



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



BABY STEPS TO HOLINESS - READ A BOOK OF THE BIBLE

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC CANCELED

due to the amount of work required for spring cleanup. Labor Day picnic still on.

#### GIVING UPDATES

**FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE:** Remember to turn in your collection box!

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Thanks to all for your generosity to the needy of our community! For **May**, we are collecting **Skin Care**.



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

**May God bless all our faithful givers!**  
(Be sure to read the thank-you notes posted.)

### Wisdom from Metropolitan PHILIP

- On Great Friday, there were tears, pain, agony and death, but on the third day, the darkness of Great Friday was dissipated by the bright light of the empty tomb. The new Pascha inaugurated the new age, the new being, and the new man. The Orthodox Church celebrates this joyful event every Sunday.
- Where are those like Sartre or Camus who say there is "no exit"? Let them gaze at the empty tomb. Our hope then is genuine because it is rooted in the reality of the Resurrection. It is not an empty utopian hope which ends in false security. It is the hope of the realization of God's kingdom first within us, and ultimately, beyond the veils of temporal existence.
- Our Eucharist answers the central questions: Who are we? Where are we going? What is the meaning of life? Who is God? The emphasis in the Orthodox Liturgy is first on being, then on doing.



### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

I am reflecting on beautiful words of a very godly and articulate bishop from Greece, Augustinos of Florina (+2010) about the role of women in the church and our common evangelistic holy task:

"The first 'Christ is risen' ever heard came first to women's ears. It issued first from women's lips. And since women were found worthy to be the first to hear the joyous message and were the first preachers of the Resurrection, who would hinder women from carrying out missionary work?... But aside from the holy Altar and the pulpit of the Church, an infinite level of missionary activity is open to those women who with steadfast faith, burning love, and spotless purity want to follow in the footsteps of the myrrh-bearing women. Faithful women, a whole world lives in mental and physical pain, in despair and disappointment, and everywhere looks for hope of a better life. From you it waits to hear the joyous news, the redeeming song, the words of eternal life, to see exquisite examples of a holy life."



Men of the parish, let us support and empower the women in our lives to grow as spiritual mothers, as handmaidens of the Lord, and Myrrh-bearers!

Your Servant in Christ, + *Fr. Noah*

### Orthodox Thoughts for the Day

Don't glue yourselves before the television. Don't forget that the button is not only used to turn it *on*, but for us to turn it *off*, also. Guard yourselves from this means of mass blinding. *Elder Epiphanius*

A place does not save you. There is no place where you can flee from yourself. *St. Nikon of Optina*

### Mark Your Calendar:

Church History Series

Saturdays in May, 5 p.m.

Beacons of Light: The early saints and their church

Services for Mid-Pentecost

Wednesday, May 14

Hours 6:30 p.m.

Liturgy 7 p.m.



Services for Leave-Taking of Pascha

Tuesday, May 27

Vespers 5 p.m., Matins 6 p.m.,

Liturgy 7 p.m.

Services for Ascension

AT HOLY ASCENSION, WEST CHESTER

Wednesday, May 28

Vigil 5:15 p.m., Liturgy 7 p.m.

Deanery Missions Workshop

Saturday, June 7, 10-3:30

Fr. Ken DeVoie: As the Father Has Sent Me,  
Even So I Send You:

Making our Parishes Missionary Outposts

Parish Life Conference

July 2-6, 2014

held at the Antiochian Village  
Conference Center

Call now to reserve your room!

724-238-3677

VCS - August 4-8

The Virgin Mary - Mark your calendars  
now and look for more information.



**Challenge for 2014: Be like  
the Bee, not like the Fly!**



**OUR SYMPATHY  
IN CHRIST**

is offered to the  
**Mondjack family** upon the passing  
of **Justin** on April 18. The funeral  
took place here at St. Philip's on  
Bright Tuesday, and burial was in St.  
Philip's Cemetery.

**MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

## Did You Know?

- Many people worked hard to make our **Paschal celebration** of Christ's Resurrection so beautiful. May God receive your offerings and labors.
- Our paschal greeting, "**Christ is risen,**" is not a "secret code for Orthodox" but the **good news that everyone needs to hear.**
- **IOCC Dinner, April 25 - 24** attended from St Philip's. Please support this important world-wide ministry.
- We have a great opportunity to **expand our faith** with about 80 different topical podcasts - AncientFaith.com



- If you shop at **Amazon.com**, St Philip's can earn a commission on your purchases. Simply **begin your shopping with the link at the top of every St Philip's web page.** Over the past year, St Philip's has earned \$381.12 in Amazon commissions.
- **St. Nikolai of Zicha**, a bishop who served here in PA said, "We must be super-conservative in preserving the Orthodox Faith, and super-modern in propagating it."
- **You can be prepared for the end.** Advanced Medical Directives, Wills, burial plot, remember the Church in your will! Whenever it is, don't waste your last moments on tidying up earthly cares.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES!

