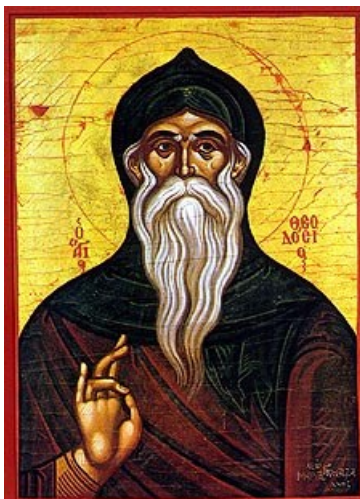


## Venerable Theodosius the Great, the Cenobiarch

(January 11)

Saint Theodosius the Great lived in the fifth and sixth centuries and is remembered as the founder of cenobitic monasticism. He was born in Cappadocia to pious parents and was gifted with a beautiful voice, which he used zealously in the church as a reader and singer. From a young age he prayed fervently that the Lord would guide him on the path of salvation. During a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he met Saint Simeon the Stylite, who blessed him and foretold his future pastoral ministry.



Desiring the solitary life, Saint Theodosius settled in a remote cave in Palestine, which tradition holds had once sheltered the Magi after Christ's Nativity. There he lived for thirty years in strict asceticism and unceasing prayer. As his reputation for holiness grew, disciples gathered around him. When the cave could no longer contain them, Saint Theodosius prayed for guidance. Carrying a censer with cold charcoal and incense, he walked into the desert until the charcoal ignited on its own and the incense rose. At that place he founded the first cenobitic monastery, later known as the Lavra of Saint Theodosius. Eventually, nearly seven hundred monks lived there, serving not only one another but also the poor, travelers, and the dying.

The saint was known for extraordinary compassion. During a famine, he welcomed all who came to the monastery despite scarce resources. Through his prayers, the bakery was miraculously filled with bread, a wonder repeated whenever he aided the destitute. He established guesthouses, infirmaries for monks and laypeople, and shelters for the dying. Recognizing the diversity of the faithful, he arranged services in Greek, Georgian, and Armenian, while all gathered together to receive the Holy Mysteries.

During the reign of Emperor Anastasius, Saint Theodosius boldly defended Orthodoxy against heresy, even enduring imprisonment for proclaiming fidelity to the four Ecumenical Councils. He performed many miracles, including healings, deliverance from disasters, and protection from famine and plague. Foretelling an earthquake that later destroyed Antioch, he called the monks to prayer at the exact hour of the calamity. Foreseeing his death, Saint Theodosius prepared peacefully and departed to the Lord at the age of 105. His body was buried with honor in the cave of his early ascetic life.

Text & icon from oca.org

The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26)



### 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

January 11, 2026

### THE SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

#### COMMEMORATIONS:

OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER THEODOSIUS  
THE CENOBIARCH, NIKEPHOROS THE  
NEW MARTYR OF CRETE, VITALIS OF  
GAZA

**Tone 6 - Eothinon 9**  
Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:19-31  
Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16  
Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 4:12-17

**RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 6 -** When Mary stood at thy grave, looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led'st hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. O thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to thee!

**APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST - Tone 1 -** When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

#### TODAY:

**Orthros, 8:15 a.m.**

*Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 a.m.*

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

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

Outdoor Great Blessing of Water (Lake Lenape), 1:00 p.m.

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

