



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF THE AMERICAN SAINTS: STAND FAST IN ORTHODOXY

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS

The dates for our International Festival have been set - **September 20-21**. We'll need everyone's help to make this year's Festival even more successful than last year's. We are looking for a **Festival Coordinator** and a **Children's Activity Coordinator**. Please see Fr. Noah or Jonathan Yurchak, Festival Chair, to find out more and to volunteer for one of these roles. **Many other tasks** will need willing hands; check out the sign-up sheets in the Great Room to see where you can lend a hand.

GIVING UPDATES

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION: Many thanks to all for your contribution to our March collection. We collected & delivered **80 pounds** of Bath, Shower, & Feminine Hygiene items! In **April**, we are collecting **Hair Care** items. **May God bless all our faithful givers!**



A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A few days ago, as the weather began to improve, my children and I started cleaning up the yard! At times it was enjoyable when we made a game out of, though I can think of many things we would have rather been doing. It was work. But, it was worth it. As the grass and the flowers begin to grow and the garden is planted the muddy wasteland that we call home will again be a little glimpse of paradise.

The Great Fast is our spiritual, not to mention physical, "Spring Cleaning." We have much, too much, spiritual garbage and debris cluttering our minds, our souls, and our hearts. And, thank God, we have a dedicated time of year to pick it up in preparation for the grace of God to fill us in the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Please don't neglect the important "chores" of confession, fasting, almsgiving, prayer, Bible reading, attending special services, reconciling. Apply yourself diligently, intelligently, in the great hope of a more joyful, more fruitful, and more pristine "soul-scape."

Your Servant in Christ, + *Fr. Noah*

Walking in the Steps of the American Saints STAND FAST IN ORTHODOXY

St. Tikhon became Patriarch of Moscow and a confessor for the faith under the Bolshevik revolution and reposed in the Lord on April 7th, 1925. In 1898, he came to America as Bishop of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska. In nine years he reorganized and expanded the nascent Church here, including overseeing the founding of two cathedrals, two seminaries, about fifty parishes, and the first American consecration of a bishop, St. Raphael. In 1907, when he was transferred back to Russia, he wrote the following beautiful and sobering words in his farewell address to his American flock, words that we still need to take to heart today:

"How can we help fearing for our small flock? How easily the candle can be extinguished by the wind coming through the open window. How easily can an oarsman in a frail boat be overturned by the waves. Here we cannot boast of great numbers, neither of renown, nor of wealth, nor of learning--all that is valued in this world. We are strong here only in one thing- in possessing the True Orthodox Faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8), and we should ask the Lord for the increase of this gift. Let them stand fast in Thy Holy Church in the Orthodox Faith."

Mark Your Calendar:

Great Compline

Mondays in the Great Fast, 7 p.m.

Presanctified Liturgy

*Wednesdays in the Great Fast, 7 p.m.
Fridays in the Great Fast, 10 a.m.*

Akathist

First 5 Fridays of the Fast, 7 p.m.

Lenten Retreat

*Saturday, April 13 - Bring a friend!
Paul Finley: Christian Hospitality: Living Images Of Christ*



Great Canon of St Andrew
Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.

Lazarus Saturday - April 27

*Matins 9 a.m.
Liturgy 10 a.m.*

HOLY WEEK & PASCHA

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 28

9:00 a.m. Matins

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins



Monday, April 29

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 30

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, May 1

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

Thursday, May 2

*4:00 p.m. Vespertal Liturgy
7:00 p.m. Twelve Gospels Matins*

Holy Friday

Friday, May 3

10:00 a.m. Royal Hours

4:00 p.m. Vespers of Burial

7:00 p.m. Lamentations Matins

Holy Saturday

Saturday, May 4

10:00 a.m. Vespertal Liturgy

11:30 p.m. Nocturn, Paschal Matins,

and Resurrection Liturgy

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA

Sunday, May 5

CHRIST IS RISEN!

*2:00 p.m. Agape Vespers
& Egg Hunt*



VCS - August 5-9

Miracles - Mark your calendars now and look for more information soon.

Did You Know?

