



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



WISDOM FROM FR. B: YOU MUST HAVE A REASON TO SAY THAT

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE ST PHILIP'S FAMILY



As we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Saviour's birth, we help various Orthodox monastic communities, missionary situations, and charitable services. This is accomplished by asking members to forego 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.



UPDATE ON FR. HERMAN

He's celebrated his 40 Liturgies!

Starting December 4, Fr. Herman is the pastor of **St. Andrew Church in Lewes, DE**, our daughter parish. He'll be commuting down there on the weekends. Kh. Vera will be with him most Sundays but likely we'll see her occasionally!

Fr. Herman is still in training with Fr. Noah and Fr. James and **will be here during the week** for services, especially Wednesday nights and mid-week feasts.

To accommodate Kh. Vera's travel needs, the **church office hours are slightly adjusted** to Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30-4. Closed Fridays, though Fr. Noah will be in and out. (Please note that Fr Noah will be taking Tuesdays off starting in January.)



A Message from Fr Noah

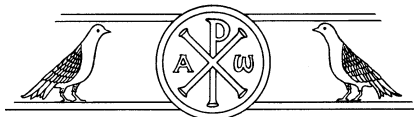
Dear Saint Philip's Family,

I'm reading a marvelous book: *Know the Faith* by Fr. Michael Shanbour. It follows the conversion of Cornelius and his family (Acts 10) with historically-informed literary license as a window into Orthodox Theology and practice. It is a very thorough exploration and defense of Orthodoxy in a thematic way.

I invite you to "know the faith" by picking up this book in the library, book shelf, or at ancientfaith.com, or by digging into another theological work. But don't just know the faith ... know God, the One in whom we have faith.

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3),

+ *Fr. Noah*



GIVING UPDATES

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION: Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In **November**, we are collecting **Turkeys & Hams**, and **accompanying non-perishables**.

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!

Mark Your Calendar:

ADVENT FAST

November 15 - December 25

Nativity Services (Special Schedule!)

Saturday, December 24

9 am Divine Liturgy

6 pm Vespers, Artoklasia, & Orthros

Sunday, December 25

9 am Divine Liturgy

Synaxis of the Theotokos

Sunday, December 25

6 pm Vespers

Monday, December 26

9 am Matins, 10 am Divine

Liturgy



Circumcision of Christ and Feast of St Basil

Saturday December 31

6 pm Vespers & Artoklasia

followed by potluck refreshments and New Year's Eve Talent Show

Sunday, January 1

9 am Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy

We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 16, 2017

Missions Minute

2017 OCMC Summer Mission Trips are planned in Kenya (Women's Ministry) and Indonesia (Youth). If you would like to share the gifts God has given you, this is a wonderful opportunity to give of your time and talents to share the Love of Christ. Visit ocmc.org for more information.

Everyday Evangelist

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

Ask questions, then listen - really listen.

Did You Know?

- **Robert Mitchell** will be graduating from Penn State on December 17th with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He will then be working for Pratt & Whitney testing aircraft engines in West Palm Beach Florida. Congratulations!

- Your **Amazon** purchases can benefit St Philip's! Simply start your shopping from the link at the top of every page of the **St Philip's website**. Over the past year, over \$350 was paid to St Philip's by Amazon!



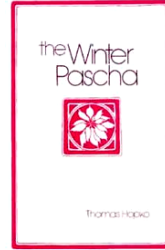
- An Orthodox Christian ought to **come to confession** at least four times per year and as needed.

- Your faithful and generous Stewardship is a Big Boost to **God's Work at St. Philip's**.

- Our **Sunday School, Teens, and Young Adults** need your prayers and love to keep them living and growing in Christ.

Book Recommendation

The Winter Pascha
by Fr Thomas Hopko



When the winter begins to make way into the Northern World, the Church of Christ begins to celebrate a "splendid three-day Pascha."

Thus Father Thomas Hopko begins the first of forty meditations for the season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, ending with the feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple on the fortieth day after Christ's birth. In the style of his popular book for the paschal fasting season, The Lenten Spring, the author again draws on the biblical readings and liturgical hymns and verses of the season to illumine the way for believers to follow the Church's days of preparation and celebration for the Coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in human flesh. Many references are made to the writings of the saints and Church Fathers, as well as to contemporary Christian teachers and spiritual guides. All those who love the Lord's Coming will find comfort and strength, as well as enlightenment and instruction, for having passed through the Winter Pascha with this book as their companion.



Please pray for your priests daily - we need your prayers!
Fr. Noah, Fr. James, Fr. Herman.

O Lord Jesus Christ, enkindle the hearts of all thy Priests with the fire of zealous love for thee, that they may ever seek thy glory; Give them strength that they may labor unceasingly in thine earthly vineyard for the salvation of our souls and the glory of thine all-honorable and majestic Name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

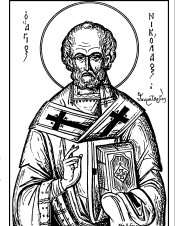
Ask Abouna

Previous Question: Do you believe in Santa Claus?

Answer: Of course, I believe in Santa Claus. The roly-poly generous "old elf" of American folk religion is a secularization of one of the greatest saints of the Church: St. Nicholas of Myra. Indeed, "Santa Claus" comes from the Dutch version of Saint Nicholas, Sante Klaas.

I believe that he was a most generous, valiant, humble, bold, loving, self-sacrificial, and godly man. Since God honors him for his humility, he has been given grace by God to work miracles from across the eternal divide.

I believe in him as an intercessor in Christ, an example of Christ, and invitation to Christ!



Finally, I believe that as parents we should be very careful weaving the fiction of Santa Claus into our family's holidays. When children grow up they could very easily, with a little help from their "friends" in the media and the academy, follow the demonic lie that Jesus is just a myth as well. Lord, have mercy!

Let us honor St. Nicholas for who he is and let's keep Christ the center of Christmas!

Your Servant in Christ,
+ Fr. Noel

New Question: Why should I have my home blessed (again and again)?

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

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Educational Opportunities in January and Beyond

Reset your Routine for God's Glory

Mondays 10 am

Morning Prayers and Bible Study with Fr. Noah

Wednesdays 7 pm

Compline and a class with our three priests.

January's topic: The Divine Liturgy

Saturdays 4:30 pm

Introduction to Orthodoxy

Saturdays 7 pm

Bible Bowl Study – Adult, Teen, and Tween Teams are needed.

Fr. James is leading the sessions on the Gospel of Mark.

Parish Life Conference: Jun 28 - Jul 2

Wisdom from Fr. B.

"You must have a reason to say that"

On several occasions I witnessed from Fr. Boniface a most calm and healing response to verbal assault. Instead of reacting, he tried to draw the reason for the upset. We who knew him know



that he was a strong man and could take up a fierce verbal battle when necessary. But, he also had a deep inner peace that he was able to transfer to those who came to him with humility and listened to him. Let's pause before we react and try to develop understanding.