

33 Holy Martyrs of Melitene

(Nov 7)

The holy martyr Hieron was born in the city of Tiana in great Cappadocia. Raised by a pious mother, he was a kind and good Christian.

The co-ruling emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (284-305) sent a large military detachment headed by Lysias to Cappadocia to eradicate Christianity there, and also to conscript healthy and strong men into the imperial army. Among those pressed into service, Lysias also ordered his men to draft Hieron, who was distinguished by his great physical strength and dexterity. But Hieron refused to serve emperors who persecuted Christians. When they attempted to seize him by force and bring him to Lysias, he took a stick and started beating the soldiers who had been sent to bring him. The soldiers scattered, ashamed of being defeated by a single man. Hieron then hid himself in a cave with eighteen other Christians. Lysias would not risk losing his soldiers by storming the cave.

Upon the advice of Cyriacus, one of Hieron's friends, Lysias lifted the siege of the cave and withdrew his detachment. Then Cyriacus persuaded Hieron not to offer resistance to the authorities. He and the other new conscripts and accompanying soldiers were sent to the nearby city of Melitene.

Soon Hieron had a vision in his sleep, in which his impending martyrdom was foretold. Lysias told the soldiers gathered at Melitene to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Hieron and another thirty-two soldiers refused to do this, and openly confessed their faith in Christ. Then the persecutor gave orders to beat the martyrs, and to cut off Hieron's arm at the elbow. After cruel tortures they threw the martyrs into prison barely alive, and they beheaded them four days later.

A certain rich and illustrious Christian by the name of Chrysanthus ransomed Hieron's head from Lysias. When the persecutions finally ceased, he built a church on the place where they executed the holy martyrs, and he placed the venerable head in it. The bodies of all the executed saints were secretly buried by Christians. In reign of the emperor Justinian, during the construction of the church of Hagia Eirene (Holy Peace), the venerable relics were uncovered and found incorrupt.

The other martyrs are: Hesychnus, Nicander, Athanasius, Mamas, Barachus, Callinicus, Theogenes, Nikon, Longinus, Theodore, Valerius, Xanthius, Theodoulos, Callimachus, Eugene, Theodochus, Ostrychius, Epiphanius, Maximian, Ducitius, Claudian, Theophilus, Gigantius, Dorotheus, Theodotus, Castrichius, Anicletus, Themelius, Eutychnus, Hilarion, Diodotus and Amonitus.

(Taken from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/11/07/103198-33-holy-martyrs-of-melitene>)



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 7, 2021

TWENTIETH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

33 MARTYRS OF MELITENE
LAZARUS THE WONDERWORKER
MARTYR ATHENODORUS
ALEXANDER THE MARTYR OF THESSALONIKI

Tone 3 - Eothinon 9

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:19-31

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 8:41-56

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - 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 ST. LAZARUS OF MAGNESIA - Tone 8 - In thy vigilant prayers, thou didst drench thy pillar with streams of tears; by thy sightings from the depths, thou didst bear fruit a hundredfold in labours; and thou becamest a shepherd, granting forgiveness to them that came to thee, O our righteous Father Lazarus. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

TODAY: ORTHROS & Confessions 8:30 a.m.
Baptismal LITURGY (Atkinson) 9:45 a.m. - Many Years!
Sunday School, Catechism, & Coffee Hour
Annual Parish Meeting 1 p.m.

40 Days of Growth in Stewardship continues!!

Theme: "I Seek Not Yours, but You"

****PLEASE RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARDS****

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Office Hours: Monday through 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 (Nov 14): |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| PROSPHORA BREAD: | Sdn Justin G. | Gabi & Catalin; John C. |
| ALTAR CANDLES: | ---- | ---- |
| USHERS: | Steve K. & Todd M. | Sdn John & Tom A. |
| ALTAR BOYS: | “Archangel Gabriel” | “Archangel Michael” |
| CLEANING TEAM: | Sdn John & Maxine | Sdn Jordan & Natalie |
| COFFEE HOUR TEAM: | Natalia M. & Gabe Q. | Angie; Calvin; Morellis |

Mark Your Calendar:

Entrance of the Theotokos
Sunday, November 21

Liturgy (St. Katherine & Thanksgiving)
Thursday, November 25, 9 a.m.

St. Nicholas Services
Sunday, December 5
Vespers & Kids Activity, 6:30 pm
Monday, December 6
Orthros 9am & Liturgy 10 am

Feast of the Nativity of Christ
Friday, December 24
Royal Hours, 8 am
Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil, 9 am
Festal Orthros, 9:30 pm
Divine Liturgy, 11 pm

Saturday, December 25
Vespers for the Synaxis
of the Theotokos, 12 pm

Sunday, December 26
Orthros 8:45 am; Liturgy 10 am

Pray For:

| Living | Departed |
|----------------|------------------|
| N.I. Alexander | +George |
| Sze Tatiana | |
| Sh Hannah | (November Parish |
| Joanne | Diptychs) |
| Mona-Rebecca | +Joseph |
| Patrick | +Peter |
| Doris | +Ellen |
| John | +Evelyn |
| James | +Ksenia |
| Lasha B | +William |
| Otari B | +Elizabeth |
| Daniel H | |
| Peter | |
| Anesia | |
| Anna | |
| George | |
| Anesia | |
| Madelynne | |
| Mark | |
| Kenneth | |

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Priest Thomas, Elizabeth, Jesse, Bill, Elaine & all Missionaries | <u>Catechumens</u> |
| New & Expectant Mothers & their children | Shaun, |
| For the people of our land and their repentance, healing & unity | Laura, |
| | Taylor, |
| | Tim & Luke, |
| | Kate, |
| | Tyson, |
| | Joseph & Alana, |
| | Ryan, |
| | Michael, Tina |

OFFERINGS 10/31: Candles, \$130. Collections, \$286. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf Ministry, \$34. Classical School Fund, \$2,100. Mission Chapel, \$100. Sunday School, \$100. Women’s Fund, \$300. Stewardship, \$3,767. Total received: \$6,818.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



FESTIVAL IS THIS WEEK! **NOV 12-13**
Our 9th International Food Festival is upon us.
All parishioners, your help is needed! Let’s work together to make this Food Festival a good experience for all!

This Week:

- Mon, Nov 8:** Church open
- Tues, Nov 9:** 6th Hour Prayers 12 noon
Matushka Olga Sewing Club 1 p.m.
- Wed, Nov 10:** Little Compline 6:30 p.m.
Patristic Reading Group 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs, Nov 11:** Church open
- Friday, Nov 12:** INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL
Akathist 4 p.m.
- Sat, Nov 13:** INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL
Great Vespers & Artoklasia 4 p.m.
- Sun, Nov 14:** PATRONAL FEAST OF ST. PHILIP
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Catechism
Coffee Hour

NATIVITY FAST BEGINS – Nov 15–Dec 24

NOVEMBER OUTREACH COLLECTION:
TURKEYS & HAMS

CHALLENGE FOR 2021:
“Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit”

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