

The Holy Great Martyr Niketas the Goth (September 15)

The Holy Great Martyr Niketas was a Goth (a Germanic tribe). He was born and lived on the banks of the Danube River, suffering for Christ in the year 372. The Christian Faith was already spreading throughout the territory of the Goths at that time. Saint Niketas believed in Christ and was baptized by the Gothic bishop Theophilus, who participated in the First Ecumenical Council. Pagan Goths started to oppose the spread of Christianity, which resulted in a civil war.



After Fritigern, at the head of a Christian army, defeated the pagan Athanaric, the Christian Faith continued to spread among the Goths. Saint Niketas worked tirelessly among his fellow Goths to teach them about Christ. Through his personal example and inspired words, he brought many of them to the Christian Faith. After his defeat, however, Athanaric managed to regroup his forces. He returned to his own country and regained his former power. Since he remained a pagan, he continued to hate the Christians and persecuted them, seeking revenge for the humiliation he had endured at their hands.

Saint Niketas had to contend against both visible and invisible enemies. In opposing these invisible enemies, he converted many pagans to Christ, and strengthened the faithful for the contest of martyrdom. Filled with zeal for God, the Saint denounced the persecutor Athanaric for his cruelty and impiety, because he subjected the Christians to severe torments. Saint Niketas prevailed against both of these enemies. He trampled the devil underfoot, and defeated Athanaric in battle. The cruel tormentor was troubled because he was unable to convert Saint Niketas to his own impiety, and so he resolved to capture the Saint and put him to death.

Saint Niketas endured many tortures, and then he was thrown into a fire. Although his body was not burnt by the fire, he surrendered his soul to God, and his relics were illumined by a radiant light. By night, a Christian named Marianus, took the body of Saint Niketas, and buried it in Cilicia. Afterward, it was transferred to Constantinople. Part of the relics of the Great Martyr Niketas were later given to the monastery of Vysokie Dechani in Serbia. Thus Saint Niketas received an unfading crown of glory from Christ on September 15, 372. We pray to Saint Niketas for the preservation of children from birth defects.

Text & icon <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/07/21/102615-greatmartyr-niketas-the-goth>



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

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September 15, 2024

SUNDAY AFTER THE
ELEVATION OF THE HOLY
CROSS

COMMEMORATIONS:

NIKITAS THE GREAT MARTYR, PHILOTHEOS
THE RIGHTEOUS, BESSARION OF LARISSA,
RIGHTEOUS FATHER SYMEON, ARCHBISHOP
OF THESSOLONICA, JOHN THE NEW MARTYR
OF SFAKION, CRETE, AFTERFEAST OF THE
HOLY CROSS, PORPHYRIOS THE ACTOR

Tone 3 - Eothinon 1
Orthros Gospel: St. Matthew 28:16-20
Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20
Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depth of hades, granting the world the Great Mercy!

APOLYTIKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - Tone 1 - O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

KONTAKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - Tone 4 - Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

TODAY:

- ◆ ORTHROS 8:15 a.m.
- ◆ Divine LITURGY 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Coffee Hour & Sunday School

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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 (Sept 22):
COFFEE HOUR:	Bagels	Bagels
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabie & Catlin Tinjala	John Child
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	Celia-Marie Khouri-Birthday
USHERS:	Todd Moody & Dimitri Mimaros	Nick M. & Radu C.
CLEANING TEAM:	Nick & Stephanie M. & Chris H.	Phil K., Evan R., Zach W., Beraki
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Sh. Hannah, Eric M., Christian B., Zach W., Zach F.	Miriam K., Conor M., Daniel C., Laura S.

Mark Your Calendar:

International Food Festival
September 20-21

The Festival is THIS WEEK!
Your help is needed!



Bible Study & 6th Hour
Begins September 26

Parenting Class
Begins September 28

Fall Retreat
with Fr. John Bethancourt

October 12
To register use the QR code below:



**SEPTEMBER
OUTREACH
COLLECTION:**
Cleaning Products

Pray For:

Living	Departed
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	

Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, & 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
Andrew
Ryan
Michael
Daniel
Kassandra
Christian
David, Darby, & Easton
Rose
Jasper
Bryson
Catherine
Matthew
Mary
Carol
Morgan

FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS ARE CONTINUING!

Our 12th International Food Festival is **this week**—Sept 20-21. All parishioners, your help is needed! Dig out your blue festival SHIRTS, or simply wear a blue shirt. Hats will be provided. Sign-up sheets to volunteer are in the Narthex. Invite family & friends, help spread the word. **Let's work together to make this the best Food Festival yet!**

This Week:

Mon, Sept 16: *Office open*

Tues, Sept 17: *Office open*
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.

Wed, Sept 18: *Office open*
Confessions, 6:00 p.m.
Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
Revelation Bible Study, 7:15 p.m.

Thurs, Sept 19: *Office open*
Compline & Patristic Reading 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept 20: *Office open*
FOOD FESTIVAL, 11:00 a.m.
Akathist, 4:00 p.m.

Sat, Sept 21: **Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.**
FOOD FESTIVAL, 11:00 a.m.
Great VESPERS, 4:00 p.m.
Confessions, 5:00 p.m.

Sun, Sept 22: **ORTHROS & Confession, 8:15 a.m.**
Fort Washington Mission Chapel, 9 a.m.
DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:45 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 9/7:

Divine Liturgy 9/8:

OFFERINGS 7/14: Candles, \$283. Collections, \$880.54. Book Shelf Ministry, \$146. Library, \$38.71. Mission Chapel, \$577.98. Needy Fund, \$130. Teen Fund, \$848.25. Stewardship, \$5,564.81. Total received: \$8,469.29.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!