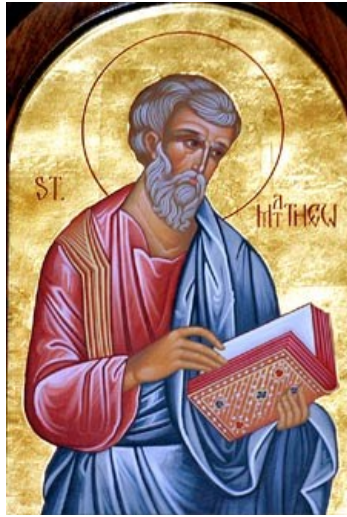


The Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew

(November 16)

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, also called Levi (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27), was one of the Twelve Apostles (Mark 3:18; Luke 6:45; Acts 1:13) and the brother of the Apostle James Alphaeus. A publican in Capernaum, Matthew collected taxes for Rome at a time when the Jews lived under Roman occupation. Publicans were despised as greedy traitors and “public sinners.” Yet when Matthew heard the Lord say, “Come, follow Me” (Mt. 9:9), he immediately left everything and followed Christ. The Savior accepted Matthew’s invitation to dine with him, along with Matthew’s friends—other tax collectors and known sinners—causing scandal among the Pharisees. They could not understand that Christ had come “not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Mt. 9:13).



Repenting of his former life, Matthew restored fourfold whatever he had unjustly taken and gave much to the poor. He followed Christ faithfully, witnessed His miracles, teachings, suffering, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, and preached first to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Mt. 10:6). After Pentecost, Matthew preached in Palestine for several years. At the request of Jewish converts in Jerusalem, he wrote his Gospel—first in Aramaic, later translated into Greek—bearing witness that Jesus Christ is the long-awaited Messiah foretold by the prophets.

Matthew’s Gospel, placed first in the New Testament, proclaims Christ as Prophet and Lawgiver (Chs. 5–7), Lord over the visible and invisible creation (Chs. 8–25), and High Priest who offers Himself for the sins of the world (Chs. 26–27). It also sets forth Christ’s teaching on the Kingdom of God, the Church, the inner life of repentance, and the eschatological coming of the Son of Man.

Afterward, Matthew brought the Gospel to Syria, Persia, and ultimately Ethiopia, converting many and establishing the Church there. Through miracles—including healing the ruler Fulvian’s family and the wondrous preservation of his own incorrupt body—Matthew’s witness led to the conversion and baptism of Fulvian, who later became bishop and continued the apostle’s work until his death.

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

November 16, 2025

THE HOLY APOSTLE & EVANGELIST MATTHEW

COMMEMORATIONS:

MARTYR EPHYGENIA OF ETHIOPIA,
DISCIPLE OF ST. MATTHEW; FULVIAN,
PRINCE OF ETHIOPIA

NATIVITY FAST

Tone 6 - Eothion 1
Orthros Gospel: St. Matthew 28:16-20
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 9:9-13

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!

KONTAKION OF ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS - Tone 4 - The sacred treasury of God’s holy glory, the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the Savior’s most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, into the House of the Lord on this day is brought forward and bringeth with herself the grace of the Most Divine Spirit; her do God’s Angels hymn with songs of praise, for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

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.

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 12:30 pm - 5:00pm

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

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

<p>This Week: COFFEE HOUR: Veteran's Day Luncheon PROSPHORA BREAD: John C. & Heather T. ALTAR CANDLES: Doris & Jim Eggers-Ceclia (Memory Eternal) USHERS: Dan M. & Nick M. CLEANING TEAM: Teens COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Morgan T., Mark Z., Rose N. Simon K. Kendra M., Matt S., Anthony V., John J</p>	<p>Next Week (Nov. 23) Potluck—Please Contribute Gabi & Catalin Tinjala Chebeleu-Thanksgiving Steve K. & Radu C. Nick T., Gabi T., Dave & Darby S.</p>
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Mark Your Calendar:

Stewardship 2026
Please make your pledge:
<https://tinyurl.com/stphilip2026>
 We now have 42 pledges totaling \$197,968 or 44.4% of our stewardship goal.

Nativity/Advent Retreat
Evangelism and Apologetics
w/ Fr Timothy Hojnicky
November 22

Please Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/ynm63z4y>

St. Nicholas Vespers (Youth Choir) & Youth Activity
December 5

Feast of St. Nicholas
December 6

Orthos 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy
 9:30 am, Potluck 10:30 am

International Cookie Walk
December 13

11:00 a.m. until the cookies sell out!

NOV/DEC OUTREACH
COLLECTION:
Turkeys & Hams

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the holy land Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine Fathers of St Catherine Monastery on Mt Sinai The leadership and community of St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered and those who they reach out to. Louise-Ruth Hieromonk Silouan Sergei Charles Daria George Sandra Ludmilla Catherine Christine Maria John James James Steven Sophia Paraskevi Alexander Kh Hend, Maria, and Bethlehem and their families and all those in mourning Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries Dn Nathan, Jacob, John, Irenaeus, Theophanes, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families Those searching for jobs, houses, & spouses Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples Families struggling to conceive Expectant and new mothers and their babies The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	+Archpriest George +Tamara +Linnea +Helen +Kh Carol (November Parish Diptychs) +Joseph +Peter +Ellen +Evelyn +Ksenia +William +Elizabeth <hr/> <u>Catechumens</u> Ryan Kassandra Jasper Matthew Mary Martin Meghan-Photini John Steven Robert Liara Asher Sarah Andrew Carolyn Martin & Gabriella James Anthony Slavek Nevada Josiah, Casie, Ray, & Gwen John Michael Daniel, Eleanor, Amos, and Marigold Christopher & Naila Adaele Jeff & Jasmine, Jackson, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob Andrew & Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Priscilla & Phoebe Hannah

This Week:

Bishop Thomas' Visit Continues This Week

Mon, Nov 17:	Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Tues, Nov 18:	Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m.
Wed, Nov 19:	Strict Fast Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. (Text Fr. Noah) Daily Vespers w/ Bishop Thomas, 6:30 p.m. Fasting Potluck w/ Bishop Thomas, 7:00 p.m. FOCUS Norristown, 7:00 p.m. Patristic Discussion, 7:15 p.m.
Thurs, Nov 20:	Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m. Great Vespers, 4:00 p.m. Festal Orthros & Tonsures, 5:00 p.m. Hierarchical Liturgy & Ordination, 6:00 p.m. Fasting Festal Potluck Dinner (Fish/Wine/Oil) FOCUS Serving Night (Aviator Park), 8:00 p.m.
Fri, Nov 21:	Entrance of the Theotoks Confessions, 6:00 p.m. (Text Fr. Noah) Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m. Teen Tea w/ Fr. Tim, 7:30 p.m.
Sat, Nov 22:	Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. Advent Retreat, 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m. (Text Fr. Noah)
Sun, Nov 23:	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. Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 11/8: 92 Liturgy 11/9: 297 Feast of St. Philip: 111

OFFERINGS 11/9: Candles, \$319. Collections, \$827.06. Needy Fund, \$122.02. Book Shelf Ministry, \$89. Mission Chapel, \$450. Building Fund, \$1,250. Teen Fund, \$110. Stewardship, \$5,196.55 Total received: \$8,258.61.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!