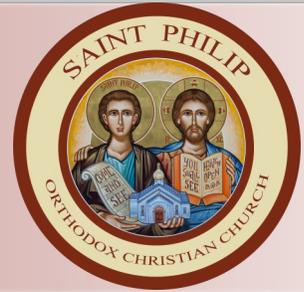


THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church

Vol. 22.01 — JANUARY 2021



Mark Your Calendar:

Holy Theophany

Tuesday, January 5

Royal Hours 10 am

Vesperal Liturgy 6 pm w/ Great Blessing of Water

Wednesday, January 6

Orthros 9 am; Liturgy 10 am
Great Blessing of Water

Sunday, January 10

Outdoor Blessing of Water
@ Lenape Park

Special Thursday Liturgies

Jan 14th for St Nina

Jan 21st for St Maximos the Confessor

Jan 28th for Sts Ephrem and Isaac the Syrians

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Monday, February 1

Vespers & Artoklasia
w/ Candle Blessing, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, February 2

Festal Orthros 8:45 am
Hierarchical Liturgy 10 am

Please take off the day of work to welcome and receive the blessing of our beloved Bp THOMAS and pray with Subdeacon Luke (Dr. Jeff) Carpenter for his ordination to the Holy Diaconate. (Masks strongly encouraged.)

Lenten Triodion

Publican & Pharisee - February 21

Prodigal Son - February 28

Sunday of Judgment (Meatfare) - Mar 7

Forgiveness Sunday

March 14 - Forgiveness Vespers 1 pm

Beginning of Lent

March 15, 2021

We live Pascha to Pascha!

May 2, 2021

A Message from Fr. Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family, Christ is born! Glorify Him!

What a year to have in the books! Will the next one be better? God willing, but whatever comes we are stronger in faithfulness and in wisdom than ever before! Here is my observation of the **Division in Society and in the Church.**

The Covid Apocalypse has revealed many little fissures and cracks that have hidden beneath the cultural dust. No matter our stance on the illness and on the cure, we are all tired of it and we want to "get back to normal." Unfortunately these matters have been "politicized" and have separated well-meaning loved-ones. This is to be expected, to a degree, of course, in a fallen world. Both sides are right and both sides are wrong. We do need to both use our common sense and also have uncommon love. We do need to stand up for our freedoms as well as protect the

vulnerable.

However, there is a greater need and a greater end than just stabilizing society. Eternity is the inescapable destiny for each of us. We must pray. We must repent. We must witness to God's providence and our dependence on Him. God has allowed this scourge because of our lukewarm faith and our comfortable piety. We must not "get back to normal," if that means our busyness, our consumerism, and our forgetting God. We must get back to holiness. We must return to simple childlike faith, hope, and love. We must humble ourselves in receiving our Humble Lord, who came to save the world: not with human policies and medical solutions, but with love!!! Rise above politics to theology.

In Christ,
+Fr. Noah

P.S. Hope and Pray for the Best, Expect and Prepare for the Worst, Lovingly cling to Christ come what may.

LIVE NOT BY LIES READING GROUP



I (Fr Noah) am asking the parish to read and discuss this important book by Rod Dreher. We'll be having a zoom-based discussion of this timely text following Compline on Wednesday nights, starting on January 13th until Great Lent begins. Other smaller groups based on geography will likely form, too. Please get this book and read it carefully and with an eye toward the practical changes we should make in our lives.

Home Blessings

Tis the Season for Home Blessings!



Please text/email either Fr. Noah or Fr. James directly to schedule a date and time to have your home blessed.

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

- +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.

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAITHFUL GIVERS!

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!

- Saturday: VESPERS, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday: MATINS, 8:45 a.m.
DIVINE LITURGY, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday: Compline, 6:30 p.m. (unless a festal service supersedes)

CONFESSIONS before or after Vespers and during Matins as time allows, or by appointment.

Check our calendar for special services!

January 29,
2021



Washington, DC
Tentative Plan/Schedule:
 Gather at St. Philip—5:45am
 Bus Departs—6:00am
 Leave Washington, D.C.—4:00pm
 Arrive at St. Philip—9:30pm
 Cost — \$40/person (Includes Bus & Gratuity)
 Registration is available on the St. Philip website: <https://st-philip.net/prolife>

St. Philip Cemetery Notes



St. Philip's Orthodox Church Cemetery was consecrated in 2001 and is the only dedicated Orthodox Christian Cemetery in the Bucks/Montgomery County area of Pennsylvania. The cemetery offers single depth plots consistent with the Orthodox Christian tradition in a beautiful, peaceful setting. St. Philip's Orthodox Cemetery was consecrated by Metropolitan Philip of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese in April 2001. The Cemetery was approved for use by the Hilltown Zoning and Hearing Board on March 15, 2001 with a stipulation that the cemetery be operated by a Cemetery Committee comprised of a President, Treasurer, and Secretary separate from the church.

