

Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

Joshua 10:24-25

"Then Joshua said to them, 'Do not be afraid of them, nor be fearful. Be courageous, for the Lord will do thus to all your enemies against whom you wage war.' After this, Joshua put them to death and hanged them on five trees. They hung on the trees until evening." (OSB)

After Israel's stinging defeat at Ai, followed by the discovery of Achan's sin and its purging, Israel is victorious over Ai (Josh 8). The subsequent conquest of the land occupies Joshua 9-11, divided between the "southern campaign" (chs. 9-10), including the deceptive pact with the Gibeonites, and the "northern campaign" (ch. 11). It is to be noted that the territory in the south that will be allotted to the Tribe of Judah, the Tribe of David and of our Lord in his humanity, receives the more detailed account.

As the Canaanites witness the fall of Jericho and then Ai, they rally to join forces in opposition to Joshua and Israel (Josh 9:1-2). Unlike an earlier king of Jerusalem (Salem), Melchizedek, who blessed Abraham and his family (Gen 14:18-22), Adonizedek calls a meeting of the "heads of the five families" to conspire against and oppose Israel by attacking the Gibeonites who had just joined Israel (Josh 10:1-6). The ensuing battle is a complete rout of the Canaanites (10:7-11), as the Lord Himself "crushes" His enemies, and rains "hailstones" on them as they scatter and flee from before His face (Ps 67:1-2), as we sing at Pascha.

Indeed, a normal day is not long enough to defeat God's enemies, and so God, at Joshua's request, causes the sun *and moon* to stand still to complete the pursuit and rout of the enemies (Josh 10:12-14). The five kings take refuge in a cave, and Joshua is ordered to "roll stones against the mouth of the cave and set men to guard them" (Josh 10:17). After the rout, Joshua orders the Israelites to *put their feet on the necks* of the kings, and then to "hang them on trees ... until evening" (10:24-25).

For us who know to ascend from the history and letter of these Old Covenant narratives to their spiritual reality, we cannot help but "hear and see" the mystery of our Lord's Passion and the Christian's ongoing spiritual warfare in this story. **The defeat of the Canaanite kings is a kind of inverse spiritual picture of our Lord's own crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.**

St. Paul can be understood as indicating this very thing in Colossians 2:13-15:

*When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **When He stripped off the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.***

Jesus defeats Death, Sin, and the devil and his demons by "putting them on" and taking them with Him to the Cross, to the Tomb, to Hades, and He makes a "public spectacle" of them, "stripping them off" in His resurrection, which is our Liberation and Victory. We, the Church, as the "lesser light" of the moon, participate in the warfare and victory of the "greater light," Christ, "the Sun of righteousness" (Gen 1:16; Mal 3:20) when we actively "**strip off** the old man" and "put on the new" (Col 3:9-10). Through our cooperation with God, "**the God of peace** will soon crush Satan under [our] feet" (Rom 16:20).

Assyrian king standing on the neck of his foe (8th c. BC)



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

January 26, 2020

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

COMMEMORATIONS:

VENERABLE XENOPHON, HIS WIFE, MARY, AND THEIR
TWO SONS, ARKADIOS AND JOHN, OF
CONSTANTINOPLE
TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF VENERABLE
THEODORE THE STUDITE

Tone 7 - Eothinon 10
Orthros Gospel: St. John 21:1-14
Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 19:1-10

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!

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST - Tone 1 - Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

TODAY: ORTHROS & Confession 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.

Please check the take-away table in the Great Room and claim anything that belongs to you!

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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 (Feb 2):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Mary Lynne Black	Kristi Moore
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr. Nicholas Morelli	Rdr. Nathan Jekel
USHERS:	Colin M. & Steve K.	
ALTAR CANDLES:	Elias & Suha Neno <small>For Blessings Received</small>	----
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Michael”	“Archangel Gabriel”
GREETERS:	Justin & Kate Gohl	Nick & Martha Morelli
CLEANING TEAM:	Kim B., & Todd and Kristi M.	Hyatt Family
COFFEE HOUR:	Potluck	Hewitts

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Beginning of Lent
March 2, 2020

LENTEN REREAT – March 28, 2020

“Recollecting Glory: Orthodox Education for Wisdom, Virtue, and Joy”
w/ Dr. John Mark Reynolds

Mark your calendar!

We live Pascha to Pascha!
April 19, 2020

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Doris	Elder Ephrem
John	Doris
Archimandrite David	Kh. Anastasia
Lasha B	Julie
Otari B	Fr. Patrick
Daniel H	Fr. Theodore
John	Anthony
Zerfenesh	<u>Catechumens</u>
Arabella	Zachary, Evan,
Tsighe	Tina, Robert,
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	Michael, Todd,
New & Expectant Mothers & children	Kendra, Liesel,
	Todd, John
	Moses, Virginia,
	Conor
	<u>St. Nina’s List</u>
	Andrea

OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Oral Care Products

EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:
“Pray for Orthodox Missionaries”

SAINT PHILIP’S is a place of prayer and repentance and a “Pan-Orthodox” parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese, serving Orthodox Christians of all backgrounds in the English language. If you are a newcomer to our community, please sign our guest book, and stay with us for the Coffee Hour today. **AND, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AGAIN!**

PLEASE NOTE: Holy Communion is only for practicing Orthodox Christians who are following the commandments, have prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, and recent confession, who are dressed modestly, and have arrived on time for the Liturgy. All are welcome to kiss the Cross and receive Blessed Bread at the end of the Liturgy.

This Week:

Mon, Jan 27: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

Tues, Jan 28: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club,
12 pm
Conshohocken Fellowship, 6:30 pm

Wed, Jan 29: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Compline & Spiritual Reading 7 pm

Thur, Jan 30: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.

Fri, Jan 31: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.
Paraklesis, 7 p.m.

Sat, Feb 1: Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.
Vespers & Artoklasia, w/ Candle Blessing, 6 p.m.
Pre-Initiation Prayers (Jekel & Willits)
Confession 7:30 p.m.

Sun, Feb 2: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple
ORTHROS 8:30 a.m.
Baptismal LITURGY (Jekel) w/ Chrismation (Willits)
9:45 a.m.
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.



**THE DOORS!
THE DOORS!**
Please note the change in church access on Sunday: **AFTER 10 am, all doors will be locked except the Narthex entrance. If you arrive after 10 am, please plan to enter through the Narthex.**



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)

UPDATING THE Photo Directory

to encourage unity, fellowship, and ministry at St. Philip

Please submit your updated family photo, address, emails, and telephone numbers to: **stphilipphotos20@gmail.com.**

You may also submit a printed photo for the directory. We will have a section for Stewards, and another for Friends. Have questions? Contact Dale Yeager [daleyeager@live.com], Colin Miller [Colinmil@comcast.net] or Subdeacon David Hyatt [dhyatt@st-philip.net].

ATTENDANCE: At Vespers Jan 18: 34 Divine Services on Jan 19: 153
OFFERINGS: Candles, \$193. Collections, \$39.55. Youth, \$3. Book Shelf Ministry, \$48. Camping Fund, \$250. Missions, \$225. Needy Fund, \$60. Stewardship, \$7,018. Total received: \$7,836.55.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!