

## Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures

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

### Judges 5:7

“The mighty of Israel failed, they came to an end; Until Deborah, whom He raised; Until a mother whom He raised in Israel.” (OSB)

Having embarked on a course through the Book of Judges, the reader will soon discover, no doubt, that this Book is not for the faint of heart. After the model judge, Othniel, in Judg 3:7-11 which sets the pattern for the stories of the judges to follow, the reader encounters two of the more gruesome and memorable stories in Scripture—Ehud’s assassination of the portly king of Moab, Eglon, whose girth is such that Ehud cannot extract his sword from the king’s gut (3:12-30), and Jael’s assassination (herself a Canaanite) of the Canaanite general, Sisera, by driving a tent peg through his temple (4:17-24).



While these events are indeed presented as God-given victories, we would not be wrong to hear in them some ambivalence, as it were. That is, even in victory, the Scriptural accounts are not altogether “celebratory,” but do have a tragic undertone to them. Certainly we are to see the destruction of God’s enemies as a good thing, and yet we are reminded that the ongoing conflicts between Israel and the people of Canaan are a result of Israel’s failure to complete the conquest of the Promised Land and their ongoing wickedness before the Lord. While the continued Canaanite presence is ultimately explained in terms of God’s providence—God kept some Canaanites in the land so as to “test” Israel (Judg 3:1-6)—this in no way absolves Israel of blame, for in their forgetting of God and courting of evil they clearly fail the test. Israel, having abandoned the narrow and noble path of fidelity to God, must resort to trickery and subterfuge in the person of the judges.

The judge and prophetess Deborah sounds this note of tragedy when she announces to Barak, an Israelite general from the tribe of Benjamin, as he prepares to go against King Jabin and his general, Sisera, “there will be no honor gained by you on the journey you are undertaking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman” (Judg 4:9).

And yet, in all of this do we not hear an anticipation of our Lord’s victorious incarnation, death, and resurrection, accomplished through His willing self-emptying unto the shameful death on the Cross, as well as through the humility and lowliness of Our Lady, the Virgin Mary (Lk 1:46-55)? God Himself descends into our lowliness and dishonor, brought about through our own disobedience, and inverts them, turning them into manifestations of His own glory and self-giving love. Thus we arrive at the irony that “Through the Cross, joy has come into all the world.” In the words of St. John Chrysostom:

*“Christ conquered the devil using the same weapons that the devil used against us: A virgin, a tree, and death. These tokens of our demise have now become tokens of our victory. Instead of Eve there was Mary; instead of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the wood of the Cross; instead of Adam’s death, the death of Christ.”*



## 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

February 16, 2020

SUNDAY OF THE  
PRODIGAL SON

### COMMEMORATIONS:

PAMPHILUS THE MARTYR & HIS COMPANIONS  
FLAVIANOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE  
ROMANOS THE YOUNGER

Tone 2 - Eothinon 2

Orthros Gospel: St. Mark 16:1-8  
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 15:11-32

**RESURRECTION TROPARION** - Tone 2 - When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee!

**KONTAKION FOR THE PRODIGAL SON** - Tone 3 - In my folly have I strayed from the glory, O Father. All the wealth Thou gavest to me, I have in wickedness squandered. Wherefore now, the prayer of the prodigal to Thee do I cry. I have sinned against Thee, merciful Father. Receive me a penitent, and make me as one of the lowliest servants.

### TODAY:

ORTHROS & Confession 8:30 a.m.  
Baptismal LITURGY (Kaminsky) 9:45 a.m.  
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 11:45 a.m.  
Parish Council Meeting, 12:45 p.m.

✦ Preparation for Communion Booklets are available in the Narthex—please take one per family.

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 (Feb 23):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabi & Catalin Tinjala	MaryLynne Black
EPISTLE READER:	Rdr. Jordan Gamble	Sdn. Luke Carpenter
USHERS:	Peter C. & Steve K.	Colin M. & Dan M.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Howanetz Family <small>Jenn's Mother's birthday</small>	----
ALTAR BOYS:	"Archangel Gabriel"	"Archangel Michael"
GREETERS:	Todd & Kristi Moore	Michael & Helen Heveran
CLEANING TEAM:	Serge & Alex Kaminsky	Olena, Almash, & Zerfenesh
COFFEE HOUR:	Kaminsky Family	Women of St. Mariamne

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
Newly-illuminated Zach (James) Cecilia	Thomas Julie Fr. Patrick Fr. Theodore Anthony
Doris John Lasha B Otari B Daniel H John Zerfenesh Tsighe	<u>Catechumens</u> Evan, Tina, Robert, Michael, Todd, Kendra, Liesel, Todd, John Moses, Virginia, Conor
Thomas, Elizabeth & all Missionaries	<u>St. Nina's List</u> Andrea
New & Expectant Mothers & children	

**OUTREACH COLLECTION:**  
Paper Products

**EVANGELISM CHALLENGE:**

"Pray for open doors to the Gospel in closed countries"

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, Feb 17: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.**

**Tues, Feb 18: Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 11 a.m.  
SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.**

**Wed, Feb 19: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.  
Compline & Spiritual Reading 7 p.m.**

**Thu, Feb 20: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.**

**Fri, Feb 21: SIXTH HOUR, 12 p.m.**

**Sat, Feb 22: Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m.  
Akathist for a Loved One who has Fallen Asleep, 10 a.m.  
Catechism Seminar, 4:30 p.m.  
Youth Choir rehearsal, 5 p.m.  
VESPERS, 6 p.m.  
Baptism Prayers (Stuhltrager) 7 pm  
Confession 7:30 p.m.**

**Sun, Feb 23: ORTHROS & Confession 8:30 a.m.  
Baptismal LITURGY (Stuhltrager) 9:45 a.m.  
Coffee Hour, Catechism, SS, & Teens 12 p.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.**

## **Preparation for Confession Second Commandment**

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

Have I made an idol of any person or thing? Have I given to anyone or anything the worship that is due to God alone? Have I set before myself the holy life of Jesus and tried to imitate Him? Have I read the Holy Scriptures regularly? Have I been irreverent during Church Services, let my attention wander, or been insincere? Have I neglected to receive Holy Communion regularly or without due preparation?

**ATTENDANCE:** At Vespers Feb 8: 51    Divine Services on Feb 9: 223  
**OFFERINGS:** Candles, \$306. Collections, \$172.23. Youth, \$3. Camping Fund, \$20. COF, \$23. Stewardship, \$6,380. Total received: \$6,904.23.

**GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!**