

## 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 34:35

"So the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that it was glorified; and Moses put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with Him." (OSB)

Over and again in the life of Moses, we see the Scriptures stressing Moses' unique proximity to God. It is Moses who receives the revelation of the Divine Name at the Burning Bush (Exod 3:14); it is Moses whom God makes "a god to Pharaoh" with Aaron acting as Moses' prophet (Exod 7:1); it is Moses who cooperates with God to divide the Red Sea (Exod 14:16, 21); and it is Moses who, in a unique way, ascends Mt. Sinai to converse with God and to mediate God's revelation to the people of Israel (Exod 19:20; 20:21; ch. 24).

After the Golden Calf, Moses takes on a new role as a kind of priestly intercessor, seeking to make atonement for and secure forgiveness for Israel (Exod 32:30ff). Likewise, there is the cryptic passage in Exod 33:7-11 where Moses pitches "his tent"—the "tabernacle of testimony" (*martyria*)—outside the camp to temporarily converse with God "face to face," while Joshua (Gk. "Jesus"), son of Nun, does "not depart from the tabernacle" (Exod 33:11). We are then told that Moses is summoned back up to Mt. Sinai, and God reveals Himself to Moses, not directly, but "in the cleft of the Rock" (Exod 33:22)—that is, by "the Word that was made flesh for us" (St. Gregory the Theologian, *Orat.* 2.3).

These two images—of Moses' ascent to and descent from Sinai, and Moses' entrance into and exodus from the Tent—are merged in Exod 34:29-35. Upon descending from Sinai, Moses' appearance has been *transfigured* and Israel cannot bear to look directly upon Moses' face, hence Moses veils his face while speaking to Israel but removes the veil when he enters the Tent to converse with God.

This fascinating and powerful picture occupies an important place as background in the Apostles' own teaching about our Lord's Transfiguration and of our own deifying transformation in Him, and of the function of Scripture.

First, with our Lord, we see that Christ is a New and Better Moses. Jesus is not transfigured because He has "seen" God; the incarnate flesh of Christ is the vehicle and "container" of Deity itself (Col 2:9), Whose true glory is briefly unveiled on Mt. Tabor as the Uncreated Light of God permeates and shines forth from Christ's divinized flesh from within.

Second, with us, we see in Moses' derivative transfiguration, and in Christ's ultimate Transfiguration, the pattern of our own salvation in Christ. St. Paul reflects on this in 2 Corinthians 3 when he says that "we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor 3:18). Having been baptized into Christ in and by the Spirit, we increase and grow into the very Image of God, Christ Himself, as we contemplate Him. We too, by grace, have our faces "ting[ed] ... with a sort of brilliant radiance" (St. Basil, *Hom.* 14.5) and are transfigured in soul, spirit, and body, for we are beholding the Uncreated Light in the Face of Christ! This is why, as Orthodox Christians, we believe that the Relics of the Saints are precious and, at times, even remain incorrupt.

And finally, we see that this transformation is directly connected to our reading of the Scriptures. It is in Christ, by the Spirit—and thus *within the Church*—that the veil that covered the Old Covenant Scriptures is removed, such that we can see the Scriptures' true meaning—that the words of Scripture form one prophetic Icon of Christ, in Whom is Life and Light.



## ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS

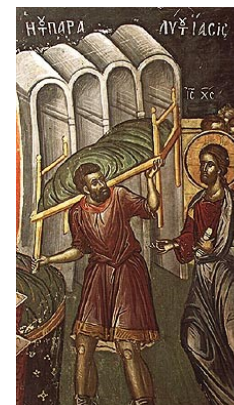


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May 19, 2019  
SUNDAY OF THE  
PARALYTIC



CHRIST IS  
RISEN!

Tone 3

Eothinon 5 St. Luke 24:12-35  
Epistle: Acts 9:32-42  
Gospel: St. John 5:1-15

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH  
BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice  
and let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with  
his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become  
the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths  
of hades, granting to the world the great mercy!

