

St. Ignatius the God-Bearer (December 20)

The Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer, was a disciple of the holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, as was also Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna (February 23). Saint Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch, and successor to Bishop Euodius, Apostle of the Seventy (September 7).



Tradition suggests that when Saint Ignatius was a little boy, the Savior hugged him and said: "Unless you turn and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt. 18:3). The saint was called "God-Bearer" (Theophoros), because he bore God in his heart and prayed unceasingly to Him. He also had this name because he was held in the arms of Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

Saint Ignatius was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, together with Saint Polycarp of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, Saint Ignatius was zealous and spared no effort to build up the church of Christ. To him is attributed the practice of antiphonal singing (by two choirs) during church services. He had seen a vision of the angels in heaven alternately singing praises to God, and divided his church choir to follow this example. In the time of persecution he was a source of strength to the souls of his flock, and was eager to suffer for Christ.

In the year 106 the emperor Trajan (98-117), after his victory over the Scythians, ordered everyone to give thanks to the pagan gods, and to put to death any Christians who refused to worship the idols. In the year 107, Trajan happened to pass through Antioch. Here they told him that Bishop Ignatius openly confessed Christ, and taught people to scorn riches, to lead a virtuous life, and preserve their virginity. Saint Ignatius came voluntarily before the emperor, so as to avert persecution of the Christians in Antioch. Saint Ignatius rejected the persistent requests of the emperor Trajan to sacrifice to the idols. The emperor then decided to send him to Rome to be thrown to the wild beasts. Saint Ignatius joyfully accepted the sentence imposed upon him. His readiness for martyrdom was attested to by eyewitnesses, who accompanied Saint Ignatius from Antioch to Rome.

On the way to Rome Saint Ignatius visited several churches, teaching and guiding the Christians there. He also wrote seven epistles: to the churches of Ephesus, Magnesia, Tralles, Rome, Philadelphia, and Smyrna. He also addressed a letter to Saint Polycarp, who mentions a collection of the letters of Saint Ignatius in his letter to the Philippians (Ch. 13). The Roman Christians met Saint Ignatius with great joy and profound sorrow. Some of them hoped to prevent his execution, but Saint Ignatius implored them not to do this. Kneeling down, he prayed together with the believers for the Church, for love between the brethren, and for an end to the persecution against Christians.

On December 20, the day of a pagan festival, they led Saint Ignatius into the arena, and he turned to the people: "Men of Rome, you know that I am sentenced to death, not because of any crime, but because of my love for God, by Whose love I am embraced. I long to be with Him, and offer myself to him as a pure loaf, made of fine wheat ground fine by the teeth of wild beasts."

(Adapted from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/12/20/103594-hieromartyr-ignatius-the-god-bearer-bishop-of-antioch>)



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



Father James Thayer

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December 20, 2020

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)

COMMEMORATIONS:

FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST
IGNATIUS THE GOD-BEARER, BISHOP OF
ANTIOCH

OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER PHILOGONIUS, BISHOP
OF ANTIOCH
JOHN THE NEW MARTYR OF THASSOS
HOLY FATHER JOHN OF KRONSTADT

Tone 3 - Eothinon 6

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:36-53

Epistle: Colossians 1:12-18

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 1:1-25

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 OF THE FOREFEAST - Tone 4 - Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. * Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life * hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. * Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, * wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, * and as we eat thereof we shall all live, * and shall not die as did Adam. * For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforesaid.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY - Tone 2 - Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

TODAY: ORTHROS & Confession 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
No Sunday School & Catechism

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Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 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 (Dec 27):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabby & Catalin Tinjala	MaryLynne Black
USHERS:	Sdn. John N. & Colin M.	Steve K. & Bill H.
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	----
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Gabriel”	“Archangel Michael”
CLEANING TEAM:	Jamil & Nicole Kyriakos family	Todd & Kendra Moody; Natalia M.

Mark Your Calendar:

Circumcision of Christ & St. Basil
Thursday, December 31
 Vespers 6:30 pm & Orthros 7:30 pm

Friday, January 1
 Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 am

Holy Theophany
Tuesday, January 5
 Royal Hours, 10 am
 Vespers Liturgy 6:30 pm w/ Great Blessing of Water

Wednesday, January 6
 Orthros, 9 am
 Liturgy 10 am w/ Great Blessing of Water

March for Life
Friday, January 29

Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
February 2, 2021

Hierarchical Liturgy and Ordination
 Please take off the day of work to welcome and receive the blessing of our beloved Bp THOMAS and pray with Subdeacon Luke (Dr. Jeff) Carpenter for his ordination to the Holy Diaconate.

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Doris & John	+Archbishop David
APr. Gregory & Family	+Nun Bridget
Aristidis	+Mat. Linda (D)
James	+George
Lasha B	+Albert
Otari B	
Daniel H	
John	
Peter	
Stavroula	
Anesia	
Svetlana & Family	
Paula	
James	
Joshua	
Vicki	
	<u>Catechumens</u>
	Matthew,
	Michael,
	Shaun,
	Tina,
	Asema,
	Sara,
	Jonathan,
	Barry
Dn. Thomas, Elizabeth, Elaine & all Missionaries	
New & Expectant Mothers & their children	
For the people of our land and their repentance, healing & unity	
All who are suffering, serving and rebuilding from the pandemic	

OFFERINGS: Candles, \$263.36. Collections, \$1,128.17. Flowers, \$35. Youth, \$1. Christmas Card Fund, \$210. Mortgage Reduction, \$250. Needy Fund, \$450. Pastoral Discretion, \$19.26. March for Life, \$20. Stewardship, \$6,615. Total received: \$8,991.79.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS support the beautification of our church during this holy season. Flower offering envelopes are available on the literature table. Thank you!

YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD OFFERINGS benefit Ministries, Monasteries, & Mission Situations.

If you are in a position to make a special offering, please consider the Building Expansion, Capital Improvement, and Pastoral Discretion Funds.

This Week:

NATIVITY FAST continues!

Monday, Dec 21: Advent Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec 22: Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
 Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.

Wed, Dec 23: Little Compline 6:30 p.m.
 Patristic Reading Group 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 24: Royal Hours 8 a.m.
 Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil, 9 a.m.

 Festal Orthros 9:30 p.m.
 Divine Liturgy 11 p.m.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Friday, Dec 25: Vespers for the Synaxis of the Theotokos, 12 Noon

Saturday, Dec 26: Orthros 9 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy (Mask Required) 10 a.m.
 Vespers 6:30 p.m.
 Confession 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 27: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
 Divine LITURGY, 10 a.m.



REVERENCE IN GOD'S HOUSE

Standing vs. Sitting



The traditional posture for prayer and worship in the Orthodox Church has been to stand. It is never wrong to stand in church. But when should you definitely stand? Always during the Gospel reading, the Little and Great Entrances, the Anaphora, the distribution of Holy Communion, whenever the priest gives a blessing, and the Dismissal. In many parishes, the Divine Liturgy books in the pew have suggested times when sitting is acceptable.