



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

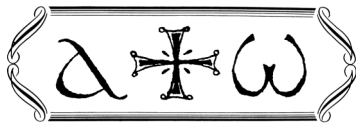
GIVING UPDATES

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

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

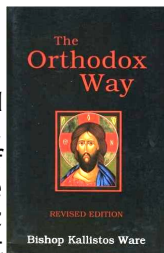
NEWSPAPERS: Salfid Rescue Kennel, our neighbor on Clearview Road, is always in need of old newspapers. Look for the box in the hallway.

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAITHFUL GIVERS!



Book Recommendation

The Orthodox Way
by Bp Kallistos Ware



This book is a general account of the doctrine, worship and life of Orthodox Christians by the author of the now classic The Orthodox Church. It raises the basic issues of theology: God is hidden yet revealed; the problem with evil; the nature of salvation; the meaning of faith; prayer; death and what lies beyond. In so doing, it helps to fill the need for modern Orthodox catechism. Yet this book is not a mere manual, a dry-as-dust repository of information. Throughout the book, Bishop Kallistos Ware shows the meaning of Orthodox doctrine for the life of the individual Christian. Doctrinal issues are seen not as abstract propositions for theological debate but as affecting the whole of life. A wealth of texts drawn from theologians and spiritual writers of all ages accompanies Bishop Kallistos' presentation. They, too, reveal Orthodoxy not just as a system of beliefs, practices and customs but indeed as the Way.

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
These most wonderful 40 Days of Pascha – our Paschal Payback for the investment of Great Lent – are coming swiftly to a close. I often think of the Apostles, the Theotokos and all the Myrrhbearers, and all of Christ's disciples. For three years they followed Him. For three days they lost Him. And now they had Him... but they didn't have Him for long. They felt bereft when Jesus spoke of His leaving again. They felt bitter-sweet when they witnessed Him ascending to Heaven. Lord, what about us? "Lo, I am with you always ..."

Yes, indeed, what about us? We are sorry to give back the joyous chanting and exclaiming of "Christ is risen" but we can beg God to continue to imbue us with that radiant joy as He prepares us to receive the Holy Spirit anew on Pentecost!

Your Servant In Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

Baby Steps to Holiness

June - After evening prayers, review the day

Our Lord said, "watch and pray" as He was going to His Life-Giving Passion (Matthew 26:41). How can we practically do this? It's actually very easy! One aspect of this practical vigilance comes after our evening prayers. We remain standing before our icons for a few more moments to review the day. This means that we briefly reflect on each moment and either repent of our sins or thank God for our successes. For example, one might say mentally or under one's breath, "God forgive me for raising my voice at so-and-so and help me to control myself tomorrow. Thank you for the healthy food my family has and my not overeating today." If we do this faithfully, not only are we constantly returning to God with repentance and gratitude, but we will also learn to recognize the patterns in our behavior and will be able to, little by little, shift them towards God.



Mark Your Calendar:

Ascension

Wednesday, June 8:
Vespers 7 pm, Matins 8 pm
Thursday, June 9: Divine Liturgy 9 am

High School Graduate Recognition
Sunday, June 12

Pentecost - Schedule Changes!
Saturday, June 18 - Vespers 5 pm,
Baptisms/Chrismations 6 pm, Reception
Sunday, June 19 - Matins 8 am,
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am,
Campers depart 11:15 am,
Kneeling Prayers 12:30 pm

Apostles' Fast
Monday-Wednesday, June 27-29

Ss Peter & Paul, June 28
At St Paul, Emmaus
Matins 6 pm, Divine Liturgy 7 pm

Parish Life Conference
June 29 - July 3
<http://www.antiochianevents.com/ny.html>

Sacred Music Institute
July 13-17
At the Antiochian Village

Vacation Church School
August 1-5 - The New Testament

International Food Festival
September 16-17



We live Pascha to Pascha!
April 16, 2017



Holy Mysteries

Gabriel & Johanna (Phillips) Otte were married here at St Phillip's on Sunday, May 22.

Sam & Meredith (Stone) Malriat were married here at St Phillip's on Sunday, May 28.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

HIGH SCHOOL



Ermias Asfaha is graduating from Souderton Area High School, where he participated in Varsity football. He will attend University of Pittsburgh in the fall.

Emily Case is graduating from twelve years of successful homeschooling. Her education and accomplishments include volunteering at Red Creek Wildlife Center (animal care & rehab, education, photography) and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (trail steward education). She has also participated in Wildlife Rehabilitation Conferences. This summer Emily will serve at the Antiochian Village and participating in our Teen SOYO FOCUS mission trip, as well as continue to volunteer at Red Creek and serve as an intern at Hawk Mountain. In the fall, she will take online courses in Wildlife Rehabilitation and Zoology at the Animal Behavior Institute.

