



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



BABY STEPS TO HOLINESS - NUMBER YOUR DAYS

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### GIVING UPDATES

The **Sunday School** collected boxed and canned items for Manna on Main Street to distribute to needy families for Thanksgiving! Many thanks to all!

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** In December, we are focusing on our **Christmas Giving Tree**, but feel free to bring in other items for the other collections as well.



**THE FORTY DAYS OF GROWTH IN STEWARDSHIP** has been a success. Thanks for returning your pledge. God bless you and all our faithful stewards!

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



#### CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE ST PHILIP'S FAMILY

As we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Saviour's birth, it has become the custom of our parish to help various Orthodox monastic communities, missionary situations and charitable services. This is accomplished by asking members to forgo sending cards to many within our St. Philip's family, and to send just one card to the entire church community; taking the savings from the cost of cards and postage, and enclosing a contribution which will be distributed among these groups. All cards will be displayed. Cards can be mailed to the Church or placed in the offering basket.



**The Christmas Fast continues until December 25th. Keep the Fast! Receive the blessings!**

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his second epistle to Timothy, St. Paul encourages the young apostle and bishop, "my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (II Tim 2:1) This is also written to all in apostolic succession, clergy throughout the ages, and to all Christians down to today. Let me unpack this beautiful passage for us. We are all spiritual children of St. Paul, and also of St. Timothy and all the righteous who have come before us. As children of God, and of all of His saints who have gone before us, we have power and joy, the power and joy of a family. In this holy family we find our identity, our self-esteem, rooted in the fact of the free gift of God's love that he poured out to us in Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection. What a blessing to be in a relationship, a familial relationship, with God. We are not alone, we are part of the Church, the Body of Christ. What a source of joy and strength in the face of our troubles, small and great.

Thankful to be with you in this beautiful life, I remain,

Your servant in Christ, + Fr. Noah

**Flies** are attracted to dung, even when they are in a beautiful field of bursting with fragrant blossoms.

**Bees** are drawn to flowers; even if they are in a junkyard, they will find the flowers and other sweets.

**Be like the bee, not like the fly!**



#### Mary's Tofu & Rice

one cup cooked brown rice  
canola oil  
one large onion, sliced  
one pack any kind mushrooms, sliced  
one pack extra firm tofu (organic, non gmo)  
organic gluten free soy sauce, to taste  
pepper

Sauté onions in oil. Push to the side and sauté the mushrooms. Next cube the tofu and add to the pan and sauté.

Throughout the process, keep adding soy sauce to taste. Mix together with rice and serve.

Mary Kompass

### Mark Your Calendar!

**Advent Services - Nov 15 - Dec 23**

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

*Paraklesis, Tues, Thurs, 7 p.m.*

*(exc. Dec 5)*

**Services for St Nicholas**

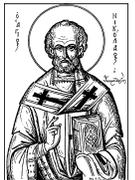
*Thursday, Dec 5*

Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 p.m.

followed by youth activity

*Friday, Dec 6*

Matins 9 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m.



**Christmas Program**

Rehearsal: *Saturday, Dec 21, 4 p.m.*

Program: *Sunday, Dec 22, after coffee hour*

**Services for Christmas**

*Tuesday, Dec 24*

Royal Hours 9 a.m.

Vesperal Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

Matins 7 p.m., Divine Liturgy 8 p.m.

*Wednesday, December 25*

Vespers 12 Noon

*Thurs, Dec 26 (Synaxis of the Theotokos)*

Matins 9 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m.

**Services for Circumcision & St Basil**

*Tuesday, December 31*

Vespers & Artoklasia, 6 p.m.

Matins 7 p.m.

Followed by fellowship & talent show

New Year's Prayers, 10 p.m.

*Wednesday, January 1*

Liturgy 10 a.m.



**Services for Theophany**

*Sunday, January 5 - Strict Fast Day*

Liturgy & Great Blessing of Water 10 a.m., Vespers & Artoklasia 6 p.m.

