

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

Genesis 2:2-3

"And on the seventh day God finished the works He made, and He rested on the seventh day from all the works He made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His works God began to make." (OSB)

Try to imagine what life would be like without the 7-day week as a structuring element of our life. That alone reveals how thoroughly indebted our society is to the divine religion & polity of Israel, fulfilled now in the life of Christ and the Church. The 7-day week, and the observance of Sabbath (Saturday) rest, based in God's own creative work (cf. Exod 20.8-11), was one of the primary means by which Jews were to be distinguished from the Gentiles. It is no wonder, then, that when pagan tyrants like Antiochus Epiphanes (2nd cent. BC) attacked Jewish separation and distinctiveness, the observance of Sabbath rest was a prime target:

People could neither keep the sabbath, nor observe the festivals of their ancestors, nor so much as confess themselves to be Jews (2 Maccabees 6.6)

What the Sabbath was pointing to all along, however, was a whole understanding of history, the mystery of which is fully revealed in Christ. God's "rest" in Genesis 2 is not, properly speaking, a cessation of activity (cf. Jn 5.17), but rather a taking up of residence in the cosmos He has prepared as His own Temple dwelling.

Arise, O Lord, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thine holiness. (Psalm 131.8)

Thus says the Lord: Heaven is My throne and earth is the footstool of My feet. What kind of house will you would build for me? Or what sort of place is [there for] my rest? (Isaiah 66.1)

Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. (Jer 23.24)

Christ's life and ministry, whose formal beginning is in the Baptism in the Jordan, is God's re-creative work which culminates in Jesus' Sabbath rest on Holy Saturday. This, too, is not a cessation of activity, but rather is when Christ descends into Hades as a conquering king to ransom and redeem those held captive there by Death. This descent into the lowest parts of creation is the first movement, followed by Christ's resurrection and ascent to the right hand of the Father, by which Christ "fills all things" (Eph 4.8-11), "reconciling to Himself" and "gathering up in Himself all things whether in heaven or on earth" (Eph 1.10; Col 1.20).

That is, in Christ's person and work, His Cross, Sabbath rest, Resurrection, and Ascent, God reclaims—takes up residence in—all of creation as His cosmic Temple. In this, we and all of creation are brought into the Eighth Day, Sunday, the Day of Resurrection, Re-Creation.

And yet, while the eternal "rest" God offers us in His Kingdom has already begun in some way, it is still something we must strive to enter (Hebrews 3-4), as we make the arduous journey back from exile, through the wilderness of our passions, cultivating repentance and the virtues, until we by God's grace return to the house of the Father, the Heavenly Jerusalem.



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 20, 2019

VENERABLE EUTHYMOS THE GREAT & TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

COMMEMORATIONS:

MARTYRS INNA, PINNA, AND RIMMA, DISCIPLES OF
APOSTLE ANDREW IN SCYTHIA (LST-2ND C.)

MARTYRS BASSUS, EUSEBIUS, EUTYCHIUS, AND
BASILIDES AT NICOMEDIA (303)

MARTYR ANNA AT ROME

MARTYRS THERSES AND ANNA

NEW-MARTYR ZACHARIAH OF MOREA

JOHN THE HIEROMARTYR

Tone 1 - Eothinon 1

Orthros Gospel: St. Matthew 28:16-20

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 17:12-19

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!

APOLYTIKION OF ST EUTHYMOS - Tone 4 - Be glad, O barren one that hast not given birth; be of good cheer, thou that hast not travailed; for a man of desires hath multiplied thy children of the Spirit, having planted in them piety and reared them in continence to the perfection of the virtues. By his prayers, O Christ God, make our lives peaceful.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am
Parish Council, 12:45 pm

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Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 - 4:00; 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 27):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala	Justin G. / Mary Lynne B.
EPISTLE READER:	Greg Howanetz	Joe Kyriakos
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	John Ferguson (Debbie's birthday – Many Years!)
USHERS:	David H & Steve K — <i>Speak to them if you have interest in helping with this ministry.</i>	
GREETERS:	Jim & Doris Eggers	Teen SOYO
CLEANING TEAM:	Kim B, Todd & Kristi M.	Teens w/ Nathan & Rebecca
COFFEE HOUR:	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala	20/40 Young Adults

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

Cultivating Salvation by St. Ignatii Brianchaninov

“Poverty of spirit is found: by the study of the Gospels; by keeping its commandments; by measuring one’s own actions with the standards of the Gospel; by forcing one’s own heart to faithfully endure insults; and by self-accusation and prayer for a heart that is broken and humbled... God’s most essential and useful spiritual gift for man is *poverty of spirit.*”

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Oral Care Products

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ
“Choose Life”

Mark Your Calendar:

Feast of Presentation

February 1-2, 2019

Beginning of Lent

March 11, 2019

Lenten Retreat

March 30, 2019

We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 28, 2019

Home Blessings

Tis the Season for Home Blessings!

Sign up sheet is in the Narthex with the availabilities of both Fr. Noah and Fr. James. Please text/email them to confirm a date and time.

This Week:

Fr Noah away until Jan 25 visiting dad in California;
Fr James on call

- Monday, Jan 21:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan 22:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club
- Wed, Jan 23:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading 6 p.m.
- Thurs, Jan 24:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Friday, Jan 25:** SIXTH HOUR 12 p.m.
- Sat, Jan 26:** Intro to Orthodoxy, 4:30 pm
VESPERS 6 p.m.,
Confession 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan 27:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.,
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp Alexander	Bp Athanasios
Baby Simeon	Fr Ibrahim
Child Gregory	Fr. Joseph
Caroline & family	Nagib
Zerfenesh & family	“Aunt Betty”
David H	Ayele
Paul (M)	Sergius
James E	
Lasha B	
Otari B	
Daniel H	<u>St. Nina’s List</u>
Mebrat	Catechumens
Aristidis	Zachary,
	Tatiana (Sze),
	Evan, Tina
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	New & Expectant Mothers & children

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

“Usher”

The purpose of the Usher Ministry is to provide order and security that is welcoming and prayerful for the services of St. Philip. Two person teams will be scheduled to serve primarily during the Divine Liturgy on Sundays. The Ushers will help to provide order in the Nave, Narthex and Great Room, as well as to provide security and emergency response. The first Usher Training is scheduled for February 23rd. Men who are interested or have questions, please talk with the Usher Ministry Captain/Coordinator, Steve Kulp, at 215-896-8891 or stevekulppi@gmail.com.

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Jan 12: 50 Divine Services on Jan 13: 166
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$187. Collections, \$132. Youth, \$7. Book Shelf Ministry, \$17. Camping Fund, \$207.04. Land Acquisition, \$1,000. Stewardship, \$8,092.63. Total received: \$9,642.67.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!