

## Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

### Numbers 22:27

**"So when the donkey saw the Angel of God, she lay down under Balaam; and Balaam became angry, and struck the donkey with his staff." (OSB)**

As much as the story of the wilderness wanderings in Numbers illustrates Israel's faithlessness and rebellion, it is even more so a story that is driven by God's word of promise. God is "not a man such that He should lie" (Heb 6:18; Num 23:19 [KJV]). Having made a promise to Abraham and his Seed, His Word will accomplish what He has sent it (Him) forth to do (Isa 55:11). Many Israelites according to the flesh at the time of Moses—just as at the time of Paul—"judge themselves unworthy" of their inheritance of the Land—that is, "eternal life"—that comes in and from the "word of God" (Acts 13:46). But this does not nullify the Promise, because the Promise is not dependent upon human will and effort.

Again, God makes His promise with Abraham and his *Seed*, who St. Paul tells us is Christ Himself (Gal 3:16). The God who ratifies the covenant promise in His own passing between the severed animals in Genesis 15 is the same God who, in and through His incarnate Son and Word, comes to be both the fulfilment and the heir of God's promise to Abraham. Through Christ's perfect obedience to God the Father, He undoes the "old Israel" and becomes the Head and Pattern of the "new Israel," the Church, who are heirs not of a particular track of land in the Near East, but of "the cosmos," *all creation* (Rom 4:13).

The inexorable movement of Israel towards the Promised Land in Numbers 21 and following, and the wars against Canaanite kings, are, for us, principally a spiritual picture of our combat with the passions and hostile spiritual forces in "heavenly places" on our journey towards our inheritance in the eternal Kingdom. In Christ, our journey is already completed for He is the journey and the destination—we are already "seated in heavenly places in Christ" above the principalities and powers (Eph 1:20; 2:6). And yet we must remain faithful until our growth in and union with Him is perfected, consummated.

Along the way, the Church will always be beset by "naysayers" and "false prophets" like Balaam, those "hired guns" of the spiritual Enemy ("Balak" and "the Moabites") who try to bring an accusation against God's "elect/ chosen" (Rom 8:33) for the sake of profit. The motive of the spiritual "Moabites" is clear: they are fearful because they do not want to lose their "domain." But such is the power of God's word of promise that even the enemy's intention to *curse* is overridden by God's word of *blessing*, for "all nations will bless themselves by you" (Gen 12:3), every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Christ is Lord (Phil 2:10-11).

Though Balaam is, it seems, less spiritually perceptive than the donkey he is riding, out of his mouth will come prophecies of Christ Himself—true inspired speech from him as unexpected as rational speech from a donkey:

*A Star shall rise out of Jacob; And a Man shall rise out of Israel. He shall break in pieces the rulers of Moab and plunder all the sons of Seth. Edom shall be His inheritance, and also His enemy shall be His inheritance.* (Num 24:17-18)

"Where is He who has been born King of Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (Matt 2:2). Indeed, He is *with us!*



## 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

**October 20, 2019**  
**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY**  
**AFTER PENTECOST**

### COMMEMORATIONS:

ARTEMIOUS THE GREAT MARTYR OF ANTIOCH  
MATRONA THE RIGHTEOUS OF CHIOS  
GERASIMUS OF CEPHALONIA  
ANDRONICUS THE RIGHTEOUS MARTYR

**Tone 1 - Eothion 7**  
**Orthros Gospel:** St. John 20:1-10  
**Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-11  
**Liturgy Gospel:** St. Luke 8:26-39

**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 FOR ST. ARTEMIOUS THE GREAT-MARTYR - Tone 4 -** Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee \* received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. \* For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants \* and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. \* O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

**TODAY:** Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am  
Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 am  
Coffee Hour after Liturgy  
Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 pm  
Parish Council, 12:45 pm

