

## 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 4:2-3

“If a soul should sin involuntarily before the Lord against any of the Lord’s ordinances, ... he shall offer to the Lord for the sin he committed a young bull without blemish from the oxen as a sin offering.” (OSB)

As we explored last week, the Voluntary offerings enumerated in Lev 1-3 are positive, free expressions of worship and thanks to God, which set the Old Covenant sacrificial system on a fundamentally different footing than the pagan worship Israel is supposed to avoid. Israel is to relate to her God, the one true God who created and fills all things (3 Kgdms 8:25ff; Acts 7:48ff; 17:29), as loving Father and Redeemer, not as a petty, fickle, temperamental, and vengeful “force” in creation who must be placated and manipulated, much less *fed*, by sacrificial offerings.

With the Mandatory offerings in Lev 4-5, we see another side of the matter. In the “necessity” of these sacrifices, God is instructing His people about the true nature of the human problem, so as to point ultimately to Christ as the Archetype and Substance of the Law’s “shadow of the good things to come” (Heb 10:1).

Our understanding of the “Sin” and “Guilt/Restitution” offerings (Lev 4-5) must be governed by the crucial expression, “sin *involuntarily*.” The kind of “sin” that the Sin Offering addresses is not willful violation of God’s commandments, what is termed in Num 15:30-31, “sin with a high hand,” or a “hand of arrogance” (OSB). An Israelite does not covet, commit adultery, lie, and murder, and then go to the Temple to offer a Sin Offering to “make things right.” Righteous David knew this, which is why he says after his sin with Bathsheba, *If You desired sacrifice, I would give it; [but] You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings: A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, A broken and humble heart God will not despise* (Ps 50:18-19).

What “sin” does the Sin Offering address then? In short, the Sin Offering brings about purification from the defilement that is caused by 1) inadvertent offenses against God’s “holy things” (e.g., making mistakes in the rituals, or worshipping in an unworthy state) and 2) the various “states” or “conditions” outlined in Lev 11-15—all of which relate to the forces of death at work in our bodies—which make one “unholy” and thus unfit to enter (fully) into God’s presence, and which “pollute” God’s holy place which sits in the middle of the camp. God gives the blood of the Sin Offering sacrifice to Israel (Lev 17:11) as a purifying agent—it is “ritual detergent” for God’s holy things, cleansing (“making atonement for, propitiating”) God’s dwelling so that God can remain among His people (cf. Heb 9:22).

So, when the Israelite comes to offer a Sin Offering, to “make atonement” by the mediation of the priest, he is coming *not* to assuage the wrath of an angry God; the problem is much more objective and concrete than that: *How can we who are corrupt and dying have fellowship with God Who is perfect Life & Holiness?* The Israelite comes to sacrifice, then, because he is aware of his own frailty and impurity, that “death is at work in his members” (Rom 7:5; 2 Cor 4:12), and that these have caused him, whether in word, or deed, or thought, to err in his service to God. He is seeking his own purification, and the purification of the Holy Altar and the Tabernacle as a whole, with which he wants to once again be united in full communion.

Again, as Righteous David knew, in order for Israel’s ongoing sacrifices to be worthy of God, Israel must be continually returning, in spirit and truth, to their founding Paschal sacrifice, their baptism in the Red Sea, and their covenant dedication (Exod 24), as the ground and source of their life of transforming repentance before God. It is with this Repentance & Confession that Christ’s once-for-all Sin Offering becomes continually effective for us (2 Cor 5:18-21), with Christ, as “our Advocate with the Father,” being “Himself the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world” (1 Jn 2:1-2).



## 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

June 9, 2019  
SUNDAY OF THE  
FATHERS OF THE 1st  
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



Tone 6

Eothinon 10 - St. John 21:1-14  
Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36  
Gospel: St. John 17:1-13

**RESURRECTION TROPARION** - Tone 6 - When Mary stood at thy grave, looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led'st hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O thou who art risen from the dead. O Lord, glory to thee!

**TROPARION FOR ASCENSION** - Tone 4 - Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, having become confident of the blessing. Verily, thou art the Son of God and Deliverer of the world.

**TROPARION FOR THE HOLY FATHERS** - Tone 8 - Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise, who didst establish the Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith. O most merciful One, glory to thee!

**TODAY:** Orthros, 8:45 & Divine Liturgy, 10 am  
Coffee Hour, Sunday School, and Teens after Liturgy

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:

	<b>This Week:</b>	<b>Next Week (June 16):</b>
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Carolyn Kaminsky	Kristi Moore
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Brian Fitzgerald	Irene Forssen
<b>USHERS:</b>	Dan M. & Sdn. John	Steve K. & Gabe Q.
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	Manze Family	Steve & Carolyn K. Carolyn's Birthday – Many Years!
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Steve & Carolyn K.	Todd & Kristi M.
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Serge & Alex K.	Olena, Almash, Zerfenesh & Tsegereda
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	Alem & Kasca	All Women of St. Philip

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



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

**OUTREACH COLLECTION:**  
Bath & Shower Products

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

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers on June 1: 45 Divine Services on June 2: 198  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$169. Collections, \$222.65. Youth, \$10. Book Shelf, \$10. Camping Fund, \$1,342.78. Food for Hungry, \$33.47. Needy Fund, \$100. Bishop's Appeal—Syrian Rebuilding, \$1,000. Stewardship, \$4,628. Total received: \$7,516.90.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

## **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:

- Monday, June 10:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Tuesday, June 11:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.  
SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Wednesday, June 12:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon  
Little Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 pm
- Thursday, June 13:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Friday, June 14:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Saturday, June 15:** VESPERS & Artoklasia, 6 p.m.,  
Confession, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, June 16:** HOLY PENTECOST  
ORTHROS 8:15 a.m., Divine LITURGY 9:30 a.m.  
*Camp Bus Departure – 11 am*  
Coffee Hour after Liturgy  
Kneeling Prayers, 1 pm

### **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)*

#### **"Summer Reading Program"**

The purpose of the Summer Reading Program through our Church Library is to encourage students to read, learn more about our faith, and grow together as one body in Christ in the summer months. Kids (and their grown-ups) ages 0-11 can complete a reading log and earn prizes, while teens (12-16) can be part of the summer book club. Adults can participate by helping their children (or grandchildren or godchildren!) complete their reading logs or by donating to the program for prizes. Sign-up starts June 9th; check-in for prizes starts June 16th. Please see Mindi Popovich or email her at mnpopovich@gmail.com for more details!

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