

## The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary (September 8)

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

Text & icon <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/09/08/102541-the-nativity-of-our-most-holy-lady-the-mother-of-god-and-ever-vi>



## 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

**September 8, 2024**

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE  
THEOTOKOS

### COMMEMORATIONS:

THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE  
THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY,  
SOPHRONIOS, BISHOP OF IBERIA

**Tone 2 - Eothinon 11**

**Orthros Gospel: St. John 21:14-25**

**Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18**

**Liturgy Gospel: St. John 3:13-17**

**TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 2 -** When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee!

**APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS - Tone 4 -** Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

**TODAY:** ORTHROS 8:15 a.m.  
*Fort Washington Mission Chapel 9 a.m.*  
Divine LITURGY 9:30 a.m.  
Coffee Hour & Sunday School

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**Office Hours:** Monday through 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:

	<b>This Week:</b>	<b>Next Week (Sept 15):</b>
COFFEE HOUR:	Teen Donation Luncheon	Bagels
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabriela P. & Rachel C.	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	----
USHERS:	Dan M. & Chris H.	TBD
CLEANING TEAM:	Nick T., Zach F., & TBD	Nick & Stephanie M. & Chris H.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Kendra Moody	Sh. Hannah, Eric M., Christian B., Zach W., Zach F.

### Mark Your Calendar:

**Holy Unction**  
*September 13*

**Elevation of the Cross**  
*September 14*

**International Food Festival**  
*September 20-21*

*Festival Packets and Flyers, and Sign-up sheets, are in the Narthex! Help spread the word & sign up to help!*



**Fall Retreat**  
**with Fr. John Bethancourt**  
*October 12*

#### SPECIAL APPEAL

Please consider being a part of our **Church Cleaning ministry!** Please contact Todd Moore to volunteer or for more information.

**SEPTEMBER OUTREACH**  
**COLLECTION:**  
**Cleaning Supplies**

#### Pray For:

<u>Living</u>	<u>Deceased</u>
Faithful of the Holy Land	(September Parish Diptychs)
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	
Faithful of Ethiopia & Eritrea	+Helen
Pr. Andrew, family, & parishioners	+Michael
Kh. Joyce	+Barry
Patrick	+Helen
Doris	+Timothy
John	+George
James	
Steve	
Tatiana	
Alexandra	
Zotikos	
Salome	
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Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, & all Missionaries	<u>Catechumens</u>
Nathan & family, John, & all seminarians	Lucretia
New & Expectant Mothers & their children	Andrew
For the people of our land, and their repentance, healing & unity	Ryan
The 12 Baskets Full team asks for prayers for our homeless Philly friends –George, Bill, Jim, Jalil, Mark, Joel, Eric	Michael
	Daniel
	Kassandra
	Christian
	David, Darby, & Easton
	Rose
	Jasper
	Bryson
	Catherine
	Matthew
	Matthew
	Mary
	Carol
	Morgan

## This Week:

Mon, Sept 9:	<i>Office Open</i> <b>Divine Liturgy</b> (Sts. Joachim & Anna), 7:00 a.m.
Tues, Sept 10:	<i>Office Open</i> Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.
Wed, Sept 11:	<i>Office open</i> Confession, 6:00 p.m. <b>Vespers</b> , 6:30 p.m. Bible Study: Revelation, 7:15 p.m.
Thurs, Sept 12:	<i>Office Open</i> Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Twelve Baskets Full Serving Night, 6:30 p.m. <b>Little Compline</b> , 6:30 p.m. Patristic Reading Group, 7:15 p.m.
Fri, Sept 13:	<i>Office open</i> <b>Holy Unction</b> (Fast in preparation), 4:00 p.m. Fasting Potluck, 5:30 p.m. <b>Festal Vespers &amp; Artoklasia</b> , 6:30 p.m.
Sat, Sept 14:	<b><u>Elevation of the Cross (Strict Fast Day)</u></b> ORTHROS & Cross Procession, 8:30 a.m. <b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> , 9:30 a.m. Potluck Luncheon, 11:00 a.m. Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m. <b>Great VESPERS</b> , 6:00 p.m. Confession, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept 15:	<b>ORTHROS</b> , 8:15 a.m. <b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Sunday School

**ATTENDANCE:** Vespers for August 31: 58      Divine Liturgy for Sept 1: 218

**OFFERINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 1:** Candles, \$257. Collections, \$467. Book Shelf Ministry, \$65. Mission Chapel, \$150. Needy Fund, \$65. Pastoral Discretion, \$147.52 Building Fund, \$300. Hospitality, \$34. Stewardship, \$3,610.  
Total received: \$5,095.52.

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