

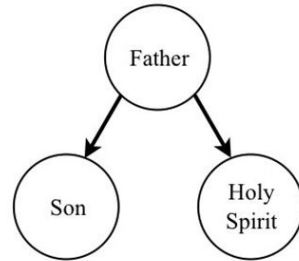
Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart, from your whole soul, and from your whole power.'" (OSB)

This passage, called the *Shema* ("Hear!") by Jews, is one of the most consequential passages of Scripture for the *revealed teaching* about God, as we receive it within the life of God's covenant people. The two primary revelations here concern 1) the nature of God, and 2) the nature of our response to God, that is, who God is and what it means to be human, created in God's Image.



First, as Israel is about to enter the polytheistic and syncretistic milieu of pagan Canaan, God affirms His *singularity*. That God is "One" is no less a revealed understanding than the affirmation that God is "Three" first clearly revealed at Theophany, Christ's Baptism in the Jordan. Israel is to worship the *One* (true) God, the God who has revealed Himself to Israel in concrete ways, in works of salvation, preservation, provision. This is the God *they know*, for He alone has drawn near to them and shown Himself to them. There is no reason to look elsewhere, for there is nothing "missing" in the God of the Exodus. There is no part, or experience, or dimension of reality that Israel can gain access to or can experience from some other "god," for the God of Israel is in fact the Creator of all things and all peoples, who fills all heaven and earth by His power (Jer 23:24).

Second, as the second generation of Israel embarks on the Conquest of Canaan, they must be warned not to leave their "first love" (Rev 2:4). But again, what we have here is a *revealed understanding*. It is not "self-evident" that humans can, could, or should *love God* (or "the gods"). And yet that is exactly what God *commands* Israel to do. In this way God sets His relationship with Israel on a "hypostatic" foundation, the foundation of His own *Person* in loving relationship with Israel, of loving fatherly care reciprocated by loving son/child (Deut 1:31). In the following chapter, God will further reveal that it is His love for Israel, not Israel's "merits," that form the basis for God's relationship ("election") with Israel (Deut 7:6-11). To be sure, Israel's love for God is to be expressed in their obedience to His commandments, but this obedience is not to be *servile*, *demeaning*, or *coercive*, but flowing from a relationship with God as loving Father.

It is in this connection between God as "One" and His loving, personal, fatherly relationship to humanity that we come to understand both how God is "Three" and humanity is made in God's Image. If God is eternal, and God is personal, and God is love (1 Jn 4:16), then God in His Unity must also be an eternal, loving Communion of Persons, for love assumes an "object," an "otherness" so as to share and express love. God the Father is the "One God" who eternally communicates the Divine Essence to the Son by Generation and the Holy Spirit by Procession, such that the Three Persons are One in Essence, united in an eternal loving communion. Into this Divine communion we humans are invited as His Image-bearers, there to find our true identity and goal, in the knowledge of and participation in our Creator.



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

November 17, 2019

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

GREGORY THE WONDERWORKER & BISHOP OF NEO-CAESAREA
GENNADIOS I AND MAXIMUS, PATRIARCHS OF CONSTANTINOPLE
NIKON THE WONDERWORKER, DISCIPLE OF SERGIOS OF RADONEZH
RIGHTEOUS MOTHER HILDA OF WHITBY

Tone 5 - Eothinon 11

Orthros Gospel: St. John 21:14-25

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 12:16-21

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 FOR ST. GREGORY OF NEO-CAESAREA - Tone 8 - By vigilance in prayer, and continuance in the working of wonders, thou didst acquire thine achievements as a surname; wherefore, intercede with Christ our God, O Father Gregory, to enlighten our souls, lest we sleep in sin unto death.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am
Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens
Coffee Hour after Liturgy
Choir Practice, 12:30 pm
Parish Council, 12:45 pm
Advent Paraklesis, 2 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 24):

PROSPHORA BREAD: Gabi & Catalin Tinjala EPISTLE READER: Jennifer Howanetz USHERS: Sdn. John & Steve K. ALTAR CANDLES: Jordan & Natalie Gamble <small>Anniversary of Jordan's Chrismation</small> ALTAR BOYS: "Archangel Michael" GREETERS: Steve & Carolyn Kaminsky CLEANING TEAM: Sdn. John & Maxine; Tatiana Y COFFEE HOUR: The Morelli family	Mary Lynne Black Gabriel Quinodoz Peter C. & Dan M. Doris & Jim Eggers <small>In Memory of granddaughter, Cecilia-Marie</small> "Archangel Gabriel" Todd & Kristi Moore Hyatt Family Potluck
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EVERYONE is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. Your assistance in cleanup is appreciated.

Mark Your Calendar:

Thanksgiving Liturgy

Thursday, Nov 28, 9 am

St. Nicholas

Thurs, Dec 5 - Vespers & Artoklasia w/ Youth Choir 7 pm, Youth Activity 8 pm

Fri, Dec 6 - Orthros 9 am, Liturgy 10 am

Advent Paraklesis &

Taylor Kardiotissa Icon Visit

Friday, December 13, 7 pm

Feast of the Nativity of Christ

Tuesday, December 24

Royal Hours, 9 am

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 am

Festal Orthros, 9:30 pm

Divine Liturgy, 11 pm

Wednesday, December 25

Vespers for the Synaxis of the Theotokos, 12 pm

Thursday, December 26

Orthros 9 am; Liturgy 10 am for the Synaxis of the Theotokos

Pray For:

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

Please check the table in the Great Room for items marked with your name or free to take!

OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Turkeys

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

"Invite Someone to Church"

This Week:

NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES ...

Mon, Nov 18:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon Advent Paraklesis, 7 p.m.
Tues, Nov 19:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
Wed, Nov 20:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon Vespers & Artoklasia for Entrance, 7 p.m.
Thurs, Nov 21:	FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS Orthros 9 am; Liturgy 10 am Fasting Potluck to follow
Fri, Nov 22:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon Advent Paraklesis, 7 p.m.
Sat, Nov 23:	Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir Practice, 5 p.m. VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
Sun, Nov 24:	ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m. Coffee Hour, Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 a.m. Advent Paraklesis, 2 p.m.

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)

"March For Life"

The purpose of the March for Life is to work for a world where the beauty and dignity of every human life are valued and protected, and to end abortion by uniting, educating, and mobilizing pro-life people in the public square. The 2020 March for Life in Washington D.C. is January 24th. St. Philip is organizing a bus trip to participate in the March for Life, and will be marching with the group from Orthodox Christians for Life. Sign-up information will be available soon. For more information about the March for Life visit their website at www.marchforlife.org, or contact Linda Morelli (newlinbaba@gmail.com) or Subdeacon David Hyatt (dhyatt@st-philip.net).

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers Nov 9: 49 Divine Services on Nov 10: 211
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$172. Collections, \$266.25. Youth, \$1. Flowers, \$5. Book Shelf Ministry, \$20. Choir Fund, \$615. Stewardship, \$7,688. Total received: \$8,767.25.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!