

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

Leviticus 16:29-30

"This shall be an ordinance forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a resident alien who dwells among you. For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you from all your sins before the Lord Thus you shall be clean." (OSB)

The Passover Sacrifice comes at the beginning of Israel's time, in the newness of Spring, when Israel is "created" in the exodus. The Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) comes in the "middle" of Israel's time, almost exactly six months later, as the "death" of Fall/Autumn begins to make its appearance. Israel's liturgical life, then, was framed by this recollection of Birth and Death; in the Church, these days have been transformed into the Feasts of Great & Holy Pascha and the Elevation of the Holy & Life-giving Cross (Sept 14).

In the Old Covenant, the Day of Atonement was, in effect, an annual ritual "house-cleaning" for God's holy dwelling and for the people of Israel. What the individual "Sin Offering" did on a more limited basis throughout the year, the Day of Atonement offerings and rites did for the whole Tabernacle and People completely and uniquely in one day.

There were two main rites in the Day of Atonement, involving two goats. The first goat was offered as a Sin Offering, with the high priest bringing its blood into the Most Holy Place to be sprinkled on the Place of Atonement (the *Kapporet* [Heb.], or *Hilasterion* [Gk.]), that is, the lid to the Ark of the Covenant, to purify it from any "impurities" that had entered into God's very presence:

"He shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to all their sins" (Lev 16:16)

With the second goat, the Scapegoat, the focus shifts away from "impurity" to "iniquities," that is, sins of a "high-handed" rebellious nature:

"[And Aaron will] confess over [the live goat] all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins" (Lev 16:21)

The Scapegoat bears on itself all the iniquities of Israel into a solitary place (Lev 16:22), going "into exile," as it were, so that God's people can "remain in the land." The very act of sending the goat away is said to "atone" (Lev 16:10), for by this Israel comes to know that "as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Ps 102:12).

As we reflect on the subject of "atonement," it is important to keep in mind that Scripture and the Orthodox Tradition consistently understand "atonement" in *objective terms*: what God gave the Israelites in their system of worship, and what gives us in the Church, with Christ as the fulfillment and substance of Old Covenant pattern, is not about addressing abstract or subjective issues, such as legal transactions or emotional states. God is concerned with bringing about *real change* in us, removing barriers that hinder our communion with Him, and elevating our nature by participation in His creative and saving energies.

When St. Paul reflects on Christ's fulfillment of the Day of Atonement in Hebrews 9-10, he is laboring to convert our minds and perceptions to what is *truly real*. Christ is the eternal High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, who endured the Cross, suffering outside the City, ascended to heaven, entered into the Heavenly Tabernacle and offered His own blood on the Heavenly Mercy Seat, effecting our eternal purification and redemption. We must ask ourselves: *Since* this is true reality, how ought our whole lives be stamped with this eternal image?



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Antiochian Archdiocese

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His Grace Bishop THOMAS



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July 14, 2019

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

COMMEMORATIONS:

APOSTLE AQUILA OF THE SEVENTY
JOSEPH THE CONFESSOR, ARCHBISHOP OF
THESSALONICA
PETER, BISHOP OF CRETE
VENERABLE ONESIMOS OF MAGNESIA AND
NICODEMUS OF THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

Tone 3 - Eothinon 4

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:1-12

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 5:14-19

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depth of hades, granting the world the Great Mercy!

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS - Tone 8 - Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am
Coffee Hour 11:45 am
Ethnic Dance Practice, 1 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 (July 21):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
EPISTLE READER:	Catalin Tinjala	Rdr. Nicholas Muzekari
USHERS:	Steve K. & Colin M.	Dan M. & Justin G.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Michael & Marcia Ibrahim In Memory of Alees, Isaac, & Najib	----
GREETERS:	Teen SOYO	Colin & Sandy Miller
CLEANING TEAM:	Sdn. John & Maxine and Tatiana Y.	Hyatt Family
COFFEE HOUR:	Alemash & Tsegereda	Potluck

Mark Your Calendar:

VCS Volunteer Meeting
Sunday, July 21, after Liturgy

Vacation Church School
July 29–August 2

Dormition Fast - August 1-14
Daily Paraklesis
Holy Unction, Aug 7, 4 pm

Liturgy w/ Youth Choir
Sunday, August 4

Transfiguration
Monday, August 5
Vespers & Artoklasia, 6 pm
Orthros, 7 pm
Tuesday, August 6
Divine Liturgy, 9 am
Blessing of Fruit & Produce, 10:30 am

International Food Festival
September 20-21

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Fr. Julian	Elder
Daniella-Gabriela	Amelianos
Laurence	Alees
John	Isaac
Child Gregory & family	Najib
Lasha B	
Otari B	
Daniel H	
John	<u>Catechumens</u>
Doris	Zachary, Evan,
Christiana	Tina, Robert, &
Nancy	Michael
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
	Andrea
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Jeremy
	Michael

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)

"Publicity"

The purpose of the Publicity ministry is to help communicate the Gospel and the Orthodox Christian faith by raising awareness of our parish and by promoting events and activities in our surrounding communities. Responsibilities include contacting local media outlets, developing promotional materials for events, and managing online (website and social media) promotional campaigns. For more information contact Justin Gohl (jgohl@st-philip.net or 215-694-1865).

SPECIAL APPEAL for VCS

Three ways you can help as we are gearing up for another **Vacation Church School**, of growth in faith and love for God: 1) See Kate Gohl about volunteering; 2) Pray for Fr. Noah, leaders, and students; 3) Consider offering a financial gift to cover expenses.

This Week:

Monday, July 15: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

Tuesday, July 16: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

Wed, July 17: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 18: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

Friday, July 19: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

Saturday, July 20: Men's Breakfast Fellowship, 8 a.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 21: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
VCS Volunteer Meeting after Liturgy.
Coffee Hour after Liturgy.
Ethnic Dance Practice, 1 p.m.

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Oral Care Products

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: "Displace"
Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on July 6: 47 Divine Services on July 7: 157
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$281.90. Collections, \$178. Youth, \$9. Book Shelf, \$1. Camping Fund, \$490. Needy Fund, \$60. Pastoral Discretion, \$300. Stewardship, \$5,808. Total received: \$7,127.90.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts II:26)