

## Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

### Numbers 9:10

“Speak to the children of Israel, saying ‘If anyone of you becomes unclean on account of a dead man, or is on a distant journey, or is among your families, he shall keep the Lord’s Pascha.’” (OSB)

The Passover and exodus deliverance of Israel from Egypt was a divine act of redemption and creation. It represented a “new beginning [genesis]” in the biblical story, and thus it was fitting that time itself too would be “re-set” according to the Paschal clock—with Israel’s time flowing from and leading to Pascha (Exod 12:2). In Numbers 9, we have arrived at year Two, hence we realize that from Exodus 12 to Numbers 9 one year has elapsed.

The “passage” at hand is not the *departure* from Egypt, but the movement *toward* the Promised Land:

*Now it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud ascended from the tabernacle of the testimony. Then the children of Israel broke camp with their household goods in the Sinai Desert ... The division of the camp of Judah was the first to break camp with their army ...* (Num 10:11-14)

In accordance with Jacob-Israel’s blessing in Genesis 49, the Tribe of Judah is leading the way as the preeminent tribe and standard-bearer destined to rule God’s people. Righteous Caleb in particular will emerge as the model Judahite leader (Num 14:24; 32:12; Josh 14-15).

The passage above is interesting both in the context of the original Pentateuchal purity code, and in a related way, in how we hear echoes of Jesus’ own healing ministry and the parable of the Good Samaritan. In terms of the original context of the Pentateuch, we begin to see a “crack,” as it were, in the concept of ritual purity—that is, we see the principle that “the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” beginning to emerge. Participation in the Paschal feast itself is more important than being “ritually pure,” in certain circumstances. In extenuating circumstances, a pastoral *oikonomia* is in order.

This of course bears directly on our Lord’s own healing ministry during His “distant journey” in a foreign country, that is, His Incarnational sojourn among us. When Jesus comes into contact with ritual impurity, He is not polluted thereby, but rather His very touch *is* the “ritual detergent” that was supplied by the cleansing Sin Offering in the Old Covenant. In Christ, who is Life, that which once caused impurity is cleared away, as the broken person is restored and healed. Through His healing ministry, Christ shows that He is the fulfillment (and thus “replacement”) of the earthly Temple and the Levitical priesthood.

Such is the scenario we see in the Parable of the Good Samaritan who attends to the “half-dead” Jew. What is more important, for the priest and Levite to remain ritually pure so as to be able to perform the Temple worship (although it seems that they are heading *away from* Jerusalem!), or to heal the broken person before them who is himself a “temple” of the divine image within? Jesus Himself is our Good Samaritan who bore our sicknesses, impurities, and sins in His Paschal death and resurrection so that we could reconciled to God and to one another!



## 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

September 15, 2019

SUNDAY AFTER THE  
ELEVATION OF THE  
HOLY CROSS

### COMMEMORATIONS:

NIKITAS THE GREAT MARTYR  
PHILOTHEOS THE RIGHTEOUS  
BESSARION OF LARISSA  
RIGHTEOUS FATHER SYMEON, ARCHBISHOP OF  
THESSALONICA  
JOHN THE NEW MARTYR OF CRETE  
PORPHYRIOS THE ACTOR

Tone 4 - Eothinon 2

Orthros Gospel: St. Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 8:34-9:1

**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!

**KONTAKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS** - Tone 4 - Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

**TODAY:** Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am  
Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 am  
Coffee Hour after Liturgy.  
Choir Practice, 12:30 pm  
Parish Council, 12:45 pm  
Ethnic Dance Practice, 1 pm

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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 (Sept 22):
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala	MaryLynne Black
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Raja Kyriakos	Joe Kyriakos
<b>USHERS:</b>	Dan M. & Colin M.	Steve K. & Justin G.
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	----	Celia-Marie Khouri Birthday – Many Years! “Archangel Michael”
<b>ALTAR BOYS:</b>	“Archangel Gabriel”	Angie Drăghici
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Michael & Helen Heveran	Hyatt Family
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Sdn. John & Maxine; Tatiana Yau	Potluck
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	Potluck	

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

### Mark Your Calendar:

**Pilgrimage to Holy Protection Monastery**  
Monday, Sept 30 –  
See Sdn. David for details.

**Women’s Heart Health Presentation**  
Saturday, Oct 5, 2 pm

**AWE Fall Gathering @ Holy Protection**  
Saturday, Oct 19

**Annual Parish Meeting**  
Sunday, Oct 27

#### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Archimandrite David (Griffeth)	Archbishop Nikon
Sharon-Elizabeth Laurence	Archpriests Stephen & John
Lasha B Otari B	Gloria
Daniel H John	<u>Catechumens</u>
John Doris	Zachary, Evan, Tina, Robert,
Nancy	Michael, Todd,
Athanasius & family	Kendra, Liesel, Todd, John
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Moses, Virginia, Conor
New & Expectant Mothers & children	<u>St. Nina’s List</u>
	Michael Sheilagh Andrea

### **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)

#### **“Gardening & Landscaping”**

The purpose of the Gardening & Landscaping ministry is to glorify God by cultivating the beauty of his creation on the parish grounds. We provide regular maintenance of the flower beds, along with annual additions and changes as necessary. We seek to provide a prayerful environment that directs the attention of our parish and visitors to our Creator God. For more information contact BethAnn Hyatt (hyatt38ba@gmail.com) or Fr. James Thayer (frjamesthayer@gmail.com).

## This Week:

***Festival Kitchen/Food Prep every morning! Can you help?***

- Mon, Sept 16:** Festival Kitchen/Food Prep, 9 a.m.  
**SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon**
- Tues, Sept 17:** Romanian Food Prep, 8 a.m.  
**SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon**  
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
- Wed, Sept 18:** Romanian Food Prep, 8 a.m.  
**SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon**  
Vespers, 4 p.m.  
Byzantine Chant Workshop, 6 p.m.  
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Sept 19:** Festival Kitchen/Food Prep, 9 a.m.  
**SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon**
- Friday, Sept 20:** Festival Prep & Setup, 8 a.m.  
**SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon**  
**International Food Festival, 12 noon**  
Chanting Concert, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
**Akathist, 4 p.m.**
- Sat, Sept 21:** International Food Festival, 12 noon  
Choir Concert, 2 p.m.  
**VESPERS 4 p.m.**  
Chanting Concert, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept 22:** **ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.**  
Coffee Hour, Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 a.m.

**OUTREACH COLLECTION:**  
Cleaning Supplies

**EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:**

“Deliberately Get to Know & Serve Your Neighbors”

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers on Sep 7: 54    Divine Services on Sept 8: 205  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$253.    Collections, \$270.    Youth, \$1.  
Stewardship, \$5,676.    Book Shelf Ministry, \$27.    Total received: \$ 6,227.  
Festival Account: \$100.

**GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!**