

**Holy Martyrs and Confessors
Gurias, Samonas, and Abibus, of Edessa
(November 15)**

The two friends Gurias and Samonas, preachers of the Word of God, were arrested in the city of Edessa. The saints refused to offer sacrifice to the gods, and boldly confessed their faith in Christ. For this they were subjected to cruel tortures. The martyrs endured everything with firmness and Samonas uttered a prayer to the Lord, which one of the witnesses to their death wrote down: "O Lord my God, against Whose will not a single sparrow falls into the snare. It was You Who made room for David in his sorrow (Ps. 4:1), Who proved the Prophet David stronger than lions (Dan 6), and granted a child of Abraham to be victor over torture and flames (Dan. 3; 14). You know also, Lord, the infirmity of our nature, You see the struggle set before us. Our foe strives to snatch us, the work of Your right hand, away from You and to deprive us of the glory which is in You. With Your compassionate eye watching over us, preserve in us the inextinguishable light of Your Commandments. Guide our steps by Your light, and make us worthy of Your Kingdom, for You are blessed unto ages of ages." By night, they took the martyrs out beyond the city and beheaded them (+ 299-306). Christians buried their holy bodies with reverence.



After some years, the last pagan emperor, Licinius (311-324), began a persecution against Christians. Habibus, a deacon of the Church of Edessa whom the emperor ordered to be arrested for his zealous spreading of the true Faith, presented himself before the executioners when he learned they were searching for him. The saint confessed his faith in Christ and was sentenced to be burned alive. The martyr went willingly into the fire and with a prayer surrendered his soul to the Lord. When the fire went out, the mother and relatives of the saint found his body unharmed. They buried the martyr next to Saints Gurias and Samonas.

After the death of the saints, numerous miracles were wrought by them for those who entreated their help with faith and love. Once, a certain Gothic soldier, sent to serve at Edessa, took the pious virgin Euphemia as his wife. Before this the barbarian vowed to her mother Sophia at the graves of the Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus that he would do his spouse no harm, and would never insult her, but would always love and cherish her. At the completion of his service in Edessa, he took Euphemia with him back to his native land. It turned out that he had deceived her, for he already had a wife at home, and Euphemia became her slave. Her evil husband threatened to kill her if she revealed to anyone that they were married. Euphemia suffered much abuse and humiliation. When she gave birth to a son, the jealous Gothic woman poisoned him. Euphemia turned with prayer to the holy Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus, the witnesses to the perjurer's oath, and the Lord delivered Euphemia from her suffering and miraculously returned her to Edessa, where she was welcomed by her mother.

After a certain while the Goth was again sent to serve in Edessa. The whole city learned of his misdeeds after he was denounced by Sophia. The Goth was executed by order of the prefect of the city.

(Excerpted from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/11/15/103304-holy-martyrs-and-confessors-gurias-samonas-and-abibus-of-edessa>)



**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

November 15, 2020

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

COMMEMORATIONS:

MARTYRS GURIA, SHAMUNA AND HABIB THE
DEACON OF EDESSA
THOMAS THE NEW, PATRIARCH OF
CONSTANTINOPLE
VENERABLE PAISIOS VELICHKOVSKY

Tone 6 - Eothion 1

Orthros Gospel: St. Matthew 28:16-20

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 10:25-37

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 FOR SS. GURIA, SHAMUNA AND HABIB - Tone 5 - Since Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy holy Martyrs Guria, Shamuna and Habib as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strengthen the faith of Orthodox Christians, since Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

TODAY: ORTHROS & Confession 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Outdoor Sunday School, Teens, & Catechism
Stewardship Presentation
Parish Council

**40 Days of Growth in Stewardship concludes!
Theme: "The Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit"**

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Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 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 (Nov 22):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala	MaryLynne Black
USHERS:	Steve K. & Rdr Nick Muz.	Dan M. & Colin M.
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	----
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Gabriel”	“Archangel Michael”
CLEANING TEAM:	The Gohls & Olena K.	Serge, Alex & Sarah Kaminsky

Mark Your Calendar:

Nativity Fast

November 15-December 24

Daily Services during the Nativity Fast:

- ✦ *Liturgies – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday (Mask Required), Sunday @ 10 a.m.*
- ✦ *Advent Services – Monday, Wednesday, Friday @ 6:30 p.m.*
- ✦ *Great Vespers, Resurrectional Orthros, and Feasts as usual.*
- ✦ *6th Hour suspended till after Theophany*

St. Nicholas

Saturday, December 5

Vespers & Artoklasia, 6:30 pm
Youth Event to follow

Feast of the Nativity of Christ

Thursday, December 24

Royal Hours, 8 am
Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, 9 am
Festal Orthros, 9:30 pm
Divine Liturgy, 11 pm
Friday, December 25
Vespers for the Synaxis of the Theotokos, 12 pm
Saturday, December 26
Orthros 9 am; Liturgy 10 am

Circumcision of Christ & St. Basil

Thursday, December 31

Vespers 6:30 pm & Orthros 7:30 pm
New Year's Eve Fellowship & Prayers

Friday, January 1

Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 am

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Doris & John	+Margaret
APr. Gregory & Family	+Mat. Linda (D)
Aristidis	+Robert Joseph
James	+Timothy (B)
Lasha B	+Vadim
Otari B	
Daniel H	
John	
Peter	
Stavroula	
Anesia	
Svetlana & Family	<u>Catechumens</u>
	Matthew,
Dn. Thomas,	Michael,
Elizabeth, Elaine	Shaun, Tina,
& all Missionaries	Asena, Sarah,
	Jonathan,
	Barry
New & Expectant Mothers & their children	
For the people of our land and their repentance, healing & unity	
All who are suffering, serving and rebuilding from the pandemic	

OFFERINGS: Candles, \$276. Collections, \$206. Youth, \$1. Needy Fund, \$100. Pastoral Discretion, \$600. Women's Fund, \$20. Stewardship, \$3,985. Total received: \$5,281.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

40 Days of Growth in Stewardship continues! If you haven't yet, please do return your pledge card.

This Week:

NATIVITY FAST begins today!

- Monday, Nov 16:** Advent Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov 17:** Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, Nov 18:** Little Compline 6:30 p.m.
Patristic Reading Group 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov 19:** Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
- Friday, Nov 20:** Festal Vespers & Artoklasia, 6:30 p.m.
Orthros, 8 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov 21:** THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS
Divine Liturgy (Mask Required) 10 a.m.
Youth Choir Practice, 5:30 p.m.
Great VESPERS 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov 22:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY, 10 a.m.
Sunday School, Teens, & Catechism
(Outdoor) Coffee Hour



REVERENCE IN GOD'S HOUSE

Touching the Hem of Father's Garments



Many people like to touch the hem of Father's phelonion as he goes through the congregation for the Great Entrance. This is a nice, pious custom by which you "attach" your personal prayers to the prayer of the entrance with the holy gifts. It also reminds us of the miraculous healing of a woman who touched Christ's garment (Luke 8). At the same time, you need to be careful neither to grab too hard and trip up the Great Entrance, nor to push people out of the way. And be sure to help your children so that they observe these guidelines as well.