



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church

BABY STEPS TO HOLINESS - DROP YOUR DEMANDS.

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES**GIVING UPDATES**

FORTY DAYS OF GROWTH IN STEWARDSHIP continues! Thank you and God bless you and all our faithful stewards! *The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and all who dwell in it. Ps 23(24):1*

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION: Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In November, we are collecting turkeys, hams, & fixings for Thanksgiving & Christmas.

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

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.

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

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAITHFUL GIVERS!

Challenge for 2015:**Build Up the Body of Christ**

(Ephesians 4)

The church is also a spiritual hospital. We come to church for the correction of our vision, the healing of our souls in confession and especially the medicine of immortality (the Eucharist). We are sick. We are dying. Without God we are hopeless and helplessly deathbound. Come to the church and build it up for the salvation of your soul and that of those around you.

**A Message from Fr Noah**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to share a brief synopsis of my comments at our annual parish meeting recently.

Thank you! Thank you all on the Parish Council, Audit Team, and all our ministry teams. Special thanks to Jonathan Yurchak, who has been our Parish Council Chairman for the last five years.

Thank God for the beauty, success, and growth of our parish. As we see the mortgage shrink and our accounts grow, I have a warning for us from Revelation chapter 2, to the Church of Ephesus: "I know your works, your labor, your patience.... [You] have labored for My Name's sake and have not become weary" (vv. 2 and 3). This is an excellent description of our parishioners. And yet, we must be on guard that the following verse does not come to describe us. "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love" (v. 4). Let's keep growing in prayer, service, joy, generosity, hospitality, evangelism, the Scriptures, the services, in unity. Let's keep growing in Christ who shares His Holy Orthodox Church and this parish beautiful with us.

+ Fr. Noah

**Holy Wisdom
Solomon's Proverbs**

For whom the Lord loves he corrects.
- Proverbs 3:12

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.
- Proverbs 6:6

Wisdom is better than rubies.
- Proverbs 8:11

A wise son makes a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.
- Proverbs 10:1

Mark Your Calendar:**Chanting Workshops**Wednesdays 7:45 - 8:30
Through November 11**Catechumens & Inquirers**Saturdays 4:15 - 5:45
September 26 - November 14**40 Days of Growth in Stewardship**

Through November 15

**Youth Choir**Saturdays in November,
4:45 p.m.
(exc. Nov 28)

For youth in 2nd grade and up.
The Youth Choir will be preparing to sing St Nicholas Vespers on Dec 5 (arrive at 5:30 to warm up!).

Myrrh-Streaming Icon Visit

Friday, November 13
Vespers for St Philip, 5 p.m.
Paraklesis with Streaming Icon, 6 p.m.

Feast of St Philip

Friday, November 13
Vespers for St Philip, 5 p.m.
Paraklesis with Streaming Icon, 6 p.m.
Saturday, November 14
Matins 9 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m.

Nativity Fast Begins November 15**Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple**

Friday, November 20
Vespers 6 p.m., Matins 7 p.m.
Saturday, November 21
Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

**Services for St Nicholas**

Saturday, December 5
Vespers, 6 p.m.
(sung by Youth Choir)
Sunday, December 6
Matins 8:50 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m.

Pascha - May 1, 2016

Baby Steps to Holiness

November: Drop your demands.

It is at least a 75-minute drive each way to confession, and very beautiful, especially with the autumn foliage reminding us of the beauty and wisdom of God's creation. Father Mark, as usual, greets us with a big smile and a warm blessing.

After my wife unburdens her soul, my children begin to file in and out, blissfully ignorant of the heaviness of life. (Unless we become like children, we shall by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven!) It is my turn and I routinely run down my laundry list... "I did such and such." When my list is through, he asks, "How is your heart?"

"How is my heart?" That is quite a question. My heart is often annoyed and sometimes truly upset, such that I don't think clearly. Even in the midst of the greatest joys, annoyance is just

below the surface. "How is my heart? It is angry."

