



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



WISDOM FROM FR. B: WHAT YOU WANT IS WHAT YOU GET

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

THANK YOU

Fr Noah, Fr James, Fr Herman, and their families thank you all for your gifts and good wishes during this Holy Season. May God bless you!

GIVING UPDATES

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION: Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In **January**, we are collecting **Oral Care 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!

Challenge for 2017: Be led by the Spirit, not pushed by the passions (Romans 8:12-14)

As I'm maturing and being more aware of my heart and my habits, I'm starting to see that there are great portions of days that my passions (accumulated sin-addictions) are informing my actions and words. I'm begging God to help me to focus on Him more and be more attentive to the Holy Spirit's promptings towards love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of Truth, and abide in us, cleanse of from every stain, and save our souls. "Thy Good Spirit shall lead me to the land of the righteous" (Psalm 142/143).



Read a book of the Bible!

Perhaps 1 Peter, a baptismal exhortation.

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,

In the midst of the beautiful celebrations of Christ's appearing in His Nativity and His Baptism, I call you to consider the year ahead of us as a time to be sanctified by repentance and vigilance.

Repentance means to change your mind, change your heart (meta-nous), "transform the eye of your soul", so that you can see life clearly in God's divine light that he shines on the world. Repent is the first recorded words proclaimed by St. John the Baptist and by our Lord Jesus Christ! Repentance means peace. It means gentleness towards others. It means humility which invites God's grace. Repentance is a gift from God, but one that we must protect, cultivate, and bring to maturity and fruition.

Vigilance is the means for keeping and multiplying the gifts that God gives us. Vigilance is what our Lord calls his holy disciples, including us, to when he directed: "watch and pray lest you enter into temptation" (Mark 14, Matthew 26). Vigilance means that we don't let our guard down on our minds, our hearts, our tongues. It means intellectual sobriety. But, it doesn't mean stuffiness or negativity.

Join me in repentance and vigilance and cooperating with God to make this coming year a year of blessing!

In Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

Everyday Evangelist

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

Spend time deepening your relationship with God, allowing Him to form you into the image of Christ. When we're walking with God, spending time in prayer and Scripture reading, we have a full well from which we can offer Christ's living water to others.

Mark Your Calendar:

NEW TO THE WEEKLY ROUTINE

- Mondays 10 am*
Morning Prayers & Bible Study
- Tuesdays Noon - 6th Hour*
- Wednesdays 7 pm*
Compline & Adult Study
- Thursdays 10 am - Divine Liturgy*
- Fridays 10 am or 7pm - Paraklesis*

Desert Fathers Reading Group 2017

- Selected Thursdays from Noon - 2 pm*
- January 12 - St. Anthony the Great*
- February 9 - St. Arsenius*
- March 9 - St. John the Dwarf*
- April 6 - St. Macarius the Great*
- May 11 - Abba Moses of Nitria*
- June 1 - Abba Poemen*



Meeting of the Lord

- Wednesday, February 1*
Vespers & Artoklasia (w/candle blessing) 6 pm, Matins 7 pm
- Thursday, February 2 - Divine Liturgy 10 am, Candle blessing*
- Publican & Pharisee - February 5*
- Prodigal Son - February 12*
- Sunday of Judgment (Meatfare) - Feb 19*

Soul Saturday

Feb 18 - Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

Forgiveness Sunday,

Feb 26 - Forgiveness Vespers 1 p.m.

Great Fast begins February 27

We live Pascha to Pascha!

April 16, 2017

Missions Minute

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn 3:16).

Wisdom from Fr. B.

“What you want is what you get”

This was the harshest thing I ever heard him say. He quietly commented on a few occasions after observing someone destroy their lives by consistently ignoring godly advice and plenty of warning signs. It was a startling way to remind me of the God-given and God-honored free will that we have by virtue of our being made in the Image of God. A quiet reminder that we are, or can be, our own worst enemies. Lord, deliver us from selfishness, self-centeredness, pathological self-love, self-direction, and self-destruction. Lord, deliver us with loving family, true friends, and courageous spiritual fathers! Deliver us from the Evil One who would tear us to shreds while we think we are fulfilling our deepest longings.



Holy Ascension Building Plan Update

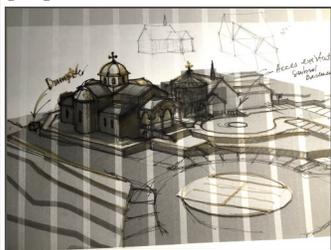
From Fr Daniel Meyer

Our newest plans reflect a “Temple First” approach to the development of our property, where we are placing the traditional worship of the Holy Trinity as the center for our growth. We hope this growth becomes both a physical and spiritual reality.

