

St. Ambrose Bishop of Milan

Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, was born in 340 into the family of the Roman prefect of Gaul. Even in childhood his future greatness was foretold: once, a swarm of bees settled on the sleeping infant's face, leaving honey on his tongue before flying upward and disappearing. His father took this as a sign that the boy would one day speak with sweetness and power.

After his father's death, Ambrose and his brother Satyrus were educated in Rome. Around 370, having completed his studies, he was appointed governor of Liguria and Aemilia, residing in Mediolanum (Milan). In 374, the death of the Arian bishop Auxentius caused conflict between Orthodox and Arians. Ambrose, then the chief civil official and still only a catechumen, went to calm the crowds. Suddenly a child cried, "Ambrose for bishop!" and the people agreed. Though he fled and protested his unworthiness, Emperor Valentinian ordered him to accept. He was baptized, passed through the clerical ranks in seven days, and was consecrated Bishop of Milan on December 7, 374. He gave away his possessions, supported the poor, and embraced a life of asceticism.

As bishop, Ambrose combined strictness with compassion. He defended Orthodoxy vigorously—appointing an Orthodox bishop in Sirmium in 379 and refusing to surrender Milan's basilica to the Arians in 385-386. His preaching profoundly influenced Saint Augustine, who was baptized by him in 387.

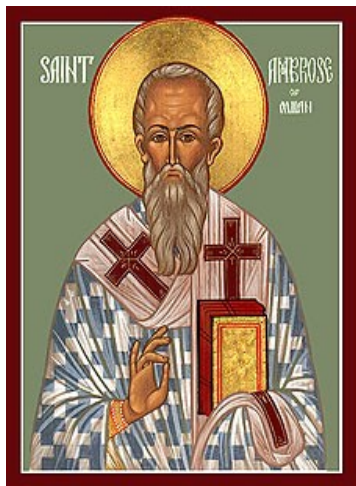
Ambrose also shaped civic life. Emperor Gracian, guided by his "Exposition of the Orthodox Faith," removed the pagan Altar of Victory. Ambrose famously required Emperor Theodosius to perform public penance after the massacre at Thessalonica, insisting that no ruler stands above the Gospel.

His reputation drew seekers from many lands, including the barbarian queen Fritigilda, whom he instructed in the Faith. Ambrose was also a wonderworker, once raising a dead boy in Florence.

He reposed on the night of Holy Pascha, accompanied by miracles, and was buried in Milan beside the martyrs Protasius and Gervasius.

A gifted theologian and reformer, he wrote influential works on doctrine, morality, and the clergy, and introduced antiphonal singing—Ambrosian chant—along with beloved hymns still used today.

Text & Icon adapted from oca.org



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 7, 2025

ST. AMBROSE BISHOP OF MILAN

COMMEMORATIONS:

10TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, ATHENODOROS THE
MARTYR OF MESOPOTAMIA, RIGHTEOUS FATHER
GERASIMUS, ASCETIC OF EUBOIA

Tone 1 - Eothinon 4
Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:1-12
Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 13:10-17

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 1 - While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding thy most pure Body, thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto thee, O Giver of life: Glory to thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to thy kingdom! Glory to thy providence, O thou who alone art the Lover of mankind!

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY - Tone 3 - On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

TODAY:

- ◆ ORTHROS, 8:15 a.m.
- ◆ Ft. Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Coffee Hour & Sunday School following Liturgy
- ◆ Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 p.m.
- ◆ Christmas Sing-A-Long w/ Caleb & Guests, 2:00 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 12:30pm - 5:00pm

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. 14)

COFFEE HOUR: Catechumens

Hummus, Rice, Lentil - Walid

PROSPHORA BREAD: Krisit Moore & Sissy Hill

Gabriela Pleasa & Macrina Layton

ALTAR CANDLES: Schneider—Calvin's Feast Day

- - -

USHERS: John Nicholson & Steve Kulp

TBD

CLEANING TEAM: Beraki H., Val H., Mark Z., Robert S.

Radu C., Mary T., Alex U.

COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Miriam K., Ryan M., Daniel C., Laura S.

Mike L., Dave & Darby S., Steven M.

Mark Your Calendar

Nativity Services

December 23

3:00 pm: Confessions
4:00 pm: Holy Unction

December 24

7:30 am: Royal Hours
9:30 am: Vespers Liturgy of St Basil
11:30 am: Confessions
9:00 pm: Festal Orthros
10:30 pm: Divine Liturgy

December 25

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
12:00 pm: Great Vespers

Circumcision, St. Basil, & New Year

December 31

6:00 pm: Confessions
6:30 pm: Vespers & Artoklasia
7:30 pm: Festal Orthros
8:30 pm: Talent Show & Fellowship
10:00 pm: New Year Prayers

January 1

9:30 am: Divine Liturgy & New Year Prayers

Bishop Thomas Visiting for Theophany

January 5: Vespers Liturgy (5:00 p.m.) & (rescheduled) tonsure of Tim R, awarding Epignation to Fr Luke, water blessing & fasting potluck

January 6: Festal Orthros (8:15 a.m.) & (9:30 a.m.) Hierarchical Liturgy & water blessing.

NOV/DEC OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Turkeys & Hams Products

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the holy land	+Archpriest George +Linnea +Helen
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Kh Carol (December Parish Diptychs)
The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered and those to whom they reach out.	+Joseph +Richard +Mary +Demetrius +Katherine +Nicholas +Gabremaria m
Sze-Tatiana	+Assaad +Doris
Louise-Ruth	+Barbara +Andrew
Hieromonk Silouan	
Aristides	<u>Catechumens</u>
Sergei	Mary
Ludmilla	Steven
Catherine	Liana
Christine	Sarah
Maria	Ryan
John	Kassandra
James	Jasper
James	Matthew
Steven	Martin
Sophia	Sean, Meghan and John
Elias	Robert
Zotikos	Asher
Paraskevi	Andrew
Barbara	Carolyn
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries	Martin & Gabriella
Priest Nathan, Irenaeus, Theophanes, Jacob, John, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families	James Anthony Slavek Nevada
Those searching for jobs, houses, spouses & monasteries	Josiah, Casie, Ray, & Gwen Michael Daniel, Eleanor, Amos, & Marigold
Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples	Christopher & Naila Adaelle
Families struggling to conceive	Jeff & Jasmine, Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob
Expectant and new mothers and their babies	Andrew & Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Priscilla & Phoebe
The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	Hannah Daniel & Jordan, Daniella, Meadow, & Mason

This Week:

Mon, Dec 8:

Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.

Tues, Dec 9:

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:30 p.m.

Wed, Dec 10:

Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Confessions, 6:00 p.m. (text Fr. Noah)
Little Compline, 6:30 p.m.
FOCUS: Norristown, 7:00 p.m.
Patristic Discussion Group, 7:15 p.m.

Thurs, Dec 11:

Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
Daily Vespers. 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study: Prayer w/ Fr. Noah, 7:15 pm
FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.

Fri, Dec 12:

Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Confessions, 6:00 p.m. (text Fr. Noah)
Great Vespers for St. Hernan, 6:30 p.m.

Sat, Dec 13:

Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
International Cookie Walk & Choir Concert, 11:00 a.m.
Catechism Class, 4:30 p.m.
Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m..
Confessions, 7:00 p.m. (Text Fr. Noah)

Sun, Dec 14:

Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.
Ft. Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.

Stewardship 2026 Update

We now have 68 pledges totaling \$287,068 or 64.3% of our goal!
Please make your pledge: <https://tinyurl.com/stphilip2026>

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 11/29: 78

Divine Liturgy 11/30: 264

OFFERINGS 11/30: Candles, \$414. Collections, \$1,665.36. Book Shelf Ministry, \$124. Teen Fund, \$40. Stewardship, \$4,357.22 Pastoral Discretion: \$194.54. Building Fund: \$824.01. Total received: \$7,529.43. Cemetery: \$1,100.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!