

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 8:1

"Then God remembered Noah, and whatever was with him in the ark: all the wild animals, all the cattle, all the birds, and all the creeping things. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided." (OSB)

Earlier in Genesis, as God was inspecting the corrupted way of human life on earth, Moses tells us that God "took it to heart" that He had made man (Gen 6:6-8)—that is, God "consoles Himself," God is "grieved," God has "second thoughts," as it were, about His plan to have made humanity and to have given them free will. This of course is the way that the inspired authors of Scripture were guided to talk about God—in *anthropomorphic* terms, in terms of human emotion and physiology (e.g., God has an "arm," "feet," etc.), all of which communicate to us the various "Energies/Operations" of God in the world in a way that is considerate to our human understanding.

Now, in the midst of the Flood, God *remembers* Noah, and not just Noah, but all his family and all the other creatures in the Ark. The near-total destruction of creation that ultimately came through the disobedience of one man is being reversed through the faithful obedience of one man, Noah, who with his family comprises the "righteous remnant" of humanity (cf. Rom 5:12-21).

The scenario that is unfolded here is a paradigm that explains the nature of God's relationship with His people across salvation history, all of which leads to and is focused in the Cross & Resurrection of our Lord. Simply put: the exile and suffering of God's righteous remnant evokes God's compassion, His remembrance, which "compels" God to act on His promises and thus to intervene and save His people.

In Deuteronomy 32, Moses predicts Israel's disobedience and exile, as God uses the gentiles as tools of judgment against His own people. Yet, when Israel's suffering reaches its height, then "the Lord will judge His people, and have compassion on His servants; for He sees them disabled and left in distress and weakened" (Deut 32:36)—a verse quoted by one of the seven martyred sons in 2 Maccabees 7:6. Is this not the prayer of Christ, who is Himself the "Righteous Remnant," the New Noah, the True Israelite, the True Human, when He prays on the Cross, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt 27:46)? A prayer which must immediately be connected with Psalm 15:10: "For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption," to which St. Peter appeals in his sermon at Pentecost (Acts 2:25-28). Is this not why we pray "Memory Eternal!"—i.e., "May God eternally remember you!"—for our departed loved ones?

Genesis 8:1 also connects back to the Creation story of Genesis 1, and anticipates the salvation of Israel at the Red Sea in Exodus 14: the motifs of wind/spirit, water, the emergence of dry land as a way to life and salvation, all combine such that we must understand all of God's acts of creation as works of salvation, and His works of salvation as acts of creation and restoration, re-creation. It is thus that our Baptism is connected with the Flood and Red Sea Crossing, our Chrismation with the Spirit's "mighty wind" at Pentecost, and the Eucharist as our continual Passover Remembrance of our departure from the "Egypt" of sin and death—our becoming a "new creation" (2 Cor 5:17)—in Christ's death and resurrection.



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



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February 24, 2019

FIRST AND SECOND DISCOVERIES OF
THE FORERUNNER'S HONORABLE HEAD
& SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

COMMEMORATIONS:

ST. ERASMUS OF THE KIEV CAVES (1160)
UNCOVERING OF THE RELICS (1486) OF ST. ROMANUS,
PRINCE OF UGLICH
MARTYRS MONTANUS, LUCIAS, JULIAN, VICTORICUS,
FLAVIAN AND THEIR COMPANIONS AT CARTHAGE
(259)

ST. CUMMAIN AILBE, ABBOT OF ILONA (669)
BOSWELL, ABBOT OF MELROSE ABBEY

Tone 6 - Eothinon 6

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:36-53

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 15:11-32

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 6 - When Mary stood at thy grave, looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led'st hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. O thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to thee!

KONTAKION FOR THE PRODIGAL - Tone 3 - In my folly have I strayed far from Thee, O Father. All the wealth Thou gavest to me I have in wickedness squandered. Wherefore, now, the prayer of the prodigal to Thee do I cry, "I have sinned against Thee, merciful Father. Receive me a penitent, and make me as one of the lowliest servants."

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am
One-year Trisagion for Constantine Neno
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:

	This Week:	Next Week (Mar 3):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Justin G / MaryLynne B.	Kristi Moore
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr Nathan Jekel	Rdr Nicholas Muzekari
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	Najib Ibrahim (30yr Memorial)
USHERS:	David H & Steve K — <i>Speak to them if you have interest in helping with this ministry.</i>	
GREETERS:	Nick & Martha Morelli	Justin & Kate Gohl
CLEANING TEAM:	Jordan & Natalie G. and Zell B. & Redeat Maru	Lasha, Natalia M., & John G.
COFFEE HOUR:	Ulrich & Neno	Women of St. Philip Donation

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Lenten Tridion

Sunday of Judgment (Meatfare) - Mar 3
Women of St Philip Donation Luncheon

Forgiveness Vespers

Sunday, March 10, 1 pm

Beginning of Lent—Clean Monday

March 11, 2019

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers

Sunday, March 17, 4 pm

Lenten Retreat

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

We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 28, 2019

Pray For:

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

This Week:

Monday, Feb 25: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb 26: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11am-3pm

Wed, Feb 27: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading 6 p.m.

Thurs, Feb 28: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

Friday, Mar 1: SIXTH HOUR 12 p.m.

Sat, Mar 2: Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8 a.m.
Usher Training, 10 a.m.
Intro to Orthodoxy 4:30 p.m.
Youth Choir Rehearsal 5 pm
VESPERS 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.

Sunday, Mar 3: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Meatfare DONATION Luncheon
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal, 12:45 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)

“Greeters”

The purpose of the Greeters ministry is to provide a warm welcome and helpful information and guidance to all who enter the Church for the Sunday services. The Greeters arrive by 9:30am on Sunday morning, during Matins, and remain 'on duty' until the homily in the Divine Liturgy. While Greeters serve in a unique role on Sunday morning, we are all called to greet one another in the love and peace of Christ. If anyone is interested in serving as a Greeter, or has questions, please talk with the Greeter Coordinator, Angie Drăghici, at 484-612-8695 or andraghici@mail.com.

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Feb 16: 43 Divine Services on Feb 17: 185
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$219. Collections, \$107. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf Ministry, \$22. St. Andrew Mission, \$750.82. Memorial for Hertanse Ibrahim, \$400. Stewardship, \$7,492. Total received: \$8,991.82.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

SPECIAL APPEAL

Please consider making a special offering to the **Camp Scholarship Fund.** Thank you and may God bless your generosity!

OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Paper Products

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ
“Speak Life”