

7 Holy Youths "Seven Sleepers" of Ephesus (August 4)

The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the third century. Saint Maximilian was the son of the Ephesus city administrator, and the other six youths were sons of illustrious citizens of Ephesus. The youths were friends from childhood, and all were in military service together.

When the emperor Decius (249-251) arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizens to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Torture and death awaited anyone who disobeyed. The seven youths were denounced by informants, and were summoned to reply to the charges. Appearing before the emperor, the young men confessed their faith in Christ.

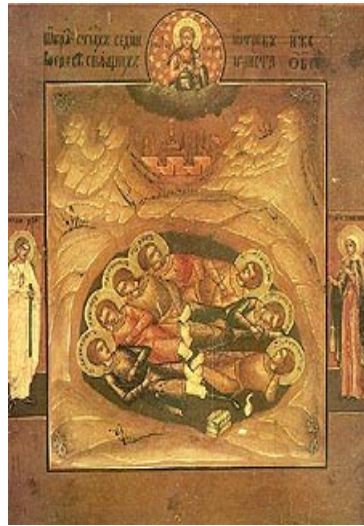
Their military belts and insignia were quickly taken from them. Decius permitted them to go free, however, hoping that they would change their minds while he was off on a military campaign. The youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon, where they passed their time in prayer, preparing for martyrdom.

Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor ordered that the entrance of the cave be sealed with stones so that the saints would perish from hunger and thirst. Two of the dignitaries at the blocked entrance to the cave were secret Christians. Desiring to preserve the memory of the saints, they placed in the cave a sealed container containing two metal plaques. On them were inscribed the names of the seven youths and the details of their suffering and death.

The Lord placed the youths into a miraculous sleep lasting almost two centuries. In the meantime, the persecutions against Christians had ceased. During the reign of the holy emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) there were heretics who denied that there would be a general resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them said, "How can there be a resurrection of the dead when there will be neither soul nor body, since they are disintegrated?" Others affirmed, "The souls alone will have a restoration, since it would be impossible for bodies to arise and live after a thousand years, when even their dust would not remain." Therefore, the Lord revealed the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead and of the future life through His seven saints.

The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated, discovered the stone construction, and his workers opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord had kept the youths alive, and they awoke from their sleep, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed. Their bodies and clothing were completely undecayed.

Text & icon <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/08/04/102195-7-holy-youths-seven-sleepers-of-ephesus>



The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts II:26)



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

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August 4, 2024

6TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST &
6TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

COMMEMORATIONS:

THE HOLY SEVEN SLEEPING YOUTHS OF
EPHESUS; RECOVERY OF THE RELICS OF
MARTYR EUDOKIA OF PERSIA

DORMITION FAST

Tone 5 - Eothion 6
Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:36-53
Epistle: Romans 12:6-14
Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 9:1-8

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 5 - Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

KONTAKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION - Tone 7 - Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

TODAY: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
~Finegan Chrismation~
Fr. Michael Kaminsky Memorial 11:45 a.m.
Coffee Hour Following Liturgy
Paraklesis 1:30 p.m.

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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 (Aug 11):
COFFEE HOUR:	Bagels	Bagels
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore	Gabriela P. & Rachel C.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Sidorochev—16th Anniversary	Gamble—Xenia's Birthday
USHERS:	Dan M. & Dimitri M.	John N. & Chris H.
CLEANING TEAM:	Todd & Kristi M., Kim B.	Catechumens
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Kendra Moody	Sh. Hannah, Eric M. , Christian Zach W., Zach F.

Mark Your Calendar:

Dormition Fast - August 1-14
Daily Liturgy & Paraklesis

Transfiguration
August 5-6

Dormition of the Theotokos
August 14-15

Beheading of John the Baptist
August 29

International Food Festival
September 20-21

Festival Packets and Flyers, and Sign-up sheets, are in the Narthex! Help spread the word, get sponsors, & sign up to help!



AUGUST OUTREACH
COLLECTION:
Paper Products

Pray For:

Living	Departed
N.C. Gabriel & Tabitha	Anna
N.I. Daniel	(August Parish Diptychs)
Faithful of the Holy Land	
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Mary
Faithful of Ethiopia & Eritrea	+Augustine
Pr. Andrew, family, & parishioners	+Iwan
Elena	+Victor
Kh. Joyce	+Fr. Michael
George	+Myron
Maria	+Fr. Boniface
Patrick	+John
Doris	
John	
James	
Victoria	
Steve	
Lasha	
Otari	
Tatiana	
Christine	
Anesia	
Timothy	

Catechumens

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

This Week:

Dormition of the Theotokos Fast
Church Office open Monday through Friday

Mon, Aug 5:	DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Vespers & Artoklasia, 6:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
Tues, Aug 6:	<u>Feast of the Transfiguration</u> Orthros, 9:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY, 10:00 a.m. Blessing of Fruit & Garden Produce, 11:30 a.m. Fasting Potluck (F/W/O), 12:00 p.m. Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m. Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
Wed, Aug 7:	Memory Eternal! +Fr. Boniface (8/7/16) Orthros, 8:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
Thurs, Aug 8:	Orthros, 8:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m. Twelve Baskets Full Serving Night, 6:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Aug 9:	Orthros, 8:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
Sat, Aug 10:	Orthros, 8:00 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY, 9:00 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Great VESPERS, 6:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Aug 11:	ORTHROS, 8:45 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY, 10:00 a.m. <i>Fort Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.</i> Fr. Boniface Memorial-8 Years, 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour after Liturgy Paraklesis, 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 7/27:

Liturgy 7/28:

OFFERINGS 7/28: Candles, \$212. Collections, \$1,264. Book Shelf Ministry, \$36. Burial Ministry, \$400. Mission Chapel, \$1,081. Food For Hungry, \$20. Needy Fund, \$195. Stewardship, \$2,755. Total received: \$6,121.15.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!