



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



WISDOM FROM FR. B: CAMELOT CANNOT GO ON FOREVER ...

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,

Our Lenten Journey to Holy Pascha is nearing its climax. We are purposely exiling ourselves from comforts as we pilgrimage with Christ to the Holy City to share in his passion, death, burial, and resurrection.

These words of St. John of Damascus that are part of the Paschal Canon (Ode Three) summarize our efforts and our longing: "Yesterday I was buried with you O Christ, today I rise with you as you arise. Yesterday I was crucified with you; glorify me with you, Saviour, in your Kingdom."

Join me and Orthodox Christians throughout the world and throughout history in drawing near to Christ, our most humble and loving Lord, in Whom is our Hope for Eternal Life.

I remain, Your Servant in this Living Hope,

+ Fr. Noah



### Challenge for 2017: Be led by the Spirit, not pushed by the passions (Romans 8:12-14)

PASSIONS, LIKE VIRTUES, are also interconnected, just as "links of a single chain" (St. Isaac of Nitria), one being an offshoot of another. There are eight of them; in the order of birth they are as follows 1) gluttony, 2) lust, 3) avarice, 4) anger, 5) despondency, 6) despair, 7) vainglory, and 8) pride.

The main concern of patristic asceticism is not with external manifestations of sin, nor individual instances of sin, but rather with their cause, i.e., the vices and passions rooted in the soul, or diseases of the soul and hidden inner states of sin.

(From I.M. Kontevich, *The Acquisition of the Holy Spirit in Ancient Russia*, pg 39)

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Services for St. Lazarus

Friday, Apr 7

6:00 p.m. Compline & Lazarus Canon

Saturday, Apr 8

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

#### Services for Palm Sunday

Saturday, Apr 8

6:00 p.m. Vespers & Artoklasia

Sunday, April 9

8:45 Orthros & Blessing of Palms

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Procession

#### HOLY WEEK & PASCHA

Sunday, April 9

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 10

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 11

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 12

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

Thursday, April 13

4:00 p.m. Vespers Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Twelve Gospels Matins



#### Holy Friday

Friday, April 14

INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH TODAY!

10:00 a.m. Royal Hours

4:00 p.m. Vespers of Burial

7:00 p.m. Lamentations Matins

#### Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 15

10:00 a.m. Vespers Liturgy

11:30 p.m. Nocturn, Paschal Matins, and Resurrection Liturgy

#### GREAT & HOLY PASCHA

Sunday, April 16

CHRIST IS RISEN!

2:00 p.m. Agape Vespers

Followed by Egg Hunt



#### Bright Week

Services every day!

Including Divine Liturgy

Monday & Friday at 10 a.m.

Thomas Sunday - Cemetery Blessing

#### International Spring Festival

at North Penn H.S.

Saturday, April 22

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

We will have an information table; see Larry or Louise Shaheen to help.

#### Compline & Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7 pm, beginning Apr 26

#### Men's Fellowship

Friday, May 19 - Details to come.

#### Introduction to Orthodoxy

Saturdays, Apr 22 - June 3, 4:15 p.m.

#### High School Graduate Recognition

Sunday, June 12

#### Parish Life Conference

June 28 - July 2 Morristown, NJ

Hosted by St George, Little Falls

[www.antiochianevents.com/ny.html#](http://www.antiochianevents.com/ny.html#)

#### Sacred Music Institute

July 12-16

At the Antiochian Village

#### International Food Festival

Sept 15 & 16 - Mark your Calendar!

**Did You Know?**

- Fr. Noah and Julian are travelling to Romania in June for a pilgrimage.
- **We live from Pascha to Pascha!** April 16, 2017. Take off from work and school at least Holy Friday and Bright Monday. Contact the church office if you'd like a letter for your school.
- We have 18 kids going to **Antiochian Village** for camp, plus 3 volunteers and 3 staff members.
- There is a beautiful **house for sale** just a five minute walk from church.
- There are many **young families** in our parish who are **expecting** their first babies. Please pray for them and be active in your support of them.
- **Today can be a blessing** if you allow God's love to shine through you!
- **Singing along with the choir** is the best way to keep your mind from wandering in church.

**Wisdom from Fr. B.**

**Camelot Can Not Go On Forever ...**

I remember clearly when Fr. Boniface told me this. I was strolling down memory lane (seminary or Alaska, probably) and he interrupted with that phrase. It was a little difficult for me, initially. But, I became grateful for the call back to reality. Fr. Boniface is a man of action and he tried to instill love of labor into each of us, his spiritual children. So, my question for you: what beautiful days are your "Camelot"? *"I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands."* (Psalm 142) It is good to remember the past from time to time, but not get stuck in the past. By the example of our dear Fr. Boniface, may we rise up to the opportunities of service, sacrifice, and growth that are presented to us today!



**Ask Abouna**

**Previous Question:** Fr. Noah, please tell me about the new "Men's Fellowship" gatherings.

**Answer:** It has become apparent to me that the men of our parish need particular times of fellowship, prayer, and discussion that will be tailored to their needs and situations. Because of this, we've gathered on a couple of occasions to discuss various important facets of the Christian life: "taming technology," asceticism, response to our secular culture. These have been enjoyable and fruitful and edifying times for us to grow closer together so we can support each other in being the men that God desires us to be.

I am thankful to all the men who have participated, especially Steve Kulp for his encouragement and ideas and Nick Morelli for making a presentation.



We hope to meet quarterly on a Friday evening when a particular topic or need arises. The next gathering will be Friday, May 19. If any man in the parish wants to volunteer to host or has an idea for a special guest to speak to us or a discussion topic, please see me. I am also open to hearing other ideas (pilgrimages, service projects, etc.).

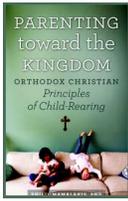
May it be blessed for the refining of our lives, our families, our church, and our country ever more into the image of God.

**New Question:** Fr. Noah, tell us about your upcoming pilgrimage to Romania.

**Parenting Suggestion**

From *Parenting Toward the Kingdom* by Philip Mamalakis:

"Parenting is not about getting kids to behave but getting the parents to behave."



**Missions Minute**

**Medical professionals** are needed for two short-term mission teams to Guatemala and one team to Indonesia. Administering health care to people who do not normally have access to treatment is such an essential part of OCMC missions, and your expertise could make a huge impact on suffering people around the world. Won't you consider volunteering this year to alleviate their suffering? [https://www.ocmc.org/about/open\\_teams.aspx](https://www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx)

**Everyday Evangelist**

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

Start or join a book club and endeavor to discuss meaningful issues as they come up.

**Wisdom**

**St. Macarius the Great**

• The infinite, inaccessible and uncreated God has assumed a body, and on account of His immense and ineffable kindness, if I may say it, He diminished Himself, lessening His inaccessible glory so as to be able to be united with His creatures, so they can be made participators of divine life.

• When the soul of a man departs from the body, a certain great mystery is there enacted. If a person is under the guilt of sin, bands of demons and fallen angels approach along with the powers of darkness which capture the soul and drag it as a captive to their place.

• The soul that really loves God and Christ, though it may do ten thousand righteousneses, esteems itself as having wrought nothing, by reason of its insatiable aspiration after God.



**OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST**

is offered to the **Shuhaibar and Salfiti families** upon the passing of **Dina Al-Sarraf**, who reposed in early March. The funeral was held here at St Philip's on March 7. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**



**Read a book of the Bible!**

**Our tradition is to read the Acts of the Apostles in the Paschal Season.**

**NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES**

**GIVING UPDATES**

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In April, we are collecting Cleaning products.

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

**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!**