



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



BABY STEPS TO HOLINESS - WRITE A LIST OF PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR DAILY.

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

GIVING UPDATES

CHRISTMAS IN JULY (& AUGUST!): THANKS to all who contributed, supporting the **Cemetery Fund**, additional Children's Books for our **Library**, Syrian Relief through **IOCC**, and the **Camp Scholarship fund**. \$1100 was collected. God bless your generosity!

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION: Thanks to all for your generosity to the needy of our community! For **September**, we are collecting **cleaning products**.

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

NEWSPAPERS: Salfid Rescue Kennel, our neighbor on Clearview Road, is always in need of old newspapers. Look for the box in the hallway.

USED CLOTHING DROP-OFF SHED: Have you seen the shed in the rear parking lot? You can drop off used clothing & stuffed animals (no rags or household goods) to be sent to the needy locally and throughout the world.

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAITHFUL GIVERS!

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Joyous and Blessed New Year!

The month of September, the Crown of the year, marks the beginning of the Church's year. This began in the Old Testament and separately in the Roman Empire and eventually was codified into the Orthodox Liturgical cycle. This year, we marked the new year with a "Lesser Blessing of Water" service. I prayed for God to refresh His Spirit in our parish, our homes, and our hearts as well as bless us with health, prosperity, peace, and missionary vigor.

This church year we will be walking through the "Baby Steps to Holiness" from years past. Please join me in humbly and prayerfully taking up these little daily duties to reflect God's love more perfectly. "God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble."

Grateful to serve you in God's Name,
+ Fr. Noah

Mark Your Calendar:

Nativity of the Theotokos

Monday, September 7

Vespers 4 pm

Tuesday, September 8

Matins 9 am, Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

Church School begins September 13

Elevation of the Cross

Sunday, September 13

Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 p.m.

Monday, September 14

Strict Fast Day

Matins 9 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m.



International Food Festival

September 18-19

How will you be helping?

Whom will you invite?

Chanting Workshops

Wednesdays 7:45 - 8:30

September 23 - November 11

Catechumens & Inquirers

Saturdays at 4:15

September 26 - November 14

Book Study - led by Fr James

Blessed Surgeon: The Life of St. Luke,

Archbishop of Simferopol

Sundays in October

40 Days of Growth in Stewardship

October 11 - November 15

What is Orthodox Evangelism?

Presented by Fr Andrew Damick

Saturday, October 17, 7 p.m.

Bishop Thomas Visit

October 30 - November 1

Come receive the blessing!

Youth Choir

Saturdays in November, 5:00 p.m.

For youth in 2nd grade and up.

The Youth Choir will be preparing to sing St Nicholas Vespers on Dec 5, as well as another service.

Pascha - May 1, 2016

Baby Steps to Holiness

WRITE A LIST OF PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR DAILY

I was in seminary with a wonderful old deacon, Triva, from Serbia. Struggling to keep up with everything, I asked this godly man to pray for me. He smiled broadly, hugged me, and then whipped out a piece of paper and a pen from his breast pocket and wrote down my name. I noticed that there were many other names on there, as well. What a beautiful and faithful friend and brother in Christ! We can all be like that too. I have a typed list of the names of each of my family, my parishioners, and my friends and colleagues that I endeavor to pray for every day. When I get a prayer request, I scribble it on an index card and pray for it daily. I've been taught to say my morning prayers (Trisagion, Creed, etc.) and then read quickly and unemotionally the names of those I am praying for and then say my prayer rule of the Jesus Prayer for myself and for them. So make your list, keep it in your prayer corner and keep an index card with you so you can faithfully pray for those for whom you ought. Among the first... Metropolitan Joseph, Bishop Thomas, Fr. Noah, Fr. Boniface, Fr. James, Dn. Herman ...



Did You Know?

- **Freida Dagher** retired from Montgomery County Community College at the end of August. She plans to spend her new-found free time working on a book of Arabic proverbs. Congratulations!
- **Michael Collins** recently attained the rank of **Eagle Scout**, the highest achievement in the scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America. Congratulations! 
- **Catechumens and Inquirers** – about 15-20. Please pray them, welcome them, and help them get integrated into our church family. Consider attending the Intro to Orthodoxy class (Saturdays at 4:15, September 26 - November 14) and praying with them at vespers.
- Many people are working and praying to make our **food festival** an effective outreach event.
- **Youth Choir** sang the Liturgies for Transfiguration and the Sunday after.
- The **40 Days of Growth in Stewardship** will begin in October. Please begin to prayerfully consider your tithes.
- Our Stewardship Emphasis will. God willing, have a **“Ministry Faire”** element to it with a way to learn more about the various ministries in the parish.
- We live in a post-Christian culture and society. We have to be very intentional about raising our children as Orthodox Christians against the worldviews, moralities, and enticements that compete for their souls. Are you equipped for the battle? Lord, have mercy!!!

