

The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise and The Sunday of Forgiveness

As we stand at the threshold of the Great Fast, the Church sets before us Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God had given Adam a commandment to fast (Genesis 2:16), yet he chose disobedience. Through that disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden, losing the life of blessedness, the knowledge of God, and the communion for which they were created. From that moment, humanity became heir to corruption and death.



Great Lent begins by reminding us that fasting is not a punishment but a path home. Adam fell through a failure of restraint; we return through obedience. The Fast restores what was lost—not magically, but through repentance and humility.

Today is also the Sunday of Forgiveness. Before we begin our Lenten journey, we ask and grant forgiveness to one another. We cannot return to Paradise while clinging to resentment. Just as Adam hid in shame, we too hide behind pride and wounded hearts. Forgiveness tears down those walls. It reopens the door to communion—first with one another, and therefore with God.

Our fasting must never be reduced to mere dietary restriction. It is not simply abstaining from certain foods. It is a deliberate turning away from sinful passions and a turning toward prayer, repentance, generosity, and participation in the life-giving Mysteries of Christ. Fasting without forgiveness becomes hypocrisy; forgiveness without repentance becomes sentimentality. The Church calls us to both.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing:
“Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit.”

With forgiveness in our hearts and humility before God, we begin the bright sadness of Lent—walking the road that leads us back to Paradise and forward to Pascha.

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

February 22, 2026

THE SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESE FARE)

COMMEMORATIONS:

THE FINDING OF THE PRECIOUS RELICS
OF THE HOLY MARTYRS IN THE
QUARTER OF EUGENIUS, OUR
RIGHTEOUS FATHERS THALASSIUS AND
BARADATUS, ANTHOUSA THE MARTYR &
HER 12 SERVANTS

Tone 4 - Eothinon 4

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:1-12

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 6:14-21

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!

KONTAKION FOR FORGIVENESS SUNDAY - Tone 6 - O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

TODAY: **ORTHROS & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.**
Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission, 9 a.m.
Divine LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.
Forgiveness Vespers, 1:00 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 12:30 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:

COFFEE HOUR: Chebeleu-Memory Eternal Helen
PROSPHORA BREAD: Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
ALTAR CANDLES: Graf & Sidorochev
USHERS: Todd Moody & Dan Marquardt
CLEANING TEAM: Catechumens
COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Carolyn D., Eric M., Justus H., Liara P.
BULLETIN DISTRIBUTOR: Carolyn David

Next Week (March 1):

Catechumen & Inquirers Class
 Kristi Moore & Sissy Hill
 - - -
 John Nicholson & Chris Howe
 Todd & Kristi M. & Kim B.
 Miriam K., Ryan M., Daniel C. Laura B.
 Will Matteson

Mark Your Calendar:

Annunciation to the Theotokos
March 25

St. Philip Lenten Retreat
Saturday, March 14

**“The Highway to Heaven is a
 Staircase: A Study of the
 Sermon on the Mount”**

Register with the link or the QR
 Code: <https://tinyurl.com/udpuwet2>



Great & Holy Pascha
April 12

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE BOXES

Please take one of the Food For Hungry
 People collection boxes (available in the
 Narthex) to your home and at Pascha
 bring them back filled to help our
 archdiocese food distribution program.

FEBRUARY OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Paper Products

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the holy land	+Archimandrite Daniel
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Matushka Martha +Nadejda +Christine +Sze-Tatiana (February Parish Diptychs)
The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered and those to whom they reach out.	+Frank +Kristina +John +Steve +John +Hertanse +Thomas +Wendy-Susanna
Child Timothy-Gabriel	
Child Noah	
Athanasios	
Wadih	
Natalia	
Louise-Ruth	
Joanne	
Nancy-Anna	
Mark	
Elizabeth	
Sister Anka	
Dcn. Evgeney	
Amy	
Hieromonk Silouan	
Aristides	
Catherine	
Christine	
Maria	
John	
James	
James	
Steven	
Sophia	
Elias	
Paraskevi	
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries	
Priest Nathan, Deacon 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	
Those in mourning	
The people of our land, and for their	
repentance, healing & unity	
	+Catechumens Matthew H Martin (Ernie) R Sean, Meghan, and John T Robert S Carolyn D Martin (Morgan) & Gabriella T Anthony V Slavek G Nevada L Josiah & Casie, Ray & Gwen L John C Daniel, Eleanor, Amos & Marigold C Adaele S Jeff & Jasmin, Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob P Andrew & Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Priscilla & Phoebe V Daniel & Jordan, Daniella, Meadow & Mason M Hannah B Samuel & Emilie, Ari & Addison P James B Nicole P Dylan H Ryan M Mission Chapel: Christopher M & Nailah O Sean & Natalie, Rosalie & Abel K Inactive: Jasper, Asher, Andrew, Michael, Kassandra

This Week:

Mon, Feb. 23:

Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Great Compline & Great Canon, 6:00 p.m.

Tues, Feb. 24:

Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m.
 Confessions 5:30 p.m.
 Great Compline & Great Canon, 6:00 p.m.

Wed, Feb. 25:

Great Canon, 12:00 p.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00 p.m.
 FOCUS: Norristown
 Fasting Potluck, 8:00 p.m.

Thurs, Feb. 26:

Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Great Compline & Canon, 6:00 p.m.
 FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.

Fri, Feb. 27:

Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Fasting Potluck, 11:00 a.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Little Compline & Akathist Hymn, 6:00 p.m.
 Q&A w/ Fr. Noah, 7:00 p.m.

Sat, Feb. 28:

Divine Liturgy & Trisagion, 8:00 a.m.
 Teen Day Trip to Holy Protection, 9:00 a.m.
 Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
 Confessions, 7:00 p.m.

Sun, March 1:

The Sunday of Orthodoxy (Lent 1)
 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.
 Pan-Orthodox Vespers (Bethlehem), 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 2/14: n/a Divine Liturgy 2/15: n/a

OFFERINGS 2/15: Candles, \$537. Collections, \$1,903.51. Book Shelf Ministry, \$148. Building Fund, \$1,800. Women's Fund, \$20. Sunday School, \$50. Pastoral Discretion, \$195.53. Stewardship, \$6,522.52. Total received, \$11,176.56.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!