



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



WISDOM FROM FR. B: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS EVERYDAY. I DO.

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

GIVING UPDATES

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!



Simone Acker graduated magna cum laude in Nov 2017 from Savannah College of Art & Design, with a BFA in Interactive Design and Game Development. Both during college and since graduation, he has gained much experience in development of product ideas, applications, and in business. Following some time at Antiochian Village, he will be seeking a game design position in the Pennsylvania-Maryland region.

Maria Heveran is graduating from DeSales University with a B.S. in Health Sciences and is continuing her studies towards earning her M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies.

Rachel Howanetz is graduating from Millersville University with a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Psychology, with her PA certification to teach pre-K through 4. She is currently applying for jobs at several elementary schools for the fall.

Katina Psomiadis will graduate this July from The University of Texas at Dallas, Collier School of Communication Disorders, with a Master of Science degree in Communication Disorders. She hopes to be employed in either Early Childhood Intervention or the feeding and swallowing field.

Congrats to these and our other graduates, **Azeb Kasu, Jonah Malriat, Thomas Asfaha, Fabienne El-Cid, & Evana Habib!**

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family, Christ is Risen! The many milestones of life: birth, naming, churching, baptism, walking, riding a bike, learning to read, first confession, learning to drive, graduation, first job, first house, marriage, child-bearing, pilgrimages, retirement, and... ultimately... death. We prefer to forget death 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 by growing accustomed to sin.

During this paschal time are you living a new life? Are you rising above the mundane annoyances and petty cares in preparation for eternity? Are you living in the knowledge of life unending? Are you 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" (1 Cor 15:58)?

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

+Fr. Noah

Special Appeal:

The **Camp Scholarship Fund** is in serious need of funds as we are sending 26 children to camp this summer, many of whom have a partial scholarship.

Don't miss the opportunity to be a blessing to our kids and young families!



Have you signed up to give blood on May 30?



See Beth McClintock or Jerry Burke to sign up. Or visit redcrossblood.org and enter the code "saint philip".

Mark Your Calendar:

Services for Ascension
**** Held at Holy Ascension Church, West Chester ****
 Wednesday, May 16 -
 Vigil 4:45 pm, Liturgy 6:30 pm

Pentecost
 Sunday, May 27 — Kneeling Prayers, 1 p.m.

Blood Drive
 Wednesday, May 30, 2-7pm
 "Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood!"

Apostles' Fast — June 4-29

High School Graduate Recognition
 Sunday, June 10

Parish Life Conference
 June 27 - July 1

2018 Sacred Music Institute at Antiochian Village
 July 11-15, 2018

Vacation Church School
 July 30 - Aug 3

International Food Festival
 September 21-22

Missions Minute

We will be having a special visit from the Manuel Family, missionaries to Guatemala, on Saturday, **May 12** after Vespers!

https://www.ocmc.org/about/view_missionary.aspx?MissionaryId=46



2018 PLC @ AV

June 27 - July 1, 2018

HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

Register here: <https://www.antiochianevents.org/154>

Schedule of events: http://antiochianevents.com/ny_schedule_general.html

Update: Our Metropolitan JOSEPH will be attending the PLC! Plan to be a part of this blessed event!

Did You Know?

- Our Parish, along with St. George and Holy Ascension are hosting the **Parish Life Conference** at Antiochian Village June 27 - July 1, 2018. Please plan on attending this “spiritual family reunion” with our bishop and the parishes. Met. JOSEPH will be there as well! Check out the Facebook page for the PLC for other content and information!
- Thank you, Lord, for the **growth in our parish**: pregnant families, new babies, engaged couples, inquirers, visitors, newly chrismated, new families, and parishioners. Go out of your way to welcome them with a warm smile, an invitation to coffee hour, a prayer.
- **Modesty** is a Christian virtue. So is **timeliness** and **diligence**.
- **Finger Foods Foster Fellowship**. Coffee Hour doesn't have to be a meal. It doesn't have to be expensive or elaborate. Thanks to all who offer hospitality from their hearts!
- The **liturgical offerings** of our parish (Prophora, Artos, Kolyva, Altar Candles, Wine, Flower Decorations) are simple and profound ways to offer our talents to God and to each other.
- We have recently acquired **new liturgical furnishings**, including a Bishop's chair, with rug, a censer stand, processional torches, and tables.
- Don't take a vacation from God this summer! **Go to church on vacation**, and connect with Orthodox believers in another place!