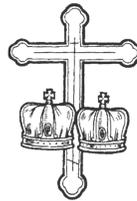
A MARRIAGE BLESSING

From the Crowning Service

Be thou exalted, O bridegroom, like unto Abraham; and be thou blessed, like unto Isaac; and do thou multiply like unto Jacob, walking in peace, and keeping the commandments of God in righteousness.

And thou, O Bride: Be thou exalted like unto Sarah; and exult thou like unto Rebecca; and do thou multiply unto Rachel: and rejoice thou in thy husband, fulfilling the conditions of the law: for so is it well-pleasing unto God.

As we celebrate this Holy Sacrament of Marriage this weekend, the union of one man and one woman, Fr. Noah, Fr. James, and Dn Herman are praying for all the marriages of our parish to reflect our godly heritage and high calling.



Missions Minute

Vince Ciraulo

One of the Missionaries we hosted and are supporting, Dr. William Black, has been back in the field in Kenya teaching. He writes of his recent trip to Mwingi where earlier this year:

152 Christian students were martyred because they chose to own their faith rather than passing themselves off as a Muslim and escaping with their life. I mention this because increasingly, for us Christians, the cost of discipleship is no longer hypothetical. ... My attempt to gain the world, or even have it both ways, results in losing my soul.

Follow his work by visiting OCMC.org or his blog: <http://www.onesimusredivivus.blogspot.com/>



Please pray for him and all missionaries.

Everyday Evangelist

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (Jn 20:21)

Do a “prayer walk,” and pray for those who do not know Christ

Challenge for 2015:

Build Up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4)

The Church is the Body of Christ. Each member of the body has a particular function. Each of the clergy and the faithful have particular gifts to bring to glorify God and to continue Christ's work on earth.

Ask Abouna

Previous Question: Why are we having another festival?

Answer: First of all we are having a festival because we have something to feast about. We are throwing this party in thanksgiving for God's mercy to us in Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church. We are rejoicing because He has trampled down death by death and has forged a new people, the Church!

The **goals of the festival** are four: 1) Reach out to the community. 2) Build up our community. 3) Raise money for local charities. 4) Support some non-budgetary needs of our parish.

I am reminded of my pilgrimage to Mt Athos. Each monastery has its Panegyri (its festival) in which monks from all over the Holy Mountain come together to pray, refresh, and support each other. Likewise, while I was traveling through Thessaloniki, I was there right before the feast of St. Demetrius the Myrrhstreamer. The church, which is as magnificent as it is old, is a magnet for people all over the city, the country, and all over the Orthodox world. The parishioners were busy greeting, cleaning, giving away materials, giving tours, singing, preparing refreshments. They were working hard to share the blessing of God with anyone who came.

Our festival is similar. It is not about the money. It is about bringing people to see the church, to “taste and see that the Lord is good,” in a non-threatening way.

May it be blessed for God's glory, for the building up of the church, and for our salvation!

New Question: Father Noah, what is Catechism?

Wisdom

From Monk Silouan

Holy Archangel Michael Monastery

- ✦ Wisdom is founded upon silence
- ✦ Our noisy society's “cult-of-youth” no longer reveres the “wise ones,” those gray with the experience of life, who respond to all things with a joyful and living silence.
- ✦ We are blinded by the pettiness of ego-dramas.
- ✦ St. Isaac tells us that as water is to plants, silence is to the human heart.
- ✦ The life of the monk is as vast as the ocean. He lives the ebb and flow of life, working and then relaxing, praying liturgically and then silently. Undefined by temporal life, he still lives deeply in the heart of the world, ony to find in it the Kingdom of God. Here, we plant potatoes, then we drink a little coffee, then we plant some more, and in all this we find life.

Orthodoxy Online

Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America

<http://assemblyofbishops.org/>

FOCUS North America

<https://focusnorthamerica.org/>

Orthodox Fellowship of the Transfiguration

<http://orth-transfiguration.org/>

Orthodox Peace Fellowship

<http://www.incommunion.org/>

Orthodox Philadelphia

<http://orthodoxphilly.com/>

St Panteleimon Fellowship - A Society for the Practice of Orthodox Christian Healthcare

<https://www.facebook.com/saintpanteleimonfellowship>