

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 2:16-17

"And the Lord God commanded Adam, saying, 'You may eat food from every tree in the garden; but from the tree of knowledge of good and evil you may not eat; for in whatever day you eat from it, you shall die by death.'" (OSB)

St. Paul seems to step into the persona of Adam, reflecting on the cataclysm of the Fall, when he says,

... I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. (Rom 7:7-11)

Of course, the commandment "You shall not covet" comes from the Mosaic Law—and yet we hear unmistakably the voice of Adam here, and think of the covetous "grasping" of Adam & Eve towards the tree (contrast Phil 2.5-11). And this is precisely St. Paul's point: Israel's story is Adam's story, and vice-versa. Both Israel and Adam are created by God, placed in a Garden-Temple, endowed with free will, and given a commandment to activate that freedom. Both disobey, engage in idolatry, worshipping the creation rather than the Creator, turn away from communion with God, and are exiled to the East.

One fundamental difference, however, between Adam and Israel is that Adam was, it seems, in a state of innocence when he sinned, whereas Israel already had sin and death at work in her members (Rom 7.5; though cf. 1 Tim 2.14). This, too, is part of St. Paul's point: that the Law was always intended—ironically—to expose the human predicament for what it is, that all those "in Adam," even God's special covenant people, suffer the ravages of Sin and Death, and need to be saved, to die and be raised to new life in the New Adam, Christ, and thus be constituted as a New Israel, a New Humanity.

When we reflect on the story of Adam (and Israel) as a paradigm for our lives, we inevitably find, if we're honest, that "the shoe fits." How often are we led to abandon the childlike innocence required in the Kingdom with flights of doubt about God's goodness. How often do we glance across the "fence" and suppose that the forbidden fruit just out of reach is what will really satisfy. How often do we suppose that the boundaries God establishes are because He desires to deprive us of good things, rather than to protect us from what will harm us and/or from that which we are not yet prepared to receive.

Therein lies the tragic irony of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil—perhaps it was never God's intention to withhold such knowledge forever anyway! For "in [Christ]," who is the Mystery of God, "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col 2.2-3). As we partake of the Mystery of Christ, ascending from glory to glory, let us do so with fear and love, cooperating with God's grace to progress unto maturity in Christ, in His time!



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH

◇◇

His Grace Bishop THOMAS

◇◇

Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

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◇◇

Father James Thayer

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January 27, 2019

RECOVERY OF THE RELICS OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM & FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

COMMEMORATIONS:

MARCIANA THE EMPRESS

NEW-MARTYR DEMETRIOS OF CONSTANTINOPLE

VENERABLE PETER OF EGYPT

Tone 2 - Eothinon 2

Orthros Gospel: St. Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 19:1-10

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 2 - When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee!

APOLYTIKION OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM - Tone 8 - Grace shining forth from thy lips like a beacon hath enlightened the universe, and hath shown to the world the riches of poverty, and hath revealed to us the heights of humility. Teaching us by the words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am
40-Day Memorial for Fr. Joseph Martin
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 (Feb 3):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Justin G. / Mary Lynne B.	Kristi Moore
EPISTLE READER:	Joe Kyriakos	Jennifer Howanetz
ALTAR CANDLES:	John Ferguson (Debbie's birthday – Many Years!) Haas Family (In memory of Chris – Memory Eternal!)	----
USHERS:	David H & Steve K – <i>Speak to them if you have interest in helping with this ministry.</i>	
GREETERS:	Teen SOYO	Colin & Sandy Miller
CLEANING TEAM:	Teens w/ Nathan & Rebecca	Serge & Alex
COFFEE HOUR:	Young Adults (Fellow. St Maria)	Fr. James

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

Pray For:

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

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Oral Care Products

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: *Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ* “Choose Life”

Mark Your Calendar:

Lenten Triodion

Publican & Pharisee - February 17
Prodigal Son - February 24
Sunday of Judgment (Meatfare) - Mar 3

Beginning of Lent March 11, 2019

Lenten Retreat March 30, 2019

We live Pascha to Pascha! April 28, 2019

Table by Office

Please claim your items that are on the table. Next Sunday, February 3rd, anything left will be free to all.

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 28:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan 29:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club
- Wed, Jan 30:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading 6 p.m.
- Thurs, Jan 31:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
- Friday, Feb 1:** SIXTH HOUR 12 p.m.
Vespers & Artoklasia w/ Candle Blessing for Feast of the Presentation 6 p.m.
Pre-baptismal prayers (S Kaminsky) 7 p.m.
Orthros for Presentation 7:15 p.m.
- Sat, Feb 2:** PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
Baptismal Liturgy 10 a.m. (S Kaminsky), w/Candle Blessing & Festal Potluck
Intro to Orthodoxy, 4:30 p.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb 3:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.
Women of St Philip, 12 p.m.

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)

“Fellowship of St. Maria of Paris” Adults: 20's - 40's

The purpose of the Fellowship of St. Maria of Paris is to provide opportunities to build meaningful relationships that foster lives of faithfulness to Jesus Christ in the home, the Church and the world. The Fellowship gathers on a monthly basis for spiritual enrichment and fellowship, as well as joining together to serve the needs in the surrounding community. All adults in their 20's to 40's (single or married) are invited to join us for any or all of our gatherings. If anyone is interested or has questions, please talk with the Fellowship of St Maria of Paris Coordinator, Martha Morelli, at 720-440-4803 or martha.annemorelli@gmail.com.

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Jan 19: 36 Divine Services on Jan 20: 167
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$171. Collections, \$81. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf Ministry, \$40. Women's Fund, \$12. Stewardship, \$8,573. Total received: \$8,878.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!