"Drop your demands." He looks at me with such joy and peace.

After a few moments of reflection, I respond honestly, "But, I really don't demand a lot from anyone."

"Don't demand in word or in thought. Even if we are not declaring our expectations verbally, we all do project them. Even if we don't project them, we set an emotional trap for ourselves whenever we think we are justified in expecting such and such. Of course, when your demands are not met, you get upset. Just drop them and everything will give you peace and you will give everyone else peace."

I am struggling to grow into these words and I share them with you so that you can, likewise, drop your demands and, therefore, inherit the "peace of God that passes all understanding."



Did You Know?

- **Tatiana Dick** is now a licensed REALTOR® in Pennsylvania & Virginia and is able and willing to assist any of our parishioners in buying and/or selling properties. Congratulations!
- **Ephrem Acker** will be playing the part of Renfield in Souderton High School's fall production of "Dracula." Congratulations!
- Have you visited our "**Ministry Fair**?" Stop by and learn more about the various ministries in the parish.
- The St Philip's **Needy Fund** supports the needs of St Philip's parishioners as well as members of the community. Your contribution is needed!
- If you spend less money on gifts, entertainment, food, etc., you'll have more to give in **alms, special projects, and stewardship**.
- There are many **new faces** worshiping with us; you can get to know them.
- The **kingdom of heaven** is not a reward for works, but a **gift of grace** prepared by the Master for His faithful servants. Are you a faithful servant?

Everyday Evangelist

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

Pray for your relatives who do not know the Lord.



The Bible Online

Audio Bible Online:

King James Version (choose the book, then the Chapters tab for the audio):

www.biblestudytools.com/kjv/

New International Version: www.biblica.com/bibles/audio/niv/

Bible Gateway, a Bible resource site, with a Bible search feature for multiple English versions as well as many foreign language Bibles. (Two English versions with "Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal" books.)

www.biblegateway.com

Searchable Bible (King James Version), including the "Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal" books <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/k/kjv/>

BibleWorks, a Bible software program for exegesis and Bible study, with extensive Greek, Hebrew, LXX (Septuagint), and English resources.

<http://www.bibleworks.com/>

Children's Bible Reader, an interactive Bible storybook online.

<http://cbr.goarch.org/>

Missions Minute

OCMC Missionary Bill Black, whom we support, serves as lecturer of history and theology at the patriarchal Orthodox seminary in Nairobi, as well as senior lecturer to St. Paul's University and a faculty sponsor to its Orthodox students, while introducing inquirers to orthodoxy. Bill also assists in further developing and implementing the continuing education program for clergy throughout Kenya.



Ask Abouna

Previous Question: Father James, tell us about your trip to Russia, pretty please?

Answer: In September I had the privilege of making a pilgrimage to Valaam Monastery in Russia. Located north of St. Petersburg on an island in Lake Ladoga (Europe's largest lake), the monastery is reached by a four hour boat ride. Once home to over 1200 monks, the monastery was ruined after the revolution and abandoned after the Russo-Finnish war (1939-1940). It was given back to the church in 1990, and now there are about a hundred monks on the island, about sixty-five at the main monastery and the rest scattered throughout the island in various smaller monasteries or "sketes." Many tourists and pilgrims visit the island during the warmer months; when I was there they were mostly pilgrims.

My schedule every day was to rise at 4:30 a.m. for prayers in church (these lasted, along with Divine Liturgy, until 9:00 a.m.) After breakfast I walked around the island (it's about seven miles by five miles) and after lunch one or more of the monks would accompany me to some of the sketes, to see the farm, their cows and cheese factory, etc. Back by 6:00 p.m. for Vespers, although on great feast days we started at 7:00 p.m. and went to bed about 11:00 p.m. On Sundays and feast days prayers and Liturgy started at 7:00 a.m.

A beautiful place, a place of prayer, friendly and pious monks. What more could one want? A few English speakers would have helped, but nowhere this side of Heaven is perfect!

New Question: Is it okay to say "Merry Christmas"?