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964

www.st-philip.net (215) 721-4947

**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 (Oct 27):
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Catalin & Gabi Tinjala	MaryLynne Black
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Terry Kaminsky	Rdr. Nathan Jekel
<b>USHERS:</b>	Sdn. John & Gabe Q.	Peter C. & Steve K.
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	Larry & Louise Shaheen	----
In Memory of Louise's Mother, Dorothy Jacque		
<b>ALTAR BOYS:</b>	“Archangel Michael”	“Archangel Gabriel”
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Celia-Marie K. & Sharon Y.	Greg & Jennifer Howanetz
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Olena K., Almash A., Zerfenesh D. & Tsegereda	Jamil & Nicole Kyriakos family
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	Youm Fesseha & Saba	Jekel Family

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

### Mark Your Calendar:

**IOCC 8th Annual Benefit Banquet**

*Sunday, Oct 27*

See Beth McClintock for details.

**Informational Meeting:**

**Orthodox School at St Philip**

*After Liturgy, Sunday, Nov 10*

**St. Philip Feast Day**

*Wednesday, Nov 13*

Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 pm

*Thursday, Nov 14*

Orthros 9 am; Liturgy 10 am

Festal Potluck to follow.

**Nativity Fast Begins**

*Friday, November 15*

**Taylor Kardiotissa Icon Visit**

*Friday evening, December 13*

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Archimandrite David (Griffeth)	Gloria
Sarah & child in her womb	
Laurence	
Lasha B	
Otari B	
Daniel H	
John	
John	
Doris	
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>Catechumens</u>
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Zachary, Evan, Tina, Robert, Michael, Todd, Kendra, Liesel,
<u>St. Nina's List</u>	Todd, John
Michael	Moses,
Sheilagh	Virginia,
Andrea	Conor

## **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)

### **“Finance Team”**

The purpose of the Finance Team is to manage the financial resources given to us by God and the faithful in Christ's name. We strive to be accurate, accountable, and above reproach in budgeting, receipt of donations, payment of expenses, and reporting. The Finance Team includes the parish pastor, treasurer, assistant treasurer, counters, recorder, record keeper, internal audit team, tax consultant, investment and insurance consultant, and the administrative assistant. Financial reports are posted monthly on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the kitchen, as well as annually at the Parish Meeting. For more information contact Fr. Noah Bushelli at nbushelli@gmail.com.

## This Week:

- Mon, Oct 21:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Tues, Oct 22:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon  
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.  
Conshohocken Fellowship Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Wed, Oct 23:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon  
Vespers, 4 p.m.  
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Oct 24:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Fri, Oct 25:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Sat, Oct 26:** Soul Saturday Liturgy, 10 a.m.  
(@ Cemetery – Weather permitting)  
St. Maria of Paris Fellowship, 4 p.m.  
Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.  
Altar Boy Training, 4:45 p.m.  
**VESPERS 6 p.m., Baptism Prep. Prayers 7 p.m., Confession 7:15 p.m.**
- Sun, Oct 27:** ORTHROS 8:30 a.m.  
**Baptismal LITURGY (Chilbert) 9:45 a.m.**  
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens, 11:45 a.m.  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 12:45 p.m.

**PARENTS, YOUR CHILDREN BRING US GREAT JOY AND WE'RE SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE THEM AT ST. PHILIP'S! FOR THE SAKE OF MUTUAL CONSIDERATION AMONG THE COMMUNITY, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THEM OUT OF THE NAVE AND INTO THE NARTHEX IF/WHEN THEY BECOME TOO RESTLESS OR NOISY. IT IS HELPFUL TO THE REST OF YOUR PARISH FAMILY, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE HARD OF HEARING. THANK YOU.**

### OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Bath & Shower Products

### EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

“Practice dying to self so that Christ may increase in your life”

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers Oct 12: 33      Divine Services on Oct 13: 198  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$256. Collections, \$196.50. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf Ministry, \$35. Camping Fund, \$250. Women's Fund, \$5. Stewardship, \$3,833. Total received: \$4,576.50.

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