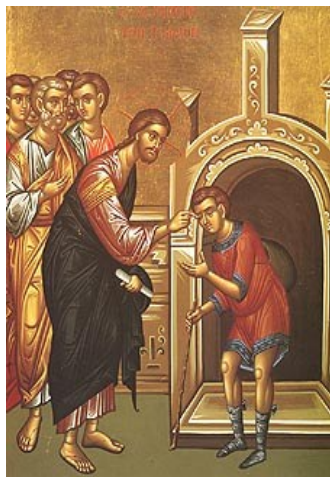


Sunday of the Blind Man (May 25)

At the end of John 8, Jesus was disputing with the Pharisees in the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. He declared, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad” (John 8:56). When they challenged Him—“You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”—He responded with the divine name: “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58). The Jews knew this was a claim to divinity, echoing God’s words to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14), so they picked up stones to kill Him. But He hid Himself and left the Temple.



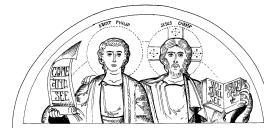
As He passed by, Jesus saw a man blind from birth (John 9:1). Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas, quoting St. John Chrysostom, notes that Christ did not encounter this man by chance: “It was He who saw the blind man, not the blind man who came to Him.” The disciples asked whether the blindness was due to his sin or his parents’ sin. Jesus replied, “Neither... but that the works of God should be revealed in him” (John 9:3). This did not mean God caused the blindness for the sake of a miracle, but that He would use the affliction to glorify Himself.

Christ, the Light of the world, healed the man by making clay from His saliva and the earth, placing it on the man’s eyes, and telling him to wash in the Pool of Siloam, which means “Sent.” This act recalls Genesis, where God formed man from the dust. Now Christ, the same Creator, refashions eyes for the man using clay. Healing the blind was also a sign of the Messiah (Matthew 11:5).

St. Theophylaktos explains that Jesus healed the blind man’s eyes because they were the only part of his body the Lord had withheld at his birth—now completing the act of creation. The man, though blind, had faith and obeyed, going to the pool and returning with sight.

The healing provoked hostility. The Pharisees doubted the miracle, even questioning the man’s parents, who out of fear would not confirm the healing, saying, “He is of age, ask him.” Though healed, the man was cast out for defending Christ. He not only received sight but also illumination of soul. He confessed Jesus as Lord, while the Pharisees, clinging to the letter of the Law, remained spiritually blind. This miracle challenges us. Do we, like the blind man, courageously confess Christ? Or, like his parents, shrink back out of fear or social pressure? Christ calls us to faith and bold witness: “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will confess before My Father” (Matthew 10:32).

Text excerpted and Image 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

May 25, 2025
**SUNDAY OF THE
BLIND MAN**



**CHRIST IS
RISEN!**

Tone 5

Orthros Gospel: John 20:11-18

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Liturgy Gospel: St. John 9:1-38

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH
BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.**

**RESURRECTION TROPARION - 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!**

TODAY:

- ◆ *Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission Chapel, 9am*
- ◆ *Orthros, 8:15 am*
- ◆ *Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am*
- ◆ *Coffee Hour (no Church School today), 11:15 am*
- ◆ *Choir Rehearsal, 12:45 pm*

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Emails: office@st-philip.net nbushelli@gmail.com frjamesthayer@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (June 1):
COFFEE HOUR	Bushelli (Joachim's Graduation)	Chebelev (Anniversary)
PROSPHORA BREAD:	John Child	Kristi Moore
ALTAR CANDLES:	Kaminsky (Simeon's 7th Birthday)	Sidorochev & Chebelev
USHERS:	Steve K. & Radu C.	John N. & Conor M.
CLEANING TEAM:	Nick M., Chris H., Mark Z.	Radu C., Mary T., Daniel F., Tony M.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Miriam K., Ryan, Daniel C., Laura S.	Calvin, Mary T., Conor, Christian L.

* IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS. Thank you for remembering the needs of others.

Mark Your Calendar:

Holy Ascension
Hierarchical Liturgy w/ **Bishop Thomas** & Priestly Ordination: Dn. Luke

Wednesday, May 28
Festal Vespers, 5:00 pm
Festal Orthros, 6:00 pm
Hierarchical Liturgy, 7:00 pm
Festal Reception, 9:00 pm

Daily Liturgies for Fr. Luke's Training
May 30 - June 29

Pentecost
Sunday, June 8

Apostles' Fast
June 16-28

2024 Parish Life Conference
June 25-28, 2025

VCS 2024
July 28-Aug 1

MAY OUTREACH
COLLECTION:

Skin Care Products

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria and all the holy land	+Coca-Lucia +Nicholas
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	(May Parish Diptychs)
N.I. Flora, Michael, Selena, Kele	+Paul
N.C. John and Mary	+Bahia
Archpriest Joel	+Kh. Jane
Dn Michael	+LuAnn
Nun Sergeia	+Lida
John	+Donna
Doris	+Helen
James	
Steven	
Paraskevi	
Elizabeth	
Michaela	
Elias	
Mary	
Maria	
Constantinos	
Mary	
Helen	
Barbara	
Ana	
Alexander	
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries	
Dn Nathan, John, Samuel & all seminarians	
Those searching for housing, jobs and spouses	
Engaged Couples	
Families trying to conceive	
Expectant mothers	
New mothers and their babies	
Those in mourning	
The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	

Catechumens

Ryan
Kassandra
Rose
Jasper
Catherine
Matthew
Matthew
Mary
Martin
Meghan-Photini
John
Steven
Robert
Liara
Asher
Sarah
Andrew
Carolyn
Martin
James
Anthony

SPECIAL APPEAL

Three ways you can help as we are gearing up for another **Vacation Church School**, of growth in faith and love for God: 1) See Kate Gohl about volunteering; 2) Pray for Fr. Noah, leaders, and students; 3) Consider offering a financial gift to cover expenses.

This Week:

Tues, May 27:	Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m. Paschal Vespers & Canon, 6:30 p.m.
Wed, May 28:	Festal Vespers, 5:00 pm Festal Orthros, 6:00 pm Hierarchical Liturgy, 7:00 pm FOCUS Philadelphia (Norristown), 7:00 pm Festal Reception, 9:00 pm
Thurs, May 29:	ASCENSION OF OUR LORD Great Vespers, 6:30 pm FOCUS Philadelphia (Aviator Park), 8:00 pm
Friday, May 30:	Fast Day Divine Liturgy, 7:00 am Paraklesis, 6:30 pm
Sat, May 31:	Divine Liturgy, 8:00 am Wedding (Langkeek/Germany), 3:00 pm Catechumen Class, 4:30 pm Great VESPERS at 6:00 pm Confession 7:00 pm
Sun, June 1:	THE FATHERS OF THE 1st ECUMENICAL COUNCIL ORTHROS, 8:15 am <i>Ft. Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 am</i> Divine LITURGY, 9:30 am 25th Anniversary Blessing: Chebelev, 11:15 am Coffee Hour & LAST DAY OF CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR , 11:30 am

ATTENDANCE: Vespers for May 17: 74 Divine Services May 18: 246
OFFERINGS 5/18: Candles, \$203. Collections, \$507.11. Flowers, \$20. Building Fund, \$150. Book Shelf, \$150. Teen Fund, \$228. Food for Hungry, \$1,015.25 Mission Chapel, \$2,283. Stewardship, \$14,474.55. Total received: \$24,031.16. Vestments, \$5,000.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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