**John Carpenter** is graduating from Penn State University and the Schreyer Honors College. His academic honors include Phi Beta Kappa. John will travel to Munich, Germany, as a Young Artist at the Bavaria State Opera.

**Andrew Neno** is graduating from Drexel University with a dual major in finance and marketing. He has also achieved a certificate in writing and publishing.

**Tim Nikitin** is graduating from Moravian College with a major in religion.



## Ask Abouna

**Previous Question:** Fr. Boniface, Please share some memories of Metropolitan PHILIP.

**Answer:** His Eminence was our Father in Christ from 1966 until 2014. He was the only Metropolitan many of us knew. He was always a step ahead of all of us with his dreams and strong direction. He made it clear that he had a vision for the Archdiocese and for Orthodoxy in America. One of his favorite quotes was from Proverbs 29:18: "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

**Some of his contributions:**

**Antiochian Orthodox unity:** the two Antiochian "Dioceses" in America were combined as one strong unified "Archdiocese" in 1975, with the blessing of the Holy Synod. This united Archdiocese now consists of over 400 clergy, over 266 Churches and Missions, and some additional "mission stations." We've seen our Archdiocese grow, adding more Bishops to care for the needs of the people, maintaining a pastoral approach. I have been part of that growth. Our family was Chrismated by our beloved Metropolitan at the Archdiocesan Chapel in 1977.

In 1987, His Eminence welcomed the "Evangelical Orthodox" seekers into the fullness of the Church, and with that, a strong commitment to **increased mission work** here in America. He made our Archdiocese a missionary force and would not hesitate to reach out with the Good News!



I remember attending the first "Clergy Symposium" in Chicago in 1980 and since then, the **clergy** have come together every two years for **study and prayer**, in addition to the business of Conferences and Conventions.

His Eminence encouraged **Youth Work, the Antiochian Women, Stewardship and Tithing**, acquired the **Antiochian Village Camp** and Conference Center in 1978, and brought people and families together to learn and live and grow in our Faith. Our son Jonathan was one of the very first campers at the Village. I'd like to see at least one person from every family committed to the **Order of St Ignatius of Antioch.**

We can remember some of his **visits to us** here in the new Church which was formally "consecrated" by him. On one occasion, when Natalie Smerkanich was

little girl, asking about "His M&Ms" (His Eminence), someone quietly slipped a package of M&Ms to His Eminence and he gifted them to a delighted Natalie. Our Dn Herman was ordained here in our Church by Metr. Philip in September 1998. Our Metr. Philip always complimented our choir and appreciated that his "**Byzantine (music) Project**" was well put to use here. Our Dn Herman also received his DMin Degree from the **House of Studies** which Metr. Philip founded, and which has become a recognized force for Christian Education.

My strongest memories however, are of his talks, speeches, reminiscences and his always captivating, educational, inspirational, powerful way of preaching and teaching with many biblical quotations and poetic references. His written works were the same.

We are all blessed to have been in the right place at the right time when God gave us this Apostle with an enormous vision for Orthodoxy and how to live our Apostolic Christian Faith today, in a rapidly changing world.

**May his memory be eternal!**

**New Question:** Father James, do you have any travel plans brewing?

## Baby Steps to Holiness

**May - Read a Book of the Bible**

I hear about people's low points in life quite often. "Father, help me... I don't know what to do... How should I respond to such and such. I can't bear the insults any longer..."

We are constantly battered by the waves on the stormy sea of life. Because of that, we need to be anchored to the Rock of Faith, in the daily reading of the Holy Scriptures... Read one book of the Bible and enjoy and be edified by the way that the

Apostle or Prophet by divine inspiration chose to deliver God's message. Don't know where to start? Here are some suggestions:

Gospel of John or Acts of the Apostles. (These are read liturgically during the 40 days of Pascha). Or, something shorter: James, 1 John, or Philipians.

We'll find answers to our questions and comfort in our sorrows in the faithful reading of God's Word. May it be blessed!

