



# THE PARISH PRESS



## St. Philip Orthodox Church

WISDOM FROM FR. B: KEEP ON SMILING!

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### CHRISTMAS IN JULY/AUGUST

Thank you to all who donated this year. Your contributions will benefit the Camp Scholarship Fund, Middle East refugees, and the St Philip's Cemetery. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity!

#### GIVING UPDATES

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In **September**, we are collecting **Cleaning Products**.

**NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION:** We continue to collect non-perishables of all kinds for the food pantries.

**NEWSPAPERS:** Salfid Rescue Kennel, our neighbor on Clearview Road, is always in need of old newspapers. Look for the box in the hallway.

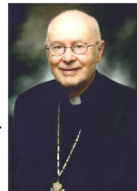
**MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAITHFUL GIVERS!**

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,

We are still mourning the loss of our beloved founding pastor, Fr. Boniface. It has been an extremely heavy time for all of us. Heavy with thanksgiving for God's blessings to us and our community through Father B's ministry. Heavy with sorrow. Heavy with prayer, with hospitality. Mostly, though, it has been heavy with heaven for me. I can't get out of my head one of things he said: "I want all of us to be in heaven together." This is his (continuing) prayer for us. This is my prayer for you. Let us live our lives with thankfulness, joy, and excellence in memory of our beloved Fr. Boniface! May his memory be eternal and may we all have equally long, spiritually-fruitful, and truly blessed lives!

In Christ,



+ Fr. Noah

### Mark Your Calendar:

**Nativity of the Theotokos**  
 Wednesday, Sept 7 - Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Matins 7 pm,  
 Thursday, Sept 8 - Liturgy 10 am

**Sunday School begins Sept 11**

**Elevation of the Cross**  
 Tuesday, September 13  
 Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 pm  
 Wed, September 14 - STRICT FAST DAY  
 Matins 9 am, Liturgy 10 am

#### International Food Festival

September 16-17  
 How are you helping?  
 Invite your friends!



#### Introduction to Orthodoxy

Saturdays, 4:30 pm  
 September 24 - November 19

#### We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 16, 2017



### Wisdom

#### St. Ignatius of Antioch

• Wherever the bishop appears, there let the people be; as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church. It is not lawful to baptize or give communion without the consent of the bishop. On the other hand, whatever has his approval is pleasing to God. - *Letter to the Smyrnaeans*

• I am God's wheat, and I am to be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, so that I may become the pure bread of Christ. - *Letter to the Romans*

• Obey the bishop and the presbytery with an undivided mind, breaking one and the same bread, which is the medicine of immortality, and the antidote to prevent us from dying, but that we should live forever in Jesus Christ. - *Letter to the Ephesians*



### Missions Minute

**Check this out!** The Orthodox Church of Albania recently built and began operation on a hydro-electric plant! The plant will benefit the nation as well as provide income to the Church for the support of their ministries. Learn more at [http://ocmc.org/resources/view\\_article.aspx?ArticleId=2246](http://ocmc.org/resources/view_article.aspx?ArticleId=2246)

### Everyday Evangelist

*"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)*

Go out of your way to assist a co-worker at your workplace.

### OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

**Memory Eternal** is offered to the **Black family** upon the passing of the Archpriest Boniface, who reposed on August 7. The funeral was held here at St. Philip's on August 10/11 with burial at St Philip's Cemetery.



**MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

### Wisdom from Fr. B.

#### "Keep on Smiling!"

Many times early in my ministry here at St. Philip's, when I was particularly weary and stressed, Fr. Boniface would say "keep on smiling." Initially this seemed inauthentic to me, but over the years I witnessed how his quiet discipline of staying positive actually aided God's transformation of his life. Now, I am missing his smile and trying to keep it on my face. And, anyway, it isn't inauthentic, it is actually who we are as the children of the God who created us, redeemed us, and is sanctifying us! Lord, give us joy and gladness!

