

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 14:21

"Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord carried back the sea by a strong south wind all that night and made the sea dry ground. Thus the waters were divided." (OSB)

In this verse, and in the imagery of the whole exodus account, we are transported back to the creation account of Genesis 1. Just as when God, by the wind/Spirit of Gen 1:2, created the world and divided the primordial waters of creation, causing dry land to appear for the life of mankind, so now God "creates" Israel as a new humanity of king-priests through water and wind/Spirit, making through the dry land a "way of salvation" for His people. Moreover, just as the waters of creation became tools for judgment in the Great Flood, so here God judges and conquers His enemies—Pharaoh and the Egyptian armies—through the waters of the Red Sea.

In the exodus, as St. Augustine comments, we find the whole pattern of our initiation into Christ and His saving mysteries:

This people of God, freed from a great and broad Egypt, is led, as through the Red Sea, that in baptism it may make an end of its enemies. For by the sacrament as it were of the Red Sea, that is by baptism consecrated with the blood of Christ, the pursuing Egyptians, the sins, are washed away. (ACC Exodus, p. 76)

For his part, St. Gregory of Nyssa emphasizes the true re-creative nature of Baptism:

Those who pass through the mystical water in baptism must put to death in the water the whole phalanx of evil—such as covetousness, unbridled desire, rapacious thinking, the passion of conceit and arrogance, wild impulse, wrath, anger, malice, envy, and all such things. ... [W]e should make a totally new beginning in life after these things [i.e., the Passover and Red Sea crossing], breaking the continuity with evil by a radical change for the better. Thus also he means here that after we have drowned the whole Egyptian person (that is every form of evil) in the saving baptism we emerge alone, dragging along nothing foreign in our subsequent life. (Life of Moses Bk 2.125-6)

It is clear, then, that the Fathers are simply expanding upon the Apostle who speaks of baptism as the "washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5).

As we enter into the Baptismal font, we are mystically united with Christ's own death and resurrection, such that Christ's death becomes our death, and His resurrection our resurrection. Christ's death and resurrection is itself the true *exodus* (Lk 9:31), the true *Baptism* and *Cup of salvation* (Mk 10:38), the true *Paschal meal* (Lk 22:7ff; 1 Cor 5:7). In Christ, we are transferred from the "night" of the "power of darkness" into the kingdom of His "marvelous light" (Col 1:13; 1 Pet 2:9; 1 Thess 5:5).

Yet it is also true that the Red Sea is the *beginning* of our salvation, for it marks the start of our pilgrimage to the Heavenly Jerusalem—a journey fraught with danger and opportunities to stumble. Yet here as well, Christ Himself is the Way on which we travel (Jn 14:6), for in His whole work of salvation He has inaugurated a "new and living way" for us (Heb 10:20), *dividing* the veil of the Temple (Mk 15:38) as the Red Sea to confirm for us our entry into the Heavenly Kingdom.

THERE IS NO FASTING OR ABSTINENCE DURING THE PASCHAL SEASON

(Of course, the communion - Eucharistic - fast CONTINUES as usual.)

There is no kneeling, in Church or at home, during the Paschal season, in honor of the Resurrection.



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

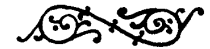


Father James Thayer
215-692-0890



April 28, 2019

PASCHA:
FEAST OF FEASTS
AND HOLY DAY
OF HOLY DAYS



Beginning at 11:30 p.m.

Paschal Vigil, Procession and
Resurrection Matins

Divine Liturgy of
Saint John Chrysostom
& Blessing of Baskets

Matins Gospel: St. Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: St. John 1:1-17

It is the day of Resurrection; be illumined for the Feast and embrace one another. Let us speak, brothers, even unto those who hate us, and forgive all for the sake of the Resurrection. And so together let us cry out:

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING
DOWN DEATH BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN
THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.**

**TODAY: The Lord's Day -- The Day of Resurrection
The Passover of Christ -- PASCHA!**

AGAPE VESPERS, 2 p.m.; Potluck & Egg Hunt, 3 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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 (May 5):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Whole Bread-Baking Team	Kristi Moore
EPISTLE READER:	Joe Kyriakos	Terry Kaminsky
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	----
USHERS:	Steve K., Dan M., Gabe Q.	----
GREETERS:	The Gohl family	Celia-Marie & Sharon
CLEANING TEAM:	Jordan & Natalie, Zell & Redeat	Lasha, Natalia M. & John G.
COFFEE HOUR:	----	Jekel Baptism

PASCHA BASKETS will be blessed after the Liturgy. Everyone is invited to stay and share their bounty in the breaking of the fast.

MANY THANKS to the Women of St. Philip's & parishioners for furnishing the red eggs for Holy Pascha. ALSO to all for flower donations received. AND TO ALL participants in the Holy Week and Paschal Services.

IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS. Thank you for remembering others' needs.

Mark Your Calendar:

All-Church Cleaning Day
Saturday, May 11, 10 am

Memorial Day - Monday, May 27
Liturgy 10 am; Cemetery Prayers;
Cook-out & Farewell to Kh. Vera

Ascension
Thursday, June 6

Pentecost
Sunday, June 16

Apostles' Fast
June 24-29

International Food Festival
September 20-21

Pray For:

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

TIMELY REMINDER -- All services are OPEN to non-Orthodox visitors and friends! However, the regulations of the Orthodox Church restrict HOLY COMMUNION, HOLY UNCTION, as well as the other Sacraments (Holy Mysteries) to Orthodox Christians who are sacramentally active and/or qualified. Married Orthodox people are qualified only if their marriage has been blessed in the Orthodox Church.

To be prepared for Holy Communion, an Orthodox Christian must be fasting from all food and drink (including water), and have received Confession/Absolution. If you visit another Orthodox parish, you must make it known to the priest, in advance, that you are prepared. (Don't just step into the Communion line without letting the priest know who you are and where you are from.)

Bright Week - The New Week!

Monday, April 29:	BRIGHT MONDAY PASCHAL ORTHROS, 9 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY & Procession, 10 a.m. PASCHAL VESPERS, 2 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30:	BRIGHT TUESDAY Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m. PASCHAL HOURS, 12 p.m. PASCHAL VESPERS, 7 p.m. PASCHAL ORTHROS, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1:	BRIGHT WEDNESDAY PASCHAL HOURS, 12 p.m. PASCHAL VESPERS, 7 p.m. PASCHAL ORTHROS, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 2:	BRIGHT THURSDAY PASCHAL HOURS, 12 p.m. PASCHAL VESPERS, 7 p.m. PASCHAL ORTHROS, 8 p.m.
Friday, May 3:	BRIGHT FRIDAY PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY, 10 a.m. PASCHAL VESPERS, 7 p.m. PASCHAL ORTHROS, 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 4:	BRIGHT SATURDAY Teen Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's, 7:45 a.m. VESPERS, 6 p.m. Baptismal Prayers (Jekel), 7 p.m. Confession, 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, May 5:	THOMAS SUNDAY ORTHROS 8:30 a.m., Baptismal LITURGY (Jekel) 9:45 a.m. Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens, 11:45 a.m. Welcome Class, 12 p.m.

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Cleaning Supplies

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

ATTENDANCE: Divine Services for Lazarus Saturday: 86 Vespers on Sat. Apr 20: 92 Divine Services on Sun. of Palms: 248 **OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$678. Collections, \$764. Youth, \$3. Flowers, \$30. Bookshelf Ministry, \$230. Honorarium, \$2,000. Needy Fund, \$100. Pastoral Discretion, \$100. Food for Hungry, \$310. Stewardship, \$3,685. Total received: \$7,900.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!