



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



WRITE A LIST OF PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR DAILY!

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

- The major iconography of the nave of our temple has been completed with the recent installation of the beautiful Dormition Mural on the West Wall.



- The Prothesis Table and Table of Needs (in the altar area) have been beautified with stylized depictions of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem (on the left, framing the icon of the Nativity) and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (on the right, framing the icon of the Resurrection).

- The icon of St. Andrew Rublev the Iconographer has been installed in the narthex, initiating the process of illuminating this sacred space with standing saints. Once the Beautification Team develops their approach to this phase, they will be soliciting input and donations for these icons.

- We are working with a local craftsman to design and build a tomb and icon stands that will match the interior of our beautiful temple.

#### STEWARDSHIP

As we begin the New Ecclesiastical Year, think "Stewardship." Our annual "Forty Days of Growth in Stewardship" begins in October.

#### WELCOME, CATECHUMENS AND INQUIRERS

We begin our fall study series on the Orthodox Faith on Wednesday, September 14, following the Akathist at 7 p.m.

#### THANK YOU

... for supporting "Project Ukraine." The clothing collected for orphans will be sent to Ukraine soon.



... for your support of emergency foods and necessities for the refugees in Ethiopia (through the IOCC).

### A Message from Father Noah

Christ is in our Midst!

We have begun another Church Year! Glory to God! Last liturgical year, I read through our entire Orthodox Bible following the booklet that St. Philip's provided to us all. It was perhaps the biggest blessing of all. I have been challenged and refreshed by God's Word, Jesus Christ who shines through each page of our Holy Scriptures. I am looking forward to reading through it again and going deeper in my understanding and prayer.



I invite you to join me in this beautiful journey through the Good Book, which is the pinnacle of our Holy Tradition.

Join me in employing the Holy Scriptures in our Spiritual Warfare. Elder Emilianos of the Holy Mountain tells us that Holy Scripture "is like a charge of dynamite which blasts our passions to the left and to the right."

Booklets are available on the Free Literature Table in the Great Room!

Your Servant in Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

### Baby Steps to Holiness

**September:** Write a List of People to Pray for Daily.

I was in seminary with a wonderful old deacon, Triva, from Serbia. Struggling to keep up with everything, I asked this godly man to pray for me. He smiled broadly, hugged me, and then whipped out a piece of paper and a pen from his breast pocket and wrote down my name. I noticed that there were many other names on there, as well. What a beautiful and faithful friend and brother in Christ!

We can all be like that too.

I have a typed list of the names of each of my family, my parishioners, and my friends and colleagues that I endeavor to pray for every day. When I get a prayer

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Nativity of the Theotokos

Wednesday, September 7

Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 p.m.

Thursday, September 8

Matins, 9 a.m.; Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

#### Sunday, September 11

Following Liturgy we will offer a prayer for the Anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Sunday School resumes September 11.

#### Elevation of the Cross

Tuesday, September 13

Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 14

Matins 9 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m.

#### Catechumens & Inquirers classes

Wednesdays following Akathist at 7 p.m.

September 14 - November 16

(except Sept 21)

#### Bishop THOMAS visit

Saturday-Sunday, October 1-2

Wednesday-Thursday, October 5-6

#### Sacred Arts Festival

Sunday, October 16, 2-5 p.m.

#### Monastic Visit

October 29-30

request, I scribble it on an index card and pray for it daily.

I've been taught to say my morning prayers (Trisagion, Creed, etc.) and then read quickly and unemotionally the names of those I am praying for and then say my prayer rule of the Jesus Prayer for myself and for them.

So make your list, keep it in your prayer corner and keep an index card with you so you can faithfully pray for those for whom you ought. Among the first... Metropolitan Philip, Bishop Thomas, Fr. Noah, Fr. Boniface, Dn. Herman...



### CHALLENGE FOR 2011

Bring someone to church. The year is almost over. Have you brought someone with you?

## Did You Know?

- The **Kovalenko family** and the **Henry family** visited **Antiochian Village Camp** for the first time, for Family Camp in August. They had an unexpected guest - Bishop Thomas - due to hurricane Irene. Both families enjoyed the peaceful and breathtaking setting as well as family activities together. They were reminded of the importance of our role as parents in bringing up our children close to Christ and His church. Family Camp is offered Memorial Day weekend and the last weekend in August. When will you go?
- We are grateful that **Subdn. John Hogg and his wife Darcy** have been assigned to us for this coming academic year. We look forward to getting to know them and supporting them as they prepare to offer themselves in the Holy Priesthood!



- **Bishop THOMAS** will be visiting us for his archpastoral visit the weekend of October 1-2 as well as for the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, his patron saint, on October 5-6.

