

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 32:51

“[Die on the mountain] because you disobeyed My word among the children of Israel during the Water of Contention at Kadesh in the Desert of Sin, and because you did not sanctify Me in the midst of the children of Israel.” (OSB)

As we bring our year-long trek through the Pentateuch to a close, it is fitting to note again that Deuteronomy is a book that represents both an ending, or termination, and a new beginning. God *commands* Moses to die! This must be the case, for Moses must give way to Joshua—whose name, as we have remarked in previous comments, in Greek is “Jesus.” Moses, and thus the Law, cannot bring God’s people into “Rest,” into the Promised Land, nor even can the historical Joshua do this (Heb 4:8). Only the true Joshua—our Lord, Jesus Christ—can provide the rest of the eternal Kingdom!

Within the clarity afforded by the broad view of salvation history, where Moses represents the Law, the “Old Covenant,” and Joshua represents Christ Himself and the New Covenant, we are still left with the puzzling question as to *what exactly did Moses do wrong such that he is barred from entry into the Promised Land?* It is puzzling because the Pentateuch itself offers several, differing accounts as to the nature of Moses’ sin.

The sin in question is found in Numbers 20:1-13, where, now with the second generation of Israelites as with the first (Exod 17), God provides water from a rock for His grumbling, thirsty people in the wilderness:

8 “Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. *Speak to the rock before them, and it shall give forth its waters; thus you shall bring them water out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.*” 9 So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as the Lord ordered him. 10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear me, you disobedient ones. Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” 11 Moses then lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their cattle drank. 12 But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to sanctify Me before the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land I have given them.”

When Moses recounts Israel’s history in Deuteronomy 1-4, he indicates that, from his perspective, it was the *people’s fault* that he is excluded from the land (Deut 1:37; 3:26; 4:21-22). The Lord on the other hand, both in Num 20:12 and Deut 32:51, locates blame in Moses’ *disobedience and faithlessness*. In Psalm 105:32-33 (OSB), the Psalmist combines these two rationales in his retelling of Israel’s history.

This is a curious inner-biblical “tension” that points to the reality that Moses, too, stands in need of redemption, and thus that Christ as Son is the ultimate revelation of God and hope for humanity (cf. Heb 3:1-6). We find a further point of contact in this regard in God’s charge that Moses did not “sanctify Me” (Num 20:12; Deut 32:51). In our Lord’s teaching on prayer, He says that we are to ask that the Father’s Name “be sanctified/hallowed” (Matt 6:9). Through the Son’s perfect obedience and our faithful participation in Christ, we are sanctified and the Father is hallowed by those who bear His Name (Heb 2:11). May it be so 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

December 29, 2019

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

COMMEMORATIONS:

COMMEMORATION OF JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID
THE PROPHET AND KING, AND JAMES THE BROTHER
OF GOD

14,000 INFANTS (HOLY INNOCENTS) SLAIN BY HEROD
IN BETHLEHEM

OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER MARCELLUS, ABBOT OF THE
MONASTERY OF THE UNSLEEPING ONES

OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER THADDEUS THE CONFESSOR
GEORGE, BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA, POET OF
ASMATIKONS, KANONS, AND TROPARIA

Tone 3 - Eothinon 6

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:36-53

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 2:13-23

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depth of hades, granting the world the Great Mercy!

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST - Tone 4 - Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY - Tone 2 - Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am
Coffee Hour after Liturgy

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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 (Jan 5):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala	Kristi Moore
EPISTLE READER:	Joe Kyriakos	Rdr. Justin
USHERS:	Justin G. & Peter C.	Sdn. John & Peter C.
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	----
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Michael”	“Archangel Gabriel”
GREETERS:	Teen SOYO	Colin & Sandra Miller
CLEANING TEAM:	Jamil & Nicole Kyriakos family	Jordan & Natalie G. and Zell B. & Redeat Maru
COFFEE HOUR:	Potluck	Potluck

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Bp THOMAS Visit
January 9-14, 2020

March For Life
January 24, 2020

Feast of Presentation
Saturday, Feb 1
Vespers & Artoklasia,
w/ Candle Blessing, 6 pm

Sunday, February 2
Orthros 8:30 am
Baptismal Liturgy (Jekel) 9:45 am
w/ Chrismation (Zach Willits)

Beginning of Lent
March 2, 2020

We live Pascha to Pascha!
April 19, 2020

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Doris Julie John Archimandrite David Lasha B Otari B Daniel H John Zerfenesh Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries New & Expectant Mothers & children	Elder Ephrem Doris George Kh. Anastasia Jamileh <u>Catechumens</u> Zachary, Evan, Tina, Robert, Michael, Todd, Kendra, Liesel, Todd, John Moses, Virginia, Conor <u>St. Nina's List</u> Andrea Faith Sloane

OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Turkeys

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

“Serve in a soup kitchen or shelter”

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 Divine Liturgy.

This Week:

Office closed – December 23-January 3

Mon, Dec 30: *Office closed.*

Tues, Dec 31: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
Vespers & Artoklasia for Circumcision & St. Basil, 6 p.m.
Game Night & Potluck Fellowship, 7 pm
New Year's Prayers, 9 p.m.

Wed, Jan 1: **Divine Liturgy & New Year's Prayers, 10 a.m.**

Thurs, Jan 2: *Office closed.*

Fri, Jan 3: **Royal Hours Theophany, 10 a.m.**

Sat, Jan 4: Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.
Orthodoxy Under the Stars: Young Adult Fellowship, 5 pm
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.

Sun, Jan 5: **THEOPHANY FAST**
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Great Blessing of Water, 11:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 12 p.m.
Women of St. Mariamne, 1 p.m.
Outdoor Water Blessing – Lenape Park, 2 p.m.

Mon, Jan 6: **HOLY THEOPHANY**
ORTHROS 9 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Great Blessing of Water, 11:30 a.m.

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

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)

New Year's Eve — Game Night & Potluck



All are invited to come and welcome in the New Year here at St. Philip! After Vespers & Artoklasia, there will be a “Game Night” as well as an “open mic” opportunity for people to share a piece of music, poetry, etc. Bring a festive dish to share as well! The evening will conclude with New Year's Prayers at 9 pm.

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers Dec 21: 57 Divine Services on Dec 22: 222
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$352. Collections, \$803. Youth, \$3. Flowers, \$50.
Beautification, \$100. Book Shelf Ministry, \$137. Camping Fund, \$25.
Christmas Card Fund, \$270. IOCC, \$849. Land Acquisition, \$10,000.
Pastoral Discretion, \$250. Stewardship, \$2,460. Total received: \$15,299.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!