Michael Collins is graduating from North Penn High School, where he has been inducted into the National Honor society, received the Thomas J. Richards Memorial Award for achievement and leadership, and participated in orchestra, chorus, and the swim team. Michael has achieved rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. He will attend Penn State University (main campus) to study engineering.

John Heveran is graduating from 21st Century Cyber Charter School, where he achieved the Distinguished Honor Roll. He will attend Temple University, studying mechanical engineering.

Kathleen Libby is graduating from Palisades High School, where she has been a part of the drama and choral department. She is also a member of the Spanish National Honor Society. Kathleen plans to attend community college and then transfer to Boise State University and major in musical theatre.

Abael Russom is graduating from Souderton Area High School, where he was heavily involved in track, highly recognized for distance running, achieving Varsity his first year running cross country, and earning several medals. Aabel plans to attend LaSalle University to study finance.

COLLEGE

Kevin Burke graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a B.M. in Music Recording Technology. In the fall he will return to LVC to complete a B.S. in Music Education.

Elizabeth Kelly graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University, as an Athena Women's Leadership Scholar. She is starting her own non-profit called Messy Feelings, which helps children express and address various forms of grief through workbooks and guided journaling (see www.childhoodgrief.org). In addition, she will work as a Business Strategy and Analytics Consultant at IBM beginning this summer.

Katina Psomiadis graduated from Duquesne University in December 2015, where she was on Dean's list every year and became a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Beginning fall of this year, she will be pursuing her Master's degree in Speech Pathology at Penn State University.

Did You Know?

- **We live from Pascha to Pascha!** May 1, 2016 - April 16, 2017.
- **Joe Kyriakos and family** attended Family Camp at the Antiochian Village. Please speak to them to learn about this great spiritual opportunity for the entire family.
- **Over 20 of our youth are going to AV Camp this summer.** Your support of our camp scholarship fund makes camp possible for many!
- **Summer Reading Club!** This year's theme is Friendship. The program will run June 5 - July 31, and the celebration day will be August 7. Children in Grades Pre-K to 5 are invited and encouraged to participate.



- **Bible Bowl** - Sophia Bushelli, Julian Bushelli, and Ephrem Acker will be represent St Philip's in the Bible Bowl at the Parish Life Conference in July. Come to the PLC and cheer them on! www.antiochianevents.com/ny.html
- **We have lots of visitors.** Go out of your way to greet them and invite them to coffee hour!
- **Stewardship and Almsgiving** are invitations to change our relationships to money and our relationship to God.
- Orthodox Christians should receive **Holy Communion** only if they are properly prepared: fasting, recent Confession, living according to the commandments, repenting, praying, coming to church on time and frequently, being properly dressed for church.

Ask Abouna

Previous Question: How, and why, do we celebrate Pascha for 40 Days?

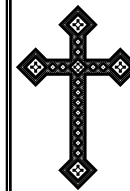
Answer: Every Sunday is the Lord's Day, a day we celebrate Christ's Resurrection. But the 40 Days between Pascha (Passover) and Ascension are an extra special focus. We celebrate this because it is what happened in Christ's post-resurrection life. He lived among the people; there were many eye-witnesses! 40 Days of Pascha means forty days of meeting the one who is "the first fruits of them that have fallen asleep; the first born from the dead."

We celebrate it with a relaxed fast. In our Antiochian Patriarchate, we don't fast on Paschal Wednesdays and Fridays. This is a little peek into the freedom of the Kingdom.

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha, grant us that we may partake of You more perfectly in the never ending day of Your Kingdom!

New Question: Why is going to church necessary if God is everywhere ?

Wisdom



Let your first task, as soon as you awaken, be the sign of the cross, and your first words - the words of the Jesus Prayer.

St Barsanuphios of Optina

Missions Minute

- Jesse Brandow in Guatemala*
- Bill Black in Kenya*
- St Herman House in Cleveland*
- Project Mexico*
- Indonesian Orthodox Church*

Stop by our Missions bulletin board to learn about these and other mission situations. Your prayers and support are needed and appreciated!

Everyday Evangelist

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

Be Yourself, as God would have you!

**Challenge for 2016:
Pray Without Ceasing
(1 Thessalonians 5)**

Lord, help us to pray. Clean the grim of our nous (the eye of the soul), pacify the manic mind, and calm our tattered nerves. "We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans" (Romans 8:26).