

APRIL 23, 2023

**MARTYR ALEXANDRA THE EMPRESS,
WIFE OF DIOCLETIAN**

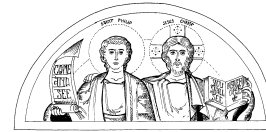
The Holy Empress Alexandra was the wife of Diocletian (284-305). Her supposed death was described in the Martyrdom of Saint George, which was written immediately after his death. The empress, however, received the crown of martyrdom several years later, in 314.

Many events occurred during these years. In 305 the emperor Diocletian resigned the throne and power passed to his co-ruler Maximian Galerius (305-311), a fanatic pagan, as well as a coarse and fierce soldier. His wife was Saint Valeria, the daughter of the holy Empress Alexandra, whom Diocletian had given in marriage against her will.

Saint Alexandra raised her daughter in Christian piety. When Galerius died, the emperor Maximinus sought her hand in marriage. When he was refused, he banished Saint Valeria to Syria, where she lived with her mother.

After the death of Maximinus in 311 the mother and daughter arrived in Nicomedia, trusting in the mercy of the emperor Licinius (311-324). Together with Saint Constantine, he had subscribed to the Edict of Milan, which gave Christians the freedom of religion, but secretly he remained an enemy of Christianity. Licinius gave orders to execute the holy Empress Alexandra and her daughter Valeria. They were beheaded, and their bodies thrown into the sea.

Taken from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/04/23/101185-martyr-alexandra-the-empress-wife-of-diocletian>



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

April 23, 2023
SUNDAY OF THOMAS

CHRIST IS RISEN!



Orthros Gospel: St. Matt 28:16-20
Eothinon 1

Epistle: Acts 12:1-11
Gospel: St. John 20:19-31

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH
BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.**

TROPARION OF ST. THOMAS - TONE 7 - While the Tomb was sealed, thou didst shine forth from it, O Light! While the doors were closed, thou didst come in to thy disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of thy mercy!

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10 am
Sunday School & Coffee Hour 11:45 am
**Procession to Cemetery for Blessing of Graves,
1 pm (WEATHER PERMITTING)**

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

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 (April 30):
COFFEE HOUR	Teen SOYO	L-Mo - BAKED POT. BAR
PROSPHORA BREAD:	John Child	Sdn Justin
ALTAR CANDLES:	Kyriakos Liesel's Birthday	Gambles – Anastasios B-day Ken Hedrick – Father's Remembrance 3 Years
USHERS:	Sdn John & Bill H.	Dan M. & Tom A.
CLEANING TEAM:	Moores; Kim B; Monica C.	Gohls; Olena; Midena
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Nancy; Tatiana; Gabe	Myriam; Conor; Jekels/Teens

- * **MANY THANKS** to all who made offerings for flowers and decoration; who provided palms and willows, olive oil, wine, rose water, and incense for the Holy Days, and red eggs for Pascha; and who gave their voices for singing and their time for cleaning.
- * **THOMAS SUNDAY CEMETERY OFFERINGS** this year will be used to fund one or more "mercy graves" to be offered to bereaved families when appropriate. Please be generous.
- * **IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS.** Thank you for remembering the needs of others.

This Week:

- Monday, April 24:** Office open
- Tues, April 25:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.
- Wed, Apr 26:** Office open
Little Compline 6:30 p.m. & Patristic Reading 7 p.m.
- Thurs, April 27:** ----
- Friday, April 28:** Office open
Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.
- Sat, April 29:** Catechism & Inquirer Class 5 p.m.
VESPERS 6:30 p.m., Confession 7:30 p.m.
- Sun, April 30:** **HOLY MYRRHBEARERS**
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Coffee Hour

OFFERINGS 4/16: Candles, \$896.75. Collections, \$659. Youth, \$1. Flowers, \$100. Book Shelf Ministry, \$86. Building Fund, \$170. Food for Hungry, \$291. Needy Fund, \$500. Pro-Life Fund, \$20. Women's Fund, \$31. Stewardship, \$17,498.90. Total received: \$20,253.65.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

DURING THE PASCHAL SEASON:

- ✦ We say or sing the **Resurrection Troparion** every day with our devotions.
- ✦ We continue to share the good news with the greeting, "**Christ is risen!**"
- ✦ We read the **Book of Acts** and the **Gospel of John** in our family Bibles.
- ✦ There is a **relaxed fast** on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays**. (Communion fast continues as usual.)
- ✦ In honor of the Resurrection, there is **no kneeling**, in Church or at home, until the Pentecost Kneeling Prayers.

Mark Your Calendar:

Parish Bonfire Fellowship
Saturday, May 6 after Vespers

Mid-Pentecost
Wednesday, May 10

Ascension
Thursday, May 25

Pentecost
Sunday, June 4

All Saints
Sunday, June 11

Apostles' Fast & Sts. Peter & Paul
June 12-29

PLC Conference 2023:
"A Vision for an Orthodox America"
June 28-July 2

VCS 2023
July 31-Aug 4

APRIL OUTREACH
COLLECTION:
Cleaning Supplies

CHALLENGE FOR 2023:
"You are the Salt of the Earth"

Pray For:

<i>Living</i>	<i>Departed</i>
N.I. Peter, Sarah, William N.I. Timothy N.I. Christian-Moses Our Metropolitan-Elect SABA	(April Parish Diptychs) +Vasilios +Frederick
Met. Onuphy and faithful of Ukraine Faithful in Ethiopia and Eritrea	+Mary +Vaseleka +Carl
Archpriest Marc Kh. Joyce Diakonissa Anna	+Niemeh +Mary +Haydieh
George Linda Tadessa Nicole Raymond Patrick Doris John John James James Lasha B Otari B Tatiana Helen Wadieh Anesia Mary Mary Sophia Elias Victoria Alexandra	+Justin +Calin +Stavros
	<u>Catechumens</u>
	Christina Alina, Elsa Kate Ryan Zachary, Brandy, Nora, Gavinn, Lorelei, & Otto Taylor & Bethany Denis Nicholas, Rachel, Luka, Leo Michael Evan Lucretia Tiffany Timothy & Kristen
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & 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	

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