- We often receive **Thank You notes** from individuals and organizations we have helped through our Needy Fund and various other additional gifts. Stop by the **Parish News bulletin board** to read them and see the blessings of your generosity.
- It is time to make your **Lenten confession**.
- Lent is half-way over. **Don't waste any more time**. Read your Bibles, give alms, come to the Lenten services and mark your calendars for the services of Holy Week and Bright Week.
- **How to Fast from Media during Lent** – What this could look like? Unplug your TV, your Wii, etc. Log out of facebook until Pascha. Impossible? Try checking it only it on Sunday afternoons... what a beautiful statement that would make to your "friends;" if you miss them, invite them to church with you! Check your email only as necessary. Use your phone only as a phone!!
- Check out the mobile Library and the Bookshelf for **recommended Lenten Reading**.
- **We live from Pascha to Pascha:** May 5th, 2013! (And April 20, 2014)
- Besides the **25 children** from our parish registered to attend **Antiochian Village** (Glory to God!), there will be several **adult volunteers**, not to mention **Simeon Acker** has been selected as a **counselor!**
- Our **Food Festival** will be Sept 20 and 21. This is a joyous time of hospitality for our neighbors!
- Fr. Noah is planning to **travel to Mt Athos** in October. Thanks for your prayers for his safe and edifying pilgrimage.
- **Bishop THOMAS** will be presiding over our **patronal feast**, Nov 13/14, prior to his annual Archpastoral Visit Nov 15-17 which will also be our **hosting of the delegates meeting**. Please speak to Fr. Noah if you'd like to help prepare.
- It is our duty and joy to **pray for and welcome** our many visitors, inquirers, catechumens, and new members to our parish. A warm welcome can often help a visitor become an inquirer.
- Your pledges keep our parish **vibrantly glorifying God**, celebrating His Love, and building up His Church and His people!



Ask Abouna

Previous Question: Fr. Boniface, what are your thoughts on prayer?

Answer:

1. The human person has been given the breath of life by God our Creator. When breath stops, physical death occurs.
2. The human person is created for communication with God (as well as with others). Praying is as important as breathing. Without prayer we wither away and die spiritually.
3. Un-blessed food is not as good for you as blessed food. Always eat blessed food .
4. I've observed over time that prayer, fasting, generosity and a spirit of forgiveness are all related in the life of a Christian.
5. It is good to have a definite place in your home for your daily prayer routine. Routine is good. Pray regularly: morning, noon and evening
6. It is important to have a prayer of thanksgiving for God's blessings every day. This brings balance and peacefulness to the soul.
7. A little bit of prayer every day is better than a whole lot of prayer now and then.



New Question: Father Noah, how can I avoid the spiritual "let down" after Pascha?

Holy Mysteries

- **Kyra Muzekari**, daughter of **Rdr Nicholas & Stephanie Muzekari**, was baptized into Christ on Saturday, March 23.
- **Suha Maria Neno** was Chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Church on Wednesday, March 27.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!

OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

is extended to the **Dudash** family upon the passing of **Doris' sister, Olga**, in March.

MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!



CHALLENGE FOR 2013: Arrive before Liturgy to help sing the Great Doxology!

Wisdom

Practical Spiritual Life

Sumptuous eating deprives us of piety.

St. Nicodemus the Hagiorite

A fresh, warm wound is easier to heal than those that are old, neglected and festering and that need extensive treatment, surgery, bandaging and cauterization. Long neglect can render many of them incurable. However, all things are possible with God (cf Matt 19:26).

St. John Climacus

When the devil looks at a man who sincerely desires not to sin, he is not so unintelligent as to suggest to him (as he would to a hardened sinner) that he go and commit fornication or go and steal. He knows we do not want that and he does not set out to tell us something we do not want to hear; but he finds out that little bit of self-will or self-righteousness and through that, with the appearance of well doing, he will do us harm.

St. Dorotheos of Gaza, Discourses and Sayings

<p>\$10,000</p> <p>\$10,000 = \$20,000</p> <p>\$4,425</p> <p>\$0</p>	<p>Capital Improvement Matching Funds Campaign (until Pascha)</p> <p>Progress Thank You!</p>	<p>Saving for large, expected expenses, replacing integral parts of the church building, such as the roof, HVAC equipment, replacing carpet, painting the church ceiling (2013), painting Great Room and Sunday School, re-sealing the driveway, repairing the stucco and repairing and/or replacing the windows, etc. A replacement schedule helps the finance team determine when money will be needed.</p>
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