

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son

(Lenten Triodion Week 2)

On the second Sunday of the Triodion, the Church places before us the Parable of the Prodigal Son, calling us to repentance through the image of exile and return. Following the humility learned in the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, we are now invited to “come to ourselves,” as the prodigal did, and to recognize how far we have wandered from our Father’s house. Sin is not merely the breaking of rules; it is a self-inflicted separation from the place where we truly belong. Yet the Gospel assures us that no distance is too great, for the Father waits eagerly to receive us with joy when we arise and return (Luke 15:11–24).



This theme of exile is powerfully reinforced in the services. After the Polyeleion at Matins, the Church sings “By the Waters of Babylon,” a psalm of longing for home, sung for the next two Sundays as Lent approaches. It reminds us that repentance begins with remembering who we are and where we belong.

At the same time, the Church begins to turn our gaze toward the saving events of Holy Week. Beginning Monday, the weekday Gospel readings summarize Christ’s final days: His entry into Jerusalem, Judas’s betrayal, the disciples’ scattering, Peter’s denial, Christ before Pilate, and finally His crucifixion and death. Even before Lent begins, we are taught that repentance is inseparable from the Cross.

The parable itself reveals both the depth of human sin and the greater depth of God’s mercy. The prodigal wastes his inheritance, finds himself in hunger and humiliation, and finally returns in humility, seeking only to be a servant. Yet the Father runs to meet him, restores him as a son, and celebrates his return with a feast. This is the heart of repentance: not fear, but trust in the Father’s compassion.

The Church gives us this time so that we may recognize our own exile, rise up in repentance, and return home—where forgiveness, joy, and restored communion await us.

Adapted Text & Icon from oca.org

The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts II:26)



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

215-954-9286



Father James Thayer

215-692-0890

February 8, 2026

LENTEN TRIODION SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

COMMEMORATIONS:

THEODORE THE COMMANDER & GREAT MARTYR,
THE HOLY PROPHET ZACHARIAS (ZACHARIAH),
NICEPHOROS & STEPHANOS THE MARTYRS,
AFTERFEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
AND SAVIOR IN THE TEMPLE, CUTHMAN OF
STEYNING

Tone 2 - Eothion 2

Orthros Gospel: St. Mark 16:1-8
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 15:11-32

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 2 - When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee!

APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST - Tone 1 - Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

TODAY:

ORTHROS, 8:15 a.m.

Ft. Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.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–Thursday 12:30pm - 5:00pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week:

COFFEE HOUR: Teen Soyo
PROSPHORA BREAD: Gabriela Plesa
ALTAR CANDLES: Rice - Eliana's Birthday
USHERS: Radu Chebeleu & Mike Taggart
CLEANING TEAM: Beraki H., Val H., Mark Z., Robert S.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Morgan T., Mark Z., Rose N., Simon K.

Next Week (Feb. 15):

Women of St. Miriam & St. Emilia
 John Child
 - - -
 Nick Muzekari & Ryan Magerr
 Radu C., Mary T., Anna U., Dylan H.
 Kendra M., Matt S., Anthony V.

Mark Your Calendar:

Parish Trip to Visit Metr. SABA
Saturday, February 21

Forgiveness Sunday
 (Cheese Fare)
February 22

Stay for Forgiveness Vespers
 at 1:00 pm

Pan-Orthodox
Sunday of Orthodox Vespers
Sunday, March 1 at 4:00 pm
 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox
 Cathedral: 1607 W. Union Blvd.,
 Bethlehem. Homily by Fr. Andrew
 Stephen Damick.

St. Philip Lenten Retreat
Saturday, March 14

“The Highway to Heaven is a Staircase:
 A Study of the Sermon on the Mount”
 Register with the link or the QR Code:
<https://tinyurl.com/udpuwet2>



Great & Holy Pascha
April 12

**FEBRUARY OUTREACH
 COLLECTION:
 Paper Products**

Pray For:

| Living | Departed |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the holy land | +Archimandrite Daniel |
| Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine | +Matushka Martha +Najezda (February Parish Diptychs) |
| The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered and those to whom they reach out. | +Frank +Kristina +John +Steve +John +Hertanse +Thomas +Wendy-Susanna |
| Louise-Ruth Joanne Nancy-Anna Mark Elizabeth Sister Anka Dcn. Evgeney Amy Sze-Tatiana Hieromonk Silouan Aristides Catherine Christine Maria John James James Steven Sophia Elias Paraskevi | <u>Catechumens</u> Matthew H Martin (Ernie) R Sean, Meghan, and John T Robert S Carolyn D Martin (Morgan) & Gabriella T Anthony V Slavek G Nevada L Josiah & Casie, Ray & Gwen L John C Daniel, Eleanor, Amos & Marigold C Adaele S Jeff & Jasmine, Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob P Andrew & Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Priscilla & Phoebe V Daniel & Jordan, Daniella, Meadow & Mason M Hannah B Samuel & Emilie, Ari & Addison P James B Nicole P Dylan Ryan M Mission Chapel: Christopher & Nailah M Sean & Natalie, Rosalie & Abel K Inactive: Jasper, Asher, Andrew, Michael, Kassandra |
| Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries Priest Nathan, Deacon Irenaeus, Theophanes, Jacob, John, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families | |
| Those searching for jobs, houses, spouses & monasteries | |
| Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples | |
| Families struggling to conceive | |
| Expectant and new mothers and their babies | |
| Those in mourning | |
| The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity | |

This Week:

- Mon, Feb. 9:** Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
- Tues, Feb. 10:** Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m.
- Wed, Feb. 11:** Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
 Confessions, 6:00 p.m.
 Little Compline, 6:30 p.m.
 FOCUS: Norristown, 7:00 p.m.
 Patristic Discussion, 7:15 p.m.
- Thurs, Feb. 12:** Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Supplication to St Emmelia, 6:30 p.m.
 Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.
 FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.
- Fri, Feb. 13:** Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
 Confessions, 6:00 p.m.
 Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
 Q&A w/ Fr. Noah, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Feb. 14:** Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
 Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m.
 Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
 Confessions, 7:00 p.m.
- Sun, Feb. 15:** **The Last Judgment (Meat Fare)**
 Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.
Ft. Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.

Thanks for respecting Fr Noah's Availability:

8am-8pm, except Tuesdays (Text preferred); Don't forget: Fr James and Fr Luke; Urgent, non-pastoral matters: Keith 610-662-2580

ATTENDANCE: Vespers (1/31): 124 Liturgy (2/1): 300 Presentation (2/2): 116
 Mission Chapel: 1/4: 46, 1/11: 56, 1/18 & 1/25: No liturgy (snow), 2/1: 64

OFFERINGS 2/1: Candles, \$231. Collections, \$834. Crafty Kids, \$225.
 Book Shelf, \$260. Building Fund, \$40. Teen Fund, \$20. Pastoral Discretion, \$246.03.
 Stewardship, \$8,514.21. Total received, \$10,370.59.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!