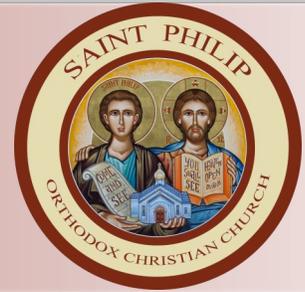


THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church

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Mark Your Calendar:

Wednesday night Compline & Patristic reading resuming on May 12 — discussing our way through *St. Gregory of Nazianzus' Theological Poems*.

All-Church Cleaning Day

Saturday, May 15, 8 am - 3 pm



Men's Fellowship

Saturday, May 15, 8 pm

Blood Drive

Tuesday, May 25, 2-7pm
"Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood!"



Mid-Pentecost
Wednesday, May 26
Liturgy 10 am

Ascension
Thursday, June 10

Pentecost
Sunday, June 20
Kneeling Prayers, 1 p.m.

Apostles' Fast
June 28-29

Vacation Church School
August 9 - 13

We live Pascha to Pascha!
April 24, 2022

A Message from Fr. Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

I am sure we are all physically exhausted but spiritually refreshed by our rich and solemn journey of Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, and then through Bright Week as a "week of Sundays" without fasting, living between Christ's appearances to the disciples in the Upper Room. What a blessing it was to be able to celebrate this with you all!

First, I must say thank you to Fr James and Dcns Stephen and Luke, and the choir, altar boys, office, handmaidens, hospitality team, cleaning, and all who contributed to our celebration.

Thanks to the many kind people for remembering me and my family as well as Fr James with gifts and baked-goods. It is a joy to see our parish alive with repentance, fruitful and joyful, as well ministry, hospitality, and generosity.

Second, I invited us at Pascha to go forth with a changed life, having received the new light on Pascha night. Are we rising above the mundane annoyances and petty cares in preparation for eternity? Are we living in the knowledge of life

unending? Are we putting into practice these most wonderful words from St. Paul: "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor 15:58)?

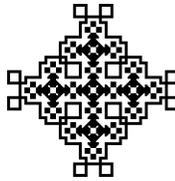
In Christ's incarnate life, we see the fulfillment and transformation of all aspects of what it means to be human, and most importantly we see the inversion of death.

We prefer to forget death—or presume to "conquer" it by sheer will or technology—in our contemporary culture, but we can't or shouldn't. We don't fear death because Christ has passed through it into life. We fear sin. Not because we don't trust in God's love and forgiveness but because we fear scorning his love and separating ourselves from him, from Life, by growing accustomed to sin.

Finally, and as always, please pray for me and each other more and more. Newcomers, Oldtimers, babies, youth, and all. May we be more perfectly one.

Lord, enlighten us with the lightning flash of the empty tomb!

In Christ,
+Fr. Noah



NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

+MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In **May**, we are collecting **Skin 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!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES!

Hannah Kemperman will graduate Magna cum Laude from Cedar Crest College with a major in NeuroScience. She is applying to Merck to work in Research.

Peter Ramon Psomiadis will graduate from Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry in May. He will be going into Practice with his father Dr. Peter Psomiadis at his office, Family Dental Care, in Souderton.



Nicholas Habre will be graduating from Villanova University with a major in electrical engineering. He is still exploring plans for after graduation.

Kyriaki Godshall will be graduating from Penn State University in a couple of weeks with a major in Human Development and Family Studies and minors in Psychology and Gerontology. She received Dean List honors seven semesters. She plans to attend graduate school for occupational therapy starting in the fall.

St. Philip Cemetery Notes



Cemetery Milestone Reached

St. Philip Cemetery reached a milestone in April when the last of the funds owed to St. Philip Orthodox Church were transferred from the cemetery investment account to St. Philip checking account after a little more than 20-year period. With repayment of the loan, the cemetery is now in better position to move forward with any improvements or additions. It is also able to maintain, thru the investment account and donations, all regular maintenance needed for many years forward. The dream of Father Boniface Black to provide cradle to grave spiritual support has been accomplished.

To all our original founders and current stewards of the cemetery, a heartfelt thank you from all who benefit from their efforts. Rejoice with us this St. Thomas Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and visit the cemetery as graves are blessed in the Orthodox tradition. Memory Eternal to all our family and friends laid to rest in this beautiful surrounding.

Christ is Risen - Indeed He is Risen!

Did You Know?

