

## Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

“How I have loved thy law, O Lord! The whole day it is my meditation.” (Ps 118:97)

### Leviticus 1:9

“The priest shall then put all of it on the altar as a burnt offering, a sacrifice for a sweet aroma to the Lord.” (OSB)

As we move into the Book of Leviticus, we move further into the mystery of what it means for God to dwell with His people, and thus for Israel to share in God’s presence. Viewed from one angle, what God is giving to Israel is a wonderful blessing! God is giving *Himself* to Israel, and in His tabernacling among His people, He is inviting and summoning Israel to offer themselves back to Him in thanksgiving and glory (Rom 1:20), that is, to live as God’s unique priestly Kingdom (Exod 19:6), continually laying themselves on the altar of divine service as living sacrifices like their forefather, Isaac. On the other hand, in this meeting of God and Humanity, two fundamental problems are brought into clear focus:

- 1) God’s transcendence/“otherness”: If God is to be worshipped rightly (i.e., unlike the false gods of the pagans), there must be no sense in the worship system given to Israel that God “needs” sacrificial offerings, that He is in some way dependent upon and thus able to be manipulated by human ritual acts. True worship directed to the one true God *must* be distinguished from the false worship performed in the “spirit of Cain.”
- 2) Humanity’s corruption by sin and death: Because of God’s holiness, His “otherness,” and because humans have been corrupted by sin and death, humanity is not in such a state as to live in perfect communion with God. If humanity is to dwell with God, God Himself must provide a means by which the place of His dwelling can be cleansed of spiritual-ritual impurity, and the Divine-Human meeting can lead to forgiveness, reconciliation (“at-one-ment”), and communion, rather than enmity, alienation, and expulsion.

The opening chapters of Leviticus, chaps. 1-7, present the five (5) different types of sacrificial offering that the Israelites could make, which are divided in turn into two categories: 1) Lev 1-3—Voluntary offerings (Burnt, Grain, & Peace offerings); Lev 4-5—Mandatory offerings (Sin & Restitution offerings)

These two classes of offerings answer the two problems just mentioned, in turn. Focusing here only on the Voluntary offerings, we note that these offerings, which comprised the bulk of Israel’s sacrificial system, have *nothing to do with either sin or forgiveness*, nor are they commanded. The Israelite comes to the Tabernacle to offer, say, a Burnt Offering, not out of fear, or compulsion, or to assuage God’s wrath—which, incidentally, also means that the slaughter of the animal and the offerer’s identification with the animal are not pointing to a logic of substitutionary violence or punishment. Rather, the Israelite comes to sacrifice because he wants to be *with God*, to give thanks to God, and the sacrifice, which is immolated and placed on the altar, whose smoke ascends to God as a “sweet-smelling savor” (cf. Eph 5:2; Gen 8:21), is a sacramental sign of the Israelite’s self-offering to God.

St. Paul himself confirms this understanding of the sacrificial system when, discussing the Eucharist, he says: *Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?* (1 Cor 10:18). When the offerer eats the sacrifice, he “*becomes*” the sacrifice and so is united with the altar on which the sacrifice was made, where God’s presence is as well.

The sacrificial system, then, is also in its essence a *communal endeavor*. The Israelite offers sacrifice not as an isolated individual, but as part of a holy *nation*, and the communion that is effected is with both God and fellow men. Israel is constituted as a spiritual communion through its sacrifices. Indeed, the Peace Offering which was to culminate in a family feast is an ancient precursor of sorts to “Coffee Hour”!



## ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS

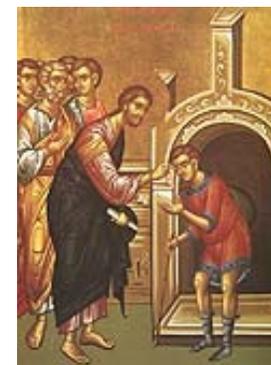


Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor  
215-954-9286



Father James Thayer  
215-692-0890

June 2, 2019  
SUNDAY OF THE  
BLIND MAN



CHRIST IS  
RISEN!

Tone 5

Eothinon 8 - St. John 20:11-18

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: St. John 9:1-38

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH  
BY DEATH, AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.

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!

