

## The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady The Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (September 8)

The birth of the Most Holy Virgin Mary took place at a time when mankind had fallen into great moral decay. Many despaired, saying only God Himself could restore faith and save the world from ruin. In His mercy, the Son of God prepared to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, alone worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Church celebrates the Nativity of the Theotokos as a feast of universal joy. From before all ages, Divine Providence had chosen Mary to bring about the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. On this radiant day she was revealed as the Mother of the Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ.



Mary was born in Nazareth of Galilee to the righteous Joachim, of the line of David, and Anna, of the priestly tribe of Aaron. Though devout, they were childless into old age. Still, they did not despair but trusted God's mercy, remembering how He once opened the womb of barren Sarah. They vowed that if blessed with a child, they would dedicate the child to God's service in the Temple.

In Israel, childlessness was seen as divine punishment, and Joachim and Anna endured ridicule. When Joachim brought an offering to the Temple, the high priest rejected it as unworthy. In grief, Joachim went into the wilderness to pray, while Anna also wept and prayed at home, never blaming God but imploring His mercy.

At last their prayers were answered. The Archangel Gabriel appeared, announcing they would bear a daughter, Mary, through whom salvation would come to the world. The Virgin Mary, surpassing in purity both mankind and the angels, was revealed as the living Temple of God. The Church hymns acclaim her as the "East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls."

Her Nativity marks the dawn of salvation and the fulfillment of God's promises. The grace of the Kingdom of God is revealed, and the Theotokos shines as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to whom the faithful turn with love and devotion.

Text from oca.org/icon from icons & echoes



## 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

**September 7, 2025**

SUNDAY BEFORE ELEVATION OF  
THE CROSS FOREFEAST OF THE  
NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

### COMMEMORATIONS:

SOZON THE MARTYR, KASSIANI THE  
HYMNOGRAPHER, JOHN AND SERGIOS, BISHOPS  
OF LERNA, DANIEL KATOUNAKIOTIS OF SMYRNA,  
EUODOS AND ONESIPHOROS, APOSTLES OF THE  
70, JOHN THE WONDERWORKER OF NOVGOROD

**Tone 4 - Eothion 2**  
**Orthros Gospel:** St. Mark 16:1-8  
**Epistle:** Galatians 6:11-18  
**Liturgy Gospel:** St. John 3:13-17

**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 FOREFEAST OF THEOTOKOS' NATIVITY -** Tone 4 - From the root of Jesse and the loins of David the great king, Mariam, the child of God, is born for our sake on this day. Hence, all creation exulteth on its renewal. Both men and the earth rejoice together now. Praise her, O ye tribes of nations here below. The righteous Joachim rejoiceth, and Anna keepeth feast, crying out: The barren beareth the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.

**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.  
Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 p.m.  
**Festal Vespers & Artoklasia, 6:30 p.m.**

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**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:

<p><b>This Week:</b></p> <p><b>COFFEE HOUR:</b> Potluck</p> <p><b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b> Kristi Moore &amp; Sissy Hill</p> <p><b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b> Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway</p> <p><b>USHERS:</b> John Nicholson &amp; Radu Chebeleu</p> <p><b>CLEANING TEAM:</b> Serge, Alex &amp; Sarah Kaminsky</p> <p><b>COFFEE HOUR TEAM:</b> Kendra M., Matt S., Anthony V. Miriam K., Ryan M., Daniel C., Laura</p>	<p><b>Next Week (Sept. 14):</b></p> <p>Fasting Potluck</p> <p>Gabriela Plesa &amp; Macrina Layton</p> <p><b>TBD</b></p> <p><b>TBD</b></p>
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## Mark Your Calendar:

### International Food Festival *September 19-20*

Please use the QR Code to sign up:



You can also sign up here:  
<http://bit.ly/3JvoCQR>

### Feast of St. Raphael *November 1*

### Bishop Thomas Visit *November 10-17*

### Nativity Fast Begins *November 15*

**SEPTEMBER OUTREACH  
COLLECTION:**  
**Cleaning Products**

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, Palestine, and all the holy land Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine St Catherine Monastery on Mt Sinai  St Justin Academy and all students and teachers Fr Luke and the Mission Chapel  Tatiana Bethlehem and her family Ludmilla Serge and Linea Maria John James Steven Paraskevi Alexandra Alexander  Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries  Dn Nathan, Jacob, John, Irenaeus, Theophanes, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families  Those searching for houses, spouses, & jobs 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	+Doris +Michael  (September Parish Diptychs) +Helen +Michael +Barry +Helen +Timothy +George +Kh. Joyce Black  <u>Catechumens</u> Ryan Kassandra Jasper Matthew Mary Martin Meghan-Photini John Steven Robert Liara Asher Sarah Andrew Carolyn Martin & Gabriella James Anthony Slavek Nevada Josiah, Casie & Ray John Michael Daniel Christopher and Naila  And our inquirers

## This Week:

<b>Mon, Sept 8:</b>	Nativity of the Theotokos Festal Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Potluck Luncheon, 11:15 a.m. Daily Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Tues, Sept 9:</b>	Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m. Daily Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Wed, Sept 10:</b>	Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Little Compline, 6:30 p.m. FOCUS Norristown, 7:00 p.m. Patristic Discussion, 7:15 p.m.
<b>Thurs, Sept 11:</b>	Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Vespers, 6:30 p.m. Prayer Bible Study (Fr. Noah), 7:15 p.m. FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.
<b>Fri, Sept 12:</b>	Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Holy Unction, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Sat, Sept 13:</b>	Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. Catechism Class, 4:30 p.m. Book Study w/ Fr. James, 5:00 p.m. Festal Vespers & Artoklasia, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
<b>Sun, Sept 14:</b>	<b>Elevation of the Holy Cross</b> <i>Strict Fast Day</i> Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m. <i>Ft. Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 a.m</i> Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 8/30: 85

Liturgy 8/31: 225

**OFFERINGS 7/6:** Candles, \$278. Collections, \$664. Book Shelf Ministry, \$89. One-Time Projects, \$274. Hospitality, \$20. Woman's Fund, \$600. Pastoral Discretion, \$48.51. Seminarian Fund, \$200. Stewardship, \$1,627.0. Total received, \$3,800.53. Cemetery, \$100.

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**