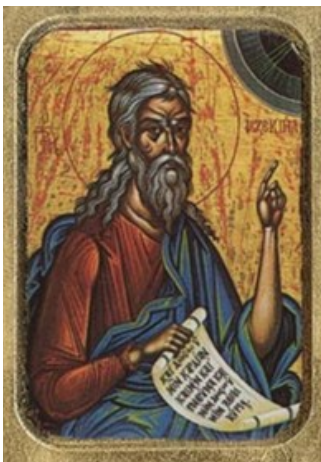


## The Holy Prophet Ezekiel (July 21)

The Holy Prophet Ezekiel lived in the sixth century before the birth of Christ. He was born in the city of Sarir, and descended from the tribe of Levi; he was a priest and the son of the priest Buzi. Ezekiel was led off to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old together with King Jechoniah II and many other Jews during the second invasion of Jerusalem by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar.

The Prophet Ezekiel lived in captivity by the River Chebar. When he was thirty years old, he had a vision of the future of the Hebrew nation and of all mankind. The prophet beheld a shining cloud, with fire flashing continually, and in the midst of the fire, gleaming bronze. He also saw four living creatures in the shape of men, but with four faces (Ez. 1:6). Each had the face of a man in front, the face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an eagle at the back (Ez. 1:10). There was a wheel on the earth beside each creature, and the rim of each wheel was full of eyes.



Over the heads of the creatures there seemed to be a firmament, shining like crystal. Above the firmament was the likeness of a throne, like glittering sapphire in appearance. Above this throne was the likeness of a human form, and around Him was a rainbow (Ez. 1:4-28).

According to the explanation of the Fathers of the Church, the human likeness upon the sapphire throne prefigures the Incarnation of the Son of God from the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who is the living Throne of God. The four creatures are symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (Saint Matthew), a lion (Saint Mark), an ox (Saint Luke), and an eagle (Saint John); the wheel with the many eyes is meant to suggest the sharing of light with all the nations of the earth. During this vision the holy prophet fell down upon the ground out of fear, but the voice of God commanded him to get up. He was told that the Lord was sending him to preach to the nation of Israel. This was the beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic service.

The Prophet Ezekiel announces to the people of Israel, held captive in Babylon, the tribulations it would face for not remaining faithful to God. The prophet also proclaimed a better time for his fellow-countrymen, and he predicted their return from Babylon, and the restoration of the Jerusalem Temple.

There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory (Ez. 44:1-10); and the bones in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life (Ez. 37:1-14). The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel's description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter (Ez. 44: 2), is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ezekiel was condemned to execution because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for idolatry. Bound to wild horses, he was torn to pieces. Pious Hebrews gathered up the torn body of the prophet and buried it upon Maur Field, in the tomb of Sim and Arthaxad, forefathers of Abraham, not far from Baghdad. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him, and is included in the Old Testament.

Text & icon <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/07/21/102064-prophet-ezekiel>



## 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

**July 21, 2024**

**4TH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST & 4TH SUNDAY  
OF MATTHEW**

### **COMMEMORATIONS:**

**JOHN AND SYMEON THE FOOL FOR CHRIST,  
PARTHENIOS, BISHOP OF ARTA**

**Tone 3 - Eothinon 4  
Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:1-12  
Epistle: Romans 6:18-23  
Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 5:8-13**

**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!**

**ORDINARY KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS - Tone 2 - O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.**

### **TODAY:**

- ◆ **ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.**
- ◆ **Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.**
- ◆ **Coffee Hour following the Liturgy**

**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, 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 (July 28):
COFFEE HOUR:	Mission Chapel Members	Ferguson & Stonier Families
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabie & Catlin Tinjala	John Child
ALTAR CANDLES:	Sidorochev—Elizabeth's Birthday	Kaminsky & Ferguson
USHERS:	Steve K. & Tom A.	Nick M., Bill H.
CLEANING TEAM:	Phil K., Evan R., Zach W., Beraki H.	Natalia M., Radu C., Mary T.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Calvin S., Dale Y., Maria S.	Maggie E., Mike L., Dave & Darby S.

## Mark Your Calendar:

**VCS 2024**  
*July 29-Aug 2*

**Dormition Fast - August 1-14**  
*Daily Liturgy & Paraklesis*

**Transfiguration**  
*August 5-6*

**Dormition of the Theotokos**  
*August 14-15*

**Ecclesiastical New Year**  
*September 1*

**SECURITY UPGRADE**  
During Divine Services only the  
narthex doors will be open.  
Thank you for your

**JULY OUTREACH**  
**COLLECTION:**  
Oral Care Products

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
N.C. Gabriel & Tabitha N.I. Isaac	A.P. Basil A.P. James (B)
Faithful of the Holy Land Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	(July Parish Diptychs)
Faithful of Ethiopia & Eritrea	+Asma +Albert
Pr. Andrew, family, & parishioners	+Dorothy +Dorothea
Kh. Joyce George Maria	+Irene +Stavros
Patrick Doris John	+Ressom +Iwan
James Victoria Steve	+Theresa +Fuad
Lasha Otari Tatiana Christine Anesia	+Helen +Christine +John

### Catechumens

Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, & all Missionaries	Lucretia Andrew Ryan
Nathan & family, John, & all seminarians	Michael Daniel
New & Expectant Mothers & their children	Kassandra Christian David, Darby, & Easton
For the people of our land, and their repentance, healing & unity	Rose Jasper Bryson Catherine
The 12 Baskets Full team asks for prayers for our homeless Philly friends —George, Bill, Jim, Jalil, Mark, Joel, Eric	Matthew Matthew Mary

## **SPECIAL APPEAL for VCS**

Three ways you can help as we are gearing up for another **Vacation Church School**, of growth in faith and love for God: 1) See Kate Gohl about volunteering; 2) Pray for Fr. Noah, leaders, and students; 3) Consider offering a financial gift to cover expenses.

### This Week:

<b>Mon, July 22:</b>	<i>Office open</i> Parish Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
<b>Tues, July 23:</b>	<i>Office open</i> Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.
<b>Wed, July 24:</b>	<i>Office open</i> Confessions, 6:00 p.m. <b>Compline &amp; Patristic Reading 6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Thurs, July 25:</b>	<i>Office open</i>
<b>Friday, July 26:</b>	<i>Office open</i> Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Sat, July 27:</b>	<b>Great VESPERS, 6:30 p.m.</b> Confessions, 7:30 p.m.

### CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

Last weekend we began piloting a new candle practice of **allowing candles to naturally extinguish themselves** in the sandboxes. This will continue through the summer. The reason being is twofold: we would like the prayers that people offer to God and the saints in the form of lit candles to conclude naturally instead of being “snuffed” out. The practical reason is out of safety concerns—less “playing with fire.” We will reassess in September as to if this practice will

**ATTENDANCE:** Vespers 7/13: 69      Divine Liturgy 7/14: 171

**OFFERINGS 7/14:** Candles, \$199. Collections, \$759.36. Book Shelf Ministry, \$63. Hospitality, \$41. Mission Chapel, \$63. Mortgage Reduction, \$150. Pastoral Discretion: \$48.51 Needy Fund, \$235. One-Time Projects, \$5,200. Stewardship, \$5,675. Total received: \$12,533.87. Cemetery Account, \$150. Food Festival Account, \$550.