



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



WISDOM FROM FR. B: WELL, I WOULDN'T EMPHASIZE THAT SO MUCH.

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### GIVING UPDATES

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In July, 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!**

### Wisdom

Elder Clzopa of Romania (+1998)

- ✦ Do not do anything without signing yourself with the sign of the Cross!
- ✦ The enemy will run like a wild ass from the man who has tasted the sweetness of prayer.
- ✦ We know from the Holy Fathers that wisdom has two ends. The lower end is the fear of God, and the upper end is the love of God, which is "the bond of perfection."



### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,

I have been serving God and you, the good people of St. Philip's Church, for 11 years now. I'm thankful. Despite my limitations and my mistakes, God has blessed our parish in many ways. I'm looking ahead to the next decade, God willing, that we will be together, growing together in Christ's Image, in His Church.

I am realizing, more and more, that I need everyone's help. Prayers, yes. Financial Stewardship, of course. Service Attendance, you bet – that is our life as Orthodox Christians! But, also, service. Service in terms of ministry. We are called to serve, in big ways and small, in official organized ministries, and in the little things that make life beautiful. We can live such that our homes, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and our parish become so beautiful that one is compelled to give glory to God!

In Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

### Missions Minute

There are still open opportunities on three **OCCM medical mission teams** to Guatemala and Indonesia and youth outreach teams that will be traveling to Ghana and Kenya in the fall. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining these vital efforts of the Church, please contact Andy Lekos by phone at 904-829-5132 x140, or by email at teams@ocmc.org. Teams serve in the mission field for approximately two weeks and are a great way to impact the lives of people who are in great need around the world.

### Everyday Evangelist

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

Shop at neighborhood garage sales. Learn your neighbors' names and remember them.

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Dormition Fast

August 1-14

#### Paraklesis Services

Weekdays, 7 p.m., through Aug. 13

#### Vacation Church School

August 7-11

The Parables of Christ

#### Fr Boniface Memorial & Retreat

August 12-13

Fr Joseph Morris

"Spiritual Lessons from the teaching and deeds of Fr. Boniface Black and his patron, St. Boniface, Enlightener of Germany"

#### Dormition

Monday, August 14

Vespers, Artoklasia & Lamentations 6 pm  
Matins 7 pm

Tuesday, August 15

Liturgy 10 am

Blessing of herbs & flowers.

#### Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, August 17, 2-7 pm

Signup sheets are posted on bulletin boards and around the great room, or see Beth McClintock or Jerry Burke to sign up.

#### Beheading of the Forerunner

Monday, August 28

Vespers 7 pm

Tuesday, August 29 - **STRICT FAST DAY**

Divine Liturgy 10 am

#### Sunday School begins Sept 10

#### International Food Festival

Sept 15 & 16

Work & Pray & Invite!



### OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

is offered to **Terry Kaminsky and family** upon the repose of Terry's father **Thomas Robinson**, who reposed on June 29. Funeral services were held on July 3 in Maryland.



AND to the **Heveran family** upon the passing of Michael's mother **Sally**, who reposed on July 30. The funeral was held on August 3 in New Britain, PA.

AND to **Elsie Salfiti and family** upon the repose her husband **Fuad**, who reposed on July 31. The funeral was held here at St Philip's on August 4.

**MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

### Parenting Suggestion

From *Parenting Toward the Kingdom* by Philip Mamalakis: "Understand struggles in terms of the values and the virtues of the Kingdom of God."



**Did You Know?**

- **Bible Bowl Winners!** Our adult Bible Bowl team (**Hirut Demis, Celia-Marie Khouri, & Mary Kompass**) won the adult division of the Bible Bowl at the Parish Life Conference in early July. Consider being part of the team next year. As Mary says, "If we can do it, anyone can do it!"
- **Martha Korban**, a member of our parish for the last year, has begun health-coaching and has openings for new clients.
- **The Dormition Fast** (August 1-14) is a time to tune up our souls and bodies with escalated prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other spiritual disciplines to bring us closer to Christ and His Holy Mother! Please plan on attending at least one Paraklesis.
- You should still **go to church when you go on vacation**. Research. Call ahead. Ask a blessing from the priest before taking Holy Communion. Bring back a bulletin or other info and ideas for Fr. Noah.
- **Modesty** is an important offering to God and to each other, even in the summer months, at church and out and about. Modesty doesn't have to mean homely. Beards and head-coverings are traditional expressions of modesty that can stylishly complement respectful and beautiful clothes.
- Please **save the date for our Food Festival** – to help out and to bring friends, families, colleagues, and neighbors! Pray for a successful outreach event.



