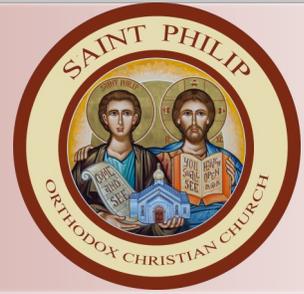


THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church

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Mark Your Calendar:

Weekly Lenten Services:

Tues/Thurs: 6th Hour, 12 noon
Mondays: Great Compline, 6:30 pm
Wednesdays: Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm
Fridays: Presanctified Liturgy, 10 am
Little Compline 6:30 pm, w/
Akathist

Forgiveness Sunday

March 14 - Forgiveness Vespers 11:45 am

Great Lent Begins

Monday, March 15 - Clean Monday

Start preparing for the fast now! Plan out your increased prayers, church attendance, confession, fasting, almsgiving, inviting someone to church, etc.

Bible Study on Sacrifice

Saturdays, 5 pm
Mar 20-Apr 17

Feast of the Annunciation

Wednesday, March 24

Vespers & Artoklasia 6:30 p.m.
Orthros 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 25

Liturgy 10 am
(fish, wine, oil permitted)

We live Pascha to Pascha!

May 2, 2021

A Message from Fr. Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,

I am always thankful for the warming weather as we approach spring, but this is particularly the case after this year's snowy winter. And with the thawing of spring comes the Lenten journey!

The word "Lent," which we have borrowed in English for the "Great Fast," means lengthening, in reference to the longer days. I am praying for a Lenten spring in my heart, our parish, and the world. My heart, first, needs thawing from the coldness of self-reliance, self-direction, and self-centeredness. My plan is to thaw it by the rays of Sun of Righteousness, Jesus Christ! Lengthening our time of prayer, reading the Scriptures and other spiritual texts, and especially serving others, will bring more exposure to the warm rays of God's love for us.

We have been through a trying year, as a parish, country, and world, and yet, thank God, our parish remains strong and vibrant. Yet, as vibrant and beautiful and welcoming as it is, we are in constant need of "revitalization," refreshment, and rejuvenation. The Church, as our wise mother and master psychologist, knows this need and calls us to extreme Christian living during the 40 Days of the Fast and Holy Week. More services, constant fasting, and greater opportunities for ministry all give

us a personal opportunity to help our parish become the greenhouse of paradise that it should be.

Finally, our world needs the warmth of God's love to thaw its deep fridity. We are surrounded by numbness to truth, life, the self-sacrifice of God's loving-kindness, and the joy and freedom to which we are called.

As we embark on the Lenten journey, let's remember that the food part of the fast is the lowest – foundational and indispensable – level of fasting. We fast as well from entertainment, distractions, decisions (as able), screens, vacations, and various other luxuries so that we have more time to focus on God's love and share it with those around us.

May we feel the warm embrace of Christ, the Theotokos, and the saints during this time! And as we do, let us descend into our hearts to pull the weeds of sins and passions, to clear the soil of our hearts, that we may be able to bring forth fragrant flowers and sweet fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Christ's victory over death on our behalf is the cosmic love story—the Bridegroom's appearance to save, redeem, and be united with his beloved Bride. This is the Gospel. May we proclaim it in our words and participate in it with our lives!

In Christ,
+Fr. Noah

Office Update

"We are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ."

May your Lenten Journey be blessed!

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

Holy Mysteries

Baby Penelope, granddaughter of Catalin & Gabi Tinjala, was baptized into Christ at St. Philip on Saturday, February 27.

MAY GOD GRANT HER MANY YEARS!



OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

is offered to the Dcn. Luke (Jeff) Carpenter and family upon the passing of his father, John, on February 17.

MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!



NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

+MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In March, we are collecting Baby Care Items.



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

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAITHFUL GIVERS!

STUDY ON SACRIFICE IN SCRIPTURE & THE FATHERS

SATURDAYS IN LENT, 5 PM
MAR 20-APR 17



All are invited, in person or over Zoom! As we make our Lenten journey, taking up our cross and following our Lord to the Cross, our journey will be deepened as we grow in awareness of how this fulfills God's intentions for all creation, as seen throughout Scripture and in the ongoing life of the Church. We will be reading excerpts of Patristic texts that comment on particular "moments" and "models" of Sacrifice in Scripture! — Sdn. Justin

St. Philip Cemetery Notes



St. Philip Cemetery has established a Perpetual Care Fund for the ongoing, long-term care and maintenance of the cemetery grounds, groundwater management system, and roads. The goal of this fund is to ensure the continued beauty and serenity of the cemetery and its surroundings for visitors to the cemetery.

