

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

Numbers 11:29; 12:2

“Then Moses said to [Joshua], ‘Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people might be prophets, when the Lord would put His Spirit upon them.’ ... So [Aaron and Miriam] said, ‘Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?’ But the Lord heard it.” (OSB)

The wilderness is the place of testing, the tool God uses to show Israel and us (the new Israel) our true selves. In times of difficulty and scarcity, otherwise dormant passions and contentions bubble up to the surface and threaten to fracture the people of God. People turn against God, leaders come to resent people, people begin to challenge God-ordained authority, and all that God has done and the whole purpose for which God’s people exists, their identity, calling, and their destiny, are completely forgotten, having been exchanged for the “pig slop” of self-pity, grudges, and opportunistic self-advancement.

This is where we find Israel in Numbers 11. They have barely gotten underway in their journey towards the Promised Land, and already strife and dissension are overwhelming them. They are overcome by “exceeding desire” (Num 11:4) and are grieving “the grief of the world” that “produces death” (2 Cor 7:10), simply because they want a more elaborate food menu. Life with the Almighty God of the universe in their midst, on the way to the Land God has promised them, just isn’t enough.

Moses in turn is understandably overwhelmed by having to “bear the burden” of this faithless, incorrigible rabble. And so God responds in a way similar to Jethro’s counsel in Exod 18:13-27, commanding Moses to delegate his authority to 70 elders of Israel to assist in ruling over Israel. The prophetic spirit God gave to Moses is distributed to this group of 70, “and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, although they never did so again” (Num 11:25). Moses and Joshua hear that there are two men who are still prophesying “in the camp,” and Joshua reacts out of a nervous desire to preserve Moses’ unique place. Moses instead expresses a desire that all of Israel would have the same spirit of prophecy that Moses has.

This “democratic” ideal is quickly tempered by a challenge to Moses’ authority that comes from his own brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam, in part because they are resentful over Moses’ having married an Ethiopian woman—who, much like the Bride in the Song of Solomon (1:5-7), the Fathers interpreted as a symbol of the Gentile Church. The Lord reacts sharply to clarify Moses’ exalted place: Moses, who is “faithful in all My house,” is *more* than a prophet or visionary, for God speaks to him “face to face” (Num 12:6-8).

There are many types here that we find fulfilled in the New Covenant. We think of the calling of the 70 disciples in Luke 10, and of the prophetic Spirit that comes on the whole Church at Pentecost in fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32 (Acts 2). Of particular curiosity is the tension we see in Jesus’ own words to the Disciples about finding those speaking and healing in Jesus’ name outside of the Apostolic circle (cf. Mark 9:38-40; Matt 12:30)—which mirrors the tension portrayed in Numbers 11. Yet, in light of Christ who is Son in God’s house (Heb 3:1-6), even Moses’ place becomes secondary. It is the Father’s beloved Son Whom we are to hear (Matt 17:5)—in all the places, people, and means He seeks to speak to us.



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



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September 22, 2019

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

HIEROMARTYR PHOCAS, BISHOP OF SINOPE
APOSTLE QUADRATOS OF THE SEVENTY
MARTYR PHOCAS THE GARDENER
NEW-MARTYRS ISAAC AND MARTIN

Tone 5 - Eothinon 3

Orthros Gospel: St. Mark 16:9-20

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 5:1-11

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.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. PHOCAS - Tone 4 - By choosing the Apostles’ way of life, thou hast succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the Word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith to the very shedding of thy blood, O Holy Martyr among bishops Phocas. Entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am
Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 am
Coffee Hour after Liturgy.

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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 (Sept 29):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	MaryLynne Black	Anonymous
EPISTLE READER:	Joe Kyriakos	Rdr. Justin Gohl
USHERS:	Steve K. & Justin G.	Peter C. & Dan M.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Celia-Marie Khouri Birthday – Many Years!	John & Deborah Ferguson Felicia's Birthday – Many Years!
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Michael”	“Archangel Gabriel”
GREETERS:	Angie Drăghici	Jim & Doris Eggers
CLEANING TEAM:	Hyatt Family	Kim B. & Todd and Kristi M
COFFEE HOUR:	Potluck	Potluck

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Pilgrimage to Holy Protection Monastery
Monday, Sept 30 –
See Sdn. David for details.

Women's Heart Health Presentation
Saturday, Oct 5, 2 pm

AWE Fall Gathering @ Holy Protection
Saturday, Oct 19

Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, Oct 27

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Archimandrite David (Griffeth)	Archbishop Nikon
Sharon-Elizabeth Laurence	Archpriests Stephen & John
Lasha B Otari B Daniel H	Gloria
John John Doris Nancy	<u>Catechumens</u> Zachary, Evan, Tina, Robert, Michael, Todd, Kendra, Liesel, Todd, John
Athanasius & family Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Moses, Virginia, Conor
New & Expectant Mothers & children	<u>St. Nina's List</u> Michael Sheilagh Andrea

THANKS TO GOD AND OUR MANY DEDICATED PARISHIONERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL! PLEASE PRAY FOR MANY OF OUR GUESTS TO RETURN HUNGRY FOR THE ANCIENT CHRISTIAN FAITH.



ATTENDANCE: At Liturgy for Elevation on Sep 14: 76 Divine Services on Sept 15: 191
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$276. Collections, \$92.27. Youth, \$6. Stewardship, \$9,619. Book Shelf Ministry, \$12. Needy Fund, \$60. Pastoral Discretion, \$500. Total received: \$10,565.27. Festival Account: \$100.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

This Week:

- Mon, Sept 23:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Tues, Sept 24:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
- Wed, Sept 25:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Vespers, 4 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Sept 26:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Fri, Sept 27:** SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
Paraklesis, 7 p.m.
- Sat, Sept 28:** Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
- Sun, Sept 29:** ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.,
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Catechism, Sunday School, & 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)

“Burial Ministry”

The Burial Ministry Team assists the dying and their family through the process of preparing for death and a traditional Orthodox Christian burial. Assistance is provided to parishioners as well as those in our community who are not able to afford the burial of their loved one. There are many ways to serve, from visiting the sick, prayer and reading of Psalms, transportation, maintaining supplies, building a coffin, financial contributions, sewing a burial shroud, filing paperwork, the preparation of the body of the departed, and much more. We seek to follow St. John of Shanghai's advice to “Show mercy to the dead, take care of their souls.” If you are interested in being a part of the Burial Ministry Team contact Stephanie Muzekari (smuzekari@gmail.com or 215-855-7673) or Fr. Noah Bushelli (nbushelli@gmail.com).

OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Cleaning Supplies

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

“Deliberately Get to Know & Serve Your Neighbors”