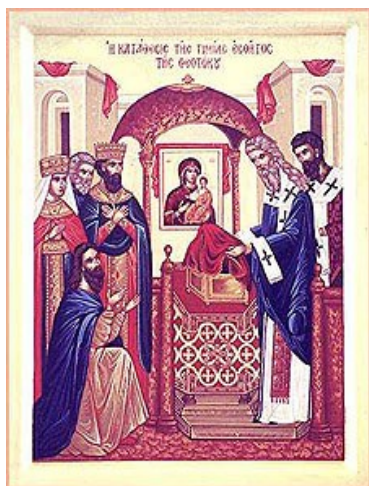


The Placing of the Honorable Sash of the Most Holy Theotokos

The Feast of the Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos is celebrated in honor of the precious relic of the Mother of God, which was placed in the Church of the Theotokos at Chalcoprateia in Constantinople during the reign of the pious Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450). According to ancient tradition, after her Dormition, the Theotokos entrusted her belt, woven by her own hands of camel's hair, to the Apostle Thomas. This sacred relic was preserved in Jerusalem by faithful Christians until it was solemnly transferred to Constantinople.



Centuries later, in the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise (886-911), his wife, Empress Zoe, was afflicted with an unclean spirit. Neither physicians nor medicines could relieve her. In her suffering she prayed to the Theotokos, and in a vision she was told that she would be healed if the Belt of the Mother of God were placed upon her. The emperor and patriarch ordered that the reliquary be opened. With reverence the Patriarch removed the seal and revealed the Belt, found incorrupt and whole despite the passing of centuries. When it was laid upon the empress, she was immediately healed.

With hymns of thanksgiving they glorified the Theotokos, resealed the Belt, and placed it again in its reliquary. From that time, the Church established the feast in commemoration of this miracle and of the two solemn Placings of the Belt: first in Jerusalem, and later in Constantinople.

The Synaxarion and the Prologue of Ohrid remind us that the Belt of the Theotokos is a sign of her maternal care and protection, girding the faithful with purity and strength. Even today, parts of this holy relic are preserved and venerated at Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos, in Trier in Germany, and in Georgia. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, the faithful continue to receive comfort and healing, as did Empress Zoe, bearing witness to the living presence of the Mother of God among her children.

Text (edited) & 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

215-692-0890

August 31, 2025

12TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW & THE
PLACING OF THE HONORABLE SASH
OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

COMMEMORATIONS:

CYPRIAN THE Hieromartyr & Bishop of
CARTHAGE, GENNADIUS SCHOLARUS, PATRIARCH
OF CONSTANTINOPLE, AIDAN, BISHOP OF
LINDISFARNE, EANSWYTHE, ABBESS OF
FOLKESTONE, CUTHBURGA THE QUEEN, ABBESS
OF WIMBORNE

Tone 3 - Eothion 1

Orthros Gospel: St. Matthew 28:16-20

Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew: 19:16-26

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 depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR PLACING OF THE VIRGIN'S SASH - Tone 8 - Thou hast bestowed upon thy city, O ever-virgin Theotokos and shelter of mankind, the robe and the belt of thy pure body, as a secure mantle, which by thy seedless birth-giving have remained without corruption; for by thee are nature and time regenerated. Wherefore, we implore thee to grant thy city safety, and our souls the Great Mercy.

TODAY: ORTHROS 8:15 a.m.

Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission 9 a.m.

Divine LITURGY 9:30 a.m.

New Year Blessing, 11:15 a.m.

Coffee Hour, 11:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 p.m.

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964

www.st-philip.net (215) 721-4947

Emails: office@st-philip.net nbushelli@gmail.com frjamesthayer@gmail.com

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.

