



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



WISDOM FROM FR. B: HE'S ALREADY HAD HIS REWARD.

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

FORTY DAYS OF GROWTH IN STEWARDSHIP

"I have a holy task for you." Fr. Boniface was a master of giving people the right task, a Holy Task, doing so with prayer and with love. Right now, our support of St. Philip's is our Holy Task. When you are about to fill out your pledge card this year, Sit down! Close your eyes! Imagine that you are sitting face-to-face, one-on-one with Fr. Boniface. Listen very carefully! Hear what he is saying: "I have a holy task for you!"

GIVING UPDATES

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

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

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAITHFUL GIVERS!



Food Festival

Many Thanks!

to all our leaders, coordinators, cooks, runners, givers, prayers, singers, greeters, tour guides, workers, creators, mailers, heavy-lifters, assemblers, disassemblers, cleaners, supporters, sponsors, and everyone who played a part in this tremendous endeavor.

May God bless you and grant you Many Years!

Wisdom from Hieromonk Gregorios

- + Prayer is the breath of our soul.
- + Prayer is the strongest weapon Christians have in the struggle against their passions.
- + Prayer is the way that unites us with God and through it we enter into communion with Him.

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,

Our western world is moving away from tradition, normalcy, and Christianity. This is seen in the number of "nones" (to be distinguished from "nuns") – people who have indicated "none" as their religious affiliation. They are found in our neighborhoods, our workplaces and, sadly, even in our families. Let me share a little conventional wisdom as to why people move away from God, and then what we can do about it.

- 1) Hurt – they can't get over a personal tragedy and can't believe in a God who would allow or cause it. "How could a loving, all-powerful God do/allow such-and-such?"
- 2) Scandalized – they can't get past the hypocrisy and scandal of Christians and clergy. "Too many people do bad things in God's name."
- 3) Proud – they just really believe that human knowledge has ruled out God, despite many gaps in theories, evidence, and logic. "Religion is an old myth to answer the questions of previous generations."
- 4) Run-Away – seeking pleasure, success, and fulfillment they have emancipated themselves from the rules and expectations of Holy Scripture. "I am free to do what I want."

How do we, as Orthodox Christians, respond?

- 1) Prayer. Deep, consistent, liturgical, prayer for God to save us and the person in mind.
- 2) Tears. We should be broken hearted. If we don't have tears for hell-bound souls, pray for tears.
- 3) Love. Lots of listening, not a lot of talking, but not being afraid to speak up for the truth when necessary.

Sometimes I think that "all is lost" in the battle for the culture, but that is a demonic whisper. No. All is not lost. God has not abandoned us. We ourselves, our family, our parish, can repent and then become bearers of God and channels of Grace for the hurt, shocked, proud, and run-away in our lives.

In Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

Mark Your Calendar:

Saint Dionysius

Tuesday, Oct 3
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Soul Saturday

Saturday, Oct 21
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, Oct 22, approx. 1 pm

Great Martyr Demetrius

Thursday, Oct 26
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Intro to Orthodoxy - Fall Series

Saturdays at 4:30, Sept 23 - Nov 18
(exc. Nov 4)

Village at Home

Saturday, Nov 11 - more details to come

Metr. Ephraim Kyriakos Visit

Nov 11-14

Advent Retreat

Saturday, December 9
Drs. David & Mary Ford:
When the Foundations Are Shaken: Biblical & Patristic Wisdom for Living through Spiritual Upheaval

Bp Thomas visit

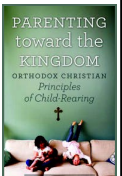
December 15-17



Parenting Suggestion

From *Parenting Toward the Kingdom* by Philip Mamalakis:

1. Always parent with the end in mind.
2. Respond, don't react.
3. Understand struggles in terms of the values and the virtues of the Kingdom of God.
4. Separate feelings from behaviors.
5. Teach the joy of obedience.
6. Teach the joy of repentance.



Did You Know?



