



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF THE AMERICAN SAINTS: GET TO KNOW THE SAINTS

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### HOME BLESSINGS

From **Theophany** to just before Great Lent is the season of **home blessings**. To schedule with Fr. Noah or Fr. James, sign up on the calendar in the narthex and pick up a reminder card. If you miss your opportunity now, speak to Fr. Noah, Fr James, or Fr Boniface after Pascha.

#### GIVING UPDATES

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Many thanks to all for your contribution to our February collection. We collected 68 Baby Care items, including many packages of diapers & wipes, ointments & shampoos, and some baby wear! In **March**, we are collecting **Bath, Shower, & Feminine Hygiene** items.



May God bless all our faithful givers!

### Walking in the Steps of the American Saints GET TO KNOW THE SAINTS

St. Nikolaj Velimirović, a great theologian and bishop from Serbia, who ended his earthly life on March 18 at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA, writes about his getting to know the saints.



"The Calendar was the first book that I saw and took in my hands as a child. At home in the village, it stood behind the icon and was handled with reverence and put back with care in its own place. It was to me a mysterious and, at that time, magical book of names, nothing but names, without obvious content or explanation. ... The magic of the book lay, it seemed, in the very names themselves. What did they mean?... They mean that the person is all-important. As the sun among the stars and a king among his nobles, so is Christ among His saints. ... The saints are given meaning by Christ, and Christ is revealed through the saints."

You can read this book online at <http://www.westsrbdio.org/prolog/my.html>.

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After my Godmother's 40-Day Trisagion this fall, at the coffee hour someone told me, "The greatest gift that I have received coming into Orthodoxy is to be able to pray for the departed." Indeed, prayer for our departed loved ones is a great gift, but it is nothing new; it dates back to Old Testament times (2 Macc 12:42-45) and is witnessed in the New Testament (2 Timothy, 1:16-18), not to mention its continual practice in Church History.

The "Akathist for a Loved One who has Fallen Asleep" is a most beautiful prayer that I offer for all my loved ones and I encourage you to do as well. Among its beautiful prayers and exhortations it gives us priceless advice: "Let good works be multiplied in his name." As we prepare to embark on Great Lent with "Soul Saturday", join me in praying for the dead, for the sake of the resurrection, with faithful and fruitful lives, prayers, candles, donations, and works of mercy. It is a "mercy" for them and for us.

One day, hopefully not for many years, we'll be resting in the tomb, relying on someone else's prayers. Preparing with hope and fear for that great day, I remain,

Your Servant in Christ, + *Fr. Noah*

### Meat Fare Roast Beef

1 beef roast, 3 lbs. (chuck, round, brisket)  
1 pkg. onion soup mix  
1 lb. sliced fresh mushrooms



OR 1 can cream of mushroom soup

Place large sheet of heavy aluminum foil in shallow baking pan. Trim fat from meat and place on foil. Sprinkle meat with onion soup mix and top with sliced mushrooms or soup. Wrap and seal foil around meat (leave space for gravy to accumulate), sealing tightly so juices will not escape. Cook 3 hours at 325-350 degrees. Open carefully so as not to get burned by steam. Yields lots of gravy.

Can be cooked, sliced, and frozen. Place in oven frozen to defrost and heat through.

*This recipe is a combination of recipes from 2 cookbooks, originally contributed by Larissa Dudash & Anne Foutarakis. Used by the Women of St Philip's for their donation luncheon.*

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Chanting Clinic

Monday, Mar 11, 7 p.m.

#### Matushka Olga Sewing Club

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Learn or teach, work on your own project or on projects for those in need. All welcome.

#### Soul Saturday

March 9 - Liturgy, 10 a.m.

#### Meatfare / Sunday of Judgment

March 10

#### Cheesefare / Forgiveness Sunday

March 17

Forgiveness Vespers, 1 p.m.

Great Fast begins Monday, March 18

#### Great Canon of St Andrew

12 noon on Mon & Wed, Mar 18 & 20  
7 p.m. on Tue & Thur, Mar 19 & 21

#### Great Compline

Mondays in the Great Fast, 7 p.m.

#### Presanctified Liturgy

Wednesdays in the Great Fast, 7 p.m.  
Fridays in the Great Fast, 10 a.m.

#### Akathist

First 5 Fridays of the Fast, 7 p.m.

#### Village at Home

Saturday, March 17

Note: Vespers at 5 p.m.

A "day of camp" for youth ages 7-17, with Antiochian Village Camp staff. Register on the bulletin board.

#### Intermediate Chanting Workshop

Saturday, March 16 -- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Note: Vespers at 5 p.m.

Register on the bulletin board.

#### Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers

Sunday, March 24, 4 p.m.

at St. Nicholas (7th & Brown, Philly)

#### Services for Annunciation

Sunday, March 24

Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 25

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



Pascha - May 5

VCS - August 5-9

**Did You Know?**

- The transition to **Google calendar** is complete! You can always access our calendar from our website as usual (<http://www.st-philip.net/calendar.html>). When you click on a specific calendar entry, you can access more information or add that event to your own Google calendar, if you have one. Visit our website for more information on using Google Calendar and linking to your own electronic calendar.
- **Time to get ready for Lent.** Make your plan as to how you will grow in prayer, fasting, almsgiving. Make your confession early, please. Read your Bibles and come to the special Lenten services.
- The Special **Lenten Services**, especially the Presanctified Liturgy, are very important for us and our families. They are also a beautiful opportunity to bring someone to church.
- Our **Bible Bowl teams** are studying after Great Vespers on Saturday nights. Save the Date to support our diocese's Parish Life Conference: July 3-6th, 2013, hosted by St. Paul, Emmaus.
- Please pray for and **welcome our many visitors**, inquirers, catechumens, and new members to our parish. Inviting a family over to dinner is a great way to solidify a friendship.
- We live from **Pascha to Pascha**: May 5th, 2013; April 20, 2014.
- Check out the Library and the Bookshelf for **Lenten Reading**. Need a recommendation? Just ask.
- Our stewardship of God's house more than finances, we must all be involved in **ministry**.
- **Summer Camp**: <http://www.antiochianvillage.org/camp.html> – our parish's children usually attend the 1st Session (June 16-28 in 2013). Thanks to God, the number of kids going to camp keeps growing, about 25 are registered at this time. Many of them couldn't go without the Scholarship. God bless the anonymous donors to this great fund. Camp can be the difference in a child staying in the church into adulthood.
- Please look out for a kick-off event for our **Young Adult Fellowship Group** soon. Please spread the word and pray for this important ministry to have a strong start in keeping our young adults engaged in the life in Christ!



**Wisdom**

**Practically Fulfilling the Commandments**

There is no greater love than that a man lays down his life for his neighbor. When you hear someone complaining and you struggle with yourself and do not answer him back with complaints; when you are hurt and bear it patiently, not looking for revenge; then you are laying down your life for your neighbor.  
*Abba Poemen*

"So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"  
*Luke 17:10*

Theology without practice is the theology of demons.  
*St. Maximos the Confessor*

Merely to hear the word of God saves no one and is instead a condemnation. After hearing, one must do.  
*Blessed Theophylact, Explanation of the Holy Gospel of St. Luke*

**Ask Abouna**

**Previous Question:** Fr. James, tell us about the mission parish you presided over before retiring back East.

**Answer:** In 2003 I was ordained to the priesthood and assigned to cover two churches, St John the Theologian mission in Rapid City, South Dakota, and the parish of Holy Resurrection in Gillette, Wyoming. I moved to Rapid City and covered the mission services on the first, third (and fifth) weekends of the month, with weekday services as needed. On the second and fourth weekends I went over to Gillette (140 miles to the west) to do services there.

This was a cumbersome and tiring routine, and after two years I asked His Grace, Bishop BASIL, if I could move to Gillette and serve that little parish full time. He agreed, and from 2005 I lived and worked exclusively at Holy Resurrection in the mid-size city of Gillette (pop 32,000), a center of Wyoming's (and America's) energy sector, a true blue collar town with lots of well paying jobs. The parish was very small--probably forty souls in a storefront church--but very active, both in the local community and in the Orthodox world. For example, even though our budget was small, about \$40,000 per year (I was a full time priest on a part time salary), we still managed to tithe, giving half of the tithe to local charities (Special Olympics, hospice house, etc.) and half to Orthodox charities, particularly for the support of Floyd Frantz, an OCMC missionary in Romania. The parish also met all the Archdiocesan requests and dues, contributing far more than many parishes many times its size. For example, from 10-12 Food For Hungry People boxes collected during Lent every year, we never once sent less than \$800 to the Archdiocese.

All the services of our Church were celebrated in the parish. Our chanter was a woman who not only had an excellent voice but could read music. The "choir" was the congregation at large, and the entire Liturgy was sung, including the Creed and the Lord's prayer. After every Liturgy we enjoyed a potluck meal. I was indeed privileged to serve such a pious and Christ-loving congregation for nine years!

And Holy Resurrection continues to grow and prosper. It has a new priest, Fr Michael Fulton, and it recently acquired a new building, the former Episcopal church building. They have moved in and the parish is thriving. Want to see more? Go to their website at [www.holyresurrectiongillette.org](http://www.holyresurrectiongillette.org).



**New Question:** Fr. Boniface, what are your thoughts on prayer?

**OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST**

is extended to the **Ibrahim** family upon the passing of **Marcia's father, Paul Binder**, in February.

ALSO, to the **Gibbs** family upon the passing of **Barbara's mother-in-law, Helen**, also in February.

**MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**



**CHALLENGE FOR 2013:** Arrive before Liturgy to help sing the Great Doxology!