

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

Genesis 1:26-28

"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that moves on the earth.' So God made man; in the image of God He made them; male and female He made them. Then God said, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it ...' (OSB)

On the sixth day of God's creative work, after God has formed the created world, given it its structure and in-built potential, and filled it with good things, God makes something unique, something *very good*: Humanity. Humanity alone bears the personal imprint of Divinity; humanity alone mediates between the spiritual and material realms; humanity alone is *logikos* "rational," akin to the Logos himself (Jn 1.1).

The "image of God"—certainly one of the defining principles of Western civilization—is both a "state" and a "calling." That is, it refers equally to something that we *are* (our being or "ontology") and something we are *to do*. In our very being and activity, humanity is to represent and fulfill the **kingly rule** of God in and over creation, continuing God's creative work by keeping the forces of chaos at bay as we maintain the "social-moral" order of creation. And by "cultivating" and "filling the earth," both literally and in the spiritual cultivation of our souls such that we bear "fruit" and "offspring" in the virtues and prayer. Humanity is equally a **priestly race**, created to lead creation in worship of the Triune God (cf. "Let *US* make"), to offer all of creation back to God in thanks (*evcharistia*) and glory (*doxa*) (cf. Rom 1.21) as humans offer themselves as *living sacrifices* to God (Rom 12.1).

*Thine own of Thine own,
we offer unto Thee in behalf of all and for all.
(cf. 1 Chron 29.14)*

This is our calling; this is our dignity; this is our purpose. Without which human life becomes a fleeting vapor, of 70, maybe 80, years and then nothing. Such is what Adam & Eve will discover: forsaking the glory of God that He shares freely with humans, and turning downward to worship creation rather than the Creator, humanity fragments and descends towards nothingness (Rom 1-3). It is only through Christ—Who is Himself the Image/Icon of God in which we were created (2 Cor 4.4; Col 1.15; 3.10)—that humanity can be restored again to its proper place and function, as we are "transformed" and "conformed to the Image of [God's] Son" (2 Cor 3.18; Rom 8.29).

For further reading & reflection:

- ✦ St. Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Making of Man* (<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf205.x.ii.i.html>)
- ✦ Andrew Louth, ed., *Genesis 1-11* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: OT 1; IVP, 2001), pp. 27-41.



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

January 13, 2019

SUNDAY AFTER THE
THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

COMMEMORATIONS:

THE HOLY MARTYRS HERMYLUS AND STRATONICUS OF
BELGRADE

MAXIMOS THE RIGHTEOUS OF KAPSOKALYVIA, MOUNT
ATHOS

HILARION, BISHOP OF POITIERS

KENTIGERN, BISHOP OF GLASGOW

MARTYRS PACHOMIOS AND PAPYRINOS OF GREECE

VENERABLE ELEAZAR OF ANZERSK ISLAND

Tone 8 - Eothinon 11

Orthros Gospel: St. John 21:14-25

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 4:12-17

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 8 - From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord. Glory to Thee!

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST - Tone 1 - When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; the voice of the Father did bear witness unto Thee, and call Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove did confirm the constancy of the word. O Christ our God, Who didst appear and illuminate the world, glory to Thee.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am
40-Day Memorial for "Aunt Betty" Dovi
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am

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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 (Jan 20):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Carolyn Kaminsky	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
EPISTLE READER:	Catalin Tinjala	Greg Howanetz
ALTAR CANDLES:	Hertanse Ibrahim (89th birthday) John Ferguson (6-year memorial for Father – Memory Eternal!)	----
USHERS:	David H & Steve K — <i>Speak to them if you have interest in helping with this ministry.</i>	
GREETERS:	Angie Drăghici	Jim & Doris Eggers
CLEANING TEAM:	The Hyatts	Kim B, Todd & Kristi M.
COFFEE HOUR:	Daniela, Sharon, Gabi	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala

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

Cultivating Salvation by St. Ignatii Brianchaninov

“Poverty of spirit is found: by the study of the Gospels; by keeping its commandments; by measuring one’s own actions with the standards of the Gospel; by forcing one’s own heart to faithfully endure insults; and by self-accusation and prayer for a heart that is broken and humbled... God’s most essential and useful spiritual gift for man is *poverty of spirit.*”

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Oral Care Products

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ
“Choose Life”

Mark Your Calendar:

Feast of Presentation

February 1-2, 2019

Beginning of Lent

March 11, 2019

Lenten Retreat

March 30, 2019

We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 28, 2019

Home Blessings

Tis the Season for Home Blessings!

Sign up sheet is in the Narthex with the availabilities of both Fr. Noah and Fr. James. Please text/email them to confirm a date and time.

This Week:

Monday, Jan 14:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan 15:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Wed, Jan 16:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m. Compline & Patristic Reading 6 p.m.
Thurs, Jan 17:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Friday, Jan 18:	SIXTH HOUR 12 p.m.
Sat, Jan 19:	Men’s Fellowship, 8-10 am Intro to Orthodoxy, 4:30 pm VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan 20:	ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m. Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp Alexander Baby Simeon Child Gregory Caroline & family Zerfenesh & family David H Paul (M) James E Lasha B Otari B Daniel H Mebrat Aristidis	Bp Athanasios Fr. Joseph “Aunt Betty” Ayele Sergius
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>St. Nina’s List</u> Catechumens Tatiana (Sze), Evan, Tina New & Expectant Mothers & children

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

“Church Cleaning”

The purpose of the Church Cleaning ministry is to maintain the church Nave and Narthex as a clean and orderly place of worship and prayer. Volunteer teams rotate cleaning on a weekly basis, usually after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Volunteers would be welcome, whether individually to reinforce an existing team or in pairs (or as a family) to form an additional team. If you have any questions or wish to help, please contact the Church Cleaning Ministry coordinator, Todd Moore (toddmoore@comcast.net or 215.453.0424).

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Jan 5: 42 Divine Services on Jan 6: 212
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$346.59. Collections, \$187. Youth, \$4.
Camping Fund, \$250. Land Acquisition, \$12,600. Needy Fund, \$100.
Women’s Fund, \$20. Stewardship, \$5,130. Total received: \$18,637.59.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!