

June 24, 2018

NATIVITY OF THE FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN

Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John



The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, Saint Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

Saint Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. Saint John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked Saint Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and Saint Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79).

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Saint Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

Text (adapted) and Image from <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/06/24/101800-nativity-of-the-holy-glorious-prophet-forerunner-and-baptist-joh>



**ST. PHILIP
ORTHODOX
CHURCH**

**A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese**

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



*Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
215-954-9286 (text preferred)*



*Father James Thayer
215-692-0890*

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**NATIVITY OF THE FORERUNNER
AND BAPTIST JOHN**

COMMEMORATIONS:

NEW-MARTYR PANAVIOTIS OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA

**Tone 3 - Eothinon 4
Matins Gospel: St. Luke 24:1-12
Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4
Liturgy Gospel: St. Lk 1:1-25, 57-68,
76, 80**

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depth of hades, granting the world the Great Mercy!

APOLYTIKION FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE BAPTIST - Tone 4 - O prophet and Forerunner of Christ God's coming to us, * all we who with longing now extol thee are at a loss to honor thee worthily. * For thy mother's barrenness and father's long silence, * by thine all-renowned and hallowed birth, were both ended, * and the Incarnation of the Son of God is preached unto all the world.

TODAY: Orthros, 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy, 10 am
Coffee Hour & Teens, 11:45 am
Kick-off Meeting for Food Festival, after coffee hour.

**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 8:30 - 4:00; Friday 10:00 - 3:00

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 (July 1):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	MaryLynne B.	Kristi M.
EPISTLE READER:	Jennifer Howanetz	Brian Fitzgerald
ALTAR CANDLES:	Zerfenesh Family	Fr. Noah <small>(15th Anniversary of Ordination)</small>
GREETERS:	Nick & Martha Morelli	Steve & Carolyn Kaminsky
CLEANING TEAM:	Sdn John & Maxine	The Hyatt Family
COFFEE HOUR:	---	---

Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. Your assistance in cleanup is appreciated.

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS NEEDED! Many upcoming weeks do not have sponsors - can you take a turn?

SPECIAL APPEAL

Please consider being a part of our **Cleaning Crew ministry!** We have **6** teams on a **6-week** rotation, and currently one team has only one person on it. Can you help? Please contact Larry & Louise Shaheen to volunteer or for more information.

Mark Your Calendar:

Vacation Church School
July 30 - Aug 3

Dormition Fast
Aug 1 - Aug 15

Feast of the Transfiguration
August 6

Dormition of the Theotokos
August 15

Sunday School Resumes
September 9

International Food Festival
September 21-22

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Newly-Illumined child	Alexandra
Abraham	George
Baby Simeon	
Natalie	
Paul (H)	
Paul (M)	
James E	
Christine S	
Angela G	
Mary K.	
R. Maxime	
Lasha B	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
Otari B	Catechumens
Daniel H	New & Ex-
Elizabeth D	pectant Mothers
Stephanie	& children
M. Emiliani	
Mebrat	Couples prepar-
Barbara M	ing for marriage
Thomas, Elizabeth &	
all Missionaries	Joseph G.
Tadessa, Eyala, Yorgo	Faith
	Mary
Suffering in Syria,	Michael
Ethiopia, Egypt	
& unstable lands	

Everyday Evangelist

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

"So far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." (Rom 12:18)

This Week:

APOSTLES' FAST JUN 4-29
Prayer – Fasting – Almsgiving

Fr. Noah at Antiochian Village; Fr. James on call.

Monday, June 25: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

Tuesday, June 26: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

Parish Life Conference - Jun 27-July 2

Wed, June 27: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

Thurs, June 28: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Liturgy for Ss. Peter & Paul, 7 pm
Festal Potluck, 8:30 pm

Friday, June 29: FEAST OF SS. PETER & PAUL
Office closed.

Saturday, June 30: VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 1: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour & Teens, 11:45 am
Women of St. Philip's, 12 pm

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Bath & Shower Products.

WISDOM FROM FATHER B.: "Let me get back to you on that."

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on June 16: 47 Divine Services on June 17: 155
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$172. Collections, \$665. Youth, \$68. Book Shelf, \$10. Camping Fund, \$675. Stewardship, \$2,671. Total received: \$4,261.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!