



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



### SPIRITUAL WARFARE: "DISPLACE"

#### 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.

##### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

##### Festival Preparations Beginning

*There will be a  
Parish-wide Festival  
Kickoff Meeting  
on Sunday, July 28,  
after Coffee Hour!*



Work and pray for success in this our major outreach event of the year! Success means showing hospitality to many from our community, bringing visitors into contact with the Orthodox Church and Her Gospel. Success means our parish community grows closer from our common work. Success means we can help with funding for some local charities and, lastly, for special projects for our parish.



##### FOCUS Backpack Program

The FOCUS Backpack Program provides families-in-need with brand-new backpacks (provided by FOCUS North America) filled with school supplies. These backpacks will be donated to students at EM Crouthamel Elementary School in Souderton, PA. **The backpacks need to be filled and returned to church by July 28th.** For more information contact Naomi Cardell (nschair58@live.com or 215-285-7830).

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR  
FAITHFUL GIVING & SERVICE!

#### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,  
Christ is in our midst!

Coming back into "the world" from my two weeks at camp has brought to mind something that I'd like to share with you. I hope it encourages you in keeping a God-ward direction in life.

FOMO is the "Fear Of Missing Out" and is popular amid the tech-savvy younger generation as an explanation for the psychological underpinnings of the "24/7" culture -- to always be available, to not miss any event, to comment on every social media post, etc...

JOMO, on the other hand, is the "Joy Of Missing Out". It is knowing that there is so much more to life than the breaking news, the twists and turns of opinion, the daily development of technology. JOMO is the purposeful withdrawal of ourselves from the upheaval of social drama so we can draw closer to Jesus Christ and, in turn, share His love with others. JOMO is the choice to decide out of joy (faith, hope, and love) rather than fear.

May we be strong in joyfully choosing peace and prayer and service and sacrifice to more perfectly align ourselves with our Lord!

In our Lord Jesus Christ,  
+Fr. Noah

#### Office Update -

The church office wishes you all a safe & blessed summer. Let's keep in touch!! Has your email address changed? Do you have a new mailing address? Does your phone information need to be updated? If so, please let me know so that we can keep our directory updated. Thank you,



- Celia-Marie  
(office@st-philip.net)

#### Mark Your Calendar:

**VCS Volunteer Meeting**  
Sunday, July 21, after Liturgy

**Vacation Church School**  
July 29–August 2  
"Miracles Happen"

**Dormition Fast - August 1-14**  
Daily Paraklesis  
Holy Unction, Aug 7, 4 pm

**Liturgy w/ Youth Choir**  
Sunday, August 4

**Transfiguration**  
Monday, August 5  
Vespers & Artoklasia, 6 pm

Orthros, 7 pm  
Tuesday, August 6  
Divine Liturgy, 9 am  
Blessing of Fruit & Produce, 10:30 am



**International Food Festival**  
September 20-21

#### Vacation Church School "MIRACLES HAPPEN"

July 29-  
August 2



- ◆ All Kids (ages 4 to grade 8) are welcome!
  - ◆ Invite your family and neighbors!
  - ◆ We will be exploring the Miracles of Christ.
- Please register your children at our parish website ([link below](https://st-philip.net/vcs.html)). Are you able to be a **volunteer** in this important ministry? For more information, contact Kate Gohl (kategoth@gmail.com).  
<https://st-philip.net/vcs.html>

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES!**



**Stephanie Berman** graduated from West Chester University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. She will be working at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

**Maria Heveran** is graduating this August from DeSales University with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies and plans to get a job as a physician assistant in the area.

**Marissa Kemperman** graduated from Temple University on May 10, 2019, Summa Cum Laude, with a BA in Psychology. She is

now working as a case Manager at Creative Health in Pottstown. She plans to obtain her doctorate degree in Psychology in the future. Marissa was married to Adam Reynolds on June 22.

**Abay Tadesse** will be graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with a major in Neuroscience and a minor in both Chemistry and Africana Studies. He will be applying for medical school this summer and will be taking a gap of 1-2 years while waiting on responses. After graduation he will be moving back home and look into applying for medical related experience jobs as he applies to medical schools.

**Ministry Together**

w/ Sdn David Hyatt

*Come, ye faithful, and let us serve the Master eagerly, for He gives riches to His servants. Each of us according to the measure that we have received, let us increase what is entrusted to us.*

*Aposticha of Holy Tuesday*

This past weekend at the Parish Life Conference, I had the opportunity to hear Fr. Nicholas Belcher speak on the topic of "Lay Ministry in the Church."

