

## Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

### Leviticus 8:30

“Moses then took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood on the altar and sprinkled it on Aaron and his garments, and on his sons and their garments with him; and he sanctified Aaron and his garments, and his sons and their garments with him.” (OSB)

As St. Paul says, *According to the law almost all things are purified with blood* (Heb 9:22). This is the principle we observed last week with regard to the “Sin Offering.” In the sacrificial system, particularly the Mandatory sacrifices, God makes gracious provision for the continual (ritual) cleansing and purification of both the people of Israel and the Holy Tabernacle in which God dwells—so that Israel can be “holy as I the Lord your God am Holy” (Lev 20:7).

To facilitate this system of worship, God calls from among Israel certain people—the descendants of Aaron from the tribe of Levi—to act as special representatives, to perform priestly service by bringing Israel’s offerings to God and conveying God’s presence with and forgiveness to His people. By virtue of their calling and duties, the priests were held to a higher standard of ritual purity—or rather, *the* standard which the common Israelite, and even the priest himself, were incapable of fully attaining because of their own weakness, sin, and death (Heb 7:23-28).

As St. Cyril of Jerusalem notes (*Catechetical Lectures* 18.24), we see here in Leviticus 8 the whole “church” assembled at the *inauguration* of the Levitical Priesthood, involving a “baptism” (Lev 8:6) and a double anointing with oil and blood. The anointing—or rather, sprinkling—with blood harkens back to the Covenant ceremony of Exodus 24 where *all Israel* was doused with the Blood of the Covenant. Israel is after all a *royal priesthood* (Exod 19:6), whose purification and dedication to God—and death to themselves—is signified in the blood.

The Aaronic priesthood participates in the general priesthood of Israel, and presents it back to Israel in iconic form: that is, the Levitical priest is, in their special dignity and function, is an image of what all of Israel is in relation to God and the nations. This special *charism* (“grace”) of the priesthood is indicated in the anointing with the *chrism* (“oil”), thus making the priests little “christs” (“anointed ones”). For as long as the priest ministers, he will be wearing vestments stained with the oil and blood of his ordination.

In the Church, these Old Covenant shadows are fulfilled in the eternal high priesthood of Christ, Who as the divine-human King-Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek” (Ps 109:4), offers the eternal sacrifice of Himself—and us in and with Him—to God the Father on the heavenly altar. The Church has always understood its ongoing liturgical-sacramental worship, and the structure and polity of the Church—the offices of bishop, priest, deacon, and the laity—in terms of the eternal priesthood of Christ, and thus as transformed fulfillment of the Old Covenant pattern.

St. Paul refers to himself as a priestly minister (*leiturgon*) “of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit” (Rom 15:16). The early church writer, Origen, refers to all twelve of “our apostles” as “[Christ’s] priests” (*Hom. Lev.* 6.3.3). And St. Clement of Rome, writing around AD 95, admonishing the church in Corinth to perform their worship in the divinely prescribed manner, says:

*For to the high priest [i.e., the bishop] the proper services have been given, and to the priests [i.e., presbyters] the proper office has been assigned, and upon the Levites [i.e., deacons] the proper ministries have been imposed. The layman is bound by the layman’s rules. Let each of you, brethren, offer the Eucharist to God in his proper order, maintaining a good conscience, not overstepping the designated rule of his ministry, but acting with reverence. (1 Clement 40:5-41:1)*



## ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS

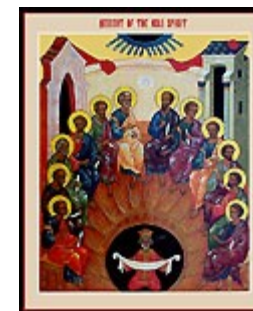


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June 16, 2019  
HOLY PENTECOST



Old Testament Readings:

Num. 11: 16-17, 24-29

Joel 2: 23-32

Ezek. 36: 24-28

Matins Gospel - St. John 20:19-23

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: St. John 7:32-52, 8:12

**PENTECOST TROPARION** - Tone 8 - Most blessed art thou, O Christ our God, who when thou hadst made the fishermen most wise, did send down upon them the Holy Spirit, and by them didst draw the world into thy net! O Lord of mercy, glory to thee!

**PENTECOST KONTAKION** - Tone 8 - When coming down He brought confusion on mortal tongues, God Most High brought disunion to nations, and again when He apportioned the tongues of fire, He summoned all mankind to unite once more; and with one accord we glorify the All-Holy Spirit.

**TODAY:** Orthros, 8:15 am & Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am  
Camp Bus Departure – 11 am  
Coffee Hour after Liturgy  
**PENTECOST KNEELING PRAYERS, 1:00 p.m.**

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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 (June 23):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore	MaryLynne B.
EPISTLE READER:	Irene Forssen	Raja Kyriakos
USHERS:	Steve K. & Gabe Q.	Peter C. & Steve K.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Steve & Carolyn K. Carolyn's Birthday – Many Years!	----
GREETERS:	Todd & Kristi M.	Jordan & Natalie G.
CLEANING TEAM:	Olena, Almash, Zerfenesh & Tsegereda	Jamil & Nicole Kyriakos family
COFFEE HOUR:	All Women of St. Philip	Fr. James – Donation Luncheon



## Mark Your Calendar:

Apostles' Fast  
June 24-28

PLC @ AV  
June 26-30

Sts. Peter & Paul  
Saturday, June 29, Divine Liturgy, 10 am

Vacation Church School  
July 29–August 2

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

Liturgy w/ Youth Choir  
Sunday, August 4

Transfiguration  
August 5-6

International Food Festival  
September 20-21

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Fr. Julian	
Daniella-Gabriela	
Laurence	
John	
Child Gregory & family	
Lasha B	
Otari B	
Daniel H	
Veronica	<u>Catechumens</u>
Maria & William	Zachary, Evan,
Steve & Carolyn	Tina, Robert, & Michael
Jonathan	
John	
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
	Andrea
	Jeremy
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Michael

**PLEASE PARK ONLY IN DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES; OTHER AREAS MUST REMAIN FREE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS.**

**AMPLE PARKING** is always available for Church Services in lots just across Clearview Rd, thanks to our good neighbors at Solar Atmospheres. Thank you.

**SAINT PHILIP'S** is a "Pan-Orthodox" parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese, serving Orthodox Christians of all backgrounds in the English language. If you are a newcomer to our community, please sign our guest book, and stay with us for the Coffee Hour today. **AND, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AGAIN!**

## **SPECIAL APPEAL for VCS**

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:

### **NO FASTING OR ABSTINENCE THIS WEEK (WEEK OF PENTECOST)**

- Monday, June 17:** *HOLY SPIRIT MONDAY*  
SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Tuesday, June 18:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.  
SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Wednesday, June 19:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon  
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, June 20:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Friday, June 21:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon  
Women's Happy Hour Fellowship, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, June 22:** VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
- Sunday, June 23:** **SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**  
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.  
Coffee Hour after Liturgy.  
Parish Council, 12 noon

**OUTREACH COLLECTION:**  
Bath & Shower Products

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE:** "Dismiss"  
*Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ*

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers on June 8: 42 Divine Services on June 9: 205  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$248. Collections, \$149. Flowers, \$20. Youth, \$4. Book Shelf, \$55. Library Fund, \$150. Food for Hungry, \$33.47. Stewardship, \$6,393. Total received: \$7,052.47.

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

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