

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

Exodus 3:14

“Then God said to Moses, ‘I AM the Existing One.’ He also said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘The Existing One sent me to you’.” (OSB)

As we begin the Book of Exodus, we find Israel flourishing in Egypt (Exod 1:7)—they are fulfilling the “creation mandate” (Gen 1:26-28), and the Abrahamic Promise (Gen 22:17), to be fruitful and multiply, and to fill the land. Then, however, “there arose a new king over Egypt who knew not Joseph” (Exod 1:8). As we are instructed both by Joseph’s articulation of divine Providence (Gen 50:19-20) and by God’s promises to Abraham that he would inherit the Land of Canaan (Gen 12:7), we realize that the ascendance of this “new king” is no accident, for Egypt cannot—must not—be Israel’s permanent dwelling.

While it is a “hard word,” we come to understand that God’s plan all along has, paradoxically, been to lead His people into slavery so that “Out of Egypt” He may call His “firstborn Son” (Exod 4:22; Hos 11:1; Matt 2:15). Indeed, as early as Genesis 15, when God cuts a covenant with Abram, God foretells Israel’s sojourn in Egyptian bondage (Gen 15:13-14).

In Matthew 2:15, the Evangelist Matthew helps us to see that Christ’s own life is the ultimate truth of history, that all of salvation history is providentially “Christ-shaped.” The drama of Joseph’s life, of Israel’s descent into Egypt, Pharaoh’s slaughter of the infants, and Israel’s being “called out” with signs and wonders, plagues and the Red Sea crossing, are not “predictions” so much as history participating in and being conformed to the pattern of the “true history” that is Christ’s own life, and thus *our life in Christ* (1 Cor 10:11; Rom 15:4).

Still we are pressed with the question, Why would God work in this way? Why would He allow His people to experience such great suffering? The answer—or at least, the beginning of the answer—is in the “burning bush” of Exodus 3. *The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is not an abstract idea, concept, state, or impersonal force. God is a Person who wants His people to know, worship, and love Him.* When we overlay the story of the Exodus with the story of Isaiah’s suffering Servant (Isa 53), we will find that God reveals Himself both in His mighty acts of deliverance and in His voluntary entering into the suffering of His own people. In a way, as Ephrem the Syrian suggests, Moses is being called in Exodus 3 to be an Icon of God’s own suffering *and purifying* love in and with Israel:

Moses, [the burning bush] is a sign to you: as you saw God dwelling in the midst of fire, by fire you must serve the God who dwells in the fire. (ACC Exodus, p. 12)

How much more with Christ who served in the Father’s house as both Builder and Son (cf. Heb 3:1-6)!

What better way could there be for the utterly transcendent God—the God Who is Being itself, “the Existing One,” and indeed Who is “Super-Substantial,” even Beyond Being (Dionysius the Areopagite)—to reveal His true nature to humanity and to all creation than in this economy of salvation, where God keeps His promises, where God forgives and shows mercy, where God judges sin and evil, where God takes on the burdens and suffering of His people as His own.

This God who is eternal Life and Being identifies Himself with the Patriarchs, setting the identity of the “true Israel” in the never-ending Day of the Kingdom (Matt 22:32), giving us a sure hope and anchor for our souls as we navigate the sea of this life.



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Antiochian Archdiocese

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His Grace Bishop THOMAS



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April 14, 2019

SUNDAY OF
ST. MARY OF EGYPT

COMMEMORATIONS:

ARISTARCHUS, PUDENS, TROPHIMUS THE APOSTLES OF
THE 70
THOMAS THE MARTYR OF ALEXANDRIA
ARDALION THE ACTOR AND MARTYR
DEMETRIOS THE NEW-MARTYR OF ARCADIA

Tone 5 - Eothinon 2

Orthros Gospel: St. Mark 16:1-8
Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14
Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 10:32-45

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 5 - Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT - Tone 8 - Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O mother Mary; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

