

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 11:9

"Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord God scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth." (OSB)

The story of the Tower of Babel is the next chapter in the story of humanity's fall into pride, self-destruction. Babel looks backwards to the Garden. The pride that crept into Adam & Eve's heart to grasp at the Fruit, in their ironic attempt to "become like God" (Gen 3:5, having already been made in God's Image!), is now manifested in humanity's attempt to *make a name for themselves* by building a city and a tower up to heaven (Gen 11:4)—to "lose sight of their own nature" and "[entertain] ambitions beyond [their] capacity" (St. John Chrysostom, *Hom. Gen.* 30.5), and thus to forcefully attempt to cross the boundary between Creator and created. Indeed, by even gathering together in a single city, humanity has already disobeyed God's mandate to "*fill the earth and subdue it*" (Gen 1:28).

God (in the plural, "*Let Us,*" as in Gen 1:26; 3:22) responds to the building of the Tower—in an ironic twist—by *coming down* to see what humanity is up to (Gen 11:7). It would seem that the Tower is not reaching its intended object! God concludes that humanity must be scattered so that their capacity for evil might be diminished, for as St. Jerome observes,

Just as when holy men live together, it is a great grace and blessing; so, likewise, that congregation is the worst kind when sinners dwell together. The more sinners there are at one time, the worse they are. (Homilies 21 [ACC Genesis 1-11], p. 169)

Towards that end, God confuses (Heb. *balal*) the language of the humans such that they must cease building and go instead to cultivate a life with their own "people-group" of the same language.

Genesis 11:1-9 also looks back to the so-called "Table of Nations" in Genesis 10, explaining the *negative* reason why all the descendants of Noah and his three sons, Shem (Heb. for "Name"), Ham, and Japheth all disperse and take up residence in various places, which sets the stage for many of the ethnic (fraternal!) conflicts that will be played out across the Biblical story (e.g., Ham's descendants are in Egypt and Canaan, both of which will oppress and fight against the descendants of Shem, i.e., Abraham and his Seed [Gen 11:10-26]).

Babel also looks forward to Genesis 11:27ff and the call of Abraham out of "Babel = Babylon = Ur of the Chaldeans." With this, God signals a sea change in His relationship with humanity. God has "given up" working with humanity as a whole, and is now turning to one family, that of Abraham, as the vehicle through which "all the tribes of the earth will be blessed" (Gen 12:3). In contrast to the fame-seeking builders of Babel, God Himself will make Abraham's *name* great (Gen 12:2)! In a very significant passage, Moses reflects on Israel's unique relationship with God in view of Genesis 11:

When the Most High divided the nations, When He scattered the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the nations according to the number of the angels of God. For the Lord's portion became the people of Jacob; The allotment of His inheritance is Israel. (Deut 32:8-9)

This scattering is only temporary, however, and is intended for the salvation of all of humanity (Acts 17:26-27). The enmity and division of humanity and the confusion of languages will begin to be healed at Pentecost, in the Spirit-empowered life of the Church, the New Humanity (Acts 2:5ff; Eph 2:11-22), where we all, in our own ways, speak the one language of God's Word, the eternal Logos.



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

March 3, 2019

SUNDAY OF THE LAST
JUDGMENT (MEATFARE)

COMMEMORATIONS:

THE HOLY MARTYRS EUTROPIUS, CLEONICUS, AND
BASILISCUS
THEODORETOS THE HOLY MARTYR OF ANTIOCH
ST. NON, MOTHER OF ST. DAVID OF WALES (6TH C.)
ST. PIAMA, VIRGIN (337), AND ST. ALEXANDRA, OF
ALEXANDRIA.
ST. CALUPPAN OF AUVERGNE (576)
ST. WINWALOE OF BRITTANY (530)
ST. JOHN (OKROPIRI), CATHOLICOS OF GEORGIA (1049)
HIEROMARTYR THEODORETUS, PRIEST OF ANTIOCH (361
-363)

Tone 7 - Eothinon 7

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:1-10
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2
Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 25:31-46

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 7 - Thou didst shatter death by thy Cross, thou didst open Paradise to the thief; thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment bearing women into joy, and didst bid thine Apostles proclaim a warning that thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy!

KONTAKION FOR THE SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT - Tone 1 - When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am
Meatfare DONATION Luncheon sponsored by Women of St. Philip
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am
Choir Rehearsal, 12:45 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 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 10):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore	Carolyn Kaminsky
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr Nicholas Muzekari	Irene Forssen
ALTAR CANDLES:	Najib Ibrahim (30yr Memorial)	Alexander Ibrahim (34th birthday)
USHERS:	Steve Kulp & Dan Marquardt	
GREETERS:	Justin & Kate Gohl	Todd & Kristi Moore
CLEANING TEAM:	Lasha, Natalia M., & John G.	Sdn John & Maxine, Tatiana Y.
COFFEE HOUR:	Women of St. Philip Donation	Ibrahim Families (30th anniversary of repose of Najib Ibrahim – Memory Eternal!)

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

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)

“Women of St. Philip”

The purpose of the Women of St. Philip, our chapter of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America (AOCWNA), is to develop a spirit of Christian leadership, awareness, and commitment among the women of our parish, to foster genuine love, fellowship, and service through works of charity, and to enter into a deeper understanding of our Holy Orthodox Faith. We are a “Sisterhood Serving Christ Through Serving Others.” If you are interested in spiritually edifying reading groups and retreats, providing hospitality for special events, sending cheerful greetings to shut-ins, and raising funds for special projects, please join us! All the women of the parish are invited to participate in this ministry. We meet on the first Sunday of the month after the Divine Liturgy. If anyone is interested in joining the Women of St. Philip, or has questions, please talk with one of the Co-Chairs, Linda Morelli (610-755-2693 or newlinbaba@gmail.com) or Celia-Marie Khouri (church office - 215-721-4947).

SPECIAL APPEAL

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

OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Baby Care Items

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ
“Confess”

This Week:

CHEESE WEEK

- Monday, Mar 4:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Tuesday, Mar 5:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11am-3pm
- Wed, Mar 6:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading 6 p.m.
- Thurs, Mar 7:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Friday, Mar 8:** SIXTH HOUR 12 p.m.
- Sat, Mar 9:** Intro to Orthodoxy 4:30 p.m.
Youth Choir Rehearsal 5 pm
VESPERS 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Mar 10:** Forgiveness Sunday/CheeseFare
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.
Forgiveness Vespers, 1 pm

Mark Your Calendar:

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

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Feb 23: 47 Divine Services on Feb 24: 194
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$188. Collections, \$437. Youth, \$4. Book Shelf Ministry, \$2. Memorial for Hertanse Ibrahim, \$725. Stewardship, \$4,628. Total received: \$5,984.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!