

## Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

### Joshua 2:11

“So when we heard it, we were amazed in our heart, and there was no longer any spirit in any of us because of your presence, for your God is in heaven above and on earth below.” (OSB)

After and along with the Pentateuch, the Book of Joshua comprises the last book in the *Hexateuch*—that is, the first six books of the Bible understood as a literary unit. The Hexateuch is in turn part of a larger literary unit that is the *Octateuch*, the 8 “volumes” that include the Pentateuch, Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. The term “Octateuch” first appears in the early 6th century AD (used by Procopius of Gaza), and reflects the innovative Byzantine Christian practice in the 5th-6th centuries of combining these 8 volumes into one codex (“book”).

In more recent times, the whole narrative from Joshua through 1-4 Kingdoms (i.e., 1-2 Samuel; 1-2 Kings) has been termed the “Deuteronomic history” because of the theological and literary importance of Deuteronomy in establishing the “world” of the Scriptural narrative. Joshua-Kingdoms shows the unfolding of everything that Moses both promised and warned Israel about in the covenant renewal represented in Deuteronomy.

The Book of Joshua can be generally divided into two halves:

- ✦ Chap 1-12: The Conquest of Canaan
- ✦ Chap 13-24: The Apportioning and Settling of Canaan

This could be further divided into four sections with the introductory character of the Lord’s and Joshua’s speeches in chap. 1, and Joshua’s farewell and the covenant renewal ceremony in chapters 22-24 as an epilogue.

The continuing story of Israel, God’s people according to the flesh, must be understood as an unfolding of the **Abrahamic Promise** first made in Genesis 12: “In you all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed,” and “To your seed I will give this land” (Gen 12:3, 7). Israel’s special vocation as a royal-priestly kingdom is bound together with a particular *place*: God has chosen Israel *and* the Promised Land (especially Zion) as the “vehicle” for revealing Himself to and redeeming all of the nations, and creation.

The “Conquest of Canaan” is a **type/image of exorcism**, the reality of which we see enacted in the Baptism and Consecration of both people and sacred spaces. In the process of God’s taking up residence in and “re-purposing” a particular place/person, all that is corrupt, unclean, and demonic must be expelled. As we will see, Israel’s failure to fully purge Canaan of its depraved and idolatrous worship creates the conditions for Israel’s own perversion and syncretism. Israel will try to “serve two masters,” to live in “two realms,” and will find herself a slave again to sin, death, and the devil—she will sully her baptismal garments.

On the positive side, even at the very beginning of Joshua, we see that there are some in Canaan such as **Rahab** who are “righteous,” who have “eyes to see” and are receptive to God’s scandalous self-revelation in and through His works with Israel. Rahab is “blessed in Abraham” (Gen 12:7) because of her faith, her spiritual insight into the unique and radically different nature of Israel’s God. Israel’s God is not like the insubstantial “gods of the nations,” but is rather a personal God who is both radically transcendent (“in heaven”) and radically immanent (“on earth”) to the world, in works of salvation and judgment. How fitting that Rahab should be a foremother of our incarnate Lord (Matt 1:5)!



## 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

January 5, 2020

## PARAMON (EVE) OF & SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

### COMMEMORATIONS:

MARTYRS THEOPEMPTOS THE BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA  
AND THEONAS THE FORMER MAGICIAN  
VENERABLE SYNCLITICA OF ALEXANDRIA;  
APOLLINARIA OF EGYPT  
GREGORY OF AKRITA  
VENERABLE-MARTYR ROMANOS OF ATHOS

**Tone 4 - Eothinon 7**  
**Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:1-10**  
**Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8**  
**Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 1:1-8**

**RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 4 -** Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples saying, Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

**APOLYTIKION FOR THE PARAMON (EVE) OF THEOPHANY - Tone 4 -** River Jordan was turned back by Eliseus’ mantle once, \* when the fiery man of zeal Elias had been taken up; \* then were its waters divided hither and thither. \* The running streams became dry passage unto him, \* truly as a sign and type of Baptism, \* whereby we pass to the other side of \* the shifting stream of this fleeting life. \* Christ hath appeared in the Jordan River, to sanctify the waters.

### TODAY:

#### THEOPHANY FAST

**ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.**

**Great Blessing of Water, 11:30 a.m.**

Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 12 p.m.

Women of St. Mariamne, 1 p.m.

Outdoor Water Blessing – Lenape Park, 2 p.m.

