

## Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

On the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, the Church commemorates the holy forefathers according to the flesh of our Lord, tracing the long and patient preparation of salvation. We remember Adam and Eve, the first-created; the righteous Abel; Seth and his descendants—Enos, Kenan, Mehaliel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah. From Noah we commemorate Shem and Japheth, then Arphachshad, Canaan, Shelah, Eber (from whom the Hebrews take their name), Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, and Terah.



From Terah we honor the holy patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, together with Jacob's sons—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah (from whose tribe Christ came), Zebulon, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph, and Benjamin. From Judah we remember Pharez and Zerah, then Hezron, Aram, Aminadab, Nahshon, Salmon, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, and the holy Prophet-King David.

We also commemorate the kings of Judah: Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joram, Ahaziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, and Jechoniah. From the exile we remember Shealtiel, Zerubbabel—who led the captives back and laid the foundations of the new Temple—and his descendants down to Jacob and St. Joseph the Betrothed.

Alongside these we honor the righteous Melchizedek, Job, Moses, Aaron, Hur, Joshua son of Nun; the prophets Samuel, Nathan, and Daniel; and the three holy youths Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

We also commemorate the righteous women of Israel: Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, Rachel, Aseneth, Miriam, Deborah, Ruth, the widow of Zarephath, the Shunammite woman, Judith, Esther, Hannah, and Susanna.

Finally, we remember the righteous Ezra, priest and scribe, who returned from the Babylonian captivity around 458 BC, gathered and preserved the Scriptures, and helped establish the Old Testament canon, preparing the people once more for the coming of Christ.

Text (edited) & Icon from oca.org



## 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

**December 21, 2025**

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

### COMMEMORATIONS:

JULIANA OF NICOMEDIA & HER 630 COMPANION  
MARTYRS, THEMISTOCLES THE MARTYR OF  
MYRA, PETER, METROPOLITAN OF MOSCOW

**Tone 3 - Eothinon 6**

**Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:36-53**

**Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40**

**Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 1:1-25**

**TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 3 -** Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY - Tone 4 -** Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

### **TODAY:**

**ORTHROS 8:15 a.m.**

*Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission 9 a.m.*

**Divine LITURGY 9:30 a.m.**

Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 p.m.

**Youth Christmas Program, 12:00 p.m.**

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**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:	Next Week (Dec. 28):
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b> Young Adults & St. Ignatius	Christmas Potluck—Leftovers
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b> John Child & Heather Taggart	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b> Schneider—Peter’s Birthday	Chebeleu—Sofia’s Birthday
<b>USHERS:</b> Steve Kulp & Ryan Magerr	Radu Chebeleu & Todd Moody
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b> Catechumens	Todd & Kristi Moore & Kim B.
<b>COFFEE HOUR TEAM:</b> Calvin S., Mary T., Gabriel M.	Morgan T., Mark Z., Rose N., Simon K.

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### **Circumcision, St. Basil, & New Year** *December 31*

6:30 pm: Vespers & Artoklasia  
7:30 pm: Festal Orthros  
8:30 pm: Talent Show & Fellowship  
10:00 pm: New Year Prayers

#### *January 1*

9:30 am: Divine Liturgy & New Year Prayers

#### **Bishop Thomas Visiting for Theophany**

*January 5:* Vespertal Liturgy (5:00 p.m.) & (rescheduled) tonsure of Tim R, awarding Epigonation to Fr Luke, water blessing & fasting potluck

*January 6:* Festal Orthros (8:15 a.m.) & (9:30 a.m.) Hierarchical Liturgy & water blessing.

**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.

### NOV/DEC OUTREACH COLLECTION:

## Turkeys & Hams

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the holy land	+Kh Carol +Larissa (December Parish Diptychs)
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Joseph +Richard +Mary
The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered and those to whom they reach out.	+Demetrios +Katherine +Nicholas +Gabremaria m +Assaad +Doris +Barbara +Andrew
Joshua	
Athena Lily	<u>Catechumens</u>
Sze-Tatiana	Mary T
Louise-Ruth	Steven M
Hieromonk Silouan	Liara P
Aristides	Sarah M
Sergei	Ryan M
Ludmilla	Kassandra H
Catherine	Matthew H
Christine	Martin (Ernie) R
Maria	Sean, Meghan, and John T
John	Robert S
James	Carolyn D
Steven	Martin (Morgan) & Gabriella T
Sophia	Anthony V
Elias	Slavek G
Zotikos	Nevada L
Paraskevi	Josiah & Casie, Ray & Gwen L
Barbara	John C.
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries	Daniel & Eleanor, Amos & Marigold C
Priest Nathan, Irenaeus, Theophanes, Jacob, John, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families	Adaele S Jeff & Jasmine, Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob P Andrew & Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Phoebe & Priscilla V
Those searching for jobs, houses, spouses & monasteries	Daniel & Jordan, Daniella, Meadow & Mason M
Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples	Hannah B
Families struggling to conceive	Mission Chapel: Christopher M & Nailah O
Expectant and new mothers and their babies	Sean & Natalie, Rosalie & Abel K
The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	Inactive: Jasper, Asher, James, Andrew, Michael

## This Week:

**Mon, Dec 22:** Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.  
Confessions, 8:00 a.m.  
Daily Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

**Tues, Dec 23:** Confessions, 9:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.  
Confessions, 11:00 a.m.  
Confessions, 3:00 p.m.  
Holy Unction, 4:00 p.m.

**Wed, Dec 24:** **Christmas Eve**  
Royal Hours & Confessions, 7:30 a.m.  
**Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil, 9:30 a.m.**  
Confessions, 11:30 a.m.  
**Festal Orthros, 9:00 p.m.**  
**Divine Liturgy, 10:30 p.m.**

**Thurs, Dec 25:** **Christ is born, Glorify Him!**  
Great Vespers, 12:00 p.m.

**Fri, Dec 26:** **Synaxis of the Theotokos**  
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.  
Kontakion of Nativity, 6:30 p.m.

**Sat, Dec 27:** Baptismal Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.  
Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m..  
Confessions, 7:00 p.m.

**Sun, Dec 28:** Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.  
Ft. Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.  
Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.

**Stewardship 2026 Update:** We now have 79 pledges totaling \$315,128 or 70.6% of our goal. Please get your pledges in!

**ATTENDANCE:** Vespers 12/13: 108                      Divine Liturgy 12/14: 100 (Snow)  
**OFFERINGS 12/14:** Candles, \$223. Collections, \$920.03. Flowers, \$100.  
Book Shelf Ministry, \$236.80. Needy Fund, \$122.02. Building Fund, \$10,150.  
Teen Fund, \$4,105.90. Capital Improvement, \$20. Christmas Card, \$50.  
Mission Chapel, \$150. Pastoral Discretion, \$1,567.18. Stewardship, \$1,939.61.  
Total received: \$19,462.92.

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**