

## 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 4:9



“Then Joshua also set another twelve stones in the Jordan itself, in the place walked on by the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord. They are there to this day.” (OSB)

With the hymns and services of Theophany ringing in our ears from last week, we are well suited to reflect on Israel’s crossing of the Jordan under Joshua’s leadership, which is the type that is fulfilled in Christ’s willing submission to John the Forerunner’s baptism of repentance in the Jordan.

It is when the Israelites cross the Jordan that the Lord “exalt[s]” Joshua “in the sight of all the children of Israel, so they will know I shall be with you as I was with Moses” (Josh 3:7). The continuity from Moses to Joshua is accompanied by another similarity as relates to the whole story of Israel as a nation, which is bracketed by the Passover and Red Sea crossing under Moses—the *exodus from Egypt*—and the crossing of the Jordan—the *eisodus* or “entrance” into the Land under Joshua, both of which are initiated “on the 10th of the first month” (Exod 12:3; Josh 4:19).

These two events interpret one another, as they both have the role of “beginning” and “continuing” points in Israel’s story, as well as presenting images of “washing/purification” and “birth.” In the exodus from Egypt, Israel is “created/born” out of and “washed” in the waters of Red Sea, with God fighting for Israel as the “Mighty Warrior” against Pharaoh and his chariots (Exod 15). But the exodus through the Red Sea is mystically united with and fulfilled in Israel’s “baptism” in the crossing of the Jordan which, together with their circumcision and Passover observance (Josh 5:2-12), is a *cleansing/consecration* of Israel as the nation enters the Land to engage in “holy war” to expel the Land’s inhabitants.

In Mark’s Gospel especially, this pattern is repeated in Christ’s own life, for His ministry is bracketed by the “splitting” of heaven at Jesus’ Baptism (Mk 1:10) and the “splitting” of the Temple veil at Jesus’ Crucifixion (Mk 15:38). Mark alone connects these events with the word *schizō* “to split, rend, rip”—which is the very word used in Exodus 14:21 (OSB) for the dividing of the Red Sea! Christ’s ministry is inaugurated in the Jordan “crossing/baptism,” for He enters into Judaea as the “divine warrior” fighting for the people of God by expelling, or exorcising, the Land’s evil spiritual inhabitants, the demons. And His ministry culminates in His willing death by which He splits the “firmament/cosmic sea” (the “waters above” in Gen 1:6-8), which were represented by the Temple veil, allowing us to *pass through* to heaven and enter boldly into God’s presence (see Heb 10:19-22):

*In righteousness You guided Your people whom You redeemed; In strength You called them to Your holy resting place. The nations heard and were angry. ... Fear and dread fell upon them: By the greatness of Your arm, let them become as stone, Till Your people pass over, O Lord, Till Your people pass over whom You purchased. Bring them in and plant them in the mountain of their inheritance, In Your prepared habitation, O Lord, which Your hands made ready; The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands established.* (Exod 15:13-17 OSB)

In Joshua 4:9, as St. John of Damascus notes (*On Divine Images* 3.23), we see an **iconic principle** at work in the “pile of stones” that remains in the Jordan River, the narrator says, “to this day”! The people of God’s *remembrance* of His mighty works is tied to *the material world* of time and space, even as these are taken and transformed by God into eternal realities, such that we mystically participate in Christ’s Baptism, Circumcision, and the sanctification of all creation *now*.



## 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 12, 2020

## SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

### COMMEMORATIONS:

MARTYR TATIANA OF ROME AND THOSE WITH HER  
MARTYR PETER ABSALOM OF PALESTINE  
VIRGIN-MARTYR EUTHASIA  
MARTYR MERTIOS OF MAURETANIA

Tone 5 - Eothinon 8

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:11-18

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 4:12-17

**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 THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST** - Tone 1 - When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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

**Welcome to our beloved Archpastor, Bp THOMAS!**

And Axios to the newly-ordained Dcn. David Hyatt, and to our new Subdeacons (Luke & Justin) and Readers (Jordan & Nick)! Many Years!

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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 (Jan 19):

<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Carolyn Kaminsky	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Rdr. Nick Muzekari	Rdr. Jordan Gamble
<b>USHERS:</b>	Steve K. & Dan M.	Gabriel Q. & Justin G.
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	Michael & Marcia Ibrahim <small>Blessings received for Hanadi, Milad, Chris, Tati (Sassin) family</small>	----
<b>ALTAR BOYS:</b>	“Archangel Michael”	“Archangel Gabriel”
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Celia-Marie M. & Sharon Y.	Greg & Jennifer Howanetz
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Natalia M. and John G. & the Moody Family	Sdn. John & Maxine N., Tatiana Yau
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	M. Khalifa, Angie, & Melesech	Ethiopian Congregation

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

#### LENTEN REREAT — Mark your calendar!

March 28, 2020

#### We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 19, 2020

#### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Doris	Elder Ephrem
Julie	Doris
John	Kh. Anastasia
Archimandrite David	Rdr. Maxim
Lasha B	Nagib
Otari B	
Daniel H	<u>Catechumens</u>
John	Zachary, Evan,
Zerfenesh	Tina, Robert,
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Michael, Todd, Kendra, Liesel,
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Todd, John Moses, Virginia, Conor
	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
	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 Liturgy.

## This Week:

**Mon, Jan 13:** Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.  
Potluck to follow

**Tues, Jan 14:** Festal Orthros 9 a.m.  
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.  
Potluck to follow  
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 12 pm

**Wed, Jan 15:** Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.  
Potluck to follow  
Compline & Patristic Reading 7 pm

**Thur, Jan 16:** Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.  
Potluck to follow

**Fri, Jan 17:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

**Sat, Jan 18:** Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.  
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.

**Sun, Jan 19:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.  
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.  
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.  
Parish Council 12:45 p.m.



**THE DOORS!  
THE DOORS!**  
Please note the change in church access on Sunday: **AFTER 10 am, all doors will be locked except the Nave entrance. If you arrive after 10 am, please plan to enter through the Nave.**



### **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.**

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], Colin Miller [Colinmil@comcast.net] or Subdeacon David Hyatt [dhyatt@st-philip.net].

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers Jan 4: 80 Divine Services on Jan 5: 211  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$331.28. Collections, \$203. Book Shelf Ministry, \$76. Land Acquisition, \$50. Women's Fund, \$63. Stewardship, \$4,418.  
Total received: \$5,141.28.

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