

## 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 4:9

"Then God said to Cain, 'Where is Abel your brother?' He replied, 'I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?'" (OSB)

The first instance of (ritual) sacrifice recorded in Scripture occurs *outside the Garden*. Even in exile, the priestly function of humanity continues, although now in an externalized form. Instead of their very lives being a continual self-offering to God in perfect communion, now "something" is missing, and this lack must be compensated for by an external offering.

Cain and Abel famously bring their respective offerings—from the fruit of the earth, and from the flock—and without explanation, God rejects Cain's offering and accepts Abel's. Echoing Christ's words in Matthew 5:22-24, St. Irenaeus points us to the reason when he says:

*God is not appeased by sacrifice. For if any one shall endeavour to offer a sacrifice merely to outward appearance, unexceptionably, in due order, and according to appointment, while in his soul he does not assign to his neighbour that fellowship with him which is right and proper, nor is under the fear of God;—he who thus cherishes secret sin does not deceive God by that sacrifice which is offered correctly as to outward appearance; nor will such an oblation profit him anything, but [only] the giving up of that evil which has been conceived within him, so that sin may not the more, by means of the hypocritical action, render him the destroyer of himself.* (ANF 1.485)

We see, then, in the story of Cain and Abel a foundational principle that is played out through the rest of Scripture, that ritual piety—as an expression of our vertical relationship with God—is intimately connected with and is dependent upon 1) our own repentance, having a "crushed and humbled heart" (Psalm 50:17), and 2) our horizontal relationships, our love of brother/neighbor. This is what the priestly "Kiss of Peace" is to indicate in the Liturgy—it is "the sign that our souls are mingled together, and that we have banished all remembrance of wrongs" (St. Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catechetical Lectures* V.3).

In terms of the development of the Genesis story, we see the disintegration of humanity rapidly intensifying. What began as a transgression over a simple matter of not eating fruit has led, shockingly, to *fratricide*—the ultimate alienation between humans in brother killing brother. This and all that is to come in the plight of humanity, St. Paul tells us (Rom 1:22-25), is the "fruit" of idolatry—the fundamental disordering and perversion of human life that comes when humans worship creation rather than the Creator:

*Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

It is only with the Image of God restored in us that our worship and our responsibility to our brother can be rightly directed and blend seamlessly into one complete offering of ourselves, one another, and all of our life unto Christ our God, with His Father, and the Holy Spirit.



## 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

February 10, 2019

SUNDAY OF THE  
CANAANITE WOMAN

### COMMEMORATIONS:

HIEROMARTYR CHARALAMPOS, BISHOP OF MAGNESIA  
& THE COMPANIONS OF CHARALAMPOS  
VENERABLE ZENON THE ASCETIC OF ANTIOCH  
ANASTASIOS, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM  
PORPHYRIOS & BAPTOS THE MONK-MARTYRS

Tone 4 - Eothinon 4

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:1-12

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 15:21-28

**RESURRECTION TROPARION** - Tone 4 - Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples saying, Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. CHARALAMPOS** - Tone 4 - An unshaken pillar of the Church of Christ God art thou, \* an ever-resplendent lamp, O Charalampos most wise, which shineth throughout the earth; \* in martyric contest thou hast shined on the whole world, \* and thou hast dispelled the moonless night of the idols. \* Now boldly intercede thou with Christ that we may all be saved.

**TODAY:** Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am  
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am  
Choir Rehearsal, 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:

	<b>This Week:</b>	<b>Next Week (Feb 17):</b>
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Carolyn Kaminsky	Anonymous
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Rdr Luke	Karen Burke
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	Michele Tilger	----
	5-yr memorial of father, Ed Antosz	
<b>USHERS:</b>	David H & Steve K — <i>Speak to them if you have interest in helping with this ministry.</i>	
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Celia-Marie K. & Sharon Y.	Greg & Jenn Howanetz
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Olena K., Almash A., Zerfenesh D. & Tsegereda	Jamil & Nicole Kyriakos
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	Greg & Jenn Howanetz	Clarks & Hyatts

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

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp Alexander Newly-Illumined Baby Simeon Child Gregory Mona-Rebekah & family Caroline & family Zerfenesh & family Hertense David H Paul (H) James E Lasha B Otari B Daniel H Mebrat Aristidis Doris Veronica Marie	Rdr Maxime- Nagib Bp Athanasios Fr. Ibrahim
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>St. Nina's List</u> Catechumens Zachary, Tatiana (Sze), Evan, Tina  New & Expectant Mothers & children

### OUTREACH COLLECTION: Paper Products

### SPIRITUAL WARFARE: *Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ* "Speak Life"

## Mark Your Calendar:

### Lenten Triodion

Publican & Pharisee - February 17  
Prodigal Son - February 24  
Sunday of Judgment (Meatfare) - Mar 3

### Ladies' Pre-Lenten Retreat

Saturday, Feb 23, 9-11 am

### Beginning of Lent

March 11, 2019

### Lenten Retreat

*Exile, Journey, Destination!*  
with Fr. Timothy Sas  
March 30, 2019

### We live Pascha to Pascha!

## *Home Blessings*

*Sign up sheet is in the  
Narthex with the  
availabilities of both Fr.  
Noah and Fr. James.*

*Please plan to have your  
home blessed before Great  
Lent!*

## This Week:

<b>Monday, Feb 11:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, Feb 12:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.</b> Matushka Olga Sewing Club
<b>Wed, Feb 13:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.</b> Compline & Patristic Reading 6 p.m.
<b>Thurs, Feb 14:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday, Feb 15:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR 12 p.m.</b>
<b>Sat, Feb 16:</b>	Intro to Orthodoxy, 4:30 p.m. <b>VESPERS 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, Feb 17:</b>	<b>ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.</b> Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m. Parish Council, 12:45 pm

## 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)*

### "Library"

The purpose of the Library is to provide Orthodox Christian resources to our parishioners for the purpose of edifying and equipping them for spiritual warfare. We seek to address all areas of Christian living, by collecting in areas from the Bible itself to writings on contemporary living, from the lives of the saints to the writings of the Fathers, from music to iconography, history, spirituality, and children's books; so that there's something for everyone! Be sure to visit the Mobile Library in the hallway. If anyone is interested in donating materials, helping maintain the library (especially tweens and teens!), or has questions, please talk with the Library Coordinator, Mindi Popovich, at 620-388-3575 or mnpopovich@gmail.com .

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers on Feb 2: 30 Divine Services on Feb 3: 198  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$328. Collections, \$833. Youth, \$4. Book Shelf Ministry, \$6. Camping Fund, \$850. Cemetery Fund, \$350. Stewardship, \$5,871. Total received: \$8,242.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!