

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

Deuteronomy 18:15

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.” (OSB)

We see here again the Book of Deuteronomy’s future-looking orientation. In chapter 12, the question was as to what is the appropriate place for Israel to worship after they settle the land. Here, in Deut 18:15-22 along with 13:1-6, the concern is about the future leadership of God’s people, particularly as it pertains to the *prophetic office*. To whom should Israel turn to hear the word of the Lord?



In the near term, Joshua, son of Nun, is in some respects a “prophet like Moses,” for he is “full of the Spirit of understanding, for Moses had laid his hands on him” (Deut 34:9). But for the writer of Deuteronomy, the historical Joshua remains but a sign-post on the way to the true “Prophet like Moses,” for “there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face” (Deut 34:10).

As St. Paul says, “Moses was a faithful servant in God’s house” (Heb 3:5), and was worthy of the great glory of speaking God’s word both to Israel and to God’s enemies (Exod 7:1). But this glory as of a servant was anticipatory, for Moses’ prophetic ministry was always “for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward” (Heb 3:5), that is, the word of self-revelation that the Father speaks through His Son (Heb 1:1).

Twice in the Acts of the Apostles, in the sermons of Peter (Acts 3:22) and Stephen (Acts 7:37), the text of Deuteronomy 18:15 is appealed to as a prophecy of Christ Himself. Indeed, particularly in Acts 3:22, we can hear the delightful irony in the words “will raise up” (*anastēsei*): God did indeed *raise up* the Prophet like Moses, *from the dead*, “because it was not impossible that He should be held by [death’s power]” (Acts 2:24).

In a sense, we see our Lord’s humility—and the great honor of Moses—in that Christ condescends to being made “like Moses,” for in truth the similitude works in the opposite direction. And yet we see in this connection Christ’s own intent to uphold the continuity of all God’s revelation: Christ came not to abolish but to fulfill the Law. The word that Christ speaks is not an “addition to” nor a “subtraction from” what God spoke to Moses. If it were, Christ would have proven Himself a “false prophet,” and discredited Himself, in terms of the guidelines of Deut 13 and 18. Indeed, the word that God spoke to Moses is Christ Himself (Jn 5:45-47).

In Christ, all the “words” of Scripture and creation participate, all the members of His Body, the Church, are united, and all the mysteries of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. May we always manifest Christ Himself, Who is with me, before me, behind me, in me, ... in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, in every eye that sees me, in every ear that hears me (St. Patrick’s Breastplate prayer).



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

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His Grace Bishop THOMAS



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December 1, 2019

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

NAHUM THE PROPHET
PHILARET THE MERCIFUL OF AMNIA
ANANIAS THE PERSIAN

HOLY FATHER THEOCLETUS THE WONDERWORKER,
ARCHBISHOP OF LACEDAEMONIA
OUR HOLY FATHERS ANANIUS AND SOLOCHON,
ARCHBISHOPS OF EPHEBUS

Tone 7 - Eothinon 2

Orthros Gospel: St. Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 18:35-43

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!

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST’S NATIVITY - Tone 3 - The Virgin cometh today to the Cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice O earth, at the message, with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him, Who shall appear by His own will, as a young Child, He Who is from eternity God.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am
40-Day Memorial for Larry Shaheen – Memory Eternal!
Coffee Hour after Liturgy
Choir Practice, 12:30 pm
Advent Paraklesis, 2 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 (Dec 8):

PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore	Carolyn Kaminsky
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr. Nathan Jekel	Irene Forssen
USHERS:	Colin M. & Justin G.	Steve K. & Gabriel Q.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Louise Shaheen <small>In Memory of Larry Shaheen</small>	----
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Michael”	“Archangel Gabriel”
GREETERS:	Don & Maryann Reigle	Michael & Helen Heveran
CLEANING TEAM:	Kim B.; Todd & Kristi M.	Teens; Nathan & Rebecca
COFFEE HOUR:	Carpenter & Shaheen families	----

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

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

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Advent Paraklesis & Taylor Kardiotissa Icon Visit
Friday, December 13, 7 pm

Holy Unction
Wednesday, December 18, 4 pm
Fast in preparation

Feast of the Nativity of Christ
Tuesday, December 24
Royal Hours, 9 am
Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 am
Festal Orthros, 9:30 pm
Divine Liturgy, 11 pm
Wednesday, December 25
Vespers for the Synaxis of the Theotokos, 12 pm
Thursday, December 26
Orthros 9 am; Liturgy 10 am
for the Synaxis of the Theotokos

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Archimandrite David	Laurence
Lasha B	Steven
Otari B	Kh. Anastasia
Daniel H	
John	<u>Catechumens</u>
John	Zachary, Evan,
Doris	Tina, Robert,
Louise-Ruth & family	Michael, Todd,
Zerfenesh	Kendra, Liesel,
	Todd, John
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Moses, Virginia,
	Conor
New & Expectant Mothers & children	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
	Michael
	Andrea
	Faith
	Sloane

OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Turkeys

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

“Serve in a soup kitchen or shelter”

This Week:

NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES ...

- Mon, Dec 2:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Advent Paraklesis, 7 p.m.
- Tues, Dec 3:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
- Wed, Dec 4:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Dec 5:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Vespers & Artoklasia for St. Nicholas, 7 p.m.
w/ Youth Choir, & Youth Activity, 8 p.m.
- Fri, Dec 6:** St. Nicholas Day
Orthros 9 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m.,
w/ Fish/Wine/Oil Potluck to follow
Advent Paraklesis, 7 p.m.
- Sat, Dec 7:** Women of St. Mariamne Fellowship, 3 p.m.
Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
- Sun, Dec 8:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 a.m.
Sunday School Confessions (Grades 4-5), 12 p.m.
Advent Paraklesis, 2 p.m.

Please check the table in the Great Room for items marked with your name or free to take!

40 Days of Growth in Stewardship has come to an end! Have you returned your pledge card yet?!

“Life-giving and merciful Trinity, receive my thanksgiving for all Thy goodness. Make us worthy of Thy blessings, so that, when we have brought to fruit the talents Thou hast entrusted to us, we may enter into the joy of our Lord, forever exulting in the shout of victory:

Alleluia!”

— Kontakion 13, Akathist of Thanksgiving

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers Nov 23: 49 Divine Services on Nov 24: 173
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$217. Collections, \$370. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf Ministry, \$12. Camping Fund, \$10.35. Choir Fund, \$50. Land Acquisition, \$5,000. Fr. Jesse's Vestments, \$60. Stewardship, \$2,546. Total received: \$8,266.35.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!