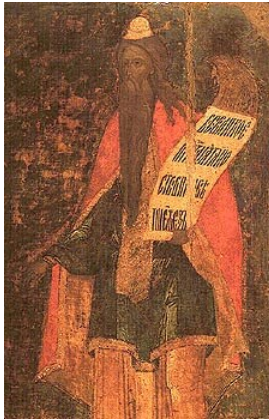


Righteous Priest Aaron (December 13)

The Righteous Aaron was the son of Amram and Jochebed, and the elder brother of the Prophet Moses the God-seer, and also of Miriam. He was a direct descendant of Levi by both parents. God called him "the Levite" in Exodus 4:14, when He appointed Aaron to be the spokesman for Moses, who was "slow of speech," before the people. Later, he would also speak on behalf of Moses before Pharaoh in Egypt (Ex. 4:30; 7:2). Aaron was married to Elisheba, the daughter of the Prince of Judah (Ex. 6:23), who bore him four sons.



Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh and asked that the Hebrews be released from their slavery. Following a succession of plagues, Pharaoh relented and let the people go, then Moses led them on their long journey to the Promised Land. In Chapter 17 of Exodus, the Hebrews fought Amalek in a battle at Rephidim. Moses stood atop a hill with the rod of God in his hand. As long as he raised his hand, the Hebrews prevailed, but when he became tired and lowered it, Amalek prevailed. Aaron and Hur sat Moses on a rock and held up his hands, one on each side. This was a prefiguration of the suffering of Christ, because the arms of Moses formed a cross. In the Greek Septuagint, the names Aaron and Hur begin with the letters Alpha and Omega, another reference to Christ (Rev 1:8).

Aaron and his sons were anointed and sanctified to serve God as priests (Exodus chapter 29). In chapter 32, Aaron fell into temptation when Moses went up on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments. Since Moses was taking a long time, the people grew restless and asked Aaron to make them a golden idol in the form of a calf so that they could offer sacrifices. He gave into them, and Moses was angry when he returned and saw them dancing and singing before the calf. He threw down the tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments, and then he burned the golden calf and ground it to powder. He scattered the powder on the water, and he made the people drink it. When Moses asked those who were on the Lord's side to gather around him, the Levites came to him. He ordered them to take their swords and slay their sons, companions, and neighbors. About three thousand people were killed that day.

Later, Aaron and Miriam criticized Moses for marrying a Cushite woman (Num. 12:1). God was angry with them, so He punished Miriam with leprosy. She was healed by God seven days after Moses interceded for her.

In chapter 17 of Numbers, the people murmured against Moses and Aaron, so God commanded that the leaders of the twelve tribes should have their names inscribed on their rods and placed in the tent of testimony. God would reveal His choice to make the people cease their grumbling against Moses and his brother. Aaron's rod bloomed miraculously in the tent of the testimony, to show that he had been chosen for this purpose.

Aaron reposed atop Mount Hor when he was one hundred and twenty-three years old. One of his descendants was Saint Elizabeth, the mother of Saint John the Baptist (Luke 1:5).

(Taken from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/12/13/600-righteous-priest-aaron>)



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 13, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS
(ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

COMMEMORATIONS:

HERMAN THE WONDERWORKER OF ALASKA &
FIRST SAINT OF AMERICA
THE HOLY MARTYRS EUSTRATIUS, AUXENTIUS,
EUGENE, MARDARIUS, AND ORESTES OF
GREATER ARMENIA
LUCIA THE VIRGIN-MARTYR
GABRIEL THE HIEROMARTYR, ARCHBISHOP OF
SERBIA

Tone 2 - Eothion 5

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:12-35

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 14:16-24

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 2 - When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee!

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.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. HERMAN - Tone 4 - Blessed ascetic of the northern wilds and gracious intercessor for the whole world, teacher of the Orthodox Faith, good instructor of piety, adornment of Alaska and joy of all America, holy Father Herman, pray to Christ God that He save our souls.

TODAY: ORTHROS & Confession 8:45 a.m.

Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.

No Sunday School & Catechism

Glory to God for a strong 40 Days of Growth in Stewardship!
Thanks for returning your pledges promptly.

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 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 20):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Carolyn Kaminsky	Gabby & Catalin Tinjala
USHERS:	Dan M. & Rdr. Nick Muz.	Sdn. John N. & Colin M.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Ken Hedrick	----
	In Memory of his mother (12/17)	
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Michael”	“Archangel Gabriel”
CLEANING TEAM:	Rdr. Jordan & Natalie Gamble	Jamil & Nicole Kyriakos family

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.*

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

Friday, January 1

Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 am

Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

February 2, 2021

Hierarchical Liturgy and Ordination

Please take off the day of work to welcome and receive the blessing of our beloved Bp THOMAS and pray with Subdeacon Luke (Dr Jeff) Carpenter for his ordination to the Holy Diaconate.

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Doris & John	+Archbishop David
APr. Gregory & Family	+Nun Bridget
Aristidis	+Mat. Linda (D)
James	+George
Lasha B	+Albert
Otari B	
Daniel H	
John	
Peter	
Stavroula	
Anesia	
Svetlana & Family	
Paula	
James	
Joshua	
	<u>Catechumens</u>
	Matthew,
	Michael,
Dn. Thomas, Elizabeth,	Shaun, Tina,
Elaine	Asena, Sara,
& all Missionaries	Jonathan,
	Barry

For the people of our land and their repentance, healing & unity

All who are suffering, serving and rebuilding from the pandemic

OFFERINGS: Candles, \$319. Collections, \$509. Flowers, \$55. Youth, \$1. Beautification, \$50. Building Fund, \$3,963. Christmas Card Fund, \$25. Sunday School, \$50. Women’s Fund, \$95. Calendars, \$20. Camera Project, \$250. Stewardship, \$7,105. Total received: \$12,442.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS support the beautification of our church during this holy season. Flower offering envelopes are available on the literature table. Thank you!

YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD OFFERINGS benefit Ministries, Monasteries, & Mission Situations.

If you are in a position to make a special offering, please consider the Building Expansion, Capital Improvement, and Pastoral Discretion Funds.

This Week:

NATIVITY FAST continues!

Monday, Dec 14: Advent Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec 15: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.

Wed, Dec 16: Little Compline 6:30 p.m.
Patristic Reading Group 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 17: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Friday, Dec 18: Advent Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec 19: Divine Liturgy (Mask Required) 10 a.m.
Vespers 6:30 p.m.
Confession 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 20: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY, 10 a.m.



REVERENCE IN GOD’S HOUSE

Sunday Dress



Remember the time when people put on their “Sunday best” to go to church? In fact, dress clothes were often referred to as Sunday clothes. In some parts of the country, this is not common today. In fact, all too often, dress in church has become too casual. In all areas of our lives, we should offer Christ our best. And the same is true of our dress. We should offer Christ our ‘Sunday best’, not our everyday or common wear. And we should dress modestly, not in a flashy way that would bring attention to ourselves. Our dress should always be becoming of a Christian - especially at church.