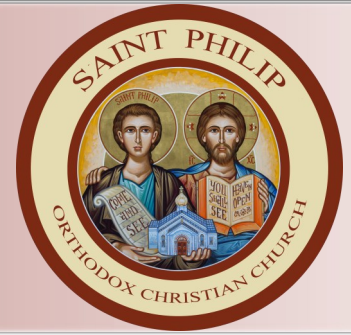


THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church

VOL. 21.08 – AUGUST 2020



Mark Your Calendar:

Saturday Liturgies in August
Masks required

Evening services (6:30 pm)
Paraklesis (or Vespers) nightly thru the
Feast of the Dormition

Dormition

Friday, August 14

Vespers, Artoklasia & Lamentations, w/
Blessing of herbs & flowers
6:30 pm

Saturday, August 15

Orthros 9 am, Liturgy 10 am
Blessing of herbs & flowers

Beheading of the Forerunner

Friday, August 28

Vespers 7 pm

Saturday, August 29 - **STRICT FAST DAY**
Orthros 9 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am

Vigil for Zacharias & Elizabeth

Friday, September 4, starting with
Paraklesis at 6:30 pm

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Tuesday, September 8

Elevation of the Cross
Monday, September 14

Invite someone
to Church!



NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

+ **MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:**
Thank you for your generosity to
the needy of our community! In
August, we are collecting Paper
Products.

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

+ We received a beautiful "Thank
You" Note from **Food For Hungry
People** thanking our parish for our
donation this year of **\$1382**.

**MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR
FAITHFUL GIVERS!**

A Message from Fr. Noah

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

Most Holy Theotokos Save Us! This
refrain from the Paraklesis service is
bouncing around my head and echoing
in my heart during these sweet days of
the Dormition Fast. Of course we
understand "save" here in the
relative sense, to rouse us by
visitation and intercession from
succumbing to the many
temptations surrounding us. The
Virgin Mary's ministry is within
the ultimate salvation that Her Son and
Our Lord worked in His Incarnation,
Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension,
and Sending the Holy Spirit. She is the
General, Chief of Staff, of the King's
Army; His "right-hand man", a woman
more manly than any man and more
womanly than any woman! We earth-
born and earth-bound ones rightfully
fear division and even betrayal but, rest
assured, there is no more breaking of
rank in God's army and there is no
competition in between Mother and

Child.

We celebrate the many historical
interventions that her motherly care has
helped by raising Holy Hymns to
Heaven's Courts, thanking the Lord for
providing and protecting for us in such
a sublime manner. We celebrate the
little victories and near-misses that the
Virgin Mary secretly engineered
by plunging our minds into our
hearts, praying and searching for
the kingdom that is within us.
May the Virgin Mary shelter us
even now from the sickness and
division, the godless progress
tearing our world apart. Let us be
courageous and confident in the Lord,
like the Panagia, magnifying Him in soul
and rejoicing in Him in Spirit.

In Him,
+Fr. Noah

P.S. – Please truly pray for each other
and for me, Fr. James, Dn. David, our
Bishops, and all our clergy. Also, reach
out to each other with an
encouragement in faith, hope, and love!

Births & Holy Mysteries

Congratulations to **Rdr. Nick &
Martha Morelli** on the birth of
Genevieve Grace, July 8th, at 2:47
pm. Genevieve was churched this
past week on the Feast of Ascension;



& to **Catalin & Gabi Tinjala** on the birth of
their first grandchild, **Penelope Nicoletta
Kambouris**, on Sunday, July 12 at 3:49 pm.

Evan (John) and his daughter, **Evelyn
Marie Hewitt** were received into Christ at
St. Philip on July 19.

Conor (Constantine) Magerr was baptized
into Christ on July 31 at a mission parish in
northern Ireland.

Eva Veronica, daughter of Nick & Katie
Burke, was baptized into Christ at St. Philip
on August 8.

Elijah & Kira, children of Nikoloz & Chelsea
Chavchanidze, were baptized into Christ at
St. Philip on August 9.



**MAY GOD GRANT THEM
MANY YEARS!**

Blood Drive Results!

The Red Cross was able to collect 33
lifesaving pints of blood through our
blood drive on Friday, July 24, which
results in 99 potential lives saved.

Thanks to all who orga-
nized and donated at this
event, What a great accom-
plishment despite the cir-
cumstances!



OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

to the people of Lebanon for the
many lives that were lost in the
tragedy in Beirut on August 4.



MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

Please consider a **charitable donation**
to **IOCC** to assist in
helping those affected!
<https://iocc.org/blog/iocc-issues-statement-on-the-beirut-explosions>





Ministry Together

w/ Dn. David Hyatt

"He is not yet a faithful servant who bases himself on bare knowledge alone; a faithful servant is he who professes his faith by obedience to Christ, Who gave the commandments."

St. Mark the Ascetic

We live in an information age, an era where data is readily available at a speed and convenience that was heretofore unimaginable. But information alone does not make us any wiser than our ancestors, and because of the ease of access to data we might very well be more foolish than those who learned through experience. Perhaps we are like the man who admitted, "There are many things that I know, but few that I apply." How dreadful it is to be an educated fool, but even more dreadful to be a theologically astute rebel.

