

# The Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

The Forefeast of the Nativity of the Lord begins on December 20. From now on, most of the liturgical hymns will be concerned with the birth of the Savior.

At Vespers for this third day of the prefeast of the Nativity we sing, "Christ is born on earth to crush the power of evil, to enlighten those in darkness, and to free the captives. Let us go forth to meet Him."



## Troparion — Tone 4

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the tree of life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit: If we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning!

## Kontakion — Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the angels and the shepherds the Eternal God, who is willing to appear as a little child!

	Christ is born!	Glorify him!
	Christ is come from heaven!	Receive him!
	Christ is on earth!	Be ye lifted up!
Greek:	Christos Yenate!	Doxasate!
Arabic:	Al Maseeh Wolida!	Fa Majeedu
Slavonic:	Christos Razdajetsja!	Slavite Jeho!
Romanian:	Hristos sa Nascute!	Adeverat sa nascut!

Text & Icon 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*

**December 22, 2024**

**FOREFEAST OF & SUNDAY  
BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF  
CHRIST**

COMMEMORATIONS:

ANASTASIA THE GREAT MARTYR,  
CHRYSOGONOS, THEODOTA, EVODIAS, &  
EUTYCHIANUS, THE MARTYRS, THE OPENING  
OF THE GATES OF THE GREAT CHURCH OF GOD

**Tone 1 - Eothinon 4**

**Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:1-12**

**Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40**

**Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 1:1-25**

**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!

**APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY - Tone 4** - Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

## TODAY:

- ◆ ORTHROS, 8:00 a.m.
- ◆ Ft. Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ DIVINE LITURGY, 9:15 a.m.
- ◆ Coffee Hour/Sunday School following Liturgy
- ◆ Sunday School Christmas Play, 12:45 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday—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:
COFFEE HOUR:	Newly Illumined	Bagels
PROSPHORA BREAD:	John Child	Sdn. Justin
ALTAR CANDLES:	<i>Sign Up on the Bulletin Board</i>	Chebebeu-Sofia's 22nd Birthday!
USHERS:	Steve K. & Bill H.	Todd M. & Radu C.
CLEANING TEAM:	Justin & Kate G., Olean M., Midena S.	Kaminsky Family
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Kendra Moody	Sh. Hannah, Eric M., Zach W., Zach F.

### Mark Your Calendar

#### Circumcision/St. Basil/New Year

**December 31**

6:30 p.m. Vespers & Artoklasia

7:30 p.m. Talent Show

9:30 p.m. New Year Prayers

**January 1**

9:00 a.m. Orthros

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

#### Theophany

**January 5:**

**Theophany Fast**

8:15 am Orthros

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

11:15 am: Great Blessing of Water

6:00 pm: Great Vespers

**January 6:**

8:30 am: Orthros

9:30 am: Divine Liturgy

11:00 am: Great Blessing of Water

*Please pray for our Patriarch and our Mother Church in Syria.*

For statements from the Patriarchate of Antioch regarding Syria visit:  
[www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2271](http://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/2271)

### DECEMBER OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Christmas Dinner Items

#### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Faithful of the Holy Land and Syria	+Brian-Costantine
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Marius
Faithful of Ethiopia & Eritrea	+Monk Michael
	(December Parish Diptychs)
Pr. Andrew, family, & parishioners	+Joseph
	+Richard
	+Mary
Nl. Julie, Livia Anne, Michael, David, Darby, Easton.	+Demetrios
Patrick	+Katherine
Doris	+Nicholas
John	+Gabremariam
James	+Assaad
Steve	+Doris
Tatiana	+Barbara
Elias	+Andrew
Paraskevi	<u>Catechumens</u>
Eustathia	Lucretia
Ludmilla	Andrew
Elizabeth	Ryan
Peter	Michael
Mary	Kassandra
John	Rose
Anna	Jasper
	Bryson
	Catherine
	Matthew
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, & all Missionaries	Matthew
	Mary
Nathan, John, & all seminarians	Carol
Those searching for spouses	Morgan
Engaged Couples	Meghan
Families trying to conceive	John
Expectant mothers	Steven
New mothers and their babies	Bobby
The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	Timothy & Kristen and children
	Eliana, Adalyn, Benjamin, Joshua

## This Week:

Mon, Dec 23: Divine Liturgy, 7:00 a.m.

Tues, Dec 24: **Royal Hours, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Festal Orthros, 9:30 p.m.**  
**Divine Liturgy, 11:00 p.m. Fast from 5pm**

Wed, Dec 25: **Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**  
Great Vespers, 12:00 p.m.

Thurs, Dec 26: **Synaxis of the Theotokos**  
Orthros, 8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.

Fri, Dec 27: Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.  
Confessions, 6:00 p.m.  
Akathist for Nativity, 6:30 p.m.

Sat, Dec 28: Baptismal Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.  
Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m.  
**Great VESPERS, 6:00 p.m. .**  
Confessions, 7:30 p.m.

Sun, Dec 29: **ORTHROS & Confession, 8:15 a.m.**  
*Ft. Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy, 9 a.m.*  
**DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.**  
Coffee Hour following Liturgy

#### YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS

**support the beautification of our church during this holy season.**  
**Flower offering envelopes are available on the literature table in the Narthex. Thank you!**

#### Stewardship 2025

*Your Tithes is beneficial to your soul and our parish.* Please make your pledge with the cards in the narthex or online at st-



**ATTENDANCE:** Vespers (12/14): 80                      Divine Liturgy (12/15): 236  
**OFFERINGS (12/15):** Candles, \$244. Collections, \$892.53 Book Shelf Ministry, \$74. Needy Fund, \$1025. Hospitality, \$2. Stewardship, \$6,662.61. Flowers: \$25. Christmas Card: \$25. Classical School: \$300. Mortgage: \$150.  
Total received: \$9,389.14.

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**