

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 13:30

“Then Caleb quieted the people towards Moses, and said to him, ‘No, but let us go up at once and take possession of it, for we are well able to overcome them.’” (OSB)

Who is stronger, almighty God or “giants”? It is an absurd question, and yet we “who are of little faith” find ourselves constantly entertaining it, unable to lift our eyes and “see” and “believe” and “live” the truth of God’s all-powerful, all-loving, and providential rule and guidance over all things (2 Kgs 6:15-17).

As we read these stories, we must continually bear in mind what St. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:11:

Now all these things happened to them in figure, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

We in the New Covenant Church are the *true* subject and meaning of these Old Testament narratives. What is presented in *type, figure, and shadow* in the Old Testament is really about us and for us.

The story of the “12 spies” here in Numbers 13 is, for us, one both of warning and encouragement. When we contemplate the 10 men whose names are immortalized in Scripture (Num 13:4-16), who through their lack of faith brought about the destruction of the first generation of Israel, we might recall Proverbs 10:8 (OSB):

The memory of the righteous is with eulogies; but the name of the ungodly man is extinguished.

Only Joshua and Caleb emerge as “the righteous”—testifying to an enduring reality in the experience of God’s people, that it often falls to the “minority” (e.g., Sts. Athanasius, Maximus the Confessor, Mark of Ephesus) to uphold and preserve the truth. The “righteous” Saints are graced with the ability to look beyond appearances, to look beyond the “giants” and “fortified cities” that are hostile to God’s people, and to live by faith, to “follow closely after the Lord” (Num 32:12), to live as if what we confess and believe about God and His promises *were actually real*. As if something could be “more real” than that!

Caleb in particular, who is from the tribe of Judah (as is our Lord according to the flesh), is set front-and-center as the exemplar of faithfulness to God. He says, in effect, “Be still, and know” that the Lord is God (Ps 45:11), that “the Lord is with us” (Num 14:9). The “whole congregation” (*synagogue*) of Israel takes up stones to stone the righteous prophet Caleb and Joshua, foreshadowing Jesus’ rejection by “his own” (John 1:11; 10:31; Matt 23:37).

In the context of the Old Testament story itself, Caleb’s (and Joshua’s) courage to take on the “giants,” the “descendants of Anak,” foreshadows Righteous David’s “conquest” of Goliath of Gath, where some Anakim remained after Joshua’s war (Josh 11:21-22).

May we too continue the conquest of the “sinful passions” that linger in our hearts, threatening to make us come up short of the eternal inheritance God has in store for us!



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

September 29, 2019
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

CYRIACUS THE HERMIT OF PALESTINE
MARTYR PETRONIUS
THEOPHANES THE MERCIFUL OF GAZA
DIONYSIOS I, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE
MALACHI THE NEW RIGHTEOUS MARTYR OF LINDOS

Tone 6 - Eothinon 4
Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 24:1-12
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 6:31-36

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 6 - When Mary stood at thy grave, looking for thy sacred Body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led'st hades captive and wast not tempted thereby; thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. O thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to thee!

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. KYRIAKOS OF PALESTINE - Tone 1 - Thou didst prove to be a citizen of the desert, an angel in the flesh, and a wonderworker, O Kyriakos, our God-bearing Father. By fasting, vigil, and prayer thou didst obtain heavenly gifts, and thou healest the sick and the souls of them that have recourse to thee with faith. Glory to Him that hath given thee strength; glory to Him that hath crowned thee; glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

TODAY: Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am
Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 am
IOCC Presentation – Tony Pantazopoulos
Coffee Hour 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 (Oct 6):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Anonymous	Kristi Moore
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr. Justin Gohl	Brian Fitzgerald
USHERS:	Peter C. & Dan M.	Steve K. & Sdn. John N.
ALTAR CANDLES:	John & Deborah Ferguson Felicia's Birthday – Many Years!	----
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Gabriel”	“Archangel Michael”
GREETERS:	Jim & Doris Eggers	Teen SOYO
CLEANING TEAM:	Kim B. & Todd and Kristi M	Teens w/ Nate & Rebecca
COFFEE HOUR:	Potluck	Al Manze & Ayele families

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

Mark Your Calendar:

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	Gloria
Daniel H John	<u>Catechumens</u>
John Doris Nancy	Zachary, Evan, Tina, Robert, Michael, Todd,
Athanasius & family	Kendra, Liesel, Todd, John
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 Vespers Sep 21: 52 Divine Services on Sept 22: 195
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$450. Collections, \$756. Youth, \$2. Stewardship, \$3,721.63. Book Shelf Ministry, \$88. Camping Fund, \$311. Library Fund, \$115.45. Women's Fund, \$1,704.05. Total received: \$7,148.13.
 Festival Donations: \$680.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

This Week:

- Mon, Sept 30:** **SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon**
Pilgrimage to Holy Protection Monastery, 4 pm
- Tues, Oct 1:** **SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon**
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.
- Wed, Oct 2:** **SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon**
Vespers, 4 p.m.
Compline & Patristic Reading, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, Oct 3:** **SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon**
- Fri, Oct 4:** Mothers Prayer Group (at Maddie Hewitt's) 10 am
SIXTH HOUR, 12 noon
- Sat, Oct 5:** Men's Fellowship, 7:30 a.m.
Women's Heart Health seminar, 2 p.m.
Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.
VESPERS 6 p.m., Confession 7 p.m.
- Sun, Oct 6:** **ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.**
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Memorial for Al Manze & Ayele Shermeka
Coffee Hour, Catechism, Sunday School, & Teens, 11:45 a.m.
Choir Practice, 12:30 p.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)

“Website & Social Media”

The purpose of the Website & Social Media ministry is, first, to serve our parish by providing resources and information about Orthodox faith and life, along with news and events pertaining to our parish and diocese. Second, the parish's online presence is an important vehicle for introducing non-Orthodox people to Orthodox Christianity, and the living expression of the Gospel in our parish, particularly for our local area. If you are interested in being a part of the Website & Social Media Team, contact Justin Gohl (jgohl.stphilip@gmail.com).

OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Cleaning Supplies

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:

“Deliberately Get to Know & Serve Your Neighbors”