

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 17:11

"For the life of all flesh is its blood, and I give it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for its blood makes atonement for the soul." (OSB modified)

This is a fascinating and important passage, for it states a principle that undergirds the whole Sacrificial system in the Old Covenant, which is then fulfilled and transformed in Christ and the New Covenant. The fascination comes from the fact that the word for "life" here is actually the word often translated as "soul" (*psyche*), as well as from the equation that is made: "life/soul" = "blood." The importance comes from the fact that God Himself has given the blood/soul as the means of atonement, that is, as the means of purification and expiation (cleansing and removal of impurity and sin).

In the context of the initial giving of the Law to ancient Israel, God wants to preserve Israel's sacrificial practice from pagan influence. Toward this end, first, the Law here in Lev 17, and later and in a fuller way in Deut 17, insists that all ritual killing be done in connection with the Tabernacle/Temple precincts. There are to be no "private Masses," as it were. And second, while because of its divinely-appointed function, blood is sacred, still the purpose of ritual sacrifice is not to manipulate the "gods" nor to commune with a "world soul" through drinking animal blood, in some form of animism.

In his homily on Genesis 1:24 (*Hexaemeron* 8.2), St. Basil notes the difference between the "living soul" of animals as produced by the earth, and the "living soul" that Adam became through God's direct inspiration of the "breath of life" (Gen 2:7). And yet it is also true that *all life* has God as its ultimate source, for "when You take away their breath, [all things] shall die and return again to their dust," but when "You shall send forth Your Spirit," "they shall be created" (Ps 103:29-30). To manipulate or drink blood, then, is an attempt to appropriate for oneself, on one's own terms, that which comes from and belongs to God alone—the very principle of life/soul. The same logic applies to murder, as seen in Gen 9:3-7: to unlawfully take someone else's life through the shedding of blood is to "play God," for it is to take upon oneself the divine prerogative of bestowing or withholding breath-life-soul.

Again, we return to the important observation that God Himself *has given* the blood/soul of animals to Israel. Israel does not take what does not belong to it; its sacrifices are not an attempt to "play God," they are a faithful response to the Divinely-revealed Economy of the Law.

And we immediately see how this Economy points us to Sacrifice of all Sacrifices, Christ's own self-giving. It is God Himself Who "puts forth" Christ's Blood as a "Mercy Seat" and "Sacrifice of Atonement" (Rom 3:25). Christ Himself lays down His own Soul (*Psyche*) freely, and has the authority of Himself to take it up again (Jn 10:17-18). Christ Himself *gives us* to eat of His own Flesh and to drink of His Blood in the Eucharist (cf. Jn 6:48-58), which we do not *take*, but *receive* with thanksgiving—a scandal to the Jews and even to some of Jesus' disciples who knew well of Lev 17:11, but our glory and salvation. And so, since Christ is Life (Jn 14:6), our reception of Christ's incarnate Body and Blood in the transformed Bread and Wine of Communion, which have been assumed into and united with His eternal divine Person (*Hypostasis*), is our partaking of the very Principle of Life itself. God has given us this divine Blood-Life-Soul for our purification and our redemption, for it is Christ's own Soul that is given as a "ransom" (Matt 20:28) for our deliverance from the tyranny of sin, death, and the Devil.



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

July 21, 2019

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

RIGHTEOUS FATHERS JOHN OF EDESSA IN
MESOPOTAMIA AND SIMEON OF HOMS (EMESA), THE
FOOL-FOR-CHRIST
PARTHENIOS, BISHOP OF RADOVIZLIOS
MARTYR VICTOR OF MARSEILLES

Tone 4 - Eothinon 5

Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:12-35

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 8:29-9:1

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 4 - Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples saying, Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am
VCS Volunteer Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
Coffee Hour after Liturgy.
Parish Council, 12:45 p.m.
Ethnic Dance Practice, 1 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 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 (July 28):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala	MaryLynne Black
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr. Nicholas Muzekari	Terry Kaminsky
USHERS:	Dan M. & Justin G.	Peter C. & Gabe Q.
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	Jordan & Natalie Gamble Celebration of 1st Wedding Anniversary
GREETERS:	Colin & Sandy Miller	Celia-Marie & Sharon
CLEANING TEAM:	Hyatt Family	Kim B.; Todd & Kristi M.
COFFEE HOUR:	Potluck	Donation – Ukrainian Orphanage

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Dormition Fast - August 1-14

Daily Paraklesis

Holy Unction, Aug 7, 4 pm

Transfiguration

Monday, August 5

Vespers & Artoklasia, 6 pm

Orthros, 7 pm

Tuesday, August 6

Divine Liturgy, 9 am

Blessing of Fruit & Produce, 10:30 am

Feast of the Dormition

Wednesday, August 14

Vespers, Artoklasia, & Lamentations 7 pm

Blessing of Herbs & Flowers 8 pm

Thursday, August 15

Orthros 9 am, Liturgy 10 am

Blessing of Herbs & Flowers 11:30 am

International Food Festival

September 20-21

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Archimandrite David (Griffeth)	Masresha Alees
Fr. Julian Daniella-Gabriela	Isaac Najib
Laurence John	Christina
Child Gregory & family	
Lasha B Otari B	
Daniel H John	<u>Catechumens</u>
Doris	Zachary, Evan, Tina, Robert,
Christiana Nancy	Michael, & Connor
Philip & Family	
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>St. Nina's List</u>
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Andrea Jeremy Michael Bailey

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)

"Vacation Church School"

The purpose of Vacation Church School is to provide a one-week summer program of Christian Education, sacred music, and crafts, as well as fellowship and fun, for Orthodox youth entering Pre-K (4 yrs) through entering 8th grade. High school and college students are invited and encouraged to participate as teachers and helpers. VCS is next week, July 29 - August 2, from 9am to 12noon. We invite your children to participate - please register your children through the church website. For more information contact Kate Gohl, Coordinator [kategohl@gmail.com].

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:

Monday, July 22: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

Tuesday, July 23: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m. SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

**Wed, July 24: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.**

Thursday, July 25: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

Friday, July 26: SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon

**Saturday, July 27: VESPERS 6 p.m.; Confession 7 p.m.
Teens Summer Reading Discussion, 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, July 28: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour after Liturgy.
Festival Kick-off Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
Ethnic Dance Practice, 1 p.m.**

OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Oral Care Products

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: "Displace"
Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on July 13: 42 Divine Services on July 14: 168
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$213.10. Collections, \$886. Cemetery Fund, \$10. Women's Fund, \$20. FOCUS Backpacks, \$30. Stewardship, \$9,027.63. Total received: \$10,186.73.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

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