St. Philip's Cemetery encompasses approximately 6.6 acres adjacent to Route 309 in Souderton, Hilltown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The cemetery is easily accessible from anywhere in southeastern Pennsylvania and is only a short walk from St. Philip's Church. The active areas of the cemetery currently include Founder's Field, comprised of 540 "standard burial" plots, and a Memory Garden, comprised of half sized plots for the remembrance of children lost through miscarriage. The remainder of the cemetery is comprised of northern, southern, eastern, and western sections. A new section of 144 plots has been opened for "simple burials" in the northern section. A "simple burial" is one where body decomposition is not inhibited by the use of chemicals, vaults and non-decomposable containers. A Mercy Field has also been opened within the western section and 48 plots have been set aside for those from Hilltown Township and adjacent areas with no other burial options. These burials are coordinated by the Parish Priest and the local coroner.

A Perpetual Care Fund has been established from plot sales and donations for the ongoing care and maintenance of the cemetery grounds and roads, ensuring the continued beauty and serenity of the surroundings. Tax deductible gifts can be made to the cemetery for further beautification of the property. Routine expenses include grass mowing, snow removal, and turf and vegetation management. The cemetery is not funded by the annual church budget but relies solely on the perpetual care investment account, new plot sales, and donations to cover all expenses.

If you have any questions about St. Philip Cemetery, please contact either Fr. Noah or Jim or Doris Eggers (609-680-0907 / jdkceggers@aol.com) from the Cemetery Committee.

Evangelism Challenge

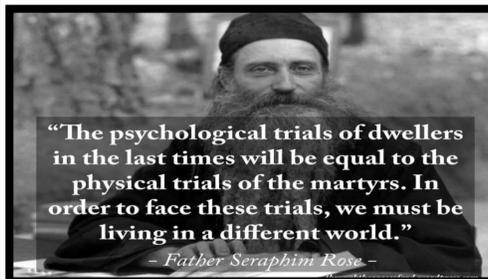
"Stave off isolation by prayer and reaching out"

Nothing about the past year has changed our calling as Orthodox Christians to wholesome, prayerful Christian living and evangelical outreach. In fact, it has made that call *more urgent!*

Of course we know that solitude can be used in spiritual ways, unto spiritual ends, but isolation is another matter. Crises are not the time to "hide," to retrench into ghettos (ideological or actual) that insulate us from fellow Christians or our neighbors. St. Paul counseled Christians who were about to face their own crisis to do just the opposite:

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb 10:24-25)

We must not give into the forces that would pull us away from God and from each other. We must actively seek communion with God, such that we have "something" to offer those around us—a life transformed by the Gospel. And we must reach out, in whatever form that takes for us as individuals and families, to be in communion with each other, and to share the Good and *Dread* News of our Savior's imminent Appearing!



Did You Know?

- Your offering of "classic" olive oil (not virgin or especially not extra-virgin) for the Altar candelabrum is greatly appreciated. You can put your bottles under the icon of St. Thekla on the north/left of the iconostasis with prayer requests.
- Your gift to the **Camp Scholarship Fund** supports the spiritual formation and education of our youth.
- You can **bring someone back to church**. Open the directory for someone you haven't seen in a while, say a prayer, and give them a call or shoot them a text or email. This holy season is a great time to help someone reconcile with God.
- **Stay connected** with parish life by synching with our **calendar** on Google Calendar. See <https://www.st-philip.net/calendar.html> for instructions on how to add the parish calendar to your own device.



Challenge for 2021: "Your Body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit"

The truth of this statement is very challenging to us who are so accustomed to ease and luxury in our decadent and God-forgetting society. Since we are bearers of God's personal presence, this means that we bring God into communion with everything that we say and do. How considerate we must be, then, of what we eat and drink, what we listen to and watch! Recently, we are all well aware of what this means with regard to precautions against contagion. Let me gently remind you that it also means careful research into the covid vaccine, and answering the many questions — spiritual, moral, ethical, medical — before taking any action.

— Fr. Noah

Office Update

Happy New Year
From the Office Staff

The old year is worn and tired.
Time now to kiss it goodbye.

Take with you its wisdom the authority and the power of all you have learned.
Remember the past year with love, and let go of it's despair.

Live the year that lies ahead with fresh faith, energy, and hope.

May 2021 be blessed, healthy, and safe for you and yours!

In Christ, Celia-Marie (office@st-philip.net)



Parenting Suggestion

Carefully Monitor Media Usage

Our children are barraged by media of all types these days. The internet, TV, etc., can easily become the devil's playground when they are not properly supervised. Your job as a parent is to protect your child's innocence as long as possible. There's a whole lot of nasty garbage out there that puts thoughts and ideas into their heads that they don't need, and presents many temptations that kids don't have the ability to deal with. Let's not rob our kids of their childhood by allowing them to have their heads glued to their phones because they're so hooked on them they can't put them down. Unplug them now because they don't know how and they need your help.

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