### TODAY:

- ◆ Orthros, 8:45 am
- ◆ Divine Liturgy w/ St. Tikhon's Mission Choir, 10 am
- ◆ Trisagion for Parents of Ken Gula
- ◆ Donation Coffee Hour, Sunday School, and Youth-Parent Meeting after Liturgy
- ◆ Cemetery Procession & Blessing, 12:30 pm
- ◆ Parish Council, 1 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 (May 26):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Anonymous	MaryLynne B.
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr. Luke Carpenter	Jennifer Howanetz
USHERS:	Steve K. & Sdn. John	Dan M. & Gabe Q.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Jordan & Natalie G. <small>9th Anniversary of Natalie's Chrismation</small>	Marcia Ibrahim <small>Marcia's 65th Birthday</small>
GREETERS:	Greg & Jennifer H.	Nick & Martha M.
CLEANING TEAM:	Hyatt Family	Kim B.; Todd & Kristi M.
COFFEE HOUR:	Donation Luncheon (St. Tikhon's)	Potluck

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

### Mark Your Calendar:

Ascension  
Thursday, June 6

Holy Bread Baking Workshop  
Saturday, June 8, 9 am

Pentecost  
Sunday, June 16, Kneeling Prayers, 1 pm

Apostles' Fast  
June 24-29

Vacation Church School  
July 29–August 2

Dormition Fast - August 1-14  
Daily Paraklesis  
Holy Unction, Aug 7, 4pm

Liturgy w/ Youth Choir  
Sunday, August 4

Transfiguration  
August 5-6

International Food Festival

#### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp Nikon	Demetra
Bp Alexander	
Fr. Julian	
Fr. Dennis	
Newly-illuminated Tatiana	
Newly-illuminated John	
Daniella-Gabriella	
Lawrence	<u>Catechumens</u>
John	Zachary, Evan,
Child Gregory & family	Tina, Robert, & Michael
Lasha B	
Otari B	
Daniel H	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
Veronica	Andrea
Maria & William	Jeremy Michael
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	
New & Expectant Mothers & children	

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 11: 33 Divine Services on May 12: 172  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$286. Collections, \$168. Youth, \$3. Book Shelf, \$38. Cemetery Fund, \$10,150. Food for Hungry, \$75. Bishop Appeal – Syria, \$100. Stewardship, \$5,273. Total received: \$16,093.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

## **SPECIAL APPEAL**

Three ways you can help as we are gearing up for another **Vacation Church School**, of growth in faith and love for God: 1) See Kate Gohl about volunteering; 2) Pray for Fr. Noah, leaders, and students; 3) Consider offering a financial gift to cover expenses.

### This Week:

- Monday, May 20:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Tuesday, May 21:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.  
SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Wednesday, May 22:** MID-PENTECOST  
Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.  
Festal Potluck to follow.  
COMPLINE & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, May 23:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Friday, May 24:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Saturday, May 25:** VESPERS at 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
- Sunday, May 26:** SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN  
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.  
Sunday School, Teens, & Coffee Hour.
- Monday, May 27:** MEMORIAL DAY  
Outdoor Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m. (at Cemetery)  
Trisagion at Cemetery – Weather Permitting  
Cookout & Farewell to Kh. Vera

### **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)*

#### **"Holy Bread Baking"**

The purpose of the Holy Bread Baking ministry is to prayerfully prepare the Prospora (Offering Bread) to be used in the Divine Liturgy and the Artos which is used for the Artoklasia for special feasts of the Church. Baking workshops are given throughout the year and baking pans and seals can be checked out from the Church Library. Attendance at one of the workshops is necessary to join the Holy Bread Baking ministry. The next workshop is Saturday, June 8th, 9:00am - 2:00pm. For more information please contact BethAnn Hyatt (hyatt38ba@gmail.com or 218-576-8725).

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