

December 31, 2017

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST, WHICH FALLS ON THE APODOSIS (LEAVE-TAKING) OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Venerable Sabiana, Abbess of the Samtskhe Monastery

The nuns of Georgian monasteries have historically been outstanding in their diligence. God entrusted them with the special duties of ceaseless prayer, fasting, needlework, and the raising of orphans. Nuns have been regarded as vessels of sanctity and wisdom, and even royalty would kneel before them.

Many Georgian noblemen would send their children to nuns to be brought up in the Christian Faith. According to the great church figure George the Lesser, when the parents of Saint George of the Holy Mountain decided to have their first-born daughter, Thekla, raised by nuns, they sent her to the “worthy and holy” Sabiana, who at that time was abbess of the Samtskhe Tadzrisi Monastery in southern Georgia.

Saint Sabiana welcomed Thekla and raised her as though she were her own natural daughter.

Before long Thekla’s brother, the seven-year-old George, was also brought to the monastery, and Saint Sabiana spent three years educating and instructing him in the spiritual life.

Further information on the life and labors of Saint Sabiana has sadly not been preserved. But as the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew attests, the tree is known by his fruit (Matt. 12:33). The high level of monastic life during Saint Sabiana’s abbacy and the pious lives of her spiritual children attest to the great spiritual heights she attained.

Text and Image from <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2017/12/31/205473-venerable-sabiana-abbess-of-the-samtskhe-monastery>



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

1970 Clearview Road
Souderton, PA 18964

www.st-philip.net (215) 721-4947

Emails: office@st-philip.net
nbushelli@gmail.com
frjamesthayer@gmail.com
frherman1@gmail.com
vacker@st-philip.net

V. Rev. Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
215-954-9286 (text preferred)

Rev. Father James Thayer
215-692-0890

Rev. Father Herman R. Acker
215-527-8571

Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday 8:30 - 4:00
Friday 10:00 - 3:00

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COMMEMORATIONS:

ST. MELANIA THE YOUNGER OF ROME (439)
ST. ZOTIKOS OF ROME, THE FRIEND OF ORPHANS
(4TH C.)

BLESSED THEOPHYLACT, ARCHBISHOP OF OCHRID
(1126)

ST. ANYSIUS, BISHOP OF THESSALONICA (406)

ST. SABIANA, ABBESS OF SAMTSKHE (11TH C.)

ST. PETER MOGILA, METROPOLITAN OF KIEV (1646).

HOLY CONFESSOR DOSITHEUS, METROPOLITAN OF
ZAGREB (1941)

Tone 5

Eothinon 8

Matins Gospel: St. John 20:11-18

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 1:1-8

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 5 - Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

TODAY: Orthros, 8:45 am, & Divine Liturgy, 10 am
40-Day Memorial for Sylvia McDonald
Coffee Hour, 11:45 am
Vespers & Artoklasia, 6 pm, Orthros, 7 pm
Talent show 8 pm, New Year’s Prayers 10pm

SAINT PHILIP’S is a place of prayer and repentance and a “Pan-Orthodox” parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese, serving Orthodox Christians of all backgrounds in the English language. If you are a newcomer to our community, please sign our guest book, and stay with us for the Coffee Hour today. AND, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AGAIN!

PLEASE NOTE: Holy Communion is only for practicing Orthodox Christians who are following the commandments and have prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, and recent confession, and who are dressed modestly and arrived on time for the Liturgy. All are welcome to kiss the Cross and receive Blessed Bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

PLEASE PARK ONLY IN DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES; OTHER AREAS MUST REMAIN FREE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS.

AMPLE PARKING is always available for Church Services in lots just across Clearview Rd, thanks to our good neighbors at Solar Atmospheres. Thank you.

PROSPHORA Bread provided by Barbara Mullen.

EPISTLE READER: Jack Morrash

THE ALTAR CANDLES are lighted today by Ken Hedrick, in thanksgiving for blessings received (birthday - MANY YEARS!).

MANY THANKS to Linda Morelli for sponsoring today's coffee hour. EVERYONE is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. Your assistance in cleanup is appreciated.

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS NEEDED! Many upcoming weeks do not have sponsors - can you take a turn?

THIS WEEK'S GREETERS: Angie Drăghici & Nick and Martha Morelli

THIS WEEK'S CLEANING TEAM: Serge & Alex Kaminsky

THANK YOU to all who fulfill these ministries!

HOUSE BLESSINGS - Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex!

Mark Your Calendar:

Adult Education - "Orthodoxy & Heterodoxy"

Jan 3 - Feb 14, Wednesdays after Compline

Men's Fellowship - "Becoming Men of Prayer"

Saturday, January 13 - 8-10 am

Holy Bread Workshop

Saturday, January 13 - 3 pm

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Thursday, February 1 - Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 pm

Friday, February 2 - Matins & Liturgy w/ Candle blessing, 9 am

Great Lent Begins

Monday, February 19 - Clean Monday

Lenten Retreat - "A Christian Ending"

Saturday, March 17

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

Everyday Evangelist

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

Pray for your relatives who do not know the Lord.

This Week:

A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

- Monday, Jan 1: Divine LITURGY 10 am & New Year's Prayers Festal Potluck 12 pm
- Tuesday, Jan 2: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11:00 a.m. 6th HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan 3: 6th HOUR, 12 p.m. Compline & Adult Ed. Class, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan 4: 6th HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Friday, Jan 5: Theophany FAST Royal HOURS 10 am Vespers LITURGY 6 pm, Great Blessing of Water 7:30 pm
- Saturday, Jan 6: HOLY THEOPHANY Orthros 9 am, Divine LITURGY 10 am Great Blessing of Water, 11:30 am Festal Potluck, 12 pm VESPERS 6 pm, Confessions 7 pm
- Sunday, Jan 7: MATINS 9 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m. Outdoor Blessing of Water @ Lenape Park, 1 pm

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Oral Care Products.

WISDOM FROM FATHER B.: This is EARTH!

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Dec 23: 51 Divine Services on Dec 24: 203
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$282. Collections, \$439. Book Shelf, \$40. Camping Fund, \$14. Christmas Card Fund, \$130. Honorarium Fund, \$3,000. IOCC, \$1,000. Stewardship, \$7,067. Total received: \$11,972.
GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

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.