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964

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Emails: office@st-philip.net nbushelli@gmail.com frjamesthayer@gmail.com

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 (Jan 12):

PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore	Carolyn Kaminsky
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr. Justin Gohl	Rdr. Nick Muzekari
USHERS:	Sdn. John & Peter C.	Steve K. & Dan M.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Gohl Family - for blessings received	----
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Gabriel”	“Archangel Michael”
GREETERS:	Colin & Sandra Miller	Celia-Marie M. & Sharon Y.
CLEANING TEAM:	Jordan & Natalie G. and Zell B. & Redeat Maru	Natalia M. and John G. & the Moody family
COFFEE HOUR:	Potluck	M. Khalifa, Angie, & Melesech

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

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### March For Life

January 24, 2020

#### Feast of Presentation

*Saturday, Feb 1*

Vespers & Artoklasia,  
w/ Candle Blessing, 6 pm

*Sunday, February 2*

Orthros 8:30 am

Baptismal Liturgy (Jekel) 9:45 am  
w/ Chrismation (Zach Willits)

#### Beginning of Lent

March 2, 2020

#### We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 19, 2020

### Pray For:

#### Living

Doris  
Julie  
John  
Archimandrite David  
Lasha B  
Otari B  
Daniel H  
John  
Zerfenesh  
Thomas, Elizabeth &  
all Missionaries  
New & Expectant  
Mothers & children

#### Departed

Elder Ephrem  
Doris  
Kh. Anastasia

#### Catechumens

Zachary, Evan,  
Tina, Robert,  
Michael, Todd,  
Kendra, Liesel,  
Todd, John  
Moses, Virginia,  
Conor

#### St. Nina's List

Andrea

### OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Oral Care Products

### EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

“Pray for Orthodox Missionaries”

SAINT PHILIP'S is a place of prayer and repentance and a “Pan-Orthodox” parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese, serving Orthodox Christians of all backgrounds in the English language. If you are a newcomer to our community, please sign our guest book, and stay with us for the Coffee Hour today. AND, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AGAIN!

**PLEASE NOTE:** Holy Communion is only for practicing Orthodox Christians who are following the commandments, have prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, and recent confession, who are dressed modestly, and have arrived on time for the Liturgy. All are welcome to kiss the Cross and receive Blessed Bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

## This Week:

**Mon, Jan 6:** HOLY THEOPHANY  
ORTHROS 9 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.  
Great Blessing of Water, 11:30 a.m.

**Tues, Jan 7:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.  
SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

**Wed, Jan 8:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.

**Bp THOMAS' ARCHPASTORAL VISIT –**  
Jan 9-14

**Thurs, Jan 9:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Little Compline, 6 p.m.

**Fri, Jan 10:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

**Sat, Jan 11:** Men's Breakfast w/ Bp THOMAS, 8 a.m.  
Blessing at St. Nicholas House, 1 p.m.  
Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.  
VESPERS 6 p.m., Potluck Meal 7 p.m.

**Sun, Jan 12:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Hierarchical LITURGY 10 a.m.  
1 Year Memorial (Nagib Khalifa – Memory Eternal!)  
Memorial Meal, Ordination Reception, Catechism, SS, &  
Teens 12 p.m.

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



### **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)*

## **UPDATING THE Photo Directory**

*to encourage unity, fellowship, and ministry at St. Philip*

Please submit your updated family photo, address, emails, and telephone numbers to: [stphilipphotos20@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipphotos20@gmail.com).

You may also submit a printed photo for the directory. We will have a section for Stewards, and another for Friends. Have questions? Contact Dale Yeager ([daleyeager@live.com](mailto:daleyager@live.com)), Colin Miller ([Colinmil@comcast.net](mailto:Colinmil@comcast.net)) or Subdeacon David Hyatt ([dhyatt@st-philip.net](mailto:dhyatt@st-philip.net)).

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers Dec 28: 30 Divine Services on Dec 29: 146  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$354.90. Collections, \$1,468.10. Youth, \$10.  
Flowers, \$20. Book Shelf Ministry, \$26. Camping Fund, \$2,000.  
Cemetery Fund, \$120. Christmas Card Fund, \$65. Land Acquisition,  
\$500. Needy Fund, \$150. Pastoral Discretion, \$2,000. Teen Fund, \$200.  
Stewardship, \$8,195. Total received: \$15,109.

**GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!**