There is much to share in coming newsletters, but this time I would like to share briefly one thought expressed in the hymn above.

Each one of us, having been baptized into Christ and sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in Chrismation, are given gifts to be put to use in the Church! And these gifts are not merely for our own use or edification, but instead are seeds to be planted and cultivated so that they bear much fruit. "Let us increase what is entrusted to us!"

This beautiful hymn also reminds us that we are not all given the same gift, nor the same amount.

*Let one gain wisdom through good deeds; let another celebrate the Liturgy with beauty; let another share his faith by preaching to the uninstructed; let another give his wealth to the poor.*

Whatever gifts we have been given – different though they may be – are for the benefit, nourishment, and blessing of others. As we put them to good use, and increase their fruitfulness, the Kingdom of God grows deeper and more alive in those around us.

*So shall we increase what is entrusted to us, and as faithful stewards of His grace we shall be counted worthy of the Master's joy. Bestow this joy on us, Christ our God, in Thy love for mankind.*

What gift have you been given to offer back to Christ in His Church? Are you growing in fruitfulness or simply eating the fruit? Let's continue to serve together in our Master's joy!

**Spiritual Warfare:**

**Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ "Displace"**

In his *Instructions to Catechumens* (1.5), St. John Chrysostom says:

"Custom is a grievous thing, terrible to supplant, and hard to guard against, and it often attacks us unwilling and unknowing; therefore in so far as you know the power of custom, study to that same extent to be freed from any evil custom, and transfer yourself to any other most useful one. For as that custom is often able to trip you up, even though you are careful, and guard yourself, and take thought, and consideration, so if you transfer yourself to the good custom of abstaining from oaths, thou wilt not be able, either involuntarily or carelessly, to fall into the fault of oaths. For custom is really great and has the power of nature." (NPNF2 9.164)

God has made us "liturgical beings" who are shaped by ritual and habit. The Orthodox way of life comes with ready-made resources to displace old customs with new ones, and thus to grow into our new nature in Christ. But as the saying goes, "nature abhors a vacuum." The old leaven that is cleared out must be replaced by the new!

**Did You Know?**

- Congratulations to our Creative Poetry Contest winners (4th Grade: 1st Place, **Simeon Bushelli**; 2nd Place, **Caleb Gohl**) and Creative Arts Contest winner: 2nd Grade: **Josephine Simchak**, 3rd Place.
- **Modesty** is an important offering to God and to each other, even in the summer months, at church and out and about.
- Don't miss the blessing of **going 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.

**Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures**



"How I have loved thy law, O Lord! The whole day it is my meditation." (Ps 118:97)

**Preaching: Scripture Made Effective**

Scripture and preaching are inseparable. Much that the Church now recognizes as Scripture began as inspired preaching, such as the Old Covenant prophets and of course Jesus' own words. And from the very beginning of the Church, the exposition of Scripture has had a prominent place in the Eucharistic Assembly. Preaching, then, is a central activity of God's people, both for the internal life of the Church and its external mission. It is through the embodied speech and actions of a living representative of Christ, the eternal Word (Jn 1:1), that the "word" (message) of the Church is expressed incarnationally. Without this proclamation, how will the world and we ourselves believe and know the Gospel (Rom 10:14-15)?

The Church's faith must address our minds again and again, refuting what is false and calling us to what is true (2 Cor 10:4-6). The Church has never assumed that this can be done solely through a sort of cultural "osmosis." The Liturgy, Icons, and symbols of the Church must not be pitted against or viewed as a replacement for the consistent Preaching of Scripture.

**Summer Chanting Workshop**

*Wednesdays – 6 p.m.  
July 17 – Sept. 4*

- ✦ Join us for an introduction to the Eight Tones of Byzantine Chant and how to free-chant in the prescribed tones.
- ✦ The workshops will be led by Paul Heveran and Ephrem Acker.
- ✦ For more information contact Subdeacon David at dhyatt@st-philip.net.

**Blood Drive Results!**

**Thank you** to all who donated blood and participated in the May 29 Blood Drive here at St. Philip, in honor of Gregory Matczak. Despite the horrible weather, the event was a huge success!



- We had 34 scheduled donors, with 5 deferrals.
- We collected 25 pints of blood, the highest of all our blood drives.
- 75 potential lives have been saved at our local hospitals as a result of this collection.