

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 3:15

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall be on guard for his heel." (OSB)

Humanity's fall, and God's gracious and loving response to it (Gen 3:22), have created a new state of affairs for humanity: life from now on will be a struggle, in all dimensions and in all relationships. Man will struggle with the ground, man and woman will struggle with each other, woman will struggle with childbirth, humans will struggle internally and existentially with their own sin and death, in a place of exile and alienation from God (even though God is "not far from each of us," Acts 17:27).

This struggle is at the same time a natural consequence of humanity's misuse of its freedom—severing communion with God leads to death—and a function of God's decree (St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation* §6). Things must be this way so that humanity can ultimately be saved. God, in his mercy, gives us over to the consequences of our choices so as to bring about our repentance and healing (Rom 2:4).

Genesis 3:15—which has been called the "proto-evangelium," that is, Scripture's first articulation of the *gospel*—reveals that the struggle between good and evil to be played out in human history is a *cosmic* struggle. The serpent in Genesis 3 is a symbol of all that stands opposed to God and His Kingdom, an array of hostile spiritual forces that find historical expression in the likes of Pharaoh (cf. Isa 30:1-7), the king of Babylon, Antiochus Epiphanes, the emperor of Rome—all the oppressors and enslavers of God's people. In the New Testament, the spiritual reality of these things is fully revealed as the triumvirate of "Sin, Death, and the Devil," along with the "principalities and powers, and rulers in high places" (Eph 3:10; 6:12).

Genesis 3:15 anticipates the *conquest* & *defeat* of the serpent by the "Seed of the Woman." The serpent is told that he does not and will not have the last word. He will be trampled down and crushed under the foot of the Redeemer (Num 24:17; Ps 109:5-6 [OSB]; Rom 16:20). This is the very struggle that is played out in Christ's temptation in the wilderness. Just as in the Garden, the sly serpent quotes God's words (Scripture) to trick Christ, the New Adam, into false worship: "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" (Matt 4:6)

But as St. Gregory Nazianzen observes (*Oration on Holy Baptism* 10 [NPNF2 7.362]), there is a rich irony here, in that the devil's quotation of Psalm 90:11-12 leaves off just as the psalm predicts his very defeat:

You [Christ] shalt tread on the asp and basilisk: and thou shalt trample on the lion and dragon. (Psalm 90:13)

While the serpent's defeat is assured, his bite, the "sting of death" (1 Cor 15:55), is still effective. The Cross of Christ removes death's sting, just as the raised pole with the serpent in the wilderness brought healing to God's people (Jn 3:14; Num 21:9), for Christ disarmed the principalities and powers when he nailed the "debt-sheet" of our sins on the Cross, taking away any basis for the devil to accuse us before God (Col 2:13-15) (cf. Joel C. Elowsky, ed., *John 1-10* [ACCS: NT 4a; IVP, 2006], pp.123-5).



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

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February 3, 2019

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF

MATTHEW

COMMEMORATIONS:

THE SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS SYMEON
THE GOD-RECEIVER AND THE HOLY PROPHETESS
ANNA

STAMATIOS, JOHN, & NICHOLAS, NEW MARTYRS OF
SPETSES

NICHOLAS, ARCHBISHOP & ENLIGHTENER OF JAPAN
AFTERFEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
AND SAVIOR IN THE TEMPLE
SYNAXIS OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS, WERBURGA

Tone 3 - Eothinon 3

Orthros Gospel: St. Mark 16:9-20

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 25:14-30

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad; for the Lord hath done a mighty act with his own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and become the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depth of hades, granting the world the Great Mercy!

APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST - Tone 1 - Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, enlightening those who dwell in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous old man, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am
Women of St. Philip, 12 noon

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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 10):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore	Carolyn Kaminsky
EPISTLE READER:	Jennifer Howanetz	Rdr Luke
ALTAR CANDLES:	St Philip's Family Fr James' Birthday	Michele Tilger 5-yr memorial of father, Ed Antosz
USHERS:	David H & Steve K — <i>Speak to them if you have interest in helping with this ministry.</i>	
GREETERS:	Colin & Sandy Miller	Celia-Marie K. & Sharon Y.
CLEANING TEAM:	Serge & Alex	Olena K., Almash A., Zerfenesh D. & Tsegereda
COFFEE HOUR:	Fr. James	Greg & Jenn Howanetz

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
Mona-Rebekah & family	Fr. Joseph
Caroline & family	"Aunt Betty"
Zerfenesh & family	Ayele
Hertense	Sergius
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	
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	

OUTREACH COLLECTION: Paper Products

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

*Taking Every Thought
Captive to Christ
"Speak 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

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

We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 28, 2019

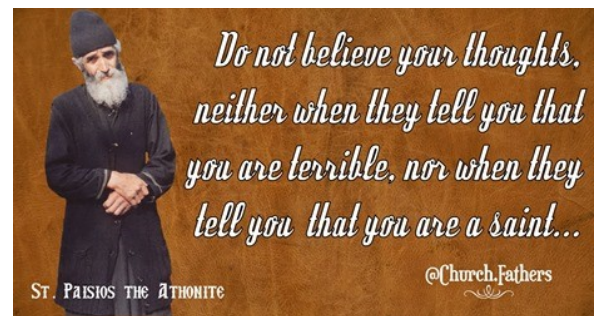
Home Blessings

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, Feb 4:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb 5:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m. Matushka Olga Sewing Club
Wed, Feb 6:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m. Compline & Patristic Reading 6 p.m.
Thurs, Feb 7:	SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Friday, Feb 8:	SIXTH HOUR 12 p.m.
Sat, Feb 9:	Intro to Orthodoxy, 4:30 p.m. VESPERS 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.
Sunday, Feb 10:	ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m. Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.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)

"Coffee Hour"

The purpose of the Coffee Hour Ministry is to facilitate fellowship by providing refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is encouraged to sponsor at least one Coffee Hour per year, either as a family or a group of friends. A Sign-up Sheet is available in the Great Room next to the kitchen door. If anyone is interested or has questions, please talk with the Coffee Hour Ministry Coordinator, BethAnn Hyatt, at 218-576-8725 or hyatt38ba@yahoo.com.

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Jan 26: 51 Divine Services on Jan 27: 188
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$370. Collections, \$556.01. Youth, \$4. Book Shelf Ministry, \$145. Coffee Hour donations for Fr Dennis, \$1,328. Stewardship, \$8,636. Total received: \$11,039.01.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!