

# Saint Nikephoros the Leper

Father Nikephoros (Nikēphōros), known in the world as Nicholas Tzanakakis, was born in 1890 in the mountainous village of Sikari in Kastanohori, west of Chania. The village was known for its healthy climate, forests, waters, gorges, and caves, and had the unusual feature of being divided into eleven neighborhoods named after the founding families. Saint Nikephoros was born in the neighborhood of the Kostoyianides.

His parents were simple and pious villagers who died when he was still young, leaving him an orphan. At the age of thirteen, he left his home and his grandfather, who had been raising him, and went to Chania to work. He found employment in a barber shop and began to learn the trade. Around this time, the first signs of Hansen's disease (leprosy) appeared. Because leprosy was feared as contagious, sufferers were isolated on the island of Spinalonga.

At sixteen, as the disease became more visible, Nicholas fled by boat to Egypt to avoid confinement. He lived in Alexandria, again working as a barber, but the illness progressed, especially affecting his hands and face. Through the intervention of a cleric, he was sent to Chios, where there was a hospital and church for lepers under the care of Father Anthimos Vagianos, later Saint Anthimos of Chios.

Nicholas arrived in Chios in 1914 at the age of twenty-four. The leper hospital included a chapel of Saint Lazarus, which housed the wonderworking icon of Panagia Ypakoe. There his spiritual life blossomed. After two years, Saint Anthimos tonsured him a monk with the name Nikephoros. In the absence of effective medication, the disease advanced severely.

Father Nikephoros lived in unquestioning obedience, austere fasting, and humble labor, working in the gardens and recording miracles of Saint Anthimos. He prayed for hours at night, made countless metanias, never quarreled, and injured no one's heart. Though he gradually lost his sight, he continued chanting from memory.

When the Chios leprosarium closed in 1957, Father Nikephoros was transferred to Saint Barbara's Home for Lepers in Aigaleo, Athens. There he became a source of consolation and spiritual strength. Many sought his prayers, witnessing his patience, gentleness, and radiant joy despite severe suffering.

Father Nikephoros reposed on January 4, 1964, at age seventy-four. Three years later, his relics were found fragrant. Numerous miracles have since been attributed to his intercessions, and his life remains a shining witness to endurance, humility, and grace.

Text & icon from oca.org



The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26)



## 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

January 4, 2026

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

### COMMEMORATIONS:

FOREFEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, SYNAXIS OF THE 70 HOLY APOSTLES, OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER THEOCTISTUS, ABBOT OF CUCOMO IN SICILY, NIKEPHOROS THE LEPER, ZOSIMOS THE MONK AND ATHANASIOS THE NOTARY, RIGHTEOUS APOLLINARIA THE SENATOR, MARTYRS CHRYSANTHOS AND EUPHEMIA, RIGHTEOUS EUTHYMOS THE YOUNGER, NEW MARTYR ONUPHRIOS, RIGHTEOUS EUTHYMOS OF VATOPEDI, RIGHTEOUS JOHN SCHOLARIOS, EUSTATHIOS ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA

**Tone 5 - Eothinon 8**

**Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:11-18**

**Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8**

**Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 1:1-8**

**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.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY - Tone 4 -** Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

### TODAY:

- ✦ **ORTHROS & Confessions - 8:15 a.m.**
- ✦ **Ft. Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy - 9:00 a.m.**
- ✦ **Divine LITURGY - 9:30 a.m.**
- ✦ **Coffee Hour & Sunday School - 11:15 a.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 through Thursday 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

## Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	<b>This Week:</b>	<b>Next Week (Jan. 11):</b>
COFFEE HOUR:	Hades Embittered (Chili & Cornbread)	Zemelak's Family—Ethiopian
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore & Sissy Hill	TBD
ALTAR CANDLES:	Gamble-Jordan's Name Day	Quinodoz-Memory Eternal Joseph
USHERS:	Nick Muzekari & Chris Howe	Todd Moody & Mike Taggart
CLEANING TEAM:	Justin G., Midenas S., Slav S., Daniel C.	Teens
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Kendra M., Matt S., Anthony V. John J.	Carolyn D., Eric M., Anders K., Liara M.

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Feast of St. Anthony *January 16*

6:00 pm - Festal Vespers  
7:30 pm - Festal Vespers  
10:00 pm - Divine Liturgy  
11:30 pm - Festal Potluck

#### Meeting of Our Lord *February 1*

6:00 pm - Vespers, Artoklasia &  
Candle Blessing  
*February 2*  
8:15 am - Festal Orthros  
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy & Candle  
Blessing  
11:30 am - Festal Potluck

#### Forgiveness Sunday *February 22*

#### Great & Holy Pascha *April 12*

We live Pascha to Pascha!

#### Stewardship 2026

*Please make your pledges if you  
haven't already:*

<https://tinyurl.com/stphilip2026>  
We now have 96 pledges totaling  
**\$408,988** or **91.7%** of our  
stewardship goal.

**JANUARY OUTREACH  
COLLECTION:  
Oral Care Products**

#### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the holy land	+Larissa
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	(January Parish Diptychs) +George +Predrag +Mimi +Helen +Christopher +Nagib +Julia +Nicole
The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered and those to whom they reach out.	
Newly Illumined Steven, Mary, Juliana	<u>Catechumens</u> Sarah M Ryan M Kassandra H 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 Adaelle S Jeff & Jasmine, 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 Mission Chapel: Christopher & Nailah M Sean & Natalie, Rosalie & Abel K Inactive: Jasper, Asher, Andrew, Michael
Athena Sze-Tatiana Hieromonk Silouan Aristides Catherine Christine Maria John James James Steven Sophia Elias Paraskevi	
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries	
Priest Nathan, Dn 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:

<b>Mon, Jan. 5:</b>	<b>Bishop Thomas Visit/Theophany Fast</b> Royal Hours, 9:30 a.m. Vespers Liturgy & Water Blessing, 5:00 p.m. Fasting Potluck, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Tues, Jan. 6:</b>	<b>Bishop Thomas Visit/Holy Theophany</b> Orthros, 8:15 a.m. Hierarchical Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Great Blessing of Water, 11:00 a.m. Festal Potluck, 11:45 a.m. Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m. Great Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Wed, Jan. 7:</b>	Divine Liturgy, 9:30 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, Jan 8:</b>	Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Vespers, 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, 7:30 p.m. FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.
<b>Fri, Jan 9:</b>	Divine Liturgy, 6:30 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m. Teen Tea Sing Along, 7:30 p.m.
<b>Sat, Jan 10:</b>	Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. Choir Retreat, 10:00 a.m. Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m. Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Sun, Jan 11:</b>	Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. Outdoor Blessing of Water (Lake Lenape), 1:00 pm

**ATTENDANCE: Vespers 12/27: 58                      Divine Liturgy 12/28: 183**  
**St. Basil Vespers & Orthros: 54                      Liturgy: 70**  
**OFFERINGS 12/28:** Candles, \$638. Collections, \$2,538.52. Flowers, \$180. Book Shelf Ministry, \$411.39. Christmas Cards, \$270. SJA, \$4,000. Building Fund, \$21,544. Mission Chapel, \$2,000. Needy Fund, \$808.10. Pastoral Discretion, \$3,243.55. Stewardship, \$4,949.03. Total received: \$40,582.85. Cemetery, \$1,300.

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