



# THE PARISH PRESS



## St. Philip Orthodox Church

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS

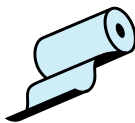
The dates for our International Festival have been set - **September 20-21**. We'll need everyone's help to make this year's Festival even more successful than last year's. Please see Fr. Noah or Jonathan Yurchak, Festival Chair, to find out more. **Many tasks** will need willing hands; check out the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



#### GIVING UPDATES

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND MATCHING GRANT:** Thanks to all who contributed to help reach our match! Please speak to Fr. Noah if you'd like to give any significant gifts to this or any of the many funds of the parish.

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Many thanks to all for your contribution to our May collection. We collected & delivered numerous cleaning items! In **June**, we are collecting **Paper products**.



**May God bless all our faithful givers!**

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Christ is risen!



We sing "Christ is risen" and greet each other with these most encouraging words for the entire 40 days of Pascha, just as the Apostles, the disciples, the myrrhbearers, and all of the earliest Christians had the great joy of Christ's presence. This reminds us Orthodox Christians that we are Resurrection People. We live from Pascha to Pascha, from Lord's Day to Lord's Day, from dawn to dawn, and from breath to breath; we live the new life that God offers us in Christ's birth, death, and resurrection, the new life that became ours in our baptism and remains ours as we renew our baptism in our daily prayers, our readings the scriptures, our following the commandments, our living the sacramental life, as stewards, servants, and brothers and sisters. Please join me in renewing your spiritual life: denying ourselves, taking up our cross, burying our passions under good thoughts, and resurrecting our good intentions. In this way, the joy of the resurrection can become more than a greeting and a song, but truly the foretaste of the eternal bliss that we long for. Having this as an anchor of hope for our souls, I remain,

Your Servant in Christ, + *Fr. Noah*

### Mark Your Calendar!

#### Catechumens Class

Tuesdays at 7 p.m., May 14 - June 4

#### Paschaltide Bible Study

*Vespers in Scripture & Tradition*  
Wednesdays following Akathist  
at 7 p.m., May 15 - June 5



#### Services for Leave-Taking of Pascha

**Tuesday, June 11**

**VESPERS 6 p.m., MATINS 7 p.m.**

#### Services for Ascension

**AT HOLY ASCENSION, WEST CHESTER**

**Wednesday, June 12**

**VESPERS 5 pm, MATINS 6 pm,  
LITURGY 7 pm**

#### Parish Life Conference, July 3-7

**Hosted by St Paul, Emmaus, PA**



#### VCS - August 5-9

**Miracles - Mark your calendars now!**

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

### Wisdom from the Paschal Canon by St. John of Damascus

- Let us purify our senses, and in the unapproachable light of the resurrection we shall see Christ shining forth, and we shall clearly hear him saying 'Rejoice!', as we sing the triumphal song.
- Yesterday I was buried with you O Christ, today I rise with you as you arise. Yesterday I was crucified with you; glorify me with you, Saviour, in your Kingdom.
- O divine! O beloved! O sweetest voice! You have truly promised that you will be with us unto the end of time, O Christ. And we the faithful rejoice, having this as an anchor of hope.
- O great and most sacred Pascha, Christ! O Wisdom and Word and Power of God! Grant that we may partake of you fully in the day that has no evening of your Kingdom.

### Walking in the Steps of the American Saints

#### BE A PRAYER WARRIOR

St. Herman came to Russian America with the Valaam mission in 1794 and ended up settling on a little island - Spruce Island - just far enough from the colonial capital of Kodiak to establish his monastery, "New Valaam," yet close enough to have an orphanage and offer spiritual protection to the Aleuts. On June 20th, 1820, St. Herman wrote a letter to his friend and benefactor, which includes the following marvelous and insight advice that we would do well to incorporate into our lives:



"A sin for a person loving God is nothing more than an arrow fired by an enemy during battle. The true Christian is a warrior, fighting his way through hosts of unseen foes to his place in Heaven. For, in the words of the Apostle, Our Kingdom is in Heaven, and about the warrior he says: our battle is not with flesh and blood, but with ideas and authorities."

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!**

**Steven Gozur** is graduating from North Penn High School, having attained the Honor Roll for four years. He was also achieved various Football awards: 3-year Letterman, Captain Senior Year, Most Valuable Player for 2013, 1st team All Conference (Defense), 1st Team All Intell, 2nd team Southeastern PA, All State Honorable Mention (Linebacker), Montgomery County All-Star Football Team. Steven plans to attend Widener University, majoring in Engineering and playing football this fall.

