

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

"How I have loved thy law, O Lord! The whole day it is my meditation." (Ps 118:97)

Exodus 34:6-7

"Then the Lord passed before his face and proclaimed, 'The Lord God, compassionate, merciful, longsuffering, abounding in mercy and true, preserving righteousness and showing mercy unto thousands...'" (OSB)

During Moses' forty-day stay at the top of Mt. Sinai (Exod 24:18), God delivers to him the whole pattern of worship which Israel is to practice, which is to begin in the wilderness as they journey towards their permanent home, the Promised Land (cf. Exod 23:20-32). It is a comprehensive system involving the Tabernacle structure, the various furniture, priestly vestments, and, later, a set of sacrifices (cf. Leviticus) and holy days/feasts in which the priests and people will participate, sanctifying their whole national existence as a priestly kingdom unto the one true God.

In between the giving of these instructions (Exod 25-31) and the actual construction of the Tabernacle (Exod 35-40), Israel has one of its darkest moments. If the exodus is God's creation of Israel as a new humanity, then the "Golden Calf" episode (Exod 32-34) is Israel's *fall story*, akin to Adam and Eve's idolatrous eating of the forbidden fruit. Having freely agreed to enter into covenant with God just a few chapters earlier (Exod 24), Israel, through the feckless leadership of Aaron, becomes unfaithful immediately, breaking the first two commandments God gave: No other gods & no idols (Exod 20:3-4). Moses demonstrates the breaking of the covenant in his prophetic sign-act of smashing the two tablets of the Torah (Exod 32:19)—one tablet for each party to the covenant, God and Israel.

Through Moses' intercession, coming from his almost "maternal instincts" (St. Augustine, *Sermon* 88.24 [ACC Exodus, p. 142]), God "repents" of His intention to destroy Israel, and as such Moses becomes the paradigm for an intercessor between God and His people. We might think of St. Paul's very "Mosaic" prayer that he be accursed so that his Jewish brethren might be saved (Rom 9:1-5; Exod 32:32; cf. 1 Thess 2:7 for Paul as "mother"). Yet it is also true that, as with Adam and Eve, God's forgiveness does not reverse or negate all the consequences of Israel's rebellion and sin. The covenant *has been broken*, Israel *has* jeopardized the promise. And while God in His mercy and grace commits Himself to continue His relationship with Israel, a change has taken place: the restored covenant of Exod 34:10 (OSB) is with Moses, *"in the presence of all your [i.e., Moses'] people."*

But how can all of this happen? Isn't Israel the chosen people, the seed of Abraham, through whom God will bring salvation to the whole world? How can it be that Israel becomes *part of the problem* in salvation history, even worshipping the creature rather than the Creator like the pagan Canaanites they are supposed to drive out of the Promised Land? The divine Apostle Paul himself wrestles with that very question in his Epistle to the Romans. Indeed, it is the driving question of the Letter (cf. Rom 1-3; 9-11). How can the elect vessel of Israel come to reject their very own Messiah? Does this not call into question all of God's promises, God's righteousness and covenant faithfulness?

Difficult though it be, the answer is that it is *in and through* Israel's unfaithfulness that God providentially purposed both to demonstrate the true nature of the human problem (death & sin which comes from and leads to false worship) and to bring about the remedy, the trampling down of death by the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Christ. In Christ, the credal statement of Exod 34:6-7 finds its true fulfillment, not just as a revelation of God's character to Israel—as Jonah and Peter "son of Jonah" initially supposed (Jonah 4:2; Acts 10-11; Matt 16:17)—but to all who repent and believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ, without partiality. May we as the Church find both the appropriate comfort and warning here!



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
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May 12, 2019

SUNDAY OF THE
MYRRHBEARING WOMEN
AND SAINTS JOSEPH
AND NICODEMUS



CHRIST IS RISEN!

Matins Gospel:

Eothion 4: St. Luke 24:1-12

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: St. Mark 15:43-16:8

RESURRECTION TROPARION - TONE 2 - When thou didst submit thyself unto death, O thou deathless and immortal One, then thou didst destroy hell with thy godly power; and when thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto thee, O Christ, thou Giver of Life, "Glory to thee!"

