

The Veneration of the Precious & Life-Giving Cross (Third Sunday in Lent)

The Third Sunday of Great Lent is known as the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross. At this point in the Lenten journey, the Holy Cross is brought out and placed in the midst of the church for the faithful to see, venerate, and contemplate. Its placement in the center of the church during the middle of the Lenten season is deeply meaningful. The Cross stands before us not only as a reminder of Christ's saving sacrifice and redemption, but also as a sign of the path that every Christian must walk in order to be saved.



By the time we reach the middle of Lent, many of us feel the weight of the spiritual struggle. The fast, prayer, repentance, and effort of the season can feel difficult. The Church, like a wise mother, places the Cross before us as a source of encouragement and strength. Just as travelers pause to rest beneath a tree during a long journey, so the faithful pause before the Cross to receive renewed courage for the rest of the Lenten pilgrimage toward Pascha. The Cross reminds us why we struggle, why we repent, and why we endure the spiritual labor of Lent.

At the same time, the Cross teaches us something essential about the Christian life. The Cross is not only something Christ carried; it is something every Christian must carry as well. Our Lord Himself teaches this truth clearly: "He who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:38). The Cross therefore stands as both a gift and a calling. It reveals the love of Christ who gave Himself for the life of the world, and it calls each of us to follow Him in humility, sacrifice, and faithful obedience.

For those who are being saved, the Cross is not a sign of defeat but of victory. As the Apostle Paul teaches, in the Cross of Christ crucified we find both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24). In venerating the Cross, we remember that through it Christ has conquered sin, death, and the devil, opening the way for us to share in His resurrection and eternal life.

Edited 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

March 15, 2026

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

COMMEMORATIONS:

AGAPIUS THE MARTYR & HIS
COMPANIONS, MANUEL THE NEW
MARTYR OF CRETE, HOLY APOSTLE
ARISTOBULOS OF THE SEVENTY, BISHOP
OF BRITAIN

Tone 7 - Eothinon 10
Orthros Gospel: St. John 21:1-14
Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 12:12-19

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 7 - Thou didst shatter death by thy Cross, thou didst open Paradise to the thief; thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment bearing women into joy, and didst bid thine Apostles proclaim a warning that thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy!

APOLYTIKION FOR THE HOLY CROSS - Tone 1 - O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

TODAY:

Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Sunday School following Liturgy
Choir Rehearsal, 12:35 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 - 5:00 pm

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 (March 22):
COFFEE HOUR:	The Walsh Family & Co.	Crafty Kids Fundraiser (Ethiopian Food)
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Heather Taggart & John Child	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
ALTAR CANDLES:	- - -	Schneider - Flora's Birthday
USHERS:	TBD	TBD
CLEANING TEAM:	Serge, Alex & Sarah Kaminsky	Teens
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Calvin S., Mary T., Gabriel M.	Morgan T., Mark Z., Rose N., Simon K.

Mark Your Calendar:

Annunciation to the Theotokos
 March 24: Vespers & Artoklasia,
 6:00 pm

March 25: Orthros, 8:15 am; Divine
 Liturgy 9:30 am; Potluck
 (Fish/Wine/Oil), 11:00 am

Palm Sunday
 April 5

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.

YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS

support the beautification of our
 church during this holy season.

**Flower offering envelopes are
 available on the literature table
 in the Narthex.** Thank you!

MARCH OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Baby Care Items

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the holy land	+Christine +Sze-Tatiana (March Parish Diptychs)
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Najib +Lorraine
The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered, St Tikhon's Seminary, St Raphael School, and those to whom they reach out.	+Julia +Helen +Dina +Robert +Adele +Mary +Haritos
Elizabeth	<u>Catechumens</u>
Julie	Matthew H
Jacob & Family	Martin (Ernie) R
Wadih	Sean, Meghan, and John T
Matushka Cecilia	Robert S
Louise-Ruth	Carolyn D
Joanne	Martin (Morgan) & Gabriella T
Nancy-Anna	Anthony V
Elizabeth	Slavak G
Sister Anka	Nevada L
Hieromonk Silouan	Josiah & Casie, Ray & Gwen L
Aristides	John C
Catherine	Daniel, Eleanor, Amos & Marigold C
Christine	Adaelle S
Maria	Jeff & Jasmin,
John	Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob P
James	Andrew & Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam,
Paraskevi	Priscilla & Phoebe V
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries	Daniel & Jordan, Daniella, Meadow & Mason M
Priest Nathan, Deacon Irenaeus, Theophanes, Jacob, John, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families	Hannah B
Those searching for jobs, houses, spouses & monasteries	Samuel & Emilie, Ari & Addison P
Courting, Engaged, & Newly -Crowned Couples	James B Nicole P
Families struggling to conceive	Dylan H Ryan M
Expectant and new mothers and their babies	Mission Chapel: Christopher M & Nailah O
Those in mourning	Sean & Natalie, Rosalie & Abel K
The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	David S Inactive: Jasper, Asher, Andrew, Michael, Kassandra

This Week:

Mon, March 16:	Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 a.m. Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.
Tues, March 17:	Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m.
Wed, March 18:	Sze Tatiana Funeral, 10:00 a.m. Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00 p.m. FOCUS: Norristown, 7:00 p.m. Fasting Potluck, 8:00 p.m.
Thurs, March 19:	Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Great Compline, 6:00 p.m. Bible Study w/ Fr. Noah, 7:00 p.m. FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.
Fri, March 20:	Confessions, 9:00 a.m. 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, March 21:	Divine Liturgy & Trisagion, 8:00 a.m. Catechism Class, 4:30 p.m.. Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m.
Sun, March 22:	St. John Climacus (Lent 4) Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, 12:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 3/7: 124 Divine Liturgy 3/8: 236

Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy: 118

OFFERINGS 3/8: Candles, \$554. Collections, \$922.87. Book Shelf, \$218.
 Building Fund, \$6,239.01. Pastoral Discretion, \$73.02. Pro-Life Fund,
 \$2,431. Teen Fund (OMYT), \$50. Stewardship, \$11,576.99.
 Total received: \$22,064.89.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!