**Tory McClintock** is graduating from Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School as a National Honor Society member. She will attend The George Washington University School of Business, with a concentration in Business Economics & Public Policy.

**Lia Vleisides** is graduating from Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School as a National Honor Society member. She also served as Editor in Chief of the GMA HS Yearbook, The Patrician. Lia plans to attend University of Kansas, School of Architecture (Master of Architecture).

**Did You Know?**

- **Julia Morelli** will participate in the Round Top Music Festival in Texas for six weeks this summer, followed by a two week fellowship at Sierra Academy of Music in Mammoth Lakes, California. In September she will be working on her masters degree in cello performance at Boston University.

- **Kyra Smerkanich** graduated in May from George Mason University School of Law. As president of the Student Bar Association, Kyra gave the opening address and received her JD surrounded by her family. She will be moving home for the summer to study for the PA Bar Exam and returning to DC in August, where she will be a Law Clerk for a Judge in the Superior Court. Congratulations!

- 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 deepen his faith in Christ's church.

- Our **Food Festival** - Sept 20-21. This is a joyous time of hospitality for our neighbors! Please pray and work for another success.

- **Fr. Noah** is planning to travel to Mt Athos in October and **Fr. James** is planning a pilgrimage to Russia in August. Thanks for your prayers for our safe and edifying pilgrimage.

- **We live from Pascha to Pascha:** April 20th, 2014!

- Our **Bishop THOMAS**, our link to the Apostles and the guarantee of the oneness of the church, will be visiting from Nov 13-17. Please save the dates to celebrate with him the mystery of our life in Christ.

- Your **pledges and special gifts** keep our parish vibrantly glorifying God, celebrating His Love, and building up His Church and His people!

- There is an escape from the cares of the world: **Prayer, Church Services, Holy Scripture**. "Oh, that I had wings like a dove; I'd fly away and be at rest!"

- We must be super-conservative in preserving the Orthodox Faith, and super-modern in propagating it. - *St. Nikolai*

- We have a great opportunity to expand our knowledge of the faith with about 70 different topical podcast series on **AncientFaith.com**

- **You can be prepared for the end.** Advanced Medical Directives, Wills, burial plot, leave something to the Church in your will! Whenever it is, don't waste your last moments on tidying up earthly cares.

**Ask Abouna**

**Previous Question:** Fr. James, please discuss the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Answer:** In contemporary Christianity there is a group of churches that goes under the name of "pentecostal," meaning that they not only invoke the Holy Spirit but manifest the "gifts" of the Holy Spirit, particularly speaking in tongues. In fact some pentecostal churches even maintain that a person has not received the Spirit unless he speaks in tongues (that is, being given the grace to speak fluently in a language one does not know or may never have even heard).



Although the Apostles received the gift of tongues on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4-11), St Paul was ambivalent about speaking in tongues. In 1 Corinthians 14 he says that prophecy is superior to speaking in tongues, wishing to speak five words with understanding - "that I may teach others also" - than ten thousand words in tongues (1 Cor 14:19).

St Paul believes that there are many gifts of the Spirit - to one may be given wisdom, to another prophecy, to another healing, to another the working of miracles, but as he says in 1 Corinthians 13, no matter what one does, if one does it without love it is nothing. All gifts must be permeated with the spirit of love, the greatest of all the virtues.

And when St Paul contrasts the gifts of the Spirit with the works of the flesh (fornication, idolatry, hatred, murder, envy, drunkenness, to name a few!), he lists love first. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22). These are the true gifts of the Holy Spirit, acquired by us only through prayer, fasting and, above all, by God's grace. The reason for the existence of the sacraments, services, the Holy Eucharist, Akathists, preaching, anointing, etc. - all the work of the Orthodox Church - is that each and every one of us might know the Holy Spirit. What we all acquired at our Chrismation - the gift of the Holy Spirit - we must manifest throughout our lives.

At the beginning of the Divine Liturgy the priests prays for the Holy Spirit to fill us: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of truth who art everywhere present and fillest all things, treasury of good things and giver of life: come and abide in us, to cleanse us from every stain and to save our souls, O Good One."

May the feast of Holy Pentecost (June 23 this year) fill you more and more with the Holy Spirit, that you might be Apostles of the Gospel at all times and to all people!

**New Question:** Fr. Noah, tell me about Vespers. Why is it important?

**OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST**

is extended to the family of **Louise Beli-Markovich**, who reposed in the Lord May 9. And to the family of **Gil Beisel**, who also reposed in May. Gil was the husband of Olena Kulbachna. Also to the family of **LuAnn Motel**, who reposed in the Lord on May 24.

**MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

