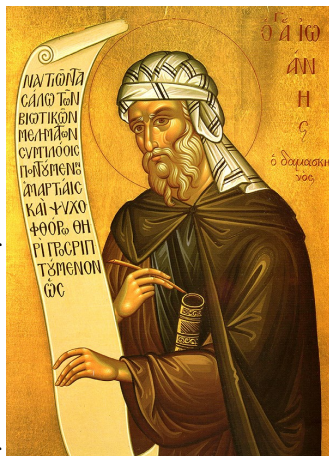


Martyr John of Damascus (Dec 4)

St John of Damascus was born about the year 680 at Damascus, Syria into a Christian family. His father, Sergius Mansur, was a treasurer at the court of the Caliph. John had also a foster brother, the orphaned child Cosmas (October 14), whom Sergius had taken into his own home. When the children were growing up, Sergius saw that they received a good education. At the Damascus slave market he ransomed the learned monk Cosmas of Calabria from captivity and entrusted to him the teaching of his children. The boys displayed uncommon ability and readily mastered their courses of the secular and spiritual sciences. After the death of his father, John occupied ministerial posts at court and became the city prefect.



In Constantinople at that time, the heresy of Iconoclasm had arisen and quickly spread, supported by the emperor Leo III the Isaurian (717-741). Rising up in defense of the Orthodox veneration of icons [Iconodoulia], Saint John wrote three treatises entitled, "Against Those who Revile the Holy Icons." The wise and God-inspired writings of Saint John enraged the emperor. But since the author was not a Byzantine subject, the emperor was unable to lock him up in prison, or to execute him. The emperor then resorted to slander. A forged letter to the emperor was produced, supposedly from John, in which the Damascus official was supposed to have offered his help to Leo in conquering the Syrian capital.

This letter and another hypocritically flattering note were sent to the Saracen Caliph by Leo the Isaurian. The Caliph immediately ordered that Saint John be removed from his post, that his right hand be cut off, and that he be led through the city in chains.

That same evening, they returned the severed hand to Saint John. The saint pressed it to his wrist and prayed to the Most Holy Theotokos to heal him so that he could defend the Orthodox Faith and write once again in praise of the Most Pure Virgin and Her Son. After a time, he fell asleep before the icon of the Mother of God. He heard Her voice telling him that he had been healed, and commanding him to toil unceasingly with his restored hand. Upon awakening, he found that his hand had been attached to his arm once more. Only a small red mark around his wrist remained as a sign of the miracle.

Later, in thanksgiving for being healed, Saint John had a silver model of his hand attached to the icon, which became known as "Of the Three Hands." Some unlearned painters have given the Mother of God three hands instead of depicting the silver model of Saint John's hand. The Icon "Of the Three Hands" is commemorated on June 28 and July 12.

Saint John of Damascus was a theologian and a zealous defender of Orthodoxy. His most important book is the Fount of Knowledge. The third section of this work, "On the Orthodox Faith," is a summary of Orthodox doctrine and a refutation of heresy. Since he was known as a hymnographer, we pray to Saint John for help in the study of church singing.

(Adapted from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2022/12/04/103473-martyr-john-of-damascus>)



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

Metropolitan ANTONIOS,
Patriarchal Vicar



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
215-954-9286



Father James Thayer
215-692-0890

December 4, 2022
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

BARBARA THE GREAT MARTYR
JOHN THE RIGHTEOUS OF DAMASCUS
NEW HIEROMARTYR SERAPHIM, BISHOP OF THE
PHANAR IN GREECE
JULIANA THE MARTYR OF HELIOPOLIS
ALEXANDER HOTOVITZKY, NEW HIEROMARTYR OF
RUSSIA, MISSIONARY TO AMERICA

Tone 8 - Eothion 3
Orthros Gospel: St. Mark 16:9-20
Epistle: Galatians 3:23-4:5
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 13:10-17

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 8 - From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord. Glory to Thee!

APOLYTIKION OF ST. BARBARA - Tone 8 - Let us honor Saint Barbara, for she hath broken the snares of the enemy; and like a sparrow, she, the all-modest maiden, was delivered out of them by the help and weapon of the Cross.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS - Tone 3 - O ye faithful come, let us on this day * laud with praise the sweet-sounding nightingale * that adorned and captivated the Church of Christ * with his sweet songs and tuneful, heav'nly hymns, * he is the all-wise and eloquent John Damascene, * the utmost chief of hymnographers, and a man of God * who was filled with every earthly and divine wisdom.