TODAY: Orthros 8:30 am; Baptismal Liturgy 9:45 am (Morelli
Many Years!)
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am
Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 pm

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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 (Apr 21):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Carolyn Kaminsky	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
EPISTLE READER:	Catalin Tinjala	Rdr. Nicholas Muzekari
ALTAR CANDLES:	Tadessa, Abay, Hirut Abay's Birthday	Michael Ibrahim—65th Birthday Larry Shaheen — 85th birthday
USHERS:	Dan M. & Justin G.	Dan M. & Gabe Q.
GREETERS:	Jim & Doris Eggers	Teen SOYO
CLEANING TEAM:	Olena, Almash, Zerfenesh & Tsegereda	Jamil & Nicole Kyriakos
COFFEE HOUR:	Kovalenko/Marquardt/"Marys"	Shaheen, Kardell, Habib, Horoschak

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!

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)

"Sunday School"

The purpose of Sunday School is to learn and apply the Orthodox faith to life. Students age 4 through 12th grade engage in weekly classes after the Divine Liturgy taught by faithful adults from our parish. Through the use of Scripture, prayers, hymns, and icons, our youth learn about their Orthodox faith and the life of the Church - its services, sacraments, feasts, and saints. If anyone is interested in being a part of the Sunday School ministry, or has questions, please talk with Naomi Cardell (215-285-7830 or nschair58@live.com).

Mark Your Calendar:

Holy Saturday—April 27
Vespers Baptismal Liturgy
(Tatiana-Sze) 10 am

Agape Vespers & Egg Hunt
April 28, 2019

OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Cleaning Supplies

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:
*Taking Every Thought
Captive to Christ*
"Duck!"

As **Palm Sunday** approaches, a reminder to please **dispose of blessed palms RESPECTFULLY** (i.e., do not put them in the trash). A container will be provided in the Narthex on Palm Sunday to collect old palms.

This Week:

GREAT LENT

- Monday, April 15:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Great Compline, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 16:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11am-3pm
- Wed, April 17:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Churching of Baby Jekel, 6:45 p.m.
Presanctified Liturgy 7 p.m., w/ Fasting Potluck
- Thurs, April 18:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Friday, April 19:** Presanctified Liturgy 10 a.m., w/ Fasting Potluck
Confession, 3-6 p.m.
Akathist for St. Lazarus, 6 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal, 7-9 p.m.
- Sat, April 20:** LAZARUS SATURDAY — Bp THOMAS Visit
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.
- Sunday, April 21:** PALM SUNDAY
ORTHROS, 8:45 a.m.
Hierarchical LITURGY, 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens, 11:45 a.m.
Bridegroom Matins, 7 p.m.

Confession is available after most services & by appointment until Wednesday Morning of Holy Week.

No Confessions after Holy Unction.

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp Alexander	Adele
Child Gregory & family	Marie
Mona-Rebekah	Natella
Caroline	Hertanse
Zerfenesh	
Michael & families	
Paul (H)	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
Lasha B	Catechumens
Otari B	Zachary,
Daniel H	Tatiana (Sze),
Mebrat	Evan, Tina,
Aristidis	Robert,
Doris	Michael
Veronica	New &
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Expectant Mothers & children

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Apr 6: 39 Divine Services on Apr 7: 182
OFFERINGS from Mar 31: Candles, \$388.75. Collections, \$131. Youth, \$13. Flowers, \$60. Book Shelf Ministry, \$17. Needy Fund, \$200. Retreat, \$212. Memorial for Hertanse Ibrahim, \$50. Stewardship, \$6,771. Total received: \$7,842.75.
OFFERINGS from Apr 7: Candles, \$284.30. Collections, \$737.25. Youth, \$4. Flowers, \$85. Building Fund, \$45,000. Camping Fund, \$5,750. Land Acquisition, \$4,000. Needy Fund, \$3,600. Pastoral Discretion, \$1,673. Memorial for Hertanse Ibrahim, \$75. Stewardship, \$3,866. Total received: \$65,074.55.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!