

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

“How I have loved thy law, O Lord! The whole day it is my meditation.” (Ps 118:97)

Numbers 14:40

“But they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, ‘Here we are, and we will go up to the place the Lord spoke about, for we sinned.’” (OSB)

In his Epistle to the Hebrews, chapters 3-4, the Apostle Paul uses this story in Numbers 14 (Israel at Kadesh-Barnea) and its commentary in Psalm 94/95, as an icon of the situation that faces the Christian individually and the Church corporately. Just as Israel was redeemed out of slavery to Egypt, so Christians have been liberated from slavery to the devil and the fear of death (Heb 2:10-18). Just as Israel was being led by God on a journey through the wilderness to “rest” in the Promised Land, so the Church is on a toilsome journey through the present world unto the eternal rest of the heavenly Kingdom and Heavenly Zion.

The first generation of Israelites died in the wilderness through their lack of faith and perseverance, even though the land God had promised them was already theirs. All they had to do was receive their inheritance, to unite faith and works, with trust in God. Indeed, if we recall, Israel already had a foretaste of “the good things to come” (Heb 9:11), for when the spies searched out the land, they

came to the valley of the cluster and surveyed it; and they cut down a branch there with one cluster of grapes upon it, and bore it on staves, and they took of the pomegranates and the figs. (Num 13:24)

Do we not hear and see in this “word” an echo of what St. Paul says?

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come... (Heb 6:4-5)

Christ Himself is the Kingdom, the “Promised Land.” He who “tasted death” on our behalf (Heb 2:9) has given us a taste of our inheritance *now*. The Church as Christ’s Bride has already tasted “the fruit” of Her Bridegroom (Song 2:3; cf. Ps 33:9), for we have already been united to Christ by Baptism (“enlightened”), Chrismation (“partakers of the Holy Spirit”), and the Eucharist (“tasted the heavenly gift” and “the good word of God”).

This union is eternal, for “what God has joined together, let no man separate” (Matt 19:6). “We and Christ are One: let us not then distrust Him” (St. John Chrysostom, *Hom. Heb. VI.9*). For the Christian who has entered into the “age to come” through union with Christ, to turn back and renounce Christ is to “re-crucify the Son of God” and “to hold Him up to contempt” (Heb 6:6).

While nothing limits God’s freedom to save and heal, the Scriptures hold out a strong word for us: if we willingly separate ourselves from Christ, we may find ourselves in the place of Esau who “sold his own birthright for a single meal,” and then, “when he desired to inherit the blessing,” “was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears” (Heb 12:16-17). We must not presume upon God’s grace and mercy as Israel did at Kadesh-Barnea, and so fall far short of the Promised Land.

May God grant that our “entrance” into His eternal Kingdom be “richly supplied” (2 Pet 1:11)!



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

215-692-0890

October 6, 2019

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

THOMAS THE APOSTLE CALLED “THE TWIN”
INNOCENT, APOSTLE TO THE AMERICAS
VENERABLE KENDEAS OF CVPRUS
VENERABLE-MARTYR MAKARIOS OF ST. ANNE SKETE
ON ATHOS
EROTEIS THE MARTYR OF CAPPADOCIA

Tone 7 - Eothinon 5

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:12-35

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 7:11-16

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 ST. THOMAS - Tone 3 - O holy Apostle Thomas, intercede with our merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am
Memorial for Al Manze & Ayele Shermeka
Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 am
Coffee Hour after Liturgy.
Choir Practice, 12:30 pm

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Office Hours: Monday through 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 (Oct 13):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore	Carolyn Kaminsky
EPISTLE READER:	Brian Fitzgerald	Catalin Tinjala
USHERS:	Steve K. & Sdn. John N.	Justin G. & Dan M.
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	----
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Michael”	“Archangel Gabriel”
GREETERS:	Teen SOYO	Colin & Sandra Miller
CLEANING TEAM:	Teens w/ Nate & Rebecca	Serge & Alex Kaminsky
COFFEE HOUR:	Al Manze, Ayele, & Natalia M. families	----

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Soul Saturday Liturgy

Saturday, Oct 26, 10 am

Annual Parish Meeting – SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, Oct 27

IOCC 8th Annual Benefit Banquet

Sunday, Oct 27

See Beth McClintock for details.

St. Philip Feast Day

Wednesday, Nov 13

Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 pm

Thursday, Nov 14

Orthros 9 am; Liturgy 10 am

Festal Potluck to follow.

Nativity Fast Begins

Friday, November 15

Taylor Kardiotissa Icon Visit

Friday evening, December 13

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Archimandrite David (Griffeth)	Archbishop Nikon
Sharon-Elizabeth Laurence	Archpriests Stephen & John
Lasha B Otari B	Gloria
Daniel H John	<u>Catechumens</u>
John Doris	Zachary, Evan, Tina, Robert,
Nancy Athanasius & family	Michael, Todd, Kendra, Liesel, Todd, John
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Moses, Virginia, Conor
New & Expectant Mothers & children	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
	Michael Sheilagh Andrea

Ministry Highlights

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)

“Publications”

The purpose of the Publications ministry is to communicate with the faithful of St. Philip regarding upcoming services and events, ministry and outreach opportunities, as well as to provide edifying articles and information regarding Orthodox faith and life. We do this through our Sunday bulletins, monthly newsletter & calendar, promotional flyers, and inserts on the Great Feasts & Fasts. Additionally, all of our publications are posted to our Parish website and Google calendar. To submit information to be included in our publications, contact Justin Gohl (jgohl.stphilip@gmail.com).

This Week:

- Mon, Oct 7:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Tues, Oct 8:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
(Conshohocken Fellowship Meeting, 6:30 p.m.)
- Wed, Oct 9:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Vespers, 4 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Oct 10:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Twelve Baskets Full – Serving night, 6:30 p.m.
- Fri, Oct 11:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Sat, Oct 12:** Ministry Reading Group, 8 a.m.
AWE Fall Gathering @ Holy Protection, 2 p.m.
Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
- Sun, Oct 13:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 a.m.

OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Bath & Shower Products

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

“Practice dying to self so that Christ may increase in your life”

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers Sep 28: 55 Divine Services on Sept 29: 202
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$126. Collections, \$88. Youth, \$7. Stewardship, \$3,483. Book Shelf Ministry, \$7. Camping Fund, \$250. Women's Fund, \$37. Total received: \$4,000. Festival Donations: \$30.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!