



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



WISDOM FROM FR. B: A HOLY TASK FOR YOU...

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

GIVING UPDATES

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In **February**, we are collecting **paper 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!

Challenge for 2017: **Be led by the Spirit, not pushed by the passions** (Romans 8:12-14)

The Passions are the inordinate use of the good powers of our souls. They can be thought of as addictions, obsessions, and especially the inordinate flooding of emotions and/or thoughts. As St. Maximos the Confessor says: "Food is not evil, but gluttony is. Childbearing is not evil, but fornication is. Money is not evil, but avarice is. Glory is not evil, but vainglory is. Indeed, there is no evil in existing things, but only in their misuse."



We all suffer from misuse of good things. In a sense, we're all driven by the passions. We're all crazed with something and that is what keeps us far from God. God, help us to awake from the slumber of sin and rise up with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to assume our adoption as Sons and Daughters of our Father. Amen.

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,

When I was recently back in California, visiting and caring for my father, I enjoyed the jog down memory lane. I remember warmly how my life changed so drastically and wonderfully by the simple invitations to church from loving and authentic friends. I ask you to invite someone to church – someone who has grown to trust you for the integrity, kindness, forgiveness, and faithfulness that they have seen in your life. Pray for them and then invite them. It took me several, actually many, invitations before I said yes. But I am grateful, eternally grateful, for their patience and persistence in living the gospel and also speaking the gospel and inviting me to experience the Gospel. I have several of my own "holy apostles". You can be one too, following these simple steps: 1) Live in Christ totally. 2) Pray for your relatives, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. 3) Be open with them about your faith. 4) Invite them to church: Saturday Vespers, Sunday morning, or a special event or, at least, our food festival.

In Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

Mark Your Calendar:

Desert Fathers Reading Group 2017

Selected Thursdays from Noon - 2 pm

February 9 - St. Arsenius

March 9 - St. John the Dwarf

April 6 - St. Macarius the Great

May 11 - Abba Moses of Nitria

June 1 - Abba Poemen

Prodigal Son - February 12

Sunday of Judgment (Meatfare) - Feb 19

Soul Saturday

Feb 18 - Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

Forgiveness Sunday,

Feb 26 - Forgiveness Vespers 1 p.m.

Great Fast begins February 27

Bp THOMAS visit: March 3-5

Services for Annunciation

Friday, March 24

Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Matins 7 pm

Saturday, March 25

Liturgy 9 am, potluck (fish, wine, oil)

Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 25

Dr Christopher Veniamin

St Silouan of Mt Athos

We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 16, 2017

Missions Minute

OCMC Summer Mission Teams for 2017 are set and they are filling up fast! Please prayerfully consider joining in the work of missions by contributing your skills for the service of Christ's Church abroad!
www.OCMC.org

Everyday Evangelist

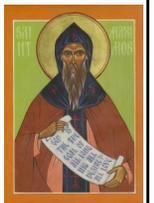
"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

Become a creature of habit. Frequent the same coffee shop, gas station, restaurant, and so on, and build relationships with people there.

Wisdom

St. Maximos the Confessor

- Christianity is an entirely new way of being human.
- In conformity with the philosophy of Christ, let us make of our life a training for death.
- Cleanse your mind from anger, remembrance of evil, and shameful thoughts, and then you will find out how Christ dwells in you.
- Only wonder can comprehend His incomprehensible power.



Did You Know?

- Several young families in our parish are **pregnant**. Please pray for them and support them!
- You can **reset your routine** for God's Glory.
- **A Psalm a day** keeps the devil away.
- 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.
- **Carpooling to Church** can be a great way to save money and deepen your relationship with your neighboring parishioner. 
- **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.
- Pick up a book at the **Bookshelf or the Library** to gear up for a spiritually profitable Great Lent.

**Wisdom
Combating Pride**

In any case, he who has talents, but lacks humility and troubles his neighbor with his provocative behavior, compels Christ to take the small screwdriver and loosen his screws a bit, in order to humble him against his will. Let's say that someone wants to dig a large boulder out of the ground and is struggling with it because he lacks the ingenuity to figure out a way to move it. A smarter fellow approaches him and says: 'You foolish man, don't you know how to remove that rock?' So he takes a long crowbar, makes it into a lever and easily removes the rock. Well, since he behaves like that, isn't it justifiable that God takes the screwdriver and loosens his brain a little? Some people who are great orators sometimes suffer great lapses of memory, and are not even able to say one word! This is how they are humbled. If God constantly allowed one to be a great orator and he then became prideful of that, what would happen to him? It seems that God finds a way to put the brakes on each person, so that he may not be harmed.



*Orthodox Agape by Papa Demetri
<http://tinyletter.com/papademetri>*

Wisdom from Fr. B.

"A Holy Task for You..."

Fr. Boniface was a master of giving people the right task, a Holy Task. He did so directly and with great confidence. He also did it with prayer and with love for God and for the person being tasked. For some it was a prayer assignment. For others it was a simple one-off service project or financial donation. For others the Holy Task grew into a life-long ministry that blossomed in several cases into ordination. For some, who didn't choose to see it as a Holy Task but as another burden authoritatively placed on them, it became a source of frustration.



Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.



For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:11-18



Read a book of the Bible!

Perhaps Colossians, a call to holiness.

Ask Abouna

Previous Question: Fr. Herman, can you tell us about Saint Andrew's Parish?



Answer: When my family and I began our ministry at St Andrew's at the beginning of December, we were welcomed with open hearts and open arms. We and the faithful of St Andrew's have been getting used to each other's ways and have been coming into accord smoothly and joyfully.

Fr Boniface's absence from us will be felt for some time, and the church is presently in a period of healing, but by God's grace we will continue what has been started, making Christ known in Lewes and the surrounding areas. Collecting food for the food pantry, clothing and blankets for the homeless shelters, and gifts for needy children and for the lonely in nursing homes, the faithful of St Andrew's care for the unfortunate ones of their community, and yet seek to find new ways to serve.

St Andrew's has also continued with the expansion of the church facility. The heating system was recently installed in the addition, and one of the Sunday School classes will be moving into a portion of the new, unfinished, space to allow their current classroom to be used for coffee hour, relieving some of the overcrowding in the old hall. God willing, the new hall is expected to be completed by September of this year.

Thank you for your continuing prayers, encouragement, and support of St. Andrew's.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Herman

New Question: I become distracted in Church; how can I concentrate?



OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

is offered to the **Haas family** upon the passing of **Christopher Haas**. A Trisagion was held at his gravesite in the St Philip's Cemetery on Saturday, February 4. **LORD, HAVE MERCY!**