- **You have talents and skills** that St. Philip's can utilize in building up this beautiful parish. Please prayerfully consider speaking to Father Noah about how you can offer your time.
- Your Pledge is necessary to the work of Christ at St. Philip's. **Thanks for your generosity and consistency!**
- St. Philip Stewardship Team is working with our bank to make **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** possible for those who are interested in automating their regular contributions. Look for more information on this convenient giving option during the Forty Days of Growth in Stewardship.
- First Day of the new **Sunday School** term is **September 11**.
- **St. Philip's Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on **October 23**.
- **Pascha**, the feast of feasts, is April 15th in 2012. Don't we live from Pascha to Pascha?

- The choir leads the congregation in the hymns. It is not a concert; **please sing along!**



Nothing is so useful to the beginner as insults. The beginner who bears insults is like a tree that is watered every day.

+ Abba Isaiah

## Wisdom

### On Prayer, by Abba Nilus

- ✦ Everything you do in revenge against a brother who has harmed you will come back to your mind at the time of prayer.
- ✦ Prayer is the seed of gentleness and the absence of anger.
- ✦ Prayer is a remedy against grief and depression.
- ✦ Go, sell all that belongs to you and give it to the poor, and taking up the cross, deny yourself; in this way you will be able to pray without distraction.
- ✦ Whatever you have endured out of love of wisdom will bear fruit for you at the time of prayer.
- ✦ If you want to pray properly, do not let yourself be upset or you will run in vain.
- ✦ Do not always want everything to turn out as you think it should, but rather as God pleases; then you will be undisturbed and thankful in your prayer.

## OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

is extended to the **Khouriye Kyra, daughters Anastasia and Ekaterina** we extend our deepest Sympathy upon the passing of husband and father, the **Archpriest Michael John Lewis**. Also, our sympathy to his **mother Irena and brother Mark and family**.

Father Michael reposed peacefully in the Lord on the Feast of the Dormition (August 15) in Orange, CA after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. After the Funeral Services for a Priest at the Saint Luke's Church in Garden Grove, CA, on Thursday, a viewing with Trisagion prayers took place here at our Church, Sunday evening, August 21, with burial in the Saint Philip's cemetery on Monday morning. In this way, Father Michael returns to his home church, as he was baptized in youth by Father Boniface. Our cemetery is greatly blessed by Father Michael's burial here.

Many thanks to all our parishioners who came to help and paid their respects, offering hospitality, singing in the choir, reading the Gospels and chanting, and welcoming our many visitors. In all, Sunday evening and Monday morning, seven priests and two deacons were present. Messages of sympathy were expressed on behalf of His Eminence, Metropolitan PHILIP, and His Grace, Bishop THOMAS. May the memory of our beloved Father Michael be eternal!



**ALSO**, sympathy in Christ is offered to **Patrick Malriat and his family** on the passing of Patrick's father, **John**, on August 8. Funeral services were held at St. Mark's Orthodox Church in Wrightstown, PA. May his memory be eternal!

## Parish Trivia ...

**Previous Question:** Why do we celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross?

**Answer:** The Synaxarion for this Great Feast, celebrated on September 14th, says: "On this day, we commemorate two events connected with the Precious Cross of Christ: the finding of the Cross on Golgotha, and the returning of the Cross to Jerusalem from Persia. While in the Holy Land, the Empress Helena learned that the Holy Cross was buried underneath the temple of the pagan goddess Venus built on Golgotha. She demanded it be torn down and the Cross be excavated. The search turned up three crosses. Uncertain which was the true Cross, the Patriarch Marcarius ordered that each cross be placed on the corpse in a funeral procession passing by. The first two produced nothing, but the third brought the man back to life, thus determining that this was the very Cross on which our Savior brought life to the world. Later, King Chozroes conquered Jerusalem, took the people into slavery and carried off the Lord's Cross to Persia. In 628, the Greek Emperor Heraclius defeated Chozroes, and brought the Cross back to Jerusalem with great ceremony. Heraclius was carrying the Cross on his back when, suddenly, he froze. The Patriarch Zacharias saw an angel directing the emperor to take off his robes and walk with the same extreme humility with which our Savior bore His Cross. The emperor complied, and was able to finish the procession to the Church of the Resurrection on Golgotha, where he restored the Holy Cross. By the power of Thy Cross, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen."



**New Question:** Why is a priest's face covered when he is buried?

## Holy Mysteries

**Nathaniel Charles, son of Raja & Amy Kyriakos**, was baptized into Christ here at St. Philip's on Saturday, August 27. **AND**, on Sunday, August 28, **Zurab and Ketevan Gambashidze** were joined in Holy Matrimony here at St. Philip's. **AND**, on Saturday, September 3, **Noah Albert, son of Shadi & Tiffany Albert**, was baptized into Christ here at St. Philip's.

**MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!**