

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 24:2-3

“Command the children of Israel to bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually. Outside the veil in the tabernacle of testimony, Aaron and his sons shall keep [the lamps] burning from evening until morning before the Lord continually; it shall be an ordinance forever in your generations.” (OSB)

There is no “vacation” from the royal priesthood that God has bestowed on His people. This is the principle communicated to us through the image of “tending the lamps” here in Leviticus 24. All of Israel’s time is to be sanctified to God, as seen in the morning and evening sacrifices that frame Israel’s day (Exod 29:38ff), and in the tending of the lamps from evening to morning. There is to be no time in Israel’s life without remembrance of God, no time when Israel’s life is not being offered to God in prayer, especially during the darkness of sleep.

In the Church’s liturgical life, this is expressed in the Hours of Prayer which from a very early time came to structure the Church’s days, as adapted and transformed from Jewish practice. In *On the Apostolic Tradition* (PPS 54, pp. 200-210), St. Hippolytus of Rome (early 3rd century) recounts the tradition of praying six times a day: upon awakening, then at the 3rd Hour, the 6th Hour, and the 9th Hour, before bed, and at Midnight. In his *Treatise on Prayer* 6-7, St. Simeon of Thessalonike (early 15th century) recounts the sevenfold pattern of prayer that became customary, which is based on Psalm 118:164, “*Seven times a day have I praised you.*”

In both liturgical and personal terms, the Church is emphasizing to us the profound command of St. Paul: *Pray without ceasing* (1 Thess 5:17). That is, our whole life is to be one continual prayer to God, just as it is to be one continual self-offering to God (Eph 5:2). Specific times of prayer, then, are to be concentrations and reminders of what all of our time is and should be. As Metr. Anthony Bloom said, “A prayer makes sense only if it is lived. Unless they are ‘lived’, unless life and prayer become completely interwoven, prayers become a sort of polite madrigal”—that is, a chanted poem—“which you offer to God at moments when you are giving time to Him” (*Beginning to Pray*, p. 59). To be sure, the life of prayer is one of continual effort, struggle, and growth. We must continually be asking of the Lord, “Teach us to pray” (Lk 11:1).

To pray is to take up our priestly role over our own soul. We are all priests, like Aaron, called to tend the lamps of God’s holy dwelling that is our soul. We enter into our soul’s holy place to commune with God there, for it is there that Christ promises He will take up residence along with the Father (Jn 14:23). It is there where we are reminded of who we truly are, what our destiny is as God’s sons and daughters by grace if we will persist in faithful communion with God.

The tending of the lamps becomes an important symbol of *watchfulness* as well. We must not let the “dark night” of the world lull us to sleep such that we take on the pattern of the world by default. We must be sober and vigilant, keeping the Light of Christ burning within the house of our soul, expelling darkness within us so that we can be the light of the world set upon a hill (Matt 5:14-16). In Zechariah’s prophecy of the restoration of Israel and the Temple (Zech 4), the unfailing olive oil in the Lampstand comes to represent the Holy Spirit by which God’s people are infused with power so as to rebuild the walls and house of Zion, as it were (cf. Ps 50:20; 126:1). This is what we symbolize in the lamp that burns continually on our church altar!



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

August 11, 2019

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

AFTERFEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
EUPHUS THE HOLY MARTYR & ARCHDEACON OF
CANTANIA
OUR HOLY FATHER NIPHONUS, PATRIARCH OF
CONSTANTINOPLE
BLANE, BISHOP OF BUTE

Tone 7 - Eothinon 8

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:11-18

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 14:14-22

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 7 - Thou didst shatter death by thy Cross, thou didst open Paradise to the thief; thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment bearing women into joy, and didst bid thine Apostles proclaim a warning that thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy!

APOLYTIKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION - Tone 7 - When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy Disciples in proportion as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy 10 am
Trisagion Memorial for Fr. Boniface – Memory Eternal!
Special Parish Meeting
Welcome Class, 11:45 am
Coffee Hour after Liturgy.
Ethnic Dance Practice, 1 pm
Paraklesis, 2 pm

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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 (Aug 18):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Carolyn Kaminsky	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr. Luke Carpenter	Jennifer Howanetz
USHERS:	Justin G. & Dan M.	Sd. John N & Gabe Q.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Michael & Marcia Ibrahim In Memory of Alees, Isaac, Najib, Radwan – Yvonne (in Lebanon)	----
GREETERS:	Greg & Jenn Howanetz	Steve & Carolyn Kaminsky
CLEANING TEAM:	Serge & Alex Kaminsky	Olena, Alemash, Zerfenesh & Tsegereda
COFFEE HOUR:	Potluck	Potluck

EVERYONE is invited to stay for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy. Your assistance in cleanup is appreciated. **COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS NEEDED!** Many upcoming weeks do not have sponsors - can you take a turn?

Mark Your Calendar:

Beholding of the Forerunner (Strict Fast)

Wednesday, August 28
Vespers 7 pm

Thursday, August 29
Orthros 9 am, Liturgy 10 am
w/ Fasting Potluck to follow

Ecclesiastical New Year

Sunday, September 1

Nativity of the Theotokos

Sunday, September 8
& First Day of Sunday School

Elevation of the Holy Cross (Strict Fast)

Friday, Sept 13
Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 pm
Saturday, Sept 14
Orthros 9 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am
w/ Fasting Potluck to follow

International Food Festival

September 20-21

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Archimandrite David (Griffeth)	Fr. Boniface Masresha
Sharon-Elizabeth Laurence	Alees Isaac
Lasha B Otari B Daniel H	Najib
John Doris Nancy	<u>Catechumens</u> Zachary, Evan, Tina, Robert, Michael;
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Todd, Kendra, Liesel, Todd, John Moses, Virginia
New & Expectant Mothers & children	<u>St. Nina's List</u> Andrea Jeremy Michael

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)

"Endowment Fund"

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to support programs of a non-operating nature, such as sponsorship of Orthodox education, funding honoraria for guest lecturers, and support to graduating high school students. For more information contact Jerry Burke (G)jerry25@comcast.net) or Fr. Noah Bushelli (nbushelli@gmail.com).

This Week:

DORMITION FAST – August 1-14

- Monday, August 12:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Paraklesis, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug 13:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
Paraklesis, 7 p.m.
- Wed, August 14:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Byzantine Chant Workshop, 6 p.m.
Vespers, Artoklasia, Lamentations for the Dormition of the Theotokos, 7 p.m.
Blessing of Herbs & Flowers, 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug 15:** FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
Orthros 9 a.m.; Liturgy 10 a.m.
Blessing of Herbs & Flowers, 11:30 a.m.
Festal Potluck to follow.
- Friday, August 16:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Saturday, Aug 17:** Fellowship of St. Maria of Paris Gathering, 1 pm
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug 18:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m., Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
40-Day Trisagion (Kassa's Mother-Memory Eternal!)
Coffee Hour after Liturgy.
Parish Council, 12:45 p.m.
Ethnic Dance Practice, 1 p.m.

OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Paper Products

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

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers on Aug 3: 36 Divine Services on Aug 4: 173
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$325. Collections, \$806. Youth, \$3. Book Shelf Ministry, \$35. Christmas in July, \$100. Land Acquisition, \$5,000. FOCUS Backpacks, \$15. Stewardship, \$5,408. Total received: \$11,692. Festival Account, \$400.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

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