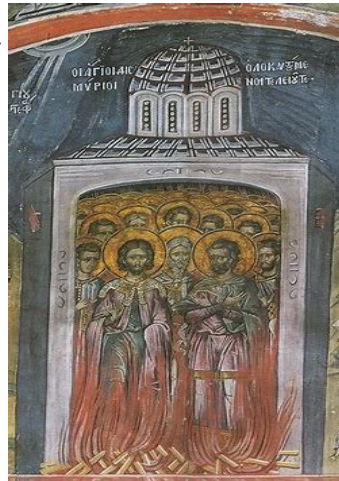


The 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia (December 28)

At the beginning of the fourth century, Emperor Maximian ordered the destruction of Christian churches, the burning of sacred books, and the removal of all Christian civil rights. At that time, Nicomedia's bishop was Saint Cyril, succeeded by Saint Anthimus, whose preaching led many—even within the imperial court—to embrace Christ.



Among them was Domna, a pagan priestess in the palace. After secretly reading the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles of Saint Paul, her heart was set aflame for the truth. With her servant, the eunuch Indes, she was catechized and baptized by Saint Anthimus. Domna immediately began serving the poor, distributing her wealth and food from the imperial kitchen. When discovered, she and Indes endured beatings, imprisonment, and hunger, yet were sustained by an angel. Disguised in men's clothing, Domna escaped to a women's monastery, which was later destroyed during the persecution.

When Christians refused to offer pagan sacrifice in the city square, Maximian grew enraged. Later, he threatened to burn the cathedral and those within it unless they renounced Christ. The presbyter Glycerius boldly confessed the faith and was burned alive.

On the Feast of the Nativity in the year 302, approximately 20,000 Christians gathered in the cathedral. Surrounded by soldiers, they were given one final chance to renounce Christ. All refused. As the church was set ablaze, Saint Anthimus baptized the catechumens and communed the faithful. All perished in the fire, including Abbess Agatha and Saint Theophila.

Though Maximian believed Christianity crushed, many continued to confess Christ openly. The regimental commander Zeno was beheaded, Indes imprisoned, and numerous clergy and faithful tortured and executed with courage.

Saint Domna mourned deeply, tending the relics of the martyrs until she herself was discovered and beheaded. Thus she received her crown, joining the glorious company of the Holy 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia.

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

December 28, 2025

AFTERFEAST OF & SUNDAY
AFTER THE NATIVITY OF
CHRIST

COMMEMORATIONS:

20,000 MARTYRS BURNED IN NICOMEDIA, HOLY
MARTYR GLYCERUS, SIMON THE MYRRHBEARER,
FOUNDER OF SIMONOPETRA, MONASTERY OF
MOUNT ATHOS

Tone 4 - Eothion 7

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:1-10

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 2:13-23

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 4 - Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples saying, Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST - Tone 4 - Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

TODAY:

ORTHROS & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.

Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission, 9 a.m.

Divine LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m. (No Church School)

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

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 12:30 pm - 5:00pm

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 (Jan. 4):
COFFEE HOUR: Christmas Potluck—Leftovers	Hades Embittered
PROSPHORA BREAD: Gabi & Catalin Tinjala	TBD
ALTAR CANDLES: Chebeleu—Sofia's Birthday	Gamble—Jordan's Name Day
USHERS: Radu Chebeleu & Todd Moody	Nick Muzekari & Chris Howe
CLEANING TEAM: Todd & Kristi Moore & Kim B.	Justin G. & Midena S. & Slav S. & Daniel C.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Morgan T., Mark Z., Rose N., Simon K.	Kendra M., Matt S., Anthony V., John J.

Mark Your Calendar:

Bishop Thomas Visiting for Theophany

January 5: Vespertal Liturgy (5:00 p.m.) & (rescheduled) tonsure of Tim R, awarding Epigonation to Fr Luke, water blessing & fasting potluck

January 6: Festal Orthros (8:15 a.m.) & (9:30 a.m.) Hierarchical Liturgy & water blessing.

Choir Retreat with Fr. Caleb and Matushka Tabitha

January 10

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Singing, voice lessons, directing practice, lunch included.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/4539yuad>



NOV/DEC OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Turkeys & Hams

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the holy land	+Kh Carol +Larissa (December Parish Diptychs)
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Joseph +Richard +Mary
The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered and those to whom they reach out.	+Demetrios +Katherine +Nicholas +Gabremaria m +Assaad +Doris +Barbara +Andrew
Newly Illumined Steven, Mary, Juliana	<u>Catechumens</u> Sarah M Ryan M
Anna	Kassandra H
Gabriel	Matthew H
Joshua	Martin (Ernie) R
Athens	Sean, Meghan, and John T
Lily	Robert S Carolyn D
Sze-Tatiana	Martin (Morgan) & Gabriella T
Hieromonk Silouan	Anthony V Slavek G Nevada L
Aristides	Josiah & Casie, Ray & Gwen L John C.
Sergei	Daniel & Eleanor, Amos & Marigold C Adaelle S
Ludmilla	Jeff & Jasmine, Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob P Andrew & Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Priscilla & Phoebe V
Catherine	Daniel & Jordan, Daniella, Meadow & Mason M Hannah B
Christine	Sam, Emilie, Ari & Addison
Maria	Mission Chapel: Christopher M & Nailah O
John	Sean & Natalie, Rosalie & Abel K
James	Inactive: Jasper, Asher, James, Andrew, Michael
James	
Steven	
Sophia	
Elias	
Zotikos	
Paraskevi	
Barbara	
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries	
Priest Nathan, Irenaeus, Theophanes, Jacob, John, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families	
Those searching for jobs, houses, spouses & monasteries	
Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples	
Families struggling to conceive	
Expectant and new mothers and their babies	
The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	

This Week:

Mon, Dec 29:	Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
Tues, Dec 30:	Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
Wed, Dec 31:	Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Vespers & Artoklasia for St Basil & Circumcision, 6:30 p.m. Orthros for Circumcision & St Basil, 7:30 p.m. Talent Show & Fellowship, 8:30 p.m. New Year Prayers, 10:30 p.m.
Thurs, Jan 1:	Feasts of Circumcision & St. Basil Divine Liturgy & New Year Prayers, 9:30 a.m.
Fri, Jan 2:	Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
Sat, Jan 3:	Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m.
Sun, Jan 4:	Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m. Ft. Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.

Stewardship 2026

If you haven't already, please make your pledge:
<https://tinyurl.com/stphilip2026>

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 12/20: Divine Liturgy 12/21:

OFFERINGS 12/2: Candles, \$. Collections, \$. Book Shelf Ministry, \$. Building Fund, \$. Hospitality, \$. Pro-Life Fund, \$. Pastoral Discretion, \$. Teen Fund, \$. Stewardship, \$. Total received, \$.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!