the Great visited him before his blessed repose. On his deathbed the saint was granted to see angels and the All-Pure Mother of God.

Text and Image from <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/12/23/103628-st-niphon-the-bishop-of-cyprus>



### 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

**December 23, 2018**

FOREFEAST OF & SUNDAY BEFORE  
THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE  
GENEALOGY)

COMMEMORATIONS:

TEN MARTYRS OF CRETE

PAUL, ARCHBISHOP OF NEO-CAESAREA

REMEMBRANCE OF THE FOUNDING OF THE HOLY  
AND GREAT CHURCH OF CHRIST, HAGIA SOPHIA IN  
CONSTANTINOPLE

NAOUM THE ILLUMINATOR OF THE BULGARIANS

NICHOLAS & JOHN THE NEW MARTYRS

**Tone 5 - Eothinon 8**

**Matins Gospel:** St. John 20:11-18  
**Epistle:** Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40  
**Liturgy Gospel:** St. Matthew 1:1-25

**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 NATIVITY - Tone 4 -** Make ready, O Bethlehem, for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her womb did appear as a supersensual paradise, in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old.

**TODAY:** Orthros 8:45 am; Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 10 am  
One-Year Memorial for Sylvia-Jean  
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am  
Sunday School Christmas Program, 12:30 pm  
**Welcome, Sayedna THOMAS!**

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 8:30 - 4:00; Friday 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 (Dec 30):
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Justin Gohl	MaryLynne Black
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Terry Kaminsky	Rdr Justin
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	Ken Hedrick (50th anniversary of mother's repose)	Psomiadis (Katrina's birthday)
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Todd & Kristi Moore	Don & Maryann Reigle
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Serge & Alex	Olena, Carol, Tadessa
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	St. Ignatius	Potluck

Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. Your assistance in cleanup is appreciated.

### **Giving Opportunities at St. Philip**

- ✦ As the year comes to a close, please consider making a special offering to the **Needy Fund, Camp Scholarship Fund, Library Fund, Property Acquisition, Chapel Fund, and Pastoral Discretionary Fund.** Also, consider transferring stocks to the church to maximize your giving to God's work at St Philip's, and to avoid capital gains taxes and to claim deductions.
- ✦ **YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS** support the beautification of our church during this holy season.
- ✦ **YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD OFFERINGS** benefit Ministries, Monasteries, & Mission Situations.

Thank you and may God bless your generosity!

## Mark Your Calendar:

### Theophany

*Saturday, January 5 - (Strict Fast Day)*  
Royal Hours, 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy, 10 am & Great Blessing of Water, 11:15 am, Great Vespers & Artoklasia, 6 pm

*Sunday, January 6 - Outdoor Blessing of Water @ Lenape Park, 1 pm*

### Men's Fellowship

*Saturday, January 19, 8-10 am*

### Feast of Presentation

*February 1-2, 2019*

### Beginning of Lent

*March 11, 2019*

### Lenten Retreat

*March 30, 2019*

### We live Pascha to Pascha!

*April 28, 2019*

### **Pray For:**

Living	Departed
Bp Alexander Newly-Chrismated	Fr. Joseph "Aunt Betty"
Rebecca Mary	Eustathios
Baby Simeon	Ayele
Child Gregory	Sergius
Caroline & family	Sylvia-Jean
Zerfenesh & family	
David H	
Paul (M)	
James E	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
Lasha B	Catechumens
Otari B	Tatiana (Sze),
Daniel H	Evan, Tina
Mebrat	
Aristidis	New & Ex- pectant
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Mothers & children
Suffering Christians in Syria, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Egypt & unstable lands	Michael

## This Week:

### **Bp THOMAS Visit**

(Office closed Dec 24 -28)

**Monday, Dec 24:** Royal Hours 8:45 am, Vespers 10 am  
Festal Orthros 8:45 pm, Hierarchical LITURGY 10 pm  
w/ Feasting Snacks Potluck to follow

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

**Tuesday, Dec 25:** Vespers for Synaxis 12 pm

**Wed, Dec 26:** Orthros 9 am, Divine LITURGY for Synaxis 10 am  
Compline & Patristic Reading 6 pm

**Thurs, Dec 27:** Office closed.

**Friday, Dec 28:** Office closed.

**Sat, Dec 29:** VESPERS 6 pm, Confession 7 pm

**Sunday, Dec 30:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 am  
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am

**Monday, Dec 31:** Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Orthros 7 pm for  
Circumcision & St. Basil  
Talent Show 8 pm, New Year's Prayers 10 pm

**Tuesday, Jan 1:** Divine LITURGY 10 am for Circumcision & St.  
Basil, New Year's Prayers 11:30 am

### OUTREACH COLLECTION: Turkeys.

### SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

*Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ*  
"Don't Give In"

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers on Dec 15: 56 Divine Services on Dec 16: 192  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$287.15. Collections, \$967. Flowers, \$50.  
Youth, \$7. Book Shelf, \$29. Camping Fund, \$100. Christmas Card  
Fund, \$350. Women's Fund, \$222.50. Stewardship, \$11,925.50. Total  
received: \$14,088.15.

**GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!**