Funds collected from plot sales were initially used to pay off the cemetery development loan from St. Philip Church and to establish a Perpetual Care investment account. The goal of the Perpetual Care investment account was to accumulate a fund balance sufficient to generate enough annual income to cover the operating costs of normal care and maintenance of the cemetery for years into the future. The Perpetual Care investment account is overseen by the St. Philip Cemetery Committee and managed by its Financial Advisor. A portion of the annual income from the fund was originally envisioned to be transferred from the Perpetual Care Fund to the St. Philip Cemetery Operating (checking) Account. The Cemetery Treasurer uses the operating account to pay normal expenses. The need for any fund transfer from Perpetual Care Fund is determined by the balance of the Cemetery Operating Account at end of fiscal year. If there are plot sales or donations to cover yearly expenses, no amount is transferred. Any other withdrawal for large special project expenses would need approval of the Cemetery Committee.

Normal care and maintenance of the cemetery include: turf management (mowing, periodic fertilization, weed control and reseeding), landscape maintenance (tree/bush replacement, fungal/insect treatment of trees/bushes), road maintenance (seal coating, patching), and stormwater system maintenance (sediment basin and control gate repairs, stormwater drainage modifications). Although snowplowing was originally envisioned as being provided only in support of winter burials, snowplowing has been provided during the winter on a limited basis during more severe winters.

Normal care and maintenance do not include the repair or replacement of any memorial, reconstruction of markers, or associated concrete work. These costs are normally the responsibility of the plot owner.

Tax deductible gifts can be made to the cemetery for the further beautification of the property or special projects.

“Making a Defense”:

Explorations in Orthodox Apologetics

“CUP OF TEA”

For millennia mankind has been boiling water to enjoy the comforts of tea without quite knowing how exactly the water boiled. Even now we still explain the kettle’s whistling by the fact that we want a cup of tea as opposed to offering scientific explanations of thermal energy and the boiling point of water. Yet both are perfectly good and valid explanations for why the water is boiling. One is scientific and the other is from a standpoint of intent and purpose. Aristotle described this thousands of years ago when he explained different kinds of causes in nature such as material cause (like water and fire) and the efficient cause (our decision to make tea). (There are 4 causes of Aristotle which we will not discuss here).



So it is with nature. In modern thinking science has come to compete with and replace God as an explanation for all that we see and know in our physical world. However science does not replace God. It offers different but complementary explanations for the events that we see in the natural world.

This “replacement” thinking is known as the “god of the gaps” fallacy which falsely assumes our God to be a placeholder for lack of scientific explanation for physical events, like the old Greek gods.

It is a category mistake and a fallacy of logic to believe that science has replaced

the need for God in our lives. It is a misunderstanding of the nature of our God and the nature of causality.

We would not say a beautiful song is explained or written by piano keys alone, but rather by the composer of the music who uses the piano as his expression of that beauty. They are both valid but different and complementary explanations for the music.

Our increasing understanding of the universe is reason to believe, not a reason to replace. Most if not all early scientists held this point of view. For example, Newton wrote in his *Principia Mathematica* that he hoped his work would persuade the reader to believe in a deity.

The Christian God was never a placeholder or explanation. This is an insult. He is the eternal, spaceless, immaterial, personal, powerful Creator and Lover of mankind unto whom is due all glory and honor and worship, whom we commune with, not just use to satisfy our curiosities.

Be not afraid of or shamed by the science filled culture of our day which demands physical explanations for everything around us. Science does not cancel God. It points to God. It does not compete with God. Rightly understood, science is a handmaid of the rational God gifted to mankind to uncover and explain the order in the Universe.

— by Joe Kyriakos

1. John Lennox, “Can Science Explain Everything” (The Good Book Co., 2019), p. 35-36.

Did You Know?

- Get ready for Lent by **perusing the Mobile library** for spiritual reading and for resources on keeping the Fast, and Lenten meal planning and preparation.
- You can offer **Altar Candles** in thanksgiving to and for the glory of God. A sign-up sheet is on the Ministries bulletin board.
- **We live from Pascha to Pascha!** May 2, 2021. Take off from work at least Holy Friday and Bright Monday.
- Your gift to the **Camp Scholarship Fund** supports the spiritual formation and education of our youth.
- You can help make our many visitors feel welcome by a warm smile and a kind greeting. Please take a minute to **say hello to visitors.**



Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem

Say it several times a day with prostrations on weekdays of the Fast. Study it, make St. Ephrem’s words your plea to God!



O Lord and Master of my life,
 take from me the spirit of sloth,
 faintheartedness, lust of power and
 idle talk.
 But give rather the spirit of chastity,
 humility, patience and love to thy
 servant.
 Yea, O Lord and King,
 grant me to see my own sins, and not to
 judge my brother,
 for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages.
 Amen.