- **Celia-Marie Khouri**, God willing, will start working a few hours a week in the church office. She and **Justin Gohl** are part of the “transition team” that Kh. Vera is training. Celia-Marie will be trained as administrative assistant and coordinator of ministries and events. Justin is being trained as a pastoral assistant and coordinator of services, education, and publications.
- **Justin Gohl** and **Jeff Hyatt**, a tonsured reader, as part of their St Stephen’s Theological Studies will give homilies as well as undertaking their special project, a podcast for parish life here at St Philip’s. They are both definitely called to ministry; please pray for God’s continued blessing, protection, and guidance in their lives.
- There have been waves of **new families and visitors** to our church this past month. Greeting them with a smile, inviting them to sit with you during coffee hour, or inviting them out to a meal is a great way to build up the community of our parish.
- **Fr. Noah** is very thankful for the faithful, talented people in the parish, working together for the glory of God, making our church a hospitable, vibrant, and active house of prayer and community of repentance!
- **Stewardship and Almsgiving** is an invitation to change your relationship to money.
- An Orthodox Christian should **come to church** for Vespers, Matins, Feasts, and other special services.
- **“Beneath Thy Compassion”** is the earliest known prayer to the Theotokos - at least as early as AD250. Read more at <http://trisagionfilms.com/2014/09/09/prayer-to-the-theotokos/>
- Our **parish website** is rich with resources. Check it out: www.st-philip.net

Wisdom from Fr. B. He’s Already Had His Reward

Ouch!!! This was an observation of Biblical Proportions! Fr. Boniface was quite blunt (a velvet sledgehammer, as Abbot Joseph said) in his desire for people to eschew earthly comfort, success, and reputation. As Christians, we know that our reward is in heaven, and that is why we patiently, humbly, and quietly go about God’s business, not attracting unnecessary attention and praise. But Fr B’s concern was more than vainglorious self-satisfaction; he wanted action for God, for the good of all! Please consider our earthly goods what they are: investments that God is making, through us, to our family, parishioners, church, community, country, and world. If we are wise and faithful stewards, rather than fat and happy opportunists, we will have great reward in Heaven, greater than we can even imagine.

Challenge for 2017:
BE LED BY THE SPIRIT, NOT PUSHED BY THE PASSIONS
 (Romans 8:12-14)

We must struggle against our passions, but not struggle on our own power. We must pray to God and then cooperate with His grace, inspired by the Holy Spirit. We can pray simply, insistently, consistently, cooperatively: Lord Jesus Christ, turn my _____ [whatever passion] into _____ [the good opposite].

Let’s be encouraged by these words of Saint Maximus: *“The natural passions become good in those who struggle when, wisely unfastening them from the things of the flesh, they use them to gain heavenly things. For example, they can change appetite into the movement of a spiritual longing for divine things; pleasure into the pure joy for the cooperation of the mind with divine gifts; fear into care to evade future misfortune due to sin; and sadness into corrective repentance for present evil.”*

Ask Abouna

Previous Question: Fr. Joseph Butts, we miss you and are praying for you and your family. Can you please give us an update on your family and your service? Also, when are you visiting us again?

Answer:

Dear St. Philip’s Family,
 Glory to Jesus Christ!
 Thanks for remembering who we are! We fondly remember St Philips for our inquiry, catechism, and entry in Orthodoxy, the baptism of several of our children and my ordinations. We have been away for close to 15 years now, between starting the mission of Holy Ascension which is now located in West Chester and my seven years of training and service in the Chaplain Corps of the Navy.
 We just moved back east from Camp Pendleton, CA near San Diego to Norfolk VA, where I will be serving as a Ship Chaplain at the Fleet Ministry Center and will be deploying on the USS Churchill a Destroyer Ship in 2018.

with Fr. James Purdie as my military duties allow. This parish has some St Philip’s people: Anna Mary (Black) Vogt and Norm and Tatiana Dick.

We hope that we will be able to come visit sometime during the next year, but we will have to see what the year will look like.



In Christ,

V. Rev. Joseph and Kh. Yvonne Butts,
 Micah, Isaac, Jacob, Genevieve, Jillian

New Question: Fr. Noah, please tell us about the Department of Homeschooling.

Missions Minute

YOCAMA (Young Orthodox Christian American Mission Adventures) seeks to provide teens and young adults an opportunity to share the experience of working side-by-side with Native Americans who are helping to improve the quality of life in their own communities in the Navaho and Blackfeet reservations. www.yocama.com

Everyday Evangelist

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

Get to know your neighbors and their needs. Volunteer to help.

Biblical Wisdom

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Col 3:2