- Fr. Noah has lots of **great help** (Fr. James, Dn. Stephen, Dn. Luke, Celia-Marie during the week, choir, teachers, cleaners, coffee hour, holy bread bakers, etc.) and needs lots more. Please pray for our church and **ask Fr. Noah how you can help.**
- **The Forty Days of Pascha** are a sublime time of reflection and rejoicing in the resurrection that Christ makes available to us in the sacraments.
- **The Apostles' Fast** (June 28-29) is a time to tune up our souls and bodies with escalated prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other spiritual disciplines to bring us closer to God and make us more apostolic.
- **Modesty** is an important offering to God and to each other, even in the summer months. Modesty doesn't have to mean homely. Beards and head-coverings are traditional expressions of modesty that can stylishly complement respectful and beautiful clothes.
- **VCS** is just around the corner: Aug. 9-13.
- Our paschal greeting, **"Christ is risen,"** is not a "secret code for Orthodox" but **the good news that everyone needs to hear.**

CELEBRATE PASCHA AT HOME:

- ✦ We say or sing the Resurrection Troparion every day with our devotions.
- ✦ We continue to share the good news with the greeting, "Christ is risen!"
- ✦ We read the Book of Acts in our family Bibles.
- ✦ Fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays is not required. (Communion fast continues as usual.)
- ✦ In honor of the Resurrection, there is no kneeling, in Church or at home, until the Pentecost Kneeling Prayers.
- ✦ "O Heavenly King" is not said or sung until Pentecost. Instead, we say or sing the Resurrection Troparion three times.

St. Nicholas Garden Project

Slowly but surely, the garden is coming together. The beds have been distinguished, and the fence has been built. Over the next few Saturdays, we hope to establish permanent beds, irrigate, and begin planting. Everything that is not the beds will be laid with cardboard and a thick layer of wood chips to provide weed resistance. The garden will be irrigated from the house with drip lines for efficient watering. If you'd like to donate any plants, please make it known and they will be incorporated into the planting layout.

Thank you for all the contributions, whether they be physical or spiritual!

Conor (Constantine) Magerr
Email: cmagerr4@gmail.com



Wisdom from St Nektarios

- * Sacred Tradition is the very Church; without the Sacred Tradition the Church does not exist. Those who deny the Sacred Tradition deny the Church and the preaching of the Apostles.
- * Seek God daily. But seek Him in your heart, not outside it.
- * Two factors are involved in man's salvation: the grace of God and the will of man. Both must work together, if salvation is to be attained.
- * We ought to do everything we can for the acquisition of virtue and moral wisdom, for the prize is beautiful and the hope great.

"Making a Defense":

Explorations in Orthodox Apologetics

"WHAT IS TRUTH?"

The ancient philosopher Aristotle began one of his more important treatises, the *Metaphysics*, with these memorable words:

All men by nature desire to know. An indication of this is the delight we take in our senses; for even apart from their usefulness they are loved for themselves; and above all others the sense of sight. ... We prefer seeing to every other [sense] because this [sense], above all the others, makes us know and brings to light many differences between things.

That is, according to Aristotle, humans by nature have the capacity, the faculties, and the desire for truth. While a Christian account of this same theme must reckon more thoroughly with the realities of human sin and God's ultimate transcendence, nevertheless the Church affirms that humans by nature are oriented—whether they like it or not—toward the Truth, because they were created in the Image of God, who is Christ, Truth itself (Jn 14.6; 2 Cor 4.4; Rom 2.14).

The answer to Pilate's ironic question in John 18.38, then, is Christ Himself. To know the truth of something, anything, is to know—to see, perceive—that thing in the light of Christ who is Truth, the Creator and Sustainer of all things.

Several important things flow from this reality:

- ✦ Truth is not based on the will, therefore it is not coercive. I.e., something cannot be willed or forced to be true; it either is or is not, by virtue of participation in Truth.
- ✦ Truth is not based on perception; it preexists it and is the condition for it. I.e., truth is not based on popularity or majority opinion.
- ✦ Truth is personal—embracing all aspects of our beings. I.e., we must *do and become* the truth as a part of believing it.
- ✦ Truth embraces the particular and the universal. It recognizes distinctions and yet does not pull things apart, rather unifies them.
- ✦ Truth ultimately is and comes from God's gracious self-revelation—the pathway of infinite ascent into knowing God.

—by Sdn Justin

INCREASE YOUR ORTHODOX WORD POWER

ASCENSION: The ascent of Christ to heaven forty days after his Resurrection.

PENTECOST: Fifty days after Christ's Resurrection the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples. Through the Sacrament of Chrismation, Orthodox Christians experience their own personal Pentecost. Every Divine Liturgy becomes a Pentecost through the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the faithful, and upon the gifts of bread and wine, transforming them into the Body and Blood of Christ.

