

## 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 7:23

"So He blotted out all living things on the face of the earth: both man and cattle, creeping things and the birds of heaven. Only Noah and those with him in the ark remained alive." (OSB)

The story of the Great Flood makes this much perfectly clear: God takes human sin and evil seriously. The God of our Scriptures and Tradition is not the contemporary "god" of "Moral Therapeutic Deism," not a "god" whose sole concern is our "happiness" and "fulfillment." Rather, humans have been created by God to serve a position of central importance as king-priests in the created world, and when we abandon our calling, the results are disastrous for us and all of creation. God is not indifferent to this. There is a "tipping point," a point of no return, where judgment is necessary.

Again, in Genesis, we see the downward spiral of humanity accelerating and deepening. What began as one act of disobedience led in turn to fratricide, and this in turn has led to all of humanity being overrun by the "disease" of sin and death, expressed in societal violence and inner depravity:

*Then the Lord God saw man's wickedness, that it was great in the earth, and every intent of the thoughts within his heart was only evil continually. So God was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and He thought this over. (Gen 6:5-6)*

*Now the earth was corrupt before God and the earth was filled with unrighteousness ("violence" Heb.). Thus the Lord God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh corrupted their way on the earth. (Gen 6:11-12)*

The Flood is presented as both an act of un-creating and of cleansing, which leads to a sort of new creation. The earth has been polluted by wickedness and needs to be washed. Thus God rewinds the "creation clock" to Day 2, by undoing the separation of the waters in Gen 1:6-8, allowing the "waters above" and the "waters below" to once again converge so as to extinguish all life (Gen 7:11), save that which is in the Ark.

Noah and his family are the "righteous remnant" of humanity, and his sacrifice after the Flood (Gen 8:20-21) signifies the restoration of Humanity's priestly function in creation, along with God's ratifying of a new covenant with Humanity to never judge the world in this way again (Gen 9:8ff)—all of which mark this as a "new beginning" in the story of Scripture. Though this "new beginning" will soon be followed by another "fall" (Gen 9:20-27) which echoes the original Garden story in a variety of ways.

St. Peter unfolds a figurative reading of Noah's Flood in his First Epistle:

*... when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us-- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Pet 3:20-21)*

The New Ark is the Church, and we are washed in Baptism, so as to become the New Humanity who worships God in Spirit, Truth, and Righteousness.



## ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Antiochian Archdiocese

*His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH*

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*His Grace Bishop THOMAS*

◇◇

*Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor*

215-954-9286

◇◇

*Father James Thayer*

215-692-0890

February 17, 2019

SUNDAY OF PUBLICAN &  
PHARISEE

### COMMEMORATIONS:

THE HOLY GREAT-MARTYR THEODORE THE SOLDIER  
(‘TYRO’)  
EMPEROR MARCIAN & EMPRESS PULCHERIA OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE  
MARIAMNE, SISTER OF APOSTLE PHILIP  
RIGHTEOUS AUXENTIUS  
THEODORE THE NEW MARTYR OF BYZANTIUM  
HERMOGENES (GERMOGEN), PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW

Tone 5 - Eothinon 5

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:12-35  
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15  
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 18:10-14

**RESURRECTION TROPARION** - Tone 5 - Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

**KONTAKION FOR THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE** - Tone 4 - Let us flee the Pharisee's \* conceited vaunting; \* let us learn the Publican's \* humility, and cry with groans \* unto the Savior: Thou Who alone \* art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us .

