

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 21:8

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a serpent for yourself and put it on a signal pole; and it shall be, if a serpent should bite someone, when the one bitten looks at it, he shall live.’” (OSB)

Israel’s faithlessness at Kadesh-Barnea was made only more grievous by their rebellious “repentance”: Having forfeited the birthright of the Land, and having by divine decree been consigned to die in the wilderness (Num 14:26-37), they rebel even further and seek to go up and take the Land without God among them (Num 14:42). Wherefore many in Israel “fall by the sword” (Num 14:43).

Subsequently, there is another challenge to the divinely ordained leadership of God’s people (the rebellions of Korah, Dathan & Abiram, Num 16), with the rebels being swallowed whole into hades. But this effects no meaningful change in the people, for on the very next day Israel is back to grumbling, and Moses and Aaron must appease God through a propitiatory use of incense to put an end to a plague consuming the people (Num 17:6-15).

In Numbers 20, the people are again grumbling at Kadesh, as they are approaching Edom on their way to the Promised Land (cf. Num 20:14-21). And it is here that Moses (faithlessly) twice strikes the spiritual Rock “that followed them” in the wilderness, “and that Rock was Christ” (1 Cor 10:4). Right after this, Aaron dies (Num 20:22-29), but it is not until we get to Numbers 33:38 that the narrator tells us that Aaron’s death occurred on the 40th year after leaving Egypt. This means that Numbers 15-19 comprise 38 years of implied narrative time, and that starting with Numbers 20, we are dealing with the *second generation* of Israelites, those who were 19 years old and under at the rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea (Num 14:29). Clearly, those who were inexperienced “children” in Numbers 14, who did not yet “know good nor evil” (Num 14:23), have somehow “picked up” the bad habits and evil dispositions of their fathers!

The second generation grumbles against God and Moses just like the first generation, so God must judge them in like fashion—this time, not through a plague, but with serpents. Moses again intercedes, and God provides a remedy to the serpents’ poison in the copper serpent on a “signal pole” (Num 21:4-9).

Reflecting on Christ’s own interpretation of this story in John 3:14 as fulfilled in the Cross, St. Cyril of Alexandria comments:

This story is a type of the whole mystery of the incarnation. For the serpent signifies bitter and deadly sin, which was devouring the whole human race on the earth ... biting the Soul of man and infusing it with the venom of wickedness. And there is no way that we could have escaped being conquered by it, except by the relief that comes only from heaven. The Word of God then was made in the likeness of sinful flesh, “that he might condemn sin in the flesh” (Rom 8:3), as it is written. In this way, he becomes the Giver of unending salvation to those who comprehend the divine doctrines and gaze on him with steadfast faith. But the serpent, being fixed upon a lofty base, signifies that Christ was clearly manifested by his passion on the cross, so that none could fail to see him (Comm. Jn. 2.1 [ACC, p. 123])



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

October 13, 2019
SUNDAY OF THE 7TH
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

COMMEMORATIONS:

HIEROMARTYR JACOB OF HAMATOURA
CARPUS, PAPHULUS, AGATHODORUS, & AGATHONICA,
THE MARTYRS OF PERGAMUS
BENJAMIN THE DEACON
CHRYSSI THE NEW MARTYR OF GREECE
FLORENTIOS THE MARTYR OF THESSALONIKI
MELETIOS OF PEGAS, PATRIARCH OF ALEXANDRIA

Tone 8 - Eothinon 6

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:36-53

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 8:5-15

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 FOR ST. JACOB OF HAMATOURA - Tone 3 - As a cedar of Lebanon thou growest, * never fearing thy martyrdom and death, * thou becamest a true victor, O Saint Jacob. * For thou didst overcome death with thy mortal flesh, * when thou didst tame all the passions by humility. * And while burning like incense, as a true sacrifice, * thou intercedeth with Christ to grant our souls the great mercy.

TODAY: Orthros 8:35 am
Churching (Chilbert) 9:50 am
Divine Liturgy 10 am
Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 am
Coffee Hour after Liturgy

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Emails: office@st-philip.net nbushelli@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.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (Oct 20):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Carolyn Kaminsky	Catalin & Gabi Tinjala
EPISTLE READER:	Catalin Tinjala	Terry Kaminsky
USHERS:	Justin G. & Dan M.	Sdn. John & Gabe Q.
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	Larry & Louise Shaheen
		<small>In Memory of Louise's Mother, Dorothy Jacque</small>
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Gabriel”	“Archangel Michael”
GREETERS:	Colin & Sandra Miller	Celia-Marie K. & Sharon Y.
CLEANING TEAM:	Serge & Alex Kaminsky	Olena K., Almash A., Zerfenesh D. & Tsegereda
COFFEE HOUR:	----	Youm Fesseha & Saba

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

Mark Your Calendar:

- Soul Saturday Liturgy
Saturday, Oct 26, 10 am
- Annual Parish Meeting – SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, Oct 27
- IOCC 8th Annual Benefit Banquet
Sunday, Oct 27
See Beth McClintock for details.
- St. Philip Feast Day
Wednesday, Nov 13
Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 pm
Thursday, Nov 14
Orthros 9 am; Liturgy 10 am
Festal Potluck to follow.
- Nativity Fast Begins
Friday, November 15
- Taylor Kardiotissa Icon Visit
Friday evening, December 13

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Archimandrite David (Griffeth)	Ayele
Sharon-Elizabeth Laurence	Al-Athony
Lasha B	Bp ANTOUN
Otari B	Ksenia
Daniel H	Otari
John	Epi
John	Minadora
Doris	Vakhtany
Thomas,	Natela
Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Lado
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Gloria
<u>St. Nina's List</u>	<u>Catechumens</u>
Michael	Zachary, Evan,
Sheilagh	Tina, Robert,
Andrea	Michael, Todd,
	Kendra, Liesel,
	Todd, John
	Moses,
	Virginia,
	Conor

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)

“Stewardship Ministry”

The purpose of the Stewardship Ministry Team is to encourage a lifetime of self-sacrificing generosity with their time, talent and treasure. Annually, the Forty Days of Growth in Stewardship Campaign asks the faithful to make a pledge commitment to help fulfill the budget. Percentage giving (10% tithe) is encouraged. Pledge Packets are distributed with additional information and a pledge card which is due by November 24th. To request a Pledge Packet or giving envelopes, contact the church office at 215-721-4947 or office@st-philip.net.

This Week:

- Mon, Oct 14:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Tues, Oct 15:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
- Wed, Oct 16:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Vespers, 4 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Oct 17:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Fri, Oct 18:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Sat, Oct 19:** Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.
Hospitality Team Meeting, 5 p.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
- Sun, Oct 20:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens, 11:45 a.m.
Choir Practice, 12:30 p.m.
Parish Council, 12:45 p.m.

PARENTS, YOUR CHILDREN BRING US GREAT JOY AND WE'RE SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE THEM AT ST. PHILIP'S! FOR THE SAKE OF MUTUAL CONSIDERATION AMONG THE COMMUNITY, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THEM OUT OF THE NAVE AND INTO THE NARTHEX IF/WHEN THEY BECOME TOO RESTLESS OR NOISY. IT IS HELPFUL TO THE REST OF YOUR PARISH FAMILY, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE HARD OF HEARING. THANK YOU.

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Bath & Shower Products

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

“Practice dying to self so that Christ may increase in your life”

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers Oct 5: 50 Divine Services on Oct 6: 198
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$219. Collections, \$847. Youth, \$1. Stewardship, \$5,516.63. Women's Fund, \$53. Total received: \$6,636.63.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!