

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Proto-Martyr Thekla Equal to the Apostles – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of St. Luke

*As we enter the Church let us pray.....*

*I will come into Thy House In the multitude of Thy mercy;  
And in Thy fear I will worship toward Thy Holy Temple.*

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion – 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 of St. Thekla the Proto-Martyr – Tone 3**

O glorious Thekla, companion of Paul the divine, thou wast enflamed with the love of thy Creator, by the teaching of the divine preacher. Thou didst despise the passing earthly pleasures, and offered thyself to God as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice, disregarding all suffering. Intercede with Christ thy Groom to grant us His Great Mercy.

### **Apolytikion of St. Silouan the Athonite – Tone 4**

By prayer thou didst receive Christ as thy teacher in the way of humility, and the Spirit bore witness to salvation in thy heart. Wherefore, all peoples called unto hope rejoice in this day of thy memorial, O sacred Father Silouan. Pray unto Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

### **Apolytikion of St. John Chrysostom - Tone 8**

Grace shining forth from your lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. It has shown to the world the riches of poverty. It has revealed to us the heights of humility. Teaching us by your words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls!

### **Ordinary Kontakion – Tone 2**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

## SYNAXARION

On September 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Great-Martyr Thekla, equal-to-the-Apostles. She was born in Iconium of eminent but pagan parents. At age 18, she was betrothed to a young man named Thamyris at the same time that the Apostle Paul arrived in Iconium with Barnabas to preach the Gospel. Hearing Paul's testimony for three days and nights, Thekla converted to the Christian Faith, and vowed to live in virginity. Her mother, seeing that she was now ignoring her betrothal, tried to dissuade her, and then beat her and tortured her by starvation. Finally, this wicked mother turned Thekla over to the judge and demanded that Thekla be burned. The judge threw her into the fire, but God preserved her unharmed by pouring rain on the fire. Once in an arena and sentenced to death, Thekla saw a vat of water that contained carnivorous seals. Thekla jumped into the vat and baptized herself. Lightning killed all of the seals before they could eat her. Another time, a lioness protected her from other wild beasts. Once, as a group of arrogant young men were about to catch Thekla, a large rock opened up and hid this holy virgin. This rock in Maaloula, Syria was her refuge and her tomb, and the site of the monastery which she founded, the oldest Christian convent in the world. Thousands of pilgrims flock to it yearly for healing of ailments.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Silouan of Athos, born in 1866 as Simeon Ivanovich Antonov of devout parents of Sovsk, Tambov, Russia. At age 27, he received the prayers of St. John of Kronstadt and went to Mt. Athos where he became a monk at the Russian monastery of St. Panteleimon. He received from the Holy Theotokos the gift of unceasing prayer, and had a vision of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory in the church of the holy Prophet Elias adjoining the mill of the monastery. After the withdrawal of that first grace, he was oppressed by profound grief and great temptations for fifteen years, after which he received from Christ the teaching, "Keep thy mind in hell, and despair not." He reposed on September 24, 1938. He left behind his writings which were edited by his disciple and pupil, St. Sophrony of Essex. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen

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**St John Chrysostom Antiochian Orthodox Church is a parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America**

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Metropolitan of New York and North America

His Grace Bishop Thomas, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic

The V. Rev. Peter Pier, Pastor

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Come Visit St. John Chrysostom's Web Sites: [www.orthodoxyork.org](http://www.orthodoxyork.org)

**We Welcome Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick** – Fr. Peter will return from vacation on September 28. If a pastoral need arises, please contact one of the Deacons.

**The Inquirer's Class** – will meet next Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. These classes are for those studying the Orthodox Christian Faith, and those wishing to deepen their understanding of the Faith. All are welcome.

**Weis and Giant Grocery Gift Cards** – are available for purchase. You pay the face amount of the card and the church receives 5% of the value of the card. Please see Marjorie Barrett after any Divine Liturgy to purchase a card. Purchases benefit the general fund of St. John Chrysostom Church.

**Attendance Last Sunday 169**

**Operating Fund Offering Received: \$7,525.00**

**Amount Needed Each Week To Meet Operating Fund Budget: \$7,443.00**

### **Church Calendar**

**Sept. 24** 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy. SCS.  
**Sept. 26** 9:00 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour and Play and Pray.  
**Sept. 27** NO Daily Vespers.  
**Sept. 28** 6:30 pm Lancaster Daily Vespers and Fellowship.  
**Sept. 30** 6:00 pm Great Vespers.  
**October 1** 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy. SCS. Inquirer's Class.

### **Remember In Your Prayers**

*Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear" (Is. 65:24)*

#### **The Living – for their health & wellbeing**

Metropolitan SABA

Bishop Thomas

Denise Zakula

Olena Bassarab

Jayne Miller

Matthew Miller

Officer Jamie Miller

Joyce "Kassiane" Williams

Michael Acierno

Jerry "David" Desautels

Christopher Reese

Beverly Kushner

Michelle Prince

Richard "Stephen" Vangel

Joshua "John" Ranck

Ronna "Sophia" Castle

Wayne "Stephen" Coleson

Georgette Habib Soliman

Joseph Danyo

Leavitt "George" Keener

Mary Jane Glagola

Norm "Nourhan" and Eva "Marie" Kailian

Nicholas Raptapolus

Walter and Mary Damm

Donnell Gregory and Mary "Rebecca" Beck

Michael Bogosh

Christos Tsakiris

Harry and Grace Dorion

Marianne Rupp

Mary Bincarowsky

Gene "Paul" Strayer

Katherine Monsour

George and Darla Feeser

Cindi "Monica" Bennett

Mary Kopey

Martha Allen

Mary Lou Grove

Melinda "Magdalena" Stika

James Fetter

Andrew Himes

#### **The Departed – Memory Eternal!**

Metropolitan PHILIP

Bishop Antoun

Priest Boniface Black

Helen Diamond

Angela Burke

Patty May  
Julie Acierno  
Vincent Michael Terzano-Borovic  
Steven Smith  
Edward Boner  
Cheryl "Alexandra" Bury  
Thomas Lehman  
Barry "John" Hart  
Angela Pandelidis  
Kathryn Velen  
Karl and Nancy Usner