

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

Judges 2:10-11

“And when all that generation were laid with their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord, nor the work He had done for Israel. Then the sons of Israel did evil before the Lord and served the Baals.” (OSB)

Much like with Moses and the Book of Deuteronomy, the Book of Joshua ends with a “covenant renewal” ceremony led by Israel’s servant-leader, Joshua son of Nun, including his final address to the people, followed then by his death and burial (Josh 23-24). While the Conquest of Canaan has been a “qualified success,” there are clear rumblings at the end of Joshua and into the Book of Judges indicating that **all is not well in Israel**.

In Joshua 22, an Israelite civil war is scarcely avoided as the 2 1/2 tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half of Manasseh who were given inheritance on the east side of the Jordan River set up an elaborate altar at Gilgal, near Jericho. While they explain their motives and the conflict is averted, this clearly foreshadows the later schism in the Israelite commonwealth as well as the proliferation of altars and “high places” in Israel that will be in direct disobedience to the “centralization” of worship in Jerusalem as commanded in Deuteronomy 12. **With the proliferation of other places of worship the Israelites will quickly lapse into syncretism**—mixing up a demonic cocktail of true and false/pagan worship that mirrors their distorted hearts, by which they will break the covenant with God and invite His wrathful visitation (Josh 24:16-24).

The Book of Judges is an account of the downward spiral of Israel into tribalism and anarchy, by which the clear need is shown for a Judah King to reign in Israel. Taking its name from the temporary charismatic leaders that God raises up to deliver Israel from the Canaanites that remain in the land, the Book of “Judges” unfolds as a cycle of Israel’s forgetting God, doing evil, suffering judgment, repenting and calling out for divine deliverance, and God’s provision of a “judge” to rescue Israel. As the cycles wear on, the figures of the Judges themselves become increasingly dubious, as they in their own persons reflect Israel’s growing spiritual apathy and degeneracy. One need only note that Samson is the last judge (Judg 13-16)!

The inspired narrator predicts and gives us the key to understanding this whole situation at the very beginning of the Book (Judg 2): **the next generation of Israel did not know the Lord or His works!** How could that possibly be the case except that **their parents never told them?** Their parents ceased loving God with their whole heart and soul, and so the conversations Moses directed fathers to have with their sons never took place (Deut 6:4-25). As a result the third generation after the exodus was effectively “secular/pagan.”

May we make every effort as Orthodox Christians that neither we nor our children ever forget our “First Love” (Rev 2:4)! Toward this end, “through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name” (Heb 13:15).



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

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Father James Thayer

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February 9, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE
AND THE PUBLICAN & LEAVE-
TAKING OF THE PRESENTATION
(MEETING) OF CHRIST

COMMEMORATIONS:

NICEPHOROS THE MARTYR OF ANTIOCH
MARKELLOS, PHILAGRIOS, & PANKRATIOS THE
HIEROMARTYRS
TEILO, BISHOP OF LLANDAFF

Tone 1 - Eothinon 1

Orthros Gospel: St. Matthew 28:16-20

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 18:10-14

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 1 - While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding thy most pure Body, thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto thee, O Giver of life: Glory to thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to thy kingdom! Glory to thy providence, O thou who alone art the Lover of mankind!

TROPARION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST - Tone 1 - Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

TODAY:

ORTHROS & Confession 8:45 a.m.

Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.

Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.

Cemetery Committee Meeting 1 p.m.

- ✦ **Parishioner's Year End Giving Statements for 2019 are on the table in the Great Room!**
- ✦ **Preparation for Communion Booklets are available in the Narthex—please take one per family.**

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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 (Feb 16):

PROSPHORA BREAD:	Carolyn Kaminsky	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
EPISTLE READER:	Jack Morrash	Rdr. Jordan Gamble
USHERS:	Gabe Q. & Sdn Justin	Peter C. & Steve K.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Tillger Family In loving memory of Ed Antosz	Howanetz Family Jenn's Mother's birthday
ALTAR BOYS:	"Archangel Michael"	"Archangel Gabriel"
GREETERS:	Steve & Carolyn Kaminsky	Todd & Kristi Moore
CLEANING TEAM:	Teens; Nathan & Rebecca	Serge & Alex Kaminsky
COFFEE HOUR:	Moody Family	Kaminsky Family

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Beginning of Lent
March 2, 2020

LENTEN REREAT – March 28, 2020

"Recollecting Glory: Orthodox Education for Wisdom, Virtue, and Joy"
w/ Dr. John Mark Reynolds

Mark your calendar!

We live Pascha to Pascha!
April 19, 2020

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Newly-illuminated	Julie
Zach (James)	Fr. Patrick
Cecilia	Fr. Theodore Anthony
Doris	
John	
Lasha B	
Otari B	
Daniel H	<u>Catechumens</u>
John	Evan, Tina,
Zerfenesh	Robert, Michael,
Tsighe	Todd, Kendra,
	Liesel, Todd,
	John Moses,
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Virginia,
	Conor
New & Expectant Mothers & children	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
	Andrea

OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Paper Products

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

"Pray for open doors to the Gospel in closed countries"

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, Feb 10: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

Tues, Feb 11: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 am
SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Conshohocken Fellowship, 6:30 p.m.

Wed, Feb 12: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Compline & Spiritual Reading 7 p.m.

Thu, Feb 13: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

Fri, Feb 14: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

Sat, Feb 15: Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.
VESPERS, 6 p.m.
Baptism Prayers (Kaminsky), 7 p.m.
Confession 7:30 p.m.

Sun, Feb 16: ORTHROS & Confession 8:30 a.m.
Baptismal LITURGY (Kaminsky) 9:45 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 12 p.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 Narthex entrance. If you arrive after 10 am, please plan to enter through the Narthex.**

Preparation for Confession

First Commandment

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me."

Have I believed in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Have I failed to trust in God and His mercy? Have I complained against God in adversity? Have I been thankful for God's blessings? Have I doubted the Christian faith and the teachings of the Church? Have I tried to serve God and keep His Commandments? Have I given way to superstition? Have I frequented the religious meetings of heretics and schismatics? Have I neglected my duties to God through fear of ridicule or persecution? Have I failed to pray to God faithfully? Have I put myself before God?

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers Jan 25: 67 Divine Services on Jan 26: 217
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$291. Collections, \$251. Youth, \$7. Camping Fund, \$10. Pastoral Discretion, \$100. Stewardship, \$5,424. Total received: \$6,083.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!