

## 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 12:1-3

"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you; and in you all the tribes of the earth will be blessed.'" (OSB)

Terah, Abram's father, had already moved his family from Ur of the Chaldeans to Haran, a city at the northern tip of the Euphrates River, when Abram received the divine call to depart for Canaan—altogether a migration of around 1000 miles. Humanity's "eastward" exile is, it seems, beginning to be reversed in the family of Abraham's return. In Genesis 11:30, the narrator of Genesis has also given us an important piece of information that sets up much of the drama to come in Abraham's life: "Now Sarai was barren, and had no child." Can life come from this "death"? Will Sarah be released from her "exile" (cf. Isa 54:1)? Will there be a "seed of the woman" to bruise the head of the serpent (Gen 3:15)?

Genesis 12:1-3 is God's *promise* to Abram, which precedes the *covenant* which will be made in Genesis 15, then *sealed* in the sign of circumcision in Genesis 17 when Abram's name is changed to "Abraham" and Sarai to "Sarah," and then "*endangered*" in the offering of Isaac in Genesis 22. This promise has three interrelated parts:

1. **Descendants:** "I will make you a great nation"
2. **Relationship/Blessing:** "I will bless you ... and you shall be a blessing"
3. **Land:** "[Go] to a land I will show you. ... To your seed I will give this land" (Gen 12:1, 7)

These three aspects chart plot-lines that will be developed across the story of the Pentateuch. The promise of descendants will be largely resolved in the book of Genesis, for as we enter the book of Exodus we find Israel's family fulfilling the creation mandate of Gen 1:26-28: they are multiplying and filling the land/earth (Exod 1:7). The promise of relationship/blessing will be most clearly defined in Exodus and Leviticus, when God saves His people, forgives them (Exod 32-34), and gives them directions on how to worship Him, to ensure His presence among them, unto blessing and not cursing (Lev 26). The promise of land, anticipated in Abraham's purchase of a burial plot for Sarah (Gen 23), is always in the background of the story as Israel's ultimate destination (e.g., Exod 15:17-18), yet becomes most clearly the concern in the book of Numbers as Israel takes shape as a "military community" moving towards the land. All three lines merge in Deuteronomy which functions as the hinge between the Pentateuch and the rest of Israel's story.

In Genesis 12, we already see Abraham's defining quality—his πίστις, *faith/faithfulness*, which will soon be "reckoned unto him for righteousness" (Gen 15:6) before *circumcision* enters the picture as St. Paul will later emphasize (Galatians 3). Receiving the promise in Haran, Abram immediately sets out for the land of Canaan, "leaving his own country" and his "father's house" (like the Queen Mother of Ps 44:11 [45:10]). Following St. Paul, the Fathers see in this the paradigm for our *baptismal* departure from our native land and death to natural kinship ties—both according to the flesh and, in spiritual terms, according to our devilish paternity (Jn 8:44) and the "family" of the vices associated with the "flesh"—unto our new life in Christ, our new homeland, the heavenly Kingdom, and our new kindred, the virtues (see ACC Genesis 12-50, pp. 1-4).



## 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

March 10, 2019

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS  
(CHEESEFARE)

### COMMEMORATIONS:

MARTYR KODRATOS OF CORINTH AND HIS FIVE  
COMPANIONS  
ANASTASIA THE PATRICIAN OF ALEXANDRIA  
NEW-MARTYR MICHAEL OF THESSALONICA

Tone 8 - Eothinon 8

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:11-18

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 6:14-21

**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!

**KONTAKION FOR FORGIVENESS SUNDAY** - Tone 6 - O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen .

**TODAY:** Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am  
Two-year Trisagion for Robert Germany  
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens 11:45 am  
Forgiveness Vespers 1 pm

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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 (Mar 17):
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Carolyn Kaminsky	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Irene Forssen	Raja Kyriakos
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	Alexander Ibrahim (34th birthday)	----
<b>USHERS:</b>	Steve Kulp & Dan Marquardt	
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Steve & Carolyn Kaminsky	Todd & Kristi Moore
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Sdn John & Maxine, Tatiana Y.	Hyatt Family
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	Ibrahim & Habib Families	Potluck

The Ibrahim & Habib families are sponsoring the coffee hour today in memory of the 30th anniversary of the repose of Najib Ibrahim and the 30-day anniversary of the repose of Hertanse Ibrahim. Anyone willing to donate to the Oasis of Joy Charity in Lebanon which is sponsored by Bishop Kyriakos in Lebanon to give help and assistance to special needs children can give a donation to St. Philip Orthodox Church and put Hertanse Ibrahim memorial in the item line. Thank you to all who have donated to date.

### SPECIAL APPEAL

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

## 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)

### “Handmaidens”

The purpose of the Handmaidens is to be a sisterhood of young women (ages 6-18) growing in service, purity, and godliness. Modeled after the ministry of the Theotokos, the Myrrhbearers, and the other women saints, the Handmaidens tend the candles during the Divine Liturgy, participate in special aspects of the Holy Week Services to symbolize the role of women in Christ's Passion and Resurrection, as well as other projects throughout the year. If your daughter or granddaughter is interested in joining the Handmaidens, or has questions, please talk with one of the Co-Coordinators, Leeanna Gula (484-538-3383 or leeanna@mycollegeaid.org - text or email preferred) or Natalie Gamble (317-652-7599 or nmorf@ gmail.com).

## Mark Your Calendar:

**Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers**  
Sunday, March 17, 4 pm

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

**We live Pascha to Pascha!**  
April 28, 2019

**OUTREACH COLLECTION:**  
Baby Care Items

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

## This Week:

### CLEAN WEEK

- Monday, Mar 11:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Great Compline & Great Canon, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Mar 12:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11am-3pm  
Great Compline & Great Canon, 7 p.m.
- Wed, Mar 13:** SIXTH HOUR & Great Canon of Repentance, 12 p.m.  
Presanctified Liturgy 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Mar 14:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Great Compline & Great Canon, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Mar 15:** Presanctified Liturgy 10 a.m.  
Akathist 7 p.m.; Choir Rehearsal 8 p.m.
- Sat, Mar 16:** Intro to Orthodoxy 4:30 p.m.  
Youth Choir Rehearsal 5 p.m.  
VESPERS 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Mar 17:** Sunday of ORTHODOXY  
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.,  
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.  
Coffee Hour, SS, & Teens  
11:45 a.m.  
Parish Council, 12:45 p.m.  
Sunday of Orthodoxy  
Vespers, 4 pm

(Most services preceded by available times for confession.)

### Pray For:

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

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers on Mar 2: NA Divine Services on Mar 3: 180  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$440. Collections, \$1,159.50. Youth, \$4. Book Shelf Ministry, \$80. Camping Fund, \$250. Needy Fund, \$5,257. Women's Fund, \$1,672. Memorial for Hertanse Ibrahim, \$400. Stewardship, \$8,305. Total received: \$17,567.50.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!