If we are to enter into union with the Holy Trinity, we must learn obedience to Christ's commands. Jesus said, *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him"* (John 14:23). How do we know if we love Christ? How do we grow in union with the Holy Trinity? By learning obedience to Christ's commands, not simply learning Christ's commands.

Many of us who converted to the Orthodox Church did so after reading a variety of books and listening to hours of podcasts and homilies. This was an important step on our journey, but information alone does not make us Orthodox. Likewise, many of us who were born into Orthodox families have learned throughout our lives about the traditions and teachings of the Church, but that knowledge alone does not make us Orthodox either. Both are helpful and beautiful paths on our journey, but applying the mind and the way of life of the Orthodox Church through a lifetime of repentance – empowered by the grace of the Holy Spirit administered through the Holy Mysteries – is what forms our lives in loving obedience to Christ's commands.

St. Paul writes, *"We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him"* (1 Cor 8:1-3). While earthly knowledge of theology or tradition puffs up, genuine knowledge of God – and being known by God – leads to a life of humility! It is to the humble that God pours out His grace (1 Pet 5:5), and it is the humble who work out their salvation by following the example of Christ Jesus (Phil 2:5-13).

St. John Climacus, in *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, writes, "Obedience is the burial place of the will and the resurrection of lowliness." In our willfulness we resist obedience not only to the commands of Christ, but also to those whom God has given us for our salvation, but when we put to death our prideful will, humility rises in us, bringing new life and the knowledge of God.

May we be men and women who not only know about God but know God and are known by Him. May we daily walk the path of repentance that leads our lives step by step into union with God. May we learn obedience to the commands of Christ, the only way of true life and freedom in this life and the next! So that, as St. Benedict of Nursia writes, "As we progress in this way of life and in faith, we shall run on the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love."

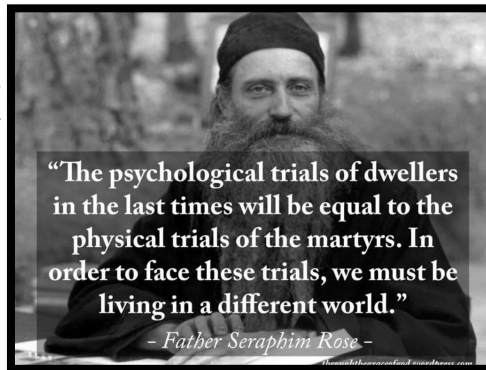
An Exhortation from Metropolitan JOSEPH



"Christ asks us to follow Him. Following Him means trusting in Him; denying ourselves; praying our way through pressures and anxieties; sowing the seeds of good, kindness, and understanding everywhere; and ultimately living in true unity with one another through love, humility, mutual forgiveness, and service." His Eminence continued: "Shall a virus or economic instability or political tensions separate us from the love of Christ? The answer is clearly NO."

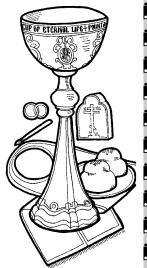
His Eminence also referred to Sunday's epistle reading in which St. Paul talks about preaching the gospel "and not with eloquent wisdom lest the Cross of Christ be emptied of its power" (1 Cor. 1:10-17). "Inundated by media from many sources with words of philosophy, opinion, and rhetoric, we see that the false eloquence of the world does not bring us to salvation or to any understanding of what God wants from us," Sayidna said. "Quite the opposite. It dangerously sends us into separation from Him – and from one another – by insisting on our own sensibilities, interpretations, and understandings. God has made foolish the wisdom of this world 'for since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God'" (1 Cor. 1:21-22).

(Source: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/7167fbclid=IwAR0NweVsgpZbv2NUaj4x-EznRClgtFSZKfNlnP3ntc-oZ9z0jeuORw11S24>)



Did You Know?

- Thomas Manuel, the missionary to Guatemala we support, was ordained to the **Holy Diaconate** on August 1, at The Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church in Port Washington, NY. Axios & Many blessed years!!
- An Orthodox Christian ought to **come to confession** about four times per year and as needed.
- The **liturgical offerings** of our parish (Prosphora, Artos, Kolyva, Altar Candles, Wine, Classic Olive Oil, Flower Decorations) are simple and profound ways to offer our talents to God and to each other.
- **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.
- Fr. Noah appreciates everyone's patience, cooperation, and understanding while we navigate the complexities of Coronavirus precautions. **Please remember to exercise extra caution in the lines for Holy Communion and the dismissal and respect each other's changing boundaries and new social norms.** We come together with faith, hope, and love to be united with Christ unto ages of ages!
- Please note that a new **Ring Security System** has been installed at St. Philip. If the door is locked during the Church Office Hours (Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm), **please ring the doorbell!**



Parenting Suggestion

Teach your children the value of hard work.

Do your kids do regular chores? If not, why not? You are robbing them of valuable opportunities that will raise their self-esteem and help them learn skills they will use all their life, and especially in their Orthodox Christian life as they "work out their salvation" in the life and ministry of the Church. Aside from that, they live in your house, and you are not a maid. Enough said!

(Adapted from <https://myocn.net/10-ways-orthodox-parents-set-children-up-for-moral-failure/>)

