

## 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 50:19-20

“So Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for I belong to God. But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.’” (OSB)

There are a select few passages in Scripture which provide us with a view “from above,” where we see into the transcendent, providential horizon of the Biblical narrative itself. Genesis 50:19-20 is one such passage.

In Gen 50:19-20, Joseph is shown as a prophetic interpreter of *past history*: the events of the Biblical history, of Joseph’s own life—in which great evils were perpetrated—were under the providential guidance of God to bring about goodness, with the ultimate purpose of God to save and to reveal Himself to His people and all of humanity. In the context of the story of the Law itself, we realize that without the betrayal of Joseph there would be no descent into Egypt, thus no slavery, no Moses, no plagues, no Passover, no exodus, and on and on.

But in a broader view, we cannot help but see that Joseph’s story is a prophetic foreshadowing of Christ Himself, His betrayal and rejection by Israel, and His subsequent exaltation. St. Peter’s sermon at Pentecost interprets Christ’s story in the same way that Righteous Joseph does his own:

*Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. (Acts 2:22-24)*

Christ’s Death was both “pre-ordained” by God and an utterly reprehensible and evil act of human free will. This of course takes us to the heart of deep theological questions related to divine sovereignty/providence and human free will—and we as Orthodox would affirm that there is a mysterious synergy between those two, such that human acts are both free (and thus to be judged impartially by God) and yet are all within the purview of God’s one plan of salvation that embraces all of cosmic and human history.

But even more pressing is the question of how we relate to the narrative of Scripture in our own lives as Orthodox Christians. Indeed, this is one of the main problems or tensions for us in the “modern world” as we approach and try to read Scripture: Scripture gives its own interpretation of the events within it, but our lives don’t, even as we are committed to the belief that the Church and our lives are the continuation of the Biblical story of salvation. We don’t have an “omniscient narrator” in our lives revealing how each piece fits within the whole, how each piece—both good and bad, suffering and blessing—is part of God’s larger plan for our salvation. We know the ultimate end of the Story we’re in, certainly, but living in the “in-between” requires us to exercise much faith, hope, and love!

St. Paul famously addresses this tension in Romans 8 when he says (in one version) that “[God] is co-operating with all things unto goodness for those who love God, who are the chosen according to [His] purpose” (Rom 8:28). This is not a pat answer to explain away suffering; it is an invitation to see the Cross as the *meaning of our lives, the identity of the Church*: our taking up of the Cross, our perseverance in our calling in hope (Rom 8:24-25), *is itself* the continuation of the history of salvation. And what a profound hope, that as we suffer and die in and with Christ, God the Father is manifesting and bringing salvation to the world!



## 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

April 7, 2019

SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN  
CLIMACUS

### COMMEMORATIONS:

CALLIOPUS AND AKYLINA THE MARTYRS  
TIKHON, PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ENLIGHTENER  
OF NORTH AMERICA  
RIGHTEOUS FATHER SAVVAS THE NEW OF KALYMNOS  
GEORGE, BISHOP OF LESVOS  
GERASIMOS THE GOD-BEARER OF BYZANTIUM

**Tone 4 - Eothinon 1**  
**Orthros Gospel:** St. Matthew 28:16-20  
**Epistle:** Hebrews 6:13-20  
**Liturgy Gospel:** St. Mark 9:17-31

**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. JOHN CLIMACUS - Tone 8 -** The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

**TODAY:** Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am  
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am  
Women of St. Philip, 12 noon

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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 (Apr 14):</b>
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Kristi Moore	Carolyn Kaminsky
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Brian Fitzgerald	Catalin Tinjala
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	----	Tadessa, Abay, Hirut Abay's Birthday
<b>USHERS:</b>	Steve & Sdn. John	Dan M. & Justin G.
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Angie Drăghici	Jim & Doris Eggers
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Serge & Alex Kaminsky	Olena, Almash, Zerfenesh & Tsegereda
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	Mary Lynne & Naomi	Kovalenko & Marquardt

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

**YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS** support the beautification of our church during this holy season. Flower offering envelopes are available on the literature rack. Thank you!

## 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)

### "Twelve Baskets Full"

The purpose of the Twelve Baskets Full Team is to coordinate volunteers to serve help prepare and serve meals once a month in Center City Philadelphia. A variety of roles are available including food donations, food prep, and serving. Volunteers from throughout the parish are needed - adults, teens and families. Additionally, personal hygiene items can be donated in the drop box in the hallway across from the kitchen. If anyone is interested in being a part of the Twelve Baskets Full - St Philip Serving Team, or has questions, please talk with Carolyn Kaminsky [267-329-8339 or sckaminsky@verion.net] or Beth McClintock [484-716-3530 or bcml103@gmail.com].

## Mark Your Calendar:

**Lazarus Saturday**  
Bp THOMAS visit  
April 19-20, 2019

**Holy Week & Paschal**  
April 21-28, 2019

**OUTREACH COLLECTION:**  
Cleaning Supplies

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE:**  
*Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ*  
"Duck!"

## This Week:

### GREAT LENT

- Monday, April 8:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Great Compline, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 9:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11am-3pm
- Wed, April 10:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Presanctified Liturgy w/ Youth Choir 7 p.m.,  
Fasting Potluck to follow
- Thurs, April 11:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Little Compline, Life of St. Mary of Egypt, & Great Canon, 6 p.m.
- Friday, April 12:** Presanctified Liturgy 10 a.m., w/ Fasting Potluck  
Final Akathist 7 p.m.
- Sat, April 13:** VESPERS 6 p.m.; Baptismal Preparatory Prayers  
(Baby Morelli), 7 p.m.  
Confession 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 14:** Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt  
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.,  
Baptismal LITURGY  
(Baby Morelli) 10 a.m.  
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens  
11:45 a.m.  
Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 pm

**Confession is available after most services & by appointment until Wednesday Morning of Holy Week.**

**No Confessions after Holy Unction.**

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp Alexander Child Gregory & family	Marie Natella Hertanse
Mona-Rebekah Caroline Zerfenesh Michael & families	
Paul (H) Lasha B Otari B Daniel H Mebrat Aristidis Doris Veronica	<u>St. Nina's List</u> Catechumens Zachary, Tatiana (Sze), Evan, Tina, Robert, Michael
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	New & Expectant Mothers & children

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers on Mar 30: 52 Divine Services on Mar 31: 218

**OFFERINGS:** To be reported next week.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!