#CommitToGive  
*this summer*  
American Red Cross



**Blood Drive**  
**St. Philip Orthodox Church**

1970 Clearview Rd  
Souderton, PA 18964

**Thursday, August 17, 2017**  
**2:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

Appointments are preferred.

Please register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
and enter sponsor code: saint philip

Call 1-800-RED CROSS or contact the church at 215-721-4947

Signup sheets are posted in the great room.



Commit to give and help save a life this summer!

When you present to donate blood or platelets this August, you will receive a coupon redeemable for a free medium Iced Coffee and a free donut from Dunkin' Donuts.\*

\*Offer valid at select locations. See participating locations. See coupon for participating locations. Offer ends 8/31/17. © 2017 Dunkin' Donuts. All rights reserved.

**Wisdom from Fr. B.**

Well, I wouldn't emphasize that so much.

This saying shows the deep and patient pastoral approach that Fr. Boniface had with people who were coming to him for advice. It also demonstrates his keen intellect – he studied the Classics in university – and the wisdom of his years shepherding souls to God. This piece of wisdom is important for us to apply to our lives, our relationships, our occupations, our prayers, our ministries. Take a break, step back with a prayer, and examine your emphases so that God's love, not our brokenness, can shine through every word and deed!



**Ask Abouna**

**Previous Question:** What has been the fruit of the festival?

**Answer:** Well, Glory to God! We are preparing for our 6th annual International Food Festival.

The fruit of the festival has been manifold. Let me recount the goals for the festival and then we can see the fruit based on that.

1. Reach out to the local community ... so people know what the "gold dome off 309" means.
  - a. This has been done. Our church is known in the greater Souderton area, not just for tasty food, but also joy, hospitality, our beautiful temple, beautiful choir, and loving community of parishioners.
  - b. People in our neighborhood greet me warmly all the time.
  - c. Each of us has a specific and low pressure way to invite people to the church.
  - d. One local clergyman told me that I was the best evangelist in the area after he came through our church tour. While that is obviously overstated, it shows that we have reached the goal.
2. Build up our own parish community ... so people in the church get to know each other.
  - a. This has been a beautiful surprise for me. I love beholding everyone working together.

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

*Their passion smolders all night; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire. - Hosea 7:6b*



Passions are good desires that have been misdirected, like the Holy Prophet Hosea's important word picture. A camp or cook fire is a good thing, but if it is left unattended it could turn into a wild fire all too quickly. With this in mind, redouble your efforts in vigilance as our Lord tells the disciples: "watch and pray lest you enter into temptation" Matthew 26:41.

Truly, it is never too early, or too late, to start putting out a fire. Lord, help me to keep the flame of love and life in you burning brightly, but not burning others!



b. It has been nice to hear of friendships developing between people who have known each other for years but never made the opportunity to get to know each other.

3. Give back to the local community ... we have been supporting local charities.
  - a. Manna on Main Street
  - b. Keystone Opportunity Center
  - c. Pennridge Fish
4. Support the special projects of our parish.
  - a. Since the festival is not "about the money" it has stayed beautiful and joyful.
  - b. Our stewardship program has thrived since we started the festival. Some were afraid that people's tithes, pledges, and offerings would suffer, but, Glory to God! it hasn't happened.

I am very thankful to the many people who have labored over the years to make this a successful annual evangelical event. May God grant all who labor for the gospel to do so in peace, joy, prosperity, health, and zeal for many years and then a rich entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven.

**New Question:** Fr. James, please tell us about your Alaska Pilgrimage.