TODAY: ORTHROS & Confessions 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Teens
Coffee Hour
Women of St. Mariamne
Choir Rehearsal 12:45 p.m.

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964
www.st-philip.net (215) 721-4947

Emails: office@st-philip.net nbushelli@gmail.com frjameshayer@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week:

Next Week (Dec 11):

<p>PROSPHORA BREAD: Kristi Moore</p> <p>ALTAR CANDLES: Chebeleu Family — Travel Blessings</p> <p>USHERS: Todd M. & Sdn. John N.</p> <p>ALTAR BOYS: “Archangel Gabriel”</p> <p>CLEANING TEAM: George & Lily; Zaria</p> <p>COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Chris H.; Mariya S.; Abraham</p>	<p>Gabi & Catalin; Rachel C.</p> <p>Gohls — Kate’s Birthday</p> <p>Bill H. & Dan M.</p> <p>“Archangel Michael”</p> <p>Bill & Linda H; Chris H.</p> <p>Calvin; Angie; Dale</p>
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Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11, 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Choir Concert

Sunday, December 18, 1:30 p.m.

Feast of Christmas/Nativity

Saturday, Dec 24—Sunday, Dec 25

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

Vespers 10:30 a.m.

Festal Orthros 10:30 p.m.

Festal Liturgy 12 a.m.

Vespers 12 p.m.

Feast of Circumcision & St. Basil —

New Years

Saturday, Dec 31

Vespers & Artoklasia 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan 1

Divine Liturgy & New Years Prayers

Theophany

Thursday, Jan 5

Royal Hours 10 a.m.

Vespers 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan 6

Orthros 9am & Divine Liturgy 10am

Great Blessing of Waters

HOME BLESSINGS:

Reach out to Fr. Noah or Fr. James directly to schedule.

Pray For:

Living

Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine
 Kh. Joyce
 Linda
 Tadessa
 Nicole
 Raymond
 Patrick
 Doris
 John
 John
 James
 James
 Lasha B
 Otari B
 Tatiana
 Helen
 Wadieh
 Anesia
 Mary
 Mary

Priest Thomas, Bill, Jesse, Nathan, Hannah & all Missionaries
 New & Expectant Mothers & their children
 For the people of our land, and their repentance, healing & unity
 The 12 Baskets Full team asks for prayers for our homeless Philly friends — George, Bill, Jim, Jalil, Mark, Joel, Eric

Departed

(December Parish Diptychs)
 +Joseph
 +Richard
 +Mary
 +Demetrios (Jim)
 +Katherine
 +Nicholas
 +Gabremariam
 +Assaad
 +Doris
 +(Michael)
 +Barbara
 +Fred Andrew

Catechumens

Christian
 Christina
 Peter, Sarah, Alina, William, & Elsa
 Kate
 Joseph & Alana
 Ryan
 Zachary, Brandy,
 & Otto
 Nora, Gavinn, Lorelei,
 Taylor & Bethany
 Joanne
 Denis
 Nicholas, Rachel,
 Luka, Leo
 David, Helen, Elianna
 Michael
 Evan
 Lucretia

DECEMBER OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Turkeys & Hams

CHALLENGE FOR 2022:

“You are the Light of the World”

40 Days of Growth in Stewardship has concluded!
Theme: “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”
--Please Submit Your 2023 Pledge!--

This Week:

Nativity Fast continues!! (Nov 15-Dec 24)

(**There are times for Confessions before and after most services.)

- Mon, Dec 5:** Vespers & Artoklasia w/ Youth Choir 6:30 p.m.
 Youth Activity 7:30 p.m.
- Tues, Dec 6:** **St. Nicholas**
 Orthros 9am & Liturgy 10am
 Fasting Potluck to follow
 Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.
- Wed, Dec 7:** Compline & Patristic Reading 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs, Dec 8:** Twelve Baskets Full serving night
 Jesus Prayer 6:30 p.m.
 Bible Study (Genesis) 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Dec 9:** Advent Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.
- Sat, Dec 10:** Rehearsal for SS Christmas play 4:30 p.m.
 Catechism & Inquirer Class 5 p.m.
 Great **VESPERS 6:30 p.m.**
 Confessions 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec 11:** *Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission* 9am
ORTHROS & Confessions 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
 Sunday School & Teens
 Coffee Hour
 SS Christmas Play 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers Nov 26: NA Divine services on Nov 27: NA
OFFERINGS 11/27: Candles, \$280. Collections, \$906.85. Youth, \$1.
 Book Shelf Ministry, \$69. Classical School Fund, \$50. Stewardship,
 \$4,045. Total received: \$5,351.85.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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