

**March 11, 2018**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT  
VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS**

## St. Sophronius the Patriarch of Jerusalem

Saint Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, was born in Damascus around 560. From his youth he was distinguished for his piety and his love for classical studies, especially philosophy. The future hierarch, however, sought the true philosophy of monasticism, and conversations with the desert-dwellers.

He arrived in Jerusalem at the monastery of Saint Theodosius, where he became the spiritual son of hieromonk John Moschus. They visited several monasteries, writing down the lives and spiritual wisdom of the ascetics they met. From these notes emerged their renowned book, the LEIMONARION or SPIRITUAL MEADOW, which was highly esteemed at the 7th Ecumenical Council.

To save themselves from the devastating incursions of the Persians, Saints John and Sophronius left Palestine and went to Antioch, and from there they went to Egypt. In Egypt, Saint Sophronius became seriously ill. During this time he decided to become a monk and was tonsured by Saint John Moschus.

After Saint Sophronius recovered his health, they both decided to remain in Alexandria. There they were received by the holy Patriarch John the Merciful (November 12), to whom they rendered great aid in the struggle against the Monophysite heresy. At Alexandria Saint Sophronius had an affliction of the eyes, and he turned with prayer and faith to the holy Unmercenaries Cyrus and John (January 31), and he received healing in a church named for them. In gratitude, Saint Sophronius then wrote the Lives of these holy Unmercenaries.

When the barbarians began to threaten Alexandria, Patriarch John, accompanied by Saints Sophronius and John Moschus, set out for Constantinople, but he died along the way. Saints John Moschus and Sophronius then set out for Rome with eighteen other monks. Saint John Moschus died at Rome. His body was taken to Jerusalem by Saint Sophronius and buried at the monastery of Saint Theodosius.

In the year 628, Patriarch Zacharias of Jerusalem (609-633) returned from his captivity in Persia. After his death, the patriarchal throne was occupied for two years by Saint Modestus (December 18). After the death of Saint Modestus, Saint Sophronius was chosen Patriarch. Saint Sophronius toiled much for the welfare of the Jerusalem Church as its primate (634-644).

Toward the end of his life, Saint Sophronius and his flock lived through a two year siege of Jerusalem by the Moslems. Worn down by hunger, the Christians finally agreed to open the city gates, on the condition that the enemy spare the holy places. But this condition was not fulfilled, and Saint Sophronius died in grief over the desecration of the Christian holy places.

*Text (adapted) and Image from <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/03/11/100777-st-sophronius-the-patriarch-of-jerusalem>*



## 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 (text preferred)

◇◇

*Father James Thayer*  
215-692-0890

**March 11, 2018**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT  
VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND  
LIFE-GIVING CROSS**

### COMMEMORATIONS:

SOPHRONIUS, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM  
MARTYRS THALLOS AND TROPHIMOS OF LATAKIA  
VENERABLE GEORGE OF SINAI  
THEODORA OF ARTA, THE EMPRESS  
EUTHYMIOS, BISHOP OF NOVGOROD

**Tone 7 - Eothinon 7**

**Matins Gospel: St. John 20:1-10**

**Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6**

**Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1**

**RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 7 - Thou didst shatter death by thy Cross, thou didst open Paradise to the thief; thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment bearing women into joy, and didst bid thine Apostles proclaim a warning that thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy!**

**KONTAKION FOR THE ANNUNCIATION - Tone 8 - To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.**

### **TODAY:**

#### *Welcome, Family & Friends!*

Orthros, 8:30 am; Cross Procession, 9:45 & Divine Liturgy, 10 am  
One-Year Memorial for Robert Germany, 11:30 am  
Coffee Hour, Sunday School & Teens, 11:45 am  
Choir Concert, 1 pm  
Lenten Vespers, 4 pm @ St. Vladimir in Trenton, NJ, or St. Nicholas in Bethlehem

**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 (Mar 18):
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Tadesse	---
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Justin Gohl	Nathan Jekel
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	---	---
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Greg & Jennifer Howanetz	Nick & Martha
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Olena, Carol, Tadesse	John & Maxine
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	Hirut/Fr. James/Bushellis	Elias & Suha

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

**COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS NEEDED!** Many upcoming weeks do not have sponsors - can you take a turn?

**YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS support the beautification  
of our church during this holy season. Thank you!**

### Mark Your Calendar:

**Lenten Retreat - "A Christian Ending"**  
*Saturday, March 17 – 9 am - 7pm*

**Palm Sunday**  
*Sunday, April 1*

**Pascha**  
*Sunday, April 8*

**Pentecost**  
*Sunday, May 27*

**Blood Drive**  
*Wednesday, May 30, 2-7pm*

**Parish Life Conference**  
*June 27 - July 1*

**SAINT PHILIP'S** is a place of prayer and repentance and a "Pan-Orthodox" parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese, serving Orthodox Christians of all backgrounds in the English language. If you are a newcomer to our community, please sign our guest book, and stay with us for the Coffee Hour today. **AND, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AGAIN!**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Holy Communion is only for practicing Orthodox Christians who are following the commandments, have prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, and recent confession, who are dressed modestly, and have arrived on time for the Liturgy. All are welcome to kiss the Cross and receive Blessed Bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

## Everyday Evangelist

*"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)*

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

### This Week:      **Great Fast Continues ...**

- Monday, Mar 12:** 6th HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Great Compline, 7 p.m.
- Tues, Mar 13:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11:00 a.m.  
6th HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Wed, Mar 14:** 6th HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Confession, 6:30 p.m.  
Presanctified Liturgy (w/ Youth Choir), 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Mar 15:** 6th HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Friday, Mar 16:** Presanctified Liturgy, 10 am  
Akathist, 7 pm  
Choir Practice, 8 pm
- Sat, Mar 17:** Lenten Retreat, 9 a.m.  
**VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 pm**  
Bible Bowl Practice, 7 pm
- Sunday, Mar 18:** **MATINS 9 a.m.,**  
**Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.**  
Memorial for Constantine Neno,  
11:30 am  
Coffee Hour, Sunday School &  
Teens, 11:45 am  
Parish Council, 12:45 pm

#### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Vladimir R	Constantine
Valentine	John N.
Christine S	Assaad
Angela G	Daria
Mary K	
R Maxime	
Michael I	
Steven	
Carolyn-Anna	
John D	
Lasha B	
Otari B	
Daniel H	
Elizabeth D	
Gloria	
Mat. Linda D	
Mark L	<b>St. Nina's List</b>
Robert C	Catechumens
Kristen C	
Stephanie	Couples prepar-
Helen	ing for marriage
R Herman E	
Nicholas A	Corrine
Zafer	Faith
Ethiopia, Syria	Mary
& unstable	Michael
lands	

**OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Baby Care Items.

**WISDOM FROM FATHER B.:** The Church is the Arena.

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers on Mar 3: 46 Divine Services on Mar 4: 170  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$203. Collections, \$808. Youth, \$3. Book Shelf, \$15. Stewardship, \$3,970.64. Total received: \$4,999.64.  
**GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!**