TONE 2 - Pious Joseph, having brought down thy pure Body from the tree, and wrapped it in fine linen, embalmed it with ointment, prepared it, and laid it in a new tomb. But thou didst verily rise after three days, O Lord, granting to the world the great mercy!

TONE 2 - Verily the angel came to the tomb and said to the ointment bearing women: "The ointment is meet for the dead, but Christ has been shown to be remote from corruption. But cry ye, 'The Lord is risen, granting to the world the great mercy!'"

TODAY: Orthros, 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy, 10 am
40-Day Trisagion for Maria Habib
Coffee Hour, Sunday School, and Teens 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 (May 19):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Carolyn Kaminsky	Gabi Tinjala
EPISTLE READER:	Greg Howanetz	Rdr. Luke Carpenter
USHERS:	Steve K. & Peter C.	Steve K. & Sdn. John
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	----
GREETERS:	Celia-Marie & Sharon	Greg & Jennifer H.
CLEANING TEAM:	Sdn John & Maxine; Tatiana	Hyatt Family
COFFEE HOUR:	All Men of St. Philip	Donation Luncheon (St. Tikhon's)

* IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS. Thank you for remembering the needs of others.



Mark Your Calendar:

Memorial Day
Monday, May 27
Outdoor Liturgy & Trisagion in Cemetery 10 am;
Cook-out & Farewell to Kh. Vera

Blood Drive
Wednesday, May 29, 2-7pm

Ascension
Thursday, June 6

Pentecost
Sunday, June 16
Kneeling Prayers, 1 pm

Apostles' Fast
June 24-29

Vacation Church School
July 29–August 2

International Food Festival
September 20-21

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp. Nikon	Demetra
Bp. Alexander	
Fr. Julian	
Fr. Dennis	
Newly-illuminated Tatiana	
Newly-illuminated John	
Jonathan	
Lawrence	
John	
Child Gregory & family	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
Mona-Rebekah	Catechumens
Caroline	Zachary, Evan,
Zerfenesh	Tina, Robert,
Dianna	Michael
Michael & families	
Paul (H)	New & Expectant
Lasha (B)	Mothers &
Otari (B)	children
Daniel (H)	
Mebrat	
Aristidis	
Veronica	
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	

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)

"Men's Ministry"

The purpose of the Men's Ministry is to cultivate men's hearts toward love of God and neighbor through repentance, prayer, fellowship, and service. The Men's Ministry meets monthly on Saturday mornings for breakfast and to engage in a discussion-based study led by a member of the group – seeking to "stir up love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24). All men are invited to attend the monthly Men's Breakfast. For more information contact Steve Kulp (stevekulppi@gmail.com or 215-896-8891).

DURING THE PASCHAL SEASON:

- ✦ We say or sing the Resurrection Troparion every day with our devotions.
- ✦ We continue to share the good news with the greeting, "Christ is risen!"
- ✦ We read the Book of Acts and the Gospel of John in our family Bibles.
- ✦ There is a relaxed fast on Wednesdays and Fridays. (Communion fast continues as usual.)
- ✦ In honor of the Resurrection, there is no kneeling, in Church or at home, until the Pentecost Kneeling Prayers.

This Week:

- Monday, May 13:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Tuesday, May 14:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Wednesday, May 15:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
COMPLINE & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, May 16:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Friday, May 17:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Saturday, May 18:** Ministry Reading Group, 8 am
VESPERS at 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
- Sunday, May 19:** SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., LITURGY w/ St.
Tikhon's Mission Choir 10 a.m.
Donation Coffee Hour, Sunday School &
Teens
Youth-Parent Meeting, 12:45 pm
Parish Council Meeting, 12:45 pm

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Skin Care Products

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: "Disregard"
Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ

The Doors! The Doors!

Starting this month, the south entrance doors to the Great Room will be locked by the Ushers at 10 am. This is to provide more security to the great room and classrooms.

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on May 4: 54 Divine Services on May 5: 205
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$221.05. Collections, \$834. Youth, \$4. Book Shelf, \$14. Food for Hungry, \$257.80. Cemetery Fund, \$10. Stewardship, \$4,791.
Total received: \$6,131.85.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:26).