Ask Abouna

Previous Question:

Fr. Noah, please update us on the development of the Burial Ministry.

Answer:

I'm delighted and humbled to share with you our parish's development of a burial ministry, under the patronage of the Holy Myrrhbearers. Stephanie M, Martha M, Jonathan Y, and Mary K have done great work in organizing this vision.

After nearly a decade of discussing and researching "green burial" and different parishioners' burial wishes, we hosted Dn. Mark Barna for our recent Lenten Retreat (available on our parish podcast at the bottom of the website www.st-philip.net). His loving, experienced, and direct words enflamed several in our parish to plan for caring for any parishioner who is interested.

This allows for traditional prayers and techniques which helps the deceased, bereaved, and the entire community. It also would be significant cost-savings over a commercial funeral, and has much less environmental impact.

How can you help?

Pray – For this ministry and the people involved in it.

Educate yourself – <https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/christianending>
<http://store.ancientfaith.com/a-christian-ending/>

Sign up to help – Sheet in the Narthex.

Jobs include visiting the dying, washing the body, transporting the body, reading psalms, and other options...

Donate – List of needed Items is available in the Narthex. We don't need duplicates so please double check the list before purchasing. We are purchasing a casket, a simple pinebox with a cross on the lid, hand-made by an Orthodox priest and are looking for a donation of at least \$1,200 dollars to buy it and to cover shipping.

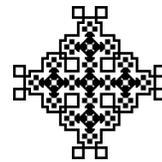
Paperwork– Return a copy of "Another Gift to my Loved Ones" to the church if you'd like the church to be part of the burial decision (<https://www.st-philip.net/cemetery.html>). It can be put in my box outside the office or mailed to the church. Remember that these are legal forms and need to be notarized. Note: this is extremely important for converts whose family may not honor or even know our burial practices

No Pressure – I realize that this is different than what all of us are used to, though it is truly the Orthodox way. No one should feel any pressure to be involved in the ministry. Also, there are lots of options, to use funeral directors for some services and not for others.

Through the prayers of the Holy Myrrhbearers, O Lord Jesus Christ, the Destroyer of Death, Have mercy on us and save us!

New Question:

Fr Noah, please update us on the Green Burial portion of the Cemetery.



Wisdom from Fr. B.

Count your blessings every day. I do.

How easy to say and how difficult to do for us who are far too busy! So, how can we do this simple task of giving thanks to God for the good things in our lives? Here are a couple of suggestions:

1. Build it into your prayer routine. What a nice way to soften your heart for prayer.
2. Keep a journal.
3. Light a candle each time you come to church in thanksgiving for all that you have received.
4. Discuss God's generosity with your family and friends!

Anything would be better than being loveless and thankless blights on the faith!

Challenge for 2018: Keep the Feasts and the Fasts

The feasts and fasts are not just “another thing to do” as they probably seem. This means a change of mind, repentance. It is a paradigm shift for us to see that our time, our days on the earth are not really ours. We have been entrusted with them and we properly utilize them through the holy rhythm that the Church has passed to us. It is a sin not to fast and not to feast. It is pride that leads us to thinking that we are our own. But we aren't our own. We are God's workmanship, God's slaves, God's freedmen, God's servants, God's children!

Biblical Wisdom

“I am a God who is near,” says the Lord, “and not a God afar off. Can a man hide in secret, and I not see him? Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the Lord.”

Jeremiah 23.23-24



Holy Mysteries

Baby Sarah Nielsen, by baptism on April 7, and **Sarah Kaminsky**, by chrismation on April 29, were received into the Orthodox Church at St Philip's.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!