

**Venerable Sabiana,
Abbess of the Samtskhe Monastery (Dec 31)**

The nuns of Georgian monasteries have historically been outstanding in their diligence. God entrusted them with the special duties of ceaseless prayer, fasting, needlework, and the raising of orphans. Nuns have been regarded as vessels of sanctity and wisdom, and even royalty would kneel before them.

Many Georgian noblemen would send their children to nuns to be brought up in the Christian Faith. According to the great church figure George the Lesser, when the parents of Saint George of the Holy Mountain decided to have their first-born daughter, Thekla, raised by nuns, they sent her to the “worthy and holy” Sabiana, who at that time was abbess of the Samtskhe Tadzrisi Monastery in southern Georgia.

Saint Sabiana welcomed Thekla and raised her as though she were her own natural daughter.

Before long Thekla’s brother, the seven-year-old George, was also brought to the monastery, and Saint Sabiana spent three years educating and instructing him in the spiritual life.

Further information on the life and labors of Saint Sabiana has sadly not been preserved. But as the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew attests, the tree is known by his fruit (Matt. 12:33). The high level of monastic life during Saint Sabiana’s abbacy and the pious lives of her spiritual children attest to the great spiritual heights she attained.

Text & icon from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/12/31/205473-venerable-sabiana-abbess-of-the-samtskhe-monastery>



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



**ST. PHILIP
ORTHODOX
CHURCH**

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

◇◇

His Grace Bishop THOMAS

◇◇

Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

215-954-9286

◇◇

Father James Thayer

215-692-0890

December 31, 2023

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY
OF CHRIST, WHICH FALLS ON
THE APODOSIS (LEAVE-TAKING)
OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

COMMEMORATIONS:

MELANIA THE YOUNGER, NUN OF ROME
THE MARTYR AND PRESBYTER ZOTICUS OF ROME,
PATRON OF ORPHANS

Tone 5 - Eothinon 8

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:11-18

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 1:1-8

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 5 - Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST - Tone 4 - Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

TODAY: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour
Vespers & Artoklasia 6:30 p.m.
Talent Show 7:30 p.m.
New Years Prayers 9:30 p.m.

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

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 (Jan 7): |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| COFFEE HOUR: | Bagel Sunday | Bagel Sunday |
| PROSPHORA BREAD: | Sdn Justin | Kristi Moore |
| ALTAR CANDLES: | Chebeleu – Sophia's 21st b-day | ---- |
| USHERS: | Todd M. & Radu C. | Dan M. & Rdr Nick M. |
| CLEANING TEAM: | Hertzlers; Nick T.; Zach F. | Nick & Stephanie M; Chris H. |
| COFFEE HOUR TEAM: | Calvin; Dale; Ginny/John | Simon; Amelia; Daniel |

Mark Your Calendar:

Presentation of the Lord

Thursday, Feb 1

6:30 pm Vespers & Artoklasia;
Candle Blessing

Friday, Feb 2

9:00 am Orthros
10:00 am Liturgy & Candle
Blessing
11:30 am Fish/Wine/Oil Potluck

Pascha 2024

May 5, 2024

We live from Pascha to Pascha!

Save the Date!

2024 Parish Life Conference

June 27-30, 2024

**JANUARY OUTREACH
COLLECTION:
Oral Care Products**

Pray For:

| Living | Departed |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Faithful of the Holy Land Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine | +George +Paul |
| Faithful of Ethiopia Pr. Andrew, family, & parishioners | (December Parish Diptychs) |
| Kh. Joyce | +Joseph |
| Mary | +Richard |
| Child Timothy | +Mary |
| Xenia | +Demetrios (Jim) |
| George | +Katherine |
| Ephrem | +Nicholas |
| Nicole | +Gabremariam |
| Patrick | +Assaad |
| Doris | +Doris |
| John | +(Michael) |
| James | +Barbara |
| Helen | +Fred Andrew |
| Wadieh | |
| Mary | |
| Victoria | |
| Steve | |
| Lasha | |
| Otari | |
| John | |
| Tatiana | |
| Anesia | |
| Linda | |
| Daria | |
| Pavlo | |
| Elena | |
| Xenia | |
| Derek | |
| Michael | |
| Linda | |
| Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries | |
| Nathan & family, John, & all seminarians | |
| 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 | |

Catechumens

Lucretia
Ryan
Alina
Nicholas,
Rachel, Luka,
& Leo
Michael
Caden

Keith, Maggie,
& Eli
Andrew
Daniel
Kassandra
Christian

40 Days of Growth in Stewardship has concluded!

"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly ..." (2 Cor 9:6)

To date, we have 78 pledges totaling 79.6% of our goal.

~ ~ **Please Submit Your 2024 Pledge!** ~ ~

This Week:

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

- Mon, Jan 1:** CIRCUMCISION & ST. BASIL
Orthros 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.
- Tues, Jan 2:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.
- Wed, Jan 3:** *Office closed*
Little Compline & Patristic Reading 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs, Jan 4:** Vespers 6:30 p.m.
- Fri, Jan 5:** *Office open*
Royal Hours 10 a.m.
Vespers Liturgy 6:30pm
Great Blessing of Water 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, Jan 6:** THEOPHANY
Orthros 8:45am
Divine Liturgy 10am
Great Blessing of Water
Great VESPERS 6:30 p.m.
Confessions 7:30 p.m.
- Sun, Jan 7:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour & Sunday School

ATTENDANCE: Vespers for Dec 23: 81 Divine Services Dec 24: 202
OFFERINGS 12/24: Candles, \$501. Collections, \$1559.61. Flowers, \$10. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf Ministry, \$292. Building Fund, \$575. Christmas Card Fund, \$175. Crafty Kids, \$170. Food for Hungry, \$13.86. Honorarium Fund, \$3,000. Missions, \$184. Pastoral Discretion, \$73.51. Sunday School, \$1,000. Teen Fund, \$60. Ukraine Outreach, \$350. Stewardship, \$2969.61. Total received: \$10,934.59.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!