The Temple is being designed by an accomplished architect, Mirela Tudora, who specializes in designs that implement ancient Byzantine ecclesial models. Our Temple proposal is known as a “Cruciform-Center

Design.” The Temple is designed as a cross within a rectangular interior. A large dome is above the center of the

worship space. The Temple is regarded as being a place filled with sacred space. Once completed, the temple will offer visitors a spatial-visual explanation of the spiritual life in Christ. The ceiling will be very high, with windows offering light from above; columned archways will form a three-aisled worship area; the north and south apses and half-domes will allow antiphonal sound to flow as in an amphitheater. We have initiated a plan to have a number of master craftsmen in the sacred arts to beautifully adorn the interior and exterior. We are prepared to fresco the entirety of the interior walls using sacred Byzantine iconography with depictions of the life of Jesus Christ, in addition to the angelic powers,



Did You Know?

- **Disciple**, which is the primary New Testament word for Christian, means “student.” Are you a student? Is your “continuing education” enough to merit the title “disciple”? See below and the church calendar for additional **educational opportunities** this year!
- Summer camp registration **has begun!** Register early - sessions fill quickly!
- Your gift to the **Camp Scholarship Fund** supports the spiritual formation and education of our youth.
- We are blessed a **beautiful choir**; please sing along!
- We’re always looking for interesting **Did You Know items** for the newsletter. If you have a special experience or accomplishment you’d like to share, email it to Vera at the church office.
- The **liturgical offerings** of our parish (Prophora, Artos, Kolyva, Altar Candles, Wine, Flower Decorations) are simple and profound ways to offer our talents to God and to each other.

a host of saints, as well as significant events from our faith. Our Temple will include an iconostasis, analogion stands, the tomb of Christ, and chairs that will be carved by hand out of wood by carvers who have taken a lifetime to study the form. Cast iron will be utilized for a number of our candle stands and chandeliers. We also hope to incorporate a number of local materials and historically relevant natural/man-made materials into the design of the space.

The design of the Temple will be our best effort to give the first fruits of our labors toward the worship of our One God in Three Persons. The Temple design is exquisite. Its beauty is an image of how we ought to live and reflects the primacy of worship in our lives. God dwells in His house, and we desire that he dwell in the Temple of our hearts. This is a foundational Christian principle. We are very excited to embark on this effort and to offer this ancient Christian vision of life to the local community. With this orientation, we can be prepared to go back home, and take these truths on how to live into our relationships and vocations.

Because we have dedicated ourselves this way, we also have an active life on the property outside of worship. For this reason, we plan to redesign our old worship space as a multipurpose hall. It will allow us to have a place to eat potluck meals, fellowship, and host other events that will be open to the local community.

We look forward to sending more updates to our brothers and sisters of our mother parish: St. Philip’s! Please remember us in your prayers as we take another step in the project.

Ask Abouna

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

Answer: I know what thoughts (*logismoi* - mental word-attacks from the devil) go through your minds: “one more thing to schedule,” “we have to clean up the house,” “we have to invite Father over,” “we did this last year, and the year before...,” etc. I know these thoughts because I am afflicted by them as well. But, I also know that I am not my thoughts and my thoughts are not all good, true, and beautiful. So... We should have our homes blessed each year for the following reasons:

- They are the “arena of the spiritual warfare” - and there is a lot of spiritual carnage that needs to be washed away.
- They are to be Mini-Churches - and we have to renew that identity.
- They aren’t ours; they are God’s. We are merely stewards and residents until God directs otherwise.
- We sin in big and small ways in the house. The house blessing is like the home’s confession.
- Our family relationships need to be refreshed with God’s blessing.
- You are too precious in God’s sight to live in a home that isn’t under God’s protection.
- It is a good opportunity to exercise hospitality.
- It is a good occasion to discuss any spiritual questions with one of the priests of our parish.

Don’t settle into a secular mindset but keep inviting God deeper and deeper into your life to transform all of your life!

2017 BONUS: Our beloved, newly-ordained Fr. Herman will be sharing his availability for Home Blessings in the Narthex along with Fr. Noah and Fr. James. Schedule in the narthex or by phone or email.

Your Servant in Christ,
- Fr. Noah

New Question: Fr. Herman, can you tell us about Saint Andrew’s Parish?