## Did You Know?

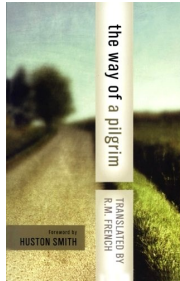
- We have 38 members of the **Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch** in our parish. This is a philanthropic organization that supports many of the charitable works that our archdiocese couldn't undertake otherwise. If you are sacramentally active and consistent in your stewardship, please talk to Fr. Noah or Jonathan Black about participating in this ministry.
- You can **be an apostle and an evangelist** in your daily life. Ask God to use you for His purposes and then be bold and humble in sharing the peace with God and man that you have!
- During the **Megalynarion** of the Divine Liturgy (usually, "It is truly meet") we can and should be praying in our hearts for our departed beloved. At this time the priest or deacon is reading diptychs (lists) of departed.
- Our parish **website** is rich with resources. Check it out: [www.st-philip.net](http://www.st-philip.net)
- **Coffee hour does not start until after the Liturgy is over.** The food is blessed after the announcements, after we sing Our Father together.

## Book Recommendation

### *The Way of a Pilgrim*

by Anonymous

*"By the grace of God I am a Christian man, by my actions a great sinner, and by calling a homeless wanderer of the humblest birth who roams from place to place. My worldly goods are a knapsack and some dried bread in it, and a Bible in my breast pocket. And that is all."*



With this modest and simple statement, one of the world's great classics of spirituality begins. An anonymous Russian peasant of the nineteenth century sets out to seek the truth, attempting to follow St. Paul's command to "pray without ceasing." By chanting the Jesus Prayer ("Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me"), he attains a greater intimacy with God. Generations of readers, including Christians of all persuasions, have benefited by reading of the pilgrim's attempts to discipline his mind toward a constant awareness of God's presence as manifested through Christ's mercy. In addition to its profound theological and philosophical observations, *The Way of a Pilgrim* offers an authentic portrait of Russia's social conditions during the final years of serfdom. Readers who appreciate the works of Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy will delight in the author's encounters with a vast range of humanity, from monks, intellectuals, and hermits to peasants, convicts, and exiles.

### Challenge for 2016:

#### Pray Without Ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5)

Prayer must be combined with watchfulness (Matthew 26:41: "watch and pray lest you enter into temptation") because we are attempting to draw ever closer to God and share in His divine life! Watchfulness means "Let us attend!" It means pay attention to your heart, your body, your mind. Learn from your mistakes, with grace and humility. Learn from others' mistakes, with grace and humility. Learn from the Holy Scriptures, from the Saints, the services, the sacraments! Lord, teach us to pray!

## Ask Abouna

**Previous Question:** How should we prepare for Holy Communion?

**Answer:** Our modern American context, with all of its blessings and benefits, has swung too far away from reverence and asceticism. This is what I am most grateful to our Orthodox Church for. Reverence (loving service) and asceticism (struggle to draw closer to God) is Orthodoxy. It is also the key to receiving Holy Communion worthily.



These are things that we must do and be in order to have a "saving communion," rather than a condemning one:

- ✦ We must be Orthodox Christians.
- ✦ Our marriages must be blessed.
- ✦ We must be confessing to a priest at least 4 times each year, truly preparing with prayer, study, and introspection, truly sorry for our sins, and truly struggling to stop sinning.
- ✦ We must be living according to the commandments and at peace with all people, as far as in our power.
- ✦ We must be following the fasts, especially Wednesday and Friday, and most especially the Eucharistic fast prior to communing.
- ✦ We must arrive to church on time, before the Divine Liturgy starts with "Blessed is the Kingdom."
- ✦ We must be attending festal and Lenten services.
- ✦ We ought to be attending at least Vespers or Matins on a regular basis.
- ✦ We must pray every day, from our prayer books and from our hearts.
- ✦ We must read our Bibles every day, looking for the Orthodox interpretation of theological concepts and especially applying the holy words to our lives.
- ✦ We must be supporting our parish by material means like tithes, pledges, offerings, participating in ministries, and helping as needed.
- ✦ We ought to fast from our communication devices and screen time on fast days, and especially Saturday nights and Sunday mornings.
- ✦ We must have a deep conviction of our unworthiness, but an even deeper conviction of God's love and grace and His desire to share His Divine Life with us in the sacraments.

This is quite a long list, and quite a difficult one. But God is worth it! Heaven is for real!

This effort of embracing the free gift of our baptismal new life will make us more receptive to the blessings of Holy Communion.

Join me in taking up this struggle. Join me in repenting. Join me in taking a stand against the easy Christianity that has weakened our western world.

**New Question:** Why is it so important to have a Bishop?