*Monday, January 6*

Matins 9 a.m., Liturgy, 10 a.m. - Great Blessing of Water

*Sunday, January 12*

Outdoor Blessing of Water, 1 p.m. - Lake Lenape Park

**Did You Know?**

- **Delegates Meeting** - We welcomed **107 guests**, mostly teens, the weekend of November 16 & 17. Thanks to the Teens for arranging activities, to the Women of St Philip's for the after-Vespers reception and Sunday coffee hour, and thanks to all for welcoming them so kindly!
- **Now is the time to make your advent confession!**
- There are **many ministries at our parish** for you to be involved in. Ask Father Noah for a Holy Task and roll up your sleeves to God's glory.
- **Antiochian Village Opportunities:** It's time to register for **Winter Camp (February 14-17, 2014)** and mark your calendar for **Summer Camp**. Most of our youth attend **1st Session (June 15-27, 2014)**. Visit the camp website for more information and other session dates: <http://antiochianvillage.org/camp/>.
- **Home blessings: From Theophany to just before Great Lent** is the season of home blessings. Very soon a schedule will be available to sign up for a home blessing with Fr. Noah or Fr. James. To schedule with Fr. Boniface, please contact him directly.
- **Chanting Workshop**, led by Simeon Acker, following Akathists on Wednesdays, is a continuing success. You can learn this ancient and sublime art of psalmodia! Three more sessions remain: Dec. 4, 11, & 18.
- A **special year-end donation** could give you a needed tax write-off as well as further God's work at St. Philip's.
- **Today can be a blessing** if you allow God's love to shine through you!
- **Zacchaeus** (Luke 19) showed his thankfulness to God by being generous. How about you?



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

**CHALLENGE FOR 2014:**  
Be like the bee, not like the fly!

Every Christian family ought to be, as it were, a little church, consecrated to Christ and wholly influenced and governed by His rule.

St. John Chrysostom

**Ask Abouna**

**Previous Question:** Fr. Boniface, tell us how things are going at St. Andrew Mission in Lewes, DE.

**Answer:** The mission community welcomed His Grace, Bishop Thomas, for his annual visitation the weekend of October 5th-6th. Beautiful weather added to the pleasure of the weekend. Attendance for the services was wonderful and the Antiochian Women provided refreshments for all attending, after Saturday Vespers and again after the Sunday Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.



Sayidna remarked on improvements since last year -- the new pews and Bishop's Chair in the Church as well as the newly paved parking lot and outdoor landscaping. He inspired us with his presence and his sermons and with his visit to our Sunday School classes. He inducted new members into the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, thanked the choir, and complimented everyone on their beautiful hospitality. He also reminded us of our special opportunity to bring Orthodoxy to southern Delaware, a growing area where we expect to meet new people almost every week.

It was also a great blessing to welcome Subdeacons Benjamin Daniel and Vincent Kaufman and family from Saint Philip's, and Subdeacon Jason Flowers and family from Holy Ascension Church, West Chester, PA. Several members of the McGraw family, also from Holy Ascension, and Subdeacon Jack and Lisa Morrash and Larry and Louise Shaheen from Saint Philip's joined us for the weekend. We also were pleased to have our friend and neighbor, Archimandrite Vasilios Penteridis from Saint George, Ocean City, MD, with us for the Saturday Vespers.

Sunday Divine Liturgy is at 9:30 a.m. A Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke has been held on Fridays during this fall season. All Great Feasts are celebrated. The Antiochian Women and the Men's Brotherhood and all parishioners worked together to produce a splendid FALL FEST Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8th - 9th.

Please check the Saint Andrew's website: [www.orthodoxdelmar.org](http://www.orthodoxdelmar.org)

It is a great pleasure from time to time to welcome visitors from home, coming to the Delaware Beaches. Special thanks to Father Noah and Father James and Deacon Herman and ALL at Saint Philip's for your interest and concern for Saint Andrew's and for all mission work.

**New Question:** What is expected of me spiritually, as a lay person?

**Baby Steps to Holiness**

**December: Number your days.**

What does a successful life look like? Money... Beauty... Power... Possessions? All of these can be good if we use them thankfully for God's glory and the building up of His Church. But a successful life is one of wisdom, pleasing God at every step. In Psalm 89, the Lord tells us the key to wisdom: "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."

"Number your days" means to consciously remember that you will be alive only so long... probably about 76 years. Whatever the length of time is, it will end and you will give up your soul to God who will reward you for what you have done out of thankfulness for His Free Gift! It means to remind yourself that this may be the last time you are blessed



to speak to someone, clean something. If that is the case, you should make it the best!

Does this sound morbid? It really isn't, since we trust God's love and commend ourselves to His providence. It reminds us to "seize the day," to make every moment count, and not take anyone or anything for granted. Numbering our days also frees us from the poison of pride and the oppression of anger. When we submit to God's will, all of our passions will be extinguished. Rather than being morbid, it sears joy into our consciences and drives us to the joy of Pascha, expressed in this beautiful Psalm verse (117:24): "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

Please join me this most joyful month by growing step by step in Godliness so that all together we can experience a foretaste of the delight of heaven!