

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 33:2

"So Moses wrote their departures and the stages in their journeys by the word of the Lord." (OSB)

Because of the generational structure of the Book of Numbers, Numbers is also a book of "new beginnings." As noted in a previous week, a key to Numbers' structure is the notice in Numbers 33:38 by which the narrator tells us that Aaron's death (in Num 20:22-29) occurred on the 40th year after leaving Egypt. This reveals that Numbers 15-19 consist of 38 years in which the first generation of Israelites dies out and that, starting with Numbers 20, we are dealing with the *second generation*. While, as we see in Num 21:4-9 and again in Numbers 25, the new generation is no better than the first—they are all humans "under sin" (Rom 3:9)—God's word of promise is not and will not be thwarted, as poignantly demonstrated in the true prophecies of the pagan seer, Balaam (Num 22-24).

Because the second generation represents a "new beginning," it is such that a good many "first things" must be recalled and reviewed, but also extended. First, just as Numbers begins with a census (Num 1), counting Israel to quantify its military strength as it prepares to move towards the Land (totaling 603,550), so now with the second generation another census is taken (Num 26), totaling 601,730 (Num 26:51). The new element, as the early church writer Origen observes (*Hom. Num. 21.1.1*), is the anticipated allotment of the Land in Num 26:53-54: "*To these the land shall be divided as an inheritance based on the number of names...*"

Second, another "new beginning" is represented in the transfer of the leadership of Israel from Moses to Joshua (Jesus), son of Nun (Num 27:12-23), lest Israel "be like sheep without a shepherd" (Num 27:17; Matt 9:36).

Third, in Numbers 28-29, Israel is reminded of the "first things" of the divine worship they have been given: Israel is to find its identity, purpose, and focus in the pattern of worship it has received and is called to maintain.

As Israel moves towards the Land in Numbers 31, their first conflict is with the Midianites, which was commanded in Num 25:16-18 in response to the Baal-Peor incident that elicited Phineas' righteous zeal (Ps 105:30-31). The prophet Balaam is killed in this battle (Num 31:8), and we are told that he was the "mastermind" behind the Midianite women's seduction of Israel's men (Num 31:13-20; cf. Rev 2:14).

In Numbers 33, Israel's whole travel itinerary in 38 stages is presented, from the departure from Egypt, through the wilderness wanderings, up to their present location at Jericho in plains of Moab. In a way analogous to St. John Climacus's 30-runged *Ladder of Divine Ascent*, the early 3rd century writer Origen famously interprets these "stages" as the process by which a soul ascends to union with God (deification). Until our soul "returns to [its] rest" (Ps 116:7), "*the soul sojourns and makes a journey and makes stages, doubtless being governed by means of these stages through the providential oversight of God for the sake of some advantage, as is said in one passage: 'I have afflicted you, and fed you with manna in the desert, which your fathers did not know, so that what is in your heart might be made known.' So these are the stages by which the journey from earth to heaven is made"* (*Hom. Num. 27.4.1*).



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 27, 2019

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

MARTYR NESTOR OF THESSALONICA
PROCLA (CLAUDIA) THE WIFE OF PONTIUS PILATE
KYRIAKOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE
VENERABLE NESTOR THE CHRONICLER OF THE KIEV
CAVES

Tone 2 - Eothinon 8

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:11-18

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 8:41-56

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 2 - When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee!

TODAY: Orthros 8:30 am
Baptismal Liturgy (Chilbert) 9:45 am
Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 am
Coffee Hour after Liturgy
Annual Parish Meeting, 1 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 (Nov 3):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	MaryLynne Black	Carolyn Kaminsky
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr. Nathan Jekel	Greg Howanetz
USHERS:	Peter C. & Steve K.	Dan M. & Gabe Q.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Fitzgerald family For blessings received	Celia-Marie Khouri In Memory of mother Margaret (2yrs)
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Gabriel”	“Archangel Michael”
GREETERS:	Greg & Jennifer Howanetz	Nick & Martha Morelli
CLEANING TEAM:	Jamil & Nicole Kyriakos family	Jordan & Natalie G.; Zell B. & Redeat Maru
COFFEE HOUR:	Jekel Family	Potluck

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

Mark Your Calendar:

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
Newly-Illumined James	Laurence
Archimandrite David (Griffeth)	Margaret
Sarah & Child Benjamin Richard	Theodore H
Lasha B	
Otari B	
Daniel H	
John	
John	
Doris	
Kelly	
Thomas, Elizabeth & all	
Missionaries	<u>Catechumens</u>
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Zachary, Evan,
	Tina, Robert,
<u>St. Nina's List</u>	Michael, Todd,
Amika	Kendra, Liesel,
Michael	Todd, John
Sheilagh	Moses,
Andrea	Virginia,
Faith	Conor
Sloane	

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)

“Monthly Outreach Collection”

The purpose of the Monthly Outreach Collection is to assist those in need by donating items to be distributed through Manna on Main Street in Lansdale and the Keystone Opportunity Center in Souderton. Each month, the Outreach Collection focuses on essentials like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sunscreen, paper goods, as well as non-perishable food items. A collection bin in the hallway by the kitchen. Your help and generous contributions are appreciated! For more information contact Louise Shaheen (lclsjs@verizon.net) or the Church office (office@st-philip.net).

This Week:

- Mon, Oct 28:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Tues, Oct 29:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
- Wed, Oct 30:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Vespers, 4 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Oct 31:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Fri, Nov 1:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Paraklesis, 7 p.m.
- Sat, Nov 2:** Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
- Sun, Nov 3:** ORTHROS 8:15 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 9:30 a.m.
Marriage Blessing (Gula) 11:15 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens, 11:45 a.m.
Women of St. Mariamne, 12 noon
Choir Practice 12:30 p.m.

This coming Wednesday, the Reading group after Compline will be starting a new book, *God's Path to Sanity* by Dee Pennock. If you would like a copy, please contact Sdn David Hyatt so that he can order the needed quantity.

OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Bath & Shower Products

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

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

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers Oct 19: 44 Divine Services on Oct 20: 187
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$328. Collections, \$591.80. Youth, \$13.
Conshohocken Orthodox Fellowship, \$274. Stewardship, \$8,331. Total received: \$9,537.80.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!