### TODAY:

Orthros, 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy, 10 am  
Coffee Hour – *Camp Scholarship Fund Donation Luncheon*  
Sunday School, and Teens after Liturgy

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 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 (June 9):
<b>PROSPHORA BREAD:</b>	Anonymous	Carolyn Kaminsky
<b>EPISTLE READER:</b>	Rdr. Nathan Jekel	Sdn. David Hyatt
<b>USHERS:</b>	Justin G. & Peter C.	Dan M. & Sdn. John
<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	----	Manze Family
<b>GREETERS:</b>	Colin & Sandy M.	Steve & Carolyn K.
<b>CLEANING TEAM:</b>	Teens & Nathan, Rebecca	Serge & Alex K.
<b>COFFEE HOUR:</b>	Donation—Camp Scholarship	Alem & Kasca

\* IT IS TIME TO RETURN OUR FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE OFFERINGS. Thank you for remembering the needs of others.

### Mark Your Calendar:

**Pentecost**  
Sunday, June 16, Kneeling Prayers, 1 pm

**Apostles' Fast**  
June 24-29

**Vacation Church School**  
July 29—August 2

**Dormition Fast - August 1-14**  
Daily Paraklesis  
Holy Unction, Aug 7, 4 pm

**Liturgy w/ Youth Choir**  
Sunday, August 4

**Transfiguration**  
August 5-6

**International Food Festival**  
September 20-21

### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Bp Nikon	Demetra
Bp Alexander	
Fr. Julian	
Daniella-Gabriella	
Lawrence	
John	
Child Gregory & family	
Lasha B	
Otari B	<u>Catechumens</u>
Daniel H	Zachary, Evan,
Veronica	Tina, Robert, &
Maria & William	Michael
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
	Andrea
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Jeremy
	Michael

**OUTREACH COLLECTION:**  
Bath & Shower Products

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE:** "Dismiss"  
*Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ*

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers on May 25: 40    Divine Services on May 26: 181  
**OFFERINGS FOR MAY 19:** Candles, \$229. Collections, \$200. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf, \$10. Camping Fund, \$250. Food for Hungry, \$419.29. Donation Luncheon—St. Tikhon's, \$1,017. Stewardship, \$7,879.63. Total received: \$10,005.92.

**OFFERINGS FOR MAY 26:** Candles, \$143. Collections, \$2,913.50. Flowers, \$70. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf, \$20. Cemetery Fund, \$20. Food for Hungry, \$119.29. Special gifts, \$600. Stewardship, \$3,996. Total received: \$7,163.50.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

## **SPECIAL APPEAL for VCS**

Three ways you can help as we are gearing up for another **Vacation Church School**, of growth in faith and love for God: 1) See Kate Gohl about volunteering; 2) Pray for Fr. Noah, leaders, and students; 3) Consider offering a financial gift to cover expenses.

### This Week:

<b>Monday, June 3:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 4:</b>	Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m. <b>SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday, June 5:</b>	<b>LEAVE-TAKING OF PASCHA</b> Great <b>VESPERS &amp; Artoklasia, 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday, June 6:</b>	<b>ASCENSION OF OUR LORD</b> Divine <b>LITURGY, 10 a.m.</b> Festal Potluck to follow
<b>Friday, June 7:</b>	<b>SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon – Fast Day</b>
<b>Saturday, June 8:</b>	Holy Bread Baking Workshop, 9 a.m. <b>VESPERS at 6 p.m., Confession, 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, June 9:</b>	<b>THE FATHERS OF THE 1st ECUMENICAL COUNCIL</b> <b>ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.</b> Coffee Hour, Sunday School, & Teens.

## **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)*

### **"Summer Camp Scholarships"**

The purpose of the Summer Camp Scholarship ministry is to provide financial assistance to enable all of our children to go to the Antiochian Village Summer Camp who desire to do so. Today, after the Liturgy, we will have a donation lunch to support our camp scholarship fund. Your gift, of any amount, will make a HUGE IMPACT in a child's life. Please give as generously as you are able, and remember to pray for our children as they go to camp. Thank you for your support!

Antiochian Village Camp seeks to transform the lives of young people & families and nurtures their faith in Jesus Christ through Orthodox Christian community living, worship, education, fellowship, and love. Antiochian Village Camp gives young people a living experience of the Holy Orthodox Faith in their relationship with God and other campers in an uncluttered, natural environment. All our youth are encouraged to attend. There are sessions throughout the summer, but most of St Philip's campers attend the first session. Visit [www.avcamp.org](http://www.avcamp.org) for more information.

The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26)