

The Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana), the Samaritan Woman (May 18)

Saint Photina was the Samaritan Woman with whom Christ spoke at Jacob's Well (John 4:5-42). After her encounter with the Savior, she became a fearless preacher of the Gospel. During Nero's reign (54-68), she lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses, boldly proclaiming Christ. Her elder son, Victor, served in the Roman army and was later summoned to Italy by Nero to persecute Christians.

When Victor arrived, an official named Sebastian confronted him, urging him to betray Christians in exchange for wealth. Victor refused, declaring, "I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother." Suddenly, Sebastian was struck blind. After three days, he confessed, "The God of the Christians is the only true God," was baptized, and miraculously healed. His household followed him into the faith.

News of these conversions reached Nero. He summoned the Christians to Rome. Christ appeared to them, saying, "Fear not, for I am with you... From this day forward, your name will be Photinus, because through you, many will be enlightened." Saint Photina left Carthage to join them.

In Rome, the emperor demanded they renounce Christ. All refused. He ordered their finger joints smashed, but the saints remained unharmed. Nero then had Photinus, Sebastian, and Joses blinded and imprisoned. Photina and her five sisters—Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskevė, and Kyriake—were sent to Nero's daughter Domnina, whom Photina converted, along with her household and a sorcerer sent to poison her.

Three years later, Nero learned that the prisoners, though previously blinded, were healed and preaching Christ in prison. In fury, he ordered them crucified and beaten. But an angel freed and healed them, and they restored sight to Nero's blinded servants, who were then baptized.

Nero escalated his cruelty: Photina was flayed and thrown in a well; her sons had their legs cut off and were skinned. Her sisters were tortured—breasts and skin cut off, and one, Photis, was torn in half by bent trees. All were eventually beheaded.

Photina survived and, when again brought before Nero, mocked him: "Do you think me so deluded that I would renounce my Lord Christ?" Enraged, he ordered her thrown back into the well, where she gave her soul to God (ca. 66 AD).

Excerpted text and image from oca.org



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



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May 18, 2025
SUNDAY OF THE
SAMARITAN WOMAN



**CHRIST IS
RISEN!**

Tone 4

Eothion 7: St. John 20:1-10

Epistle: Acts 11:19-30

Gospel: St. John 4:5-42

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH
BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.**

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 4 - Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the Apostles, saying, "Death hath been spoiled! Christ-God is risen, granting to the world the great mercy!"

TROPARION FOR MID-PENTECOST - Tone 8 - In the midst of this Feast, O Saviour, give thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of true worship; for thou didst call out to all, saying, Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Wherefore, O Christ our God, Fountain of life, glory to thee.

TODAY: Orthros, 8:15 am
Ft. Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy, 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am
Sunday School & Coffee Hour

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

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 (May 25):
COFFEE HOUR	Teens	Bushelli-Joachim's Graduation
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabi & Catalin T.	John Child
ALTAR CANDLES:	Chebeleu-many years to Matthew	Kaminsky-Simeon's 7th Birthday
USHERS:	Todd Moody & Tom A.	Steve K. & Radu C.
CLEANING TEAM:	Nick T., Gabi T., Dave & Darby S.	Nick M., Chris H. Mark Z.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Eric M. & Zach W.	Miriam K., Ryan M., Daniel C., Laura S.

* IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS. Thank you for remembering the needs of others.

This Week:

Monday, May 19:	PC Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 20:	Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m. Bible Study (last one!), 6:30 p.m.
Wed, May 21:	Divine Liturgy (Sts. Constantine & Helen), 7:00 am Little COMPLINE & Patristic Reading, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 22:	----
Friday, May 23:	Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 24:	Baptism (Ayele), 12:30 p.m. VESPERS, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 25:	SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN <i>Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission, 9:00 am</i> ORTHROS 8:15 a.m. Divine LITURGY, 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Sunday School Choir Rehearsal, 12:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers (5/10): 104

Liturgy (5/11): 276

OFFERINGS 5/11: Candles, \$302. Collections, \$502.02. Book Shelf Ministry, \$151. Building Fund, \$900. Camping, \$350. Mission Chapel, \$3,818.58. Missions, \$1,400. Teen Fund \$290. Stewardship, \$5,884.87. Total received: \$13,597.97.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

SPECIAL APPEAL

Our parish is in need of donations of Olive Oil to keep our lamps burning bright. Please place your Olive Oil offering beneath the St. Nicholas icon on the iconostasis. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendar:

Holy Ascension
Hierarchical Liturgy w/ **Bishop Thomas & Priestly Ordination:**
Dn. Luke

Wednesday, May 28
Festal Vespers, 5:00 pm
Festal Orthros, 6:00 pm
Hierarchical Liturgy, 7:00 pm
Festal Reception, 9:00 pm

Daily Liturgies for Fr. Luke's Training
May 30 - June 29

Pentecost
Sunday, June 8

Apostles' Fast
June 16-28

2024 Parish Life Conference
June 25-28, 2025

VCS 2024
July 28-Aug 1

MAY OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Skin Care Products

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria and all the holy land Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine N.I. Flora Archpriest Joel Dn Michael Nun Sergeia John Doris James Steven Paraskevi Elizabeth Michaela Elias Mary Maria Constantinos Mary Helen Barbara Ana Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries Dn Nathan, John, Samuel & all seminarians Those searching for spouses Engaged Couples Families trying to conceive Expectant mothers New mothers and their babies Those searching for jobs and housing Those in mourning The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	+Coca-Lucia +Nicholas (May Parish Diptychs) +Paul +Bahia +Kh. Jane +LuAnn +Lida +Donna +Helen <u>Catechumens</u> Ryan Michael Kassandra Rose Jasper Catherine Matthew Matthew Mary Martin Meghan-Photini John Steven Robert Liara Asher Sarah Andrew Carolyn Martin James Anthony Kele

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