

December 16, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

Righteous Miriam

Saint Miriam, like her brothers Moses and Aaron, was descended from the tribe of Levi.

When Moses was an infant, the Hebrew midwives were ordered to kill any male child when they assisted at childbirths, but they refused to obey. Moses was hidden by his mother for three months, and then, when she could no longer do this, he was placed into a basket of reeds and set upon the waters of the Nile. Miriam watched in secret to see what would happen to him. When Pharaoh's daughter found him, Miriam emerged from her place of concealment and offered to find a wet nurse from among the Hebrew women for the baby. Miriam went to get her mother, who raised her child until he was grown, and then returned him to Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:10).



In the Torah, she is called "Miriam the Prophetess" (Exodus 15:20), while the Prophet Michah (6:4) has God say that He sent Moses, and Aaron, and Miriam before the Hebrews to lead them out of Egypt.

In Chapter 12 of the book of Numbers, Miriam and Aaron apparently criticize Moses for being married to a foreign woman of Cush (or an Ethiopian). This, however, was merely a pretext for their resentment. Actually, they were disturbed by Moses' position as the sole mediator between God and the people. Miriam was a prophetess, after all. Miriam and Aaron questioned Moses, "Has the Lord spoken only to Moses? Has He not also spoken to us?" God then tells them that He speaks face to face with Moses, but only in visions to Miriam and Aaron while they are asleep. Then, for daring to speak against Moses, Miriam is punished with leprosy. Aaron pleads with Moses not to hold their sin against them, since they had acted out of ignorance. Even so, Miriam was set apart outside the camp for seven days, and then she was healed and allowed to come in.

In one of the stichera on the Praises for the Sunday before the Nativity, Sarah, Rebecca, Anna, and Miriam, "the glory of women," are said to "exchange glad tidings."

Text and Image from <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/12/16/607-righteous-miriam>

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



**ST. PHILIP
ORTHODOX
CHURCH**

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

215-954-9286



Father James Thayer

215-692-0890

December 16, 2018

**SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS
(ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST**

COMMEMORATIONS:

PROPHET HAGGAI

THEOPHANIA THE EMPRESS

MODESTOS, ARCHBISHOP OF JERUSALEM

NICHOLAS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

MEMNONUS, ARCHBISHOP OF EPHEBUS

Tone 4 - Eothinon 7

Matins Gospel: St. John 20:1-10

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 14:16-24

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 disciples saying, Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS - Tone 2 - Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

TODAY: Orthros 8:30 am; Divine Liturgy 9:45 am
Chrismation of Rebecca Jekel – Many Years!
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am
Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 pm
Parish Council, 12:45 pm

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

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 (Dec 23):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Anonymous	Justin Gohl
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr Nathan Jekel	Terry Kaminsky
ALTAR CANDLES:	Ken Hedrick	Bushelli (Anna's B-Day)
GREETERS:	Steve & Carolyn Kaminsky	Todd & Kristi Moore
CLEANING TEAM:	The Teens	Serge & Alex
COFFEE HOUR:	Angie, Ted, Helen, Stephen	St. Ignatius

Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. Your assistance in cleanup is appreciated.

Giving Opportunities at St. Philip

- ✦ As the year comes to a close, please consider making a special offering to the **Needy Fund, Camp Scholarship Fund, Library Fund, Property Acquisition, Chapel Fund, and Pastoral Discretionary Fund.** Also, consider transferring stocks to the church to maximize your giving to God's work at St Philip's, and to avoid capital gains taxes and to claim deductions.
- ✦ **YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS** support the beautification of our church during this holy season.
- ✦ **YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD OFFERINGS** benefit Ministries, Monasteries, & Mission Situations.

Thank you and may God bless your generosity!

Mark Your Calendar:

Nativity Services

Monday, December 24 -

Royal Hours 8:45 am, Vespers Liturgy 10 am
Festal Orthros 8:45 pm, Hierarchical Liturgy 10 pm

Tuesday, December 25 -

Vespers for Synaxis 12 pm

Wednesday, December 26 -

Orthros 9 am, Liturgy for Synaxis 10 am

Circumcision & St. Basil - New Year's

Monday, December 31

Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Orthros, 7 pm
Talent Show 8 pm, New Year's Prayers 10 pm

Tuesday, January 1

Divine Liturgy 10 am, New Year's Prayers 11:30 am

Theophany

Saturday, January 5 - (Strict Fast Day)

Royal Hours, 8:15 am, Divine Liturgy, 10 am & Great
Blessing of Water, 11:15 am, Great Vespers &
Artoklasia, 6 pm

*Sunday, January 6 - Outdoor Blessing of Water
@ Lenape Park, 1 pm*

Pray For:

Living

Bp Alexander
Newly-Chrismated
Rebecca Mary
Newly-Illumined Basil
& Nathaniel
Baby Simeon
Child Gregory
Caroline & family
Zerfenesh & family
Paul (M)
James E
Lasha B
Otari B
Daniel H
Elizabeth D
Mebrat
Aristidis

Thomas, Elizabeth &
all Missionaries

Suffering Christians
in Syria, Ukraine,
Ethiopia, Egypt &
unstable lands

Departed

Fr. Joseph
"Aunt Betty"
Eustathios
Ayele

St. Nina's List
Catechumens
Tatiana (Sze),
Evan, Tina

New & Ex-
pectant
Mothers &
children

Michael

This Week:

NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES ...

- Monday, Dec 17:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Advent Paraklesis 6 pm
- Tuesday, Dec 18:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Matushka Olga Sewing Club
- Wed, Dec 19:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Compline & Patristic Reading, 6 pm
- Thurs, Dec 20:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Friday, Dec 21:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Advent Paraklesis 6 pm

Bp THOMAS Visit

- Sat, Dec 22:** Rehearsal for Christmas Program, 4 pm
VESPERS 6 pm; Fasting Potluck 7 pm
- Sunday, Dec 23:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Hierarchical LITURGY 10 am
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am
Sunday School Christmas Program, 12:30 pm

Would you like to receive our List Serve messages via text?

This is possible for many, depending on your cell service provider. If you'd like to sign up for this, please contact the church office (office@st-philip.net) with your cell number and service provider, and we will test if it will work for you.

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Turkeys.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

*Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ
"Don't Give In"*

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Dec 8: NA Divine Services on Dec 9: 193
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$240. Collections, \$441. Flowers, \$95. Youth, \$6. Book Shelf, \$104. Burial Ministry, \$1,000. Camping Fund, \$100. Cemetery Fund, \$1,000. Choir Fund, \$100. Christmas Card Fund, \$45. Land Acquisition, \$1,000. Needy Fund, \$50. Women's Fund, \$200. Stewardship, \$3,652. Total received: \$9,043.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!