



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



BABY STEPS TO HOLINESS - WRITE A LIST OF PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR DAILY

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

GIVING UPDATES

FORTY DAYS OF GROWTH IN STEWARDSHIP begins October 6th. Thank you and God bless you and all our faithful stewards! *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit (1 Cor. 12:4).*

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION: 182 lbs of Cleaning Supplies and 66 lbs of Food were contributed in September! **In October: Bath & Shower products.**

May God bless all our faithful givers!

FESTIVAL THANKS

Outreach, Neighborliness, Cooperation, Celebration, Generosity, Diligence, Planning: glory to God for all of these coming together in such a beautiful way. Thanks and God bless you, everyone who labored for the success of this major outreach effort!



The Book of Psalms contains everything useful that the other books have. It predicts the future, it recalls the past, it gives directions for living; it suggests the right behavior to adopt. It is, in short, a jewel case in which have been collected all the valid teachings in such a way that individuals find remedies just right for their cases.

- St. Basil the Great

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to God for extending His hospitality to us, on earth and then, if we can persevere in His love, in heaven. I am grateful, ever more grateful, to be serving with you all at St. Philip's, stumbling along and repenting, leading you deeper into Christ's life.

This fall I'd like to call you to return to God, our Father, by preparing your hearts for confession, by increasing your stewardship pledge, but singing along with the choir, coming on time to liturgy and also coming to "extra" services, by ordering your families and friendships around the peace of God that passes all understanding.

We may look at ourselves and say, "Gee, I'm okay". Externally we may be okay but internally, spiritually, mentally, we have much room to improve in godliness.

I was greatly relieved lately when I read this truth from Elder Paisios, "the spiritual progress of a person engaged in the struggle will not depend on how good the spiritual father is, but on the good thoughts of the disciple." Struggle wisely with good thoughts: renewing your mind in God's mercy, in Christ's humble sacrifice, in the Holy Spirit that wants to abide in us.

Thankful to be your Servant in Christ,

+ Fr. Noah



Baby Steps to Holiness

October: After morning prayers, preview the day.



Are you tired of committing the same sins day after day? Our Lord tells us to "watch and pray lest you enter into temptation" (Matthew 25:41). But how is that done practically? It's simple ...

In the morning, after we say our prayers, we can spend a minute previewing, or thinking through, the day. For example, if it is a Wednesday and I am planning to visit a parishioner at their ice cream shop, I need to be ready with how I will graciously accept their hospitality and also keep the fast ... perhaps water ice or some soy ice cream.

Another example: this will probably hit closer to home for all of us. It is a holiday and you will be travelling to visit so-and-so-in-law, with whom you have a very strained relationship. Prepare yourself with positive thinking (focusing on the good, the blessings, etc.) and asking God for his help in that situation.

We can and should employ this strategic planning at the beginning of every day, so that we are not constantly caught off guard. This practical vigilance is good spiritual practice that will keep us from stumbling into sin. If we sin less, it means that our consciences are cleaner and we have more boldness in prayer, ministry, and evangelism.

Mark Your Calendar!

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, October 28, 1 p.m.

Handmaidens Tea

Saturday, October 12, 4 p.m.

RSVP to MaryLynne Black or Linda Henry

Missions Presentation

Saturday October 12, 7 p.m.

Maria Roeber shares her experiences and updates us on the work of OCMC.

African-themed refreshments provided.

Soul Saturday

October 19 - Liturgy 10 a.m.

Youth Bowling Event

Saturday, October 19, 11:45 a.m.

Syriac Fathers in Georgia

Presented by Niko Chocheli

Wednesday, October 30, following Akathist at 7 p.m.

Services for St Raphael

Liturgy & Akathist - Friday, Nov 1, 7 p.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsals

Saturdays, November 2-23, 5 p.m.

Bishop THOMAS visit, Patronal Feast & Delegates' Meeting

Wed-Sun, November 13-17

Feast of St Philip

Wednesday, November 13

Vespers 5 pm, Matins 6 pm, Liturgy &

Artoklasia 7 pm

Potluck Supper follows (festal menu)

Nativity Fast begins Friday, November 15

Delegates' Meeting

Saturday, November 16

Hierarchical Liturgy

Sunday, November 17

Service times as usual

Advent Services - Nov 15 - Dec 23

Compline, Mon, Wed, Fri, 7 p.m.

Paraklesis, Tues, Thurs, 7 p.m.

(exc. Dec 5)

Thanksgiving Day Liturgy

Thursday, November 28, 9 a.m.

Did You Know?

