

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

Joshua 7:11

"The people sinned and transgressed the covenant I made with them; for they stole something from what was accursed and put it among their goods." (OSB)

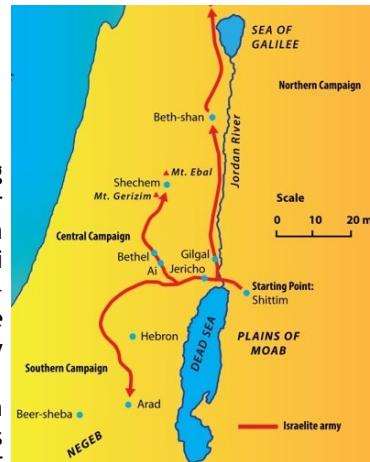
Just as Israel sins immediately after leaving Egypt—grumbling in the wilderness just after the Red Sea crossing in Exodus 17, and then immediately violating the covenant at Sinai by worshipping the golden calf (Exodus 32)—so Israel's corporate and covenantal life together with God is threatened immediately after the Conquest of Canaan gets underway.

After God delivers Jericho to Israel, when "the walls come tumbling down," Israel goes on to suffer a stinging defeat at the city of Ai. It is quickly revealed that someone in the Israelite camp has taken and hidden away some of the spoils from Jericho, all of which was to be "put under the ban" (Gk. *anathema*; i.e., ceremonially destroyed). An Israelite named Achan is revealed as the culprit and confesses his sin in words strikingly reminiscent of both the 10th Commandment (Exod 20:17) and Eve's sin in Eden: "I desired them and took them" (Josh 7:21; see Gen 3:6). Achan and his whole family are stoned to death (and burned).

The sin of Achan might seem trivial. But God repeatedly seems to care about things that, from a minimalist "pragmatic" perspective, don't seem like a "big deal." What is the problem with keeping some of the spoils of war? Couldn't those things be put to good use—feeding the poor, adorning holy places and people? Or, why such a concern over *one tree* in the Garden of Eden? Why would God put it there if He didn't want us to enjoy it?

Of course, to start, there is the matter of *obedience*. God's children must learn to obey, and through this obedience, fix their trust in and find communion with God as Father. But beyond obedience is the reason for God's regulations to begin with, namely, His providential care unto the salvation of our souls. When we pass through the waters of Baptism, at once beginning a journey in and towards the heavenly Kingdom *and* beginning the spiritual combat involved in this ascending journey, we are making an absolute break with the spiritual "Egypt/Canaan" that is the fallen world. Yet how often do we find ourselves trying, in even the smallest way, to "return to Egypt," on the way that we should never again return (Deut 17:16)? How often are we tempted to hide away a little of the Canaan of mammon, false worship, sexual depravity, corrupt speech, etc., in our souls even as we go about, apparently, capturing the territory of the Evil One?

Achan, like Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), is a strong warning to us that our lives are not our own. Sin is never a private matter, and we have the ability to damage not only ourselves but others. As St. Paul says, "See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled" (Heb 12:15).



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

COMMEMORATIONS:

VENERABLE MAKARIOS THE GREAT OF EGYPT, THE ANCHORITE

VENERABLE MAKARIOS OF ALEXANDRIA ARSENIOS, BISHOP OF KERKYRA

VENERABLE MARK EUGENIKOS, METROPOLITAN OF EPHESUS, PILLAR OF ORTHODOXY

Tone 6 - Eothinon 9

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:19-31

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 17:12-19

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!

APOLYTIKION OF ST. MAKARIOS OF EGYPT - Tone 1 - Thou didst prove to be a citizen of the desert, an angel in the flesh, and a wonderworker, O Makarios, our God-bearing Father. By fasting, vigil, and prayer thou didst obtain heavenly gifts, and thou healest the sick and the souls of them that have recourse to thee with faith. Glory to Him that hath given thee strength. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

TODAY:

ORTHROS & Confession 8:45 a.m.

Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.

Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.

Parish Council, 12:45 p.m.

Please check the take-away table in the Great Room and claim anything that belongs to you!

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964

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Emails: office@st-philip.net nbusheelli@gmail.com frjamesthayer@gmail.com

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.

January 19, 2020

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (Jan 26):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala	Mary Lynne Black
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr. Jordan Gamble	Rdr. Nicholas Morelli
USHERS:	Gabriel Q. & Justin G.	Colin M. & Steve K.
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	----
ALTAR BOYS:	"Archangel Gabriel"	"Archangel Michael"
GREETERS:	Greg & Jennifer Howanetz	Justin & Kate Gohl
CLEANING TEAM:	Sdn. John & Maxine N., Tatiana Yau	Kim B., & Todd and Kristi M.
COFFEE HOUR:	Ethiopian Congregation	Potluck

In Ethiopia, Timket or Epiphany—according to the Old Calendar—is a very important holiday, celebrated with a re-enactment of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ and special liturgy attended by millions. Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour where there will be a video presentation on the history of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the celebration of Timket/Epiphany!

Mark Your Calendar:

Feast of Presentation

Saturday, Feb 1
Vespers & Artoklasia,
w/ Candle Blessing, 6 pm
Sunday, February 2
Orthros 8:30 am
Baptismal Liturgy (Jekel) 9:45 am
w/ Chrismation (Zach Willits)

Beginning of Lent
March 2, 2020

LENTEN REREAT – Mark your calendar!
March 28, 2020

We live Pascha to Pascha!
April 19, 2020

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Doris	Elder Ephrem
John	Doris
Archimandrite David	Kh. Anastasia
Lasha B	Julie
Otari B	
Daniel H	
John	
Zerfenesh	
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>Catechumens</u>
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Zachary, Evan, Tina, Robert, Michael, Todd, Kendra, Liesel, Todd, John Moses, Virginia, Conor
	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
	Andrea

OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Oral Care Products

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

"Pray for Orthodox Missionaries"

SAINT PHILIP'S is a place of prayer and repentance and 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! PLEASE NOTE: Holy Communion is only for practicing Orthodox Christians who are following the commandments, have prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, and recent confession, who are dressed modestly, and have arrived on time for the Liturgy. All are welcome to kiss the Cross and receive Blessed Bread at the end of the Liturgy.

This Week:

Mon, Jan 20: Funeral Services for Julie Locke
Viewing & Psalm reading, 10 a.m.
Funeral, 11 a.m.
Mercy Meal, 12 p.m.

Tues, Jan 21: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club,
12 pm

Wed, Jan 22: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading 7 pm

Thur, Jan 23: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

Fri, Jan 24: March for Life, 6 a.m.
SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

Sat, Jan 25: Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.
Altar Boy Meeting, 5 p.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.

Sun, Jan 26: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.



THE DOORS!
THE DOORS!
Please note the change in church access on Sunday:
AFTER 10 am, all doors will be locked except the Narthex entrance. If you arrive after 10 am, please plan to enter through the Narthex.



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)

UPDATING THE Photo Directory

to encourage unity, fellowship, and ministry at St. Philip

Please submit your updated family photo, address, emails, and telephone numbers to: stphilipphotos20@gmail.com.

You may also submit a printed photo for the directory. We will have a section for Stewards, and another for Friends. Have questions? Contact Dale Yeager ([daleyeager@live.com](mailto:daleyeger@live.com)), Colin Miller (Colinmil@comcast.net) or Subdeacon David Hyatt (dhyatt@st-philip.net).

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers Jan 11: 66 Divine Services on Jan 12: 249

OFFERINGS: Candles, \$381. Collections, \$229. Youth, \$8. Book Shelf Ministry, \$48. Christmas Card Fund, \$125. Land Acquisition, \$10. Missions, \$625. Stewardship, \$7,215.67. Total received: \$8,641.67.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!