**TODAY:** Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am  
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am  
Parish Council, 12:45 pm

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964  
www.st-philip.net (215) 721-4947

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

	<b>This Week:</b>	<b>Next Week (Feb 24):</b>
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala	Justin G / MaryLynne B.
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Karen Burke	Rdr Nathan Jekel
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	----	----
<b>USHERS:</b>	David H & Steve K — <i>Speak to them if you have interest in helping with this ministry.</i>	
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Greg & Jenn Howanetz	Nick & Martha Morelli
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Jamil & Nicole Kyriakos	Jordan & Natalie G. and Zell B. & Redeaf Maru
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	Clarks & Hyatts	Ulrich & Neno

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

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Lenten Triodion

Prodigal Son - February 24  
Sunday of Judgment (Meatfare) - Mar 3

#### Beginning of Lent

March 11, 2019

#### Lenten Retreat

*Exile, Journey, Destination!*  
with Fr. Timothy Sas  
March 30, 2019

#### We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 28, 2019

#### SPECIAL APPEAL

Please consider making a special offering to the  
**Camp Scholarship Fund.**  
Thank you and may God bless your generosity!

#### OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Paper Products

#### SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

*Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ*  
"Speak Life"

### Obituary & Arrangements for Hertanse Ibrahim

Hertanse Ibrahim, 89, of Lansdale, died Wednesday, February 13, 2019. She was the beloved wife of the late Najib Ibrahim, who died March 6, 1989.

She was a dedicated founding member of St. Philip Orthodox Church, Souderton, and was the matriarch of the Ibrahim family.

Relatives and friends may call between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Sunday, February 17, 2019 at Huff & Lakjer Funeral Home, 701 Derstine Ave., Lansdale. A second viewing will begin 9:30 Monday, February 18 at St. Philip Orthodox Church, 1970 Clearview Rd., Souderton, PA 18964 followed by the Funeral Service at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be in Whitmarsh Memorial Park, Ambler, followed by a Memorial Luncheon at the William Penn Inn.

For those desiring, contributions may be made in Mrs. Ibrahim's memory to **Oasis of Joy, a Lebanese charity for mentally and physically challenged children.** Please make checks payable to "St. Philip Orthodox Church" at the above address and include "Hertanse Ibrahim" in the memo line.

## This Week:

<b>Monday, Feb 18:</b>	<b>Viewing &amp; Funeral for Hertanse Ibrahim, 9:30 a.m. &amp; 10 a.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, Feb 19:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.</b> Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11am-3pm
<b>Wed, Feb 20:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.</b> Compline & Patristic Reading 6 p.m.
<b>Thurs, Feb 21:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday, Feb 22:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR 12 p.m.</b>
<b>Sat, Feb 23:</b>	<b>Ladies' Pre-Lenten Retreat, 9-11 a.m.</b> Intro to Orthodoxy, 4:30 p.m. <b>VESPERS 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, Feb 24:</b>	<b>ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.</b> 6 mo. Trisagion for Constantine Neno, 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, 12:45 p.m.

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp Alexander Newly-Illumined	Hertanse
Baby Simeon	Rdr Maxime-Nagib
Child Gregory	Bp Athanasios Fr. Ibrahim
Mona-Rebekah & family	
Caroline & family	
Zerfenesh & family	
David H	
Paul (H)	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
James E	Catechumens
Lasha B	Zachary, Tatiana (Sze), Evan, Tina
Otari B	
Daniel H	
Mebrat	New & Expectant Mothers & children
Aristidis	
Doris	
Veronica	
Marie	
Ezekiel	
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	

## 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)

### "Choir"

The purpose of the Choir is to facilitate the prayerful worship of God through Byzantine chant and choral music during the Divine Services. Rehearsals are scheduled through the year, and new singers are always welcome with Fr. Noah's blessing. The Youth Choir, an outreach of the choir, meets in the fall and spring to prepare for singing a service on their own, as well as joining the Adult Choir after receiving communion. If anyone is interested in joining the choir or youth choir, or has questions, please talk with the Choir Director, Kh. Elizabeth Bushelli after services.

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers on Feb 9: 56 Divine Services on Feb 10: 175  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$200.25. Collections, \$118.30. Youth, \$7. Book Shelf Ministry, \$20. Stewardship, \$4,085.63. Total received: \$4,431.18.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!