- **Niko Chocheli** has been selected for inclusion in the 2014 edition of Who's Who in the World and Who's Who in America, which contain information on America's and the world's most distinguished individuals. Congratulations!
- **Youth Choir Rehearsals** begin Saturday, November 2, 5 p.m., and continue at that time each Saturday through November 23.
- **Linda Henry** is looking for Iconography commissions.
- About **200 people** toured our beautiful temple during the festival. By your prayers, perhaps those festival guests can become visitors to our services!
- The **church grounds** are looking beautiful thanks to many people who helped out.
- **Peter Psomiadis** built a new shed as an Eagle Scout project. Thanks to the many parishioners who offered a helping hand or a donation.
- Our **Sunday School, Teens, and Young Adults** need your prayers and love to keep them living and growing in Christ.
- Our **Library** has a great selection of many topics related to our Holy Faith. Check out our Mobile Library, too!
- We have a **Sunshine List** - so that we can send cards, pray, and visit our shut-ins. Pick one up on the free literature table. 
- The **kingdom of heaven** is not a reward for works, but a gift of grace prepared by the Master for His faithful servants. Are you a faithful servant?
- **Today can be a blessing** if you allow God's love to shine through you!
- There are **new families** at St. Philip's! Do you know their names? Do they know yours?
- **God loves you!** Share His love with others.
- We are blessed a **beautiful choir**, but please join in singing the ancient hymns of our services!
- An Orthodox Christian ought to **come to confession** about four times per year and as needed.
- **Great Vespers** is a beautiful, peaceful service that prepares our hearts for the Divine Liturgy through its theologically rich hymns. It is a great service to bring someone to for the first time.
- We have 38 members of the **Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch** in our parish. This is a philanthropic organization that supports many of the charitable works that our archdiocese couldn't undertake otherwise. If you are sacramentally active and consistent in your stewardship, please talk to Fr. Noah about being inducted when Bishop THOMAS visits in November.
- **We live from Pascha to Pascha!** April 20th, 2014. Take off from work at least Holy Friday and Bright Monday.



Wisdom from the Optina Elders
on Argumentativeness



- One must not argue, for an argument can sometimes cause great unpleasantness. It has been said, "He is great before God who behaves humbly towards his neighbor," and "God will exalt the humble, but the proud and argumentative God will humble." One must reproach only himself for his own faults, and not his neighbor. *St. Joseph*
- From a person with an argumentative character, you can hardly expect anything else. In the spiritual life there is nothing worse and more harmful than argumentativeness. For a while it is sometimes concealed, but then it again is revealed in its former strength. *St. Ambrose*
- Those who are indignant with us teach us to philosophically examine ourselves: are we really Christians? Do we love our enemies?—and to recognize in this our own infirmities. *St. Macarius*

Ask Abouna

Previous Question: Fr. James, tell us about your trip to Russia.



Answer: This summer I had the privilege to travel to Russia as part of a tour run by Father Thomas Zain and His Grace, Bishop NICHOLAS of our Archdiocese. We spent two weeks in Russia, eight nights in St. Petersburg and five in Moscow. While in St. Petersburg, we also took side trips to the ancient city of Novgorod and to the port city of St. Petersburg, Kronstadt.

Besides seeing the cultural sites of the country, we were blessed to visit many churches, cathedrals and monasteries. Most of these had been closed and desecrated under the Soviet regime (1920-1990). For example, the famous monastery of St. Alexander Nevsky in St. Petersburg had been turned into the city crematorium (cruelly ironic, since the Orthodox Church forbids cremation). This monastery has now been restored, and over a hundred monks now reside there. Similar stories abound--the famous Danielov Monastery, traditionally the residence of the Patriarch and the administrative center of the Russian Orthodox Church, was turned into a reform school for wayward youth.

Since the fall of Communism in 1990, there has been a nationwide restoration of churches, cathedrals and monasteries. The most well known is the rebuilding of Christ the Savior cathedral in Moscow. Built to commemorate the victory of Russia over Napoleon, it was torn down by Josef Stalin in 1930. During the 1990's it was rebuilt exactly as it had been before its destruction.

Many relics of saints were also recovered. Some, alas, had been scattered by the Bolsheviks, but some were put in cellars, garages or warehouses (some even in Museums of Atheism to show how primitive the Orthodox were by "worshipping" bones). St Tikhon (bishop in America and patriarch of Moscow) had had his body hidden under floor boards. The body, still in his vestments and coffin, were rediscovered when the Donskoy Monastery was revived and restored.

One of the most moving days involved our visit to Butovo, a site south of Moscow which served during the '30's and '40's as a killing field for the secret police. Over 21,000 people were executed here, including many churchmen. Of the more than 1,700 people declared to be "New Martyrs of Russia", 350 of them lie in the unmarked graves of Butovo.

If any of you have a chance to make such a pilgrimage to Russia, I would advise you to do it. You will not be disappointed!

New Question: Fr. Noah, tell us about your trip to Mt Athos.

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

OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

is extended to the **Spanakos family** upon the repose of our former parishioner, Charles Spanakos, on September 22. Funeral services were held in Rye, NY, on September 26.



AND to **Judy Carpenter** and family upon the repose of her father, **Ed Trachtenberg**, on September 23.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!