



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



WALKING IN THE STEPS OF THE AMERICAN SAINTS: SERVE GOD QUIETLY

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS

Mark your calendar - **September 20-21**. We'll need everyone's help to make this year's Festival even more successful than last year's. Have you shared a sponsorship packet with a business you frequent? Have you invited people to the Festival?



#### GIVING UPDATES

#### MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Many thanks to all for your contribution to our July collection. We collected & delivered numerous paper products! In **August**, we are collecting **Hair Care products**.

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY:** Thanks to all for your contributions to support this year's needs: Cemetery, a sign that can be seen from Rt 309, missions, and children's books.

**May God bless all our faithful givers!**

#### Watermelon Sorbet

1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup light corn syrup or light agave nectar (*the syrup or nectar makes the resulting texture quite smooth*)



1/4 cup freshly squeezed lime or lemon juice  
3 fresh mint leaves  
3 pounds watermelon, rind and seeds removed, cut into chunks

- In a small saucepan, bring the sugar, corn syrup or agave nectar, lime or lemon juice, and mint to a boil, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Remove from the heat and let cool.
- In a blender, puree half of the watermelon chunks. Strain through a fine-mesh strainer into a large bowl. Repeat with the remaining watermelon.
- Add the slightly cooled syrup to the watermelon and mix well. Place in a 2-quart container, cover, and freeze for 3 to 4 hours. Flake the mixture with a fork. Scoop it up and serve in pretty bowls.

<http://leitesculinaria.com/76386/recipes-watermelon-sorbet.html>

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that I am celebrating seven years of serving at St. Philips. Thanks to all for your love, your generosity, your patience, and your continued ministry!

I'd like to talk about the future, to dream a bit about what can be happening in the next seven years. Of course, as always, we say and remember "God Willing!" in all our hopes, plans, and aspirations.

I hope and pray and will work that:

- I'll be the pastor here raising my family in this beautiful outpost of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- We will be bursting at the seams and starting another mission parish.
- That our mortgage will be paid off and we'll not relax but take on other ministries.
- We'll have sent several young men to seminary.
- Families will come to Great Vespers and the Great Feasts.

Where will your family be?

Where will you be?

Gratefully, I remain,

Your Servant in Christ, + *Fr. Noah*

"... they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed."

Deut 16:16c



#### Holy Mysteries

The marriage of **Beka & Teresa (Ortiz) Gambashidze** was blessed here at St Philip's on Sunday, June 30. The marriage of **Philip & Bailey (Gilson) Morrash** was blessed here at St Philip's on Sunday, July 21.

**MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!**

#### OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST



is extended to **Lida Hulik** and family upon the repose of her husband, **Iwan**. Funeral services were held here on July 30, with burial in St Philip's Cemetery.

**MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

### Mark Your Calendar!

#### 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.

#### Theotokos Fast

August 1-14

#### Paraklesis Services

Weekdays during the Fast, 7 p.m. (exc. Aug 5 & 14 - Vespers for Feasts)

#### VCS - Miracles

Monday-Friday, August 5-9, 9 a.m. - noon

#### Services for Transfiguration

Monday, August 5

Vespers w/Artoklasia 6 p.m.  
Matins 7 p.m. - Blessing of harvest

Tuesday, August 6

Divine Liturgy, 9 a.m. - Blessing of harvest

#### Services for Dormition

Wednesday, August 14

Vespers & Artoklasia & Lamentations 7 p.m.  
Blessing of herbs & flowers

Thursday, August 15

Matins 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.  
Blessing of herbs & flowers

#### Life of St Nina

Wednesday, August 21

Following Akathist at 7 p.m.  
Presented by Niko Chocheli

#### Services for Beheading of the Forerunner

Wednesday, August 28

Vespers & Artoklasia 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 29 - Strict Fast Day

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



Sunday School begins September 8.

#### CHALLENGE FOR 2013:

Arrive before Liturgy to help sing the Great Doxology!

## Did You Know?

- **Fr. James** will be going on a pilgrimage-tour to Russia this month.
- Congratulations to **Dennis & Cortney Stavrou** upon the birth of their daughter, **Tessa**. Dennis is the son of **Chris Stavrou**. Many Years to all!
- **Kassandra Habib**, majoring in Biology and Pre-Med at Drexel University on a full academic scholarship, has finished her first year with the Highest Distinction. She recently returned from eight days at a medical camp in Nicaragua, where she assisted in the medical treatment of young children, and has been chosen as one of only a few interns to be working at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia next year. Good work and congratulations!
- **Simeon Acker** will be returning soon from his summer as a counselor at Antiochian Village Camp.
- Our **Summer Camp Scholarship Fund** holds monies given specifically for summer camp scholarships for children who could not otherwise attend Antiochian Village Camp. The funds are distributed at the discretion of the pastor based on requests by parish families needing assistance. This past year, there was an anonymous donation to this fund to cover the cost of a rental bus for the campers. Thanks to all who contribute to this fund!
- Some of the donated **Needy Collection items** are kept in the store room, available to any St Philip's parishioner in need.
- Our **Coffee Hour Sponsor Guidelines** have been revised. Be sure to review them the next time you host Coffee Hour. Thanks to all who participate in this important ministry of hospitality!
- **Regular church office hours** have changed: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, 8:30-4:00.
- Our Parish Council is seeking **nominations for new Parish Council members**. If you have a suggestion or would like to be considered, please contact a member of the council (see list on minutes posted) or email Fr. Noah to submit a name for the consideration of the Nomination Team.
- Your **faithful fulfilling of your pledge** during the summer months is important to our parish! May God receive your gifts!
- We're always looking for **interesting tidbits to publish in the newsletter**. If you'd like to share a special event or accomplishment, jot it down and give it to Vera, or send an email to the office.



## Ask Abouna

**Previous Question:** Fr. Noah, how long have you been serving at St. Philip's?

**Answer:** Glory to God for these seven years! There are some things I regret, of course, the mistakes of youth, and I ask for everyone's forgiveness. But, these have been wonderful years of growth for me, my family, and the parish. Glory to God! We've made it very strongly through the priest-transition (never an easy process) in the midst of a severe recession. We've continued the patterns that Fr. Boniface and the founders of the parish laid down (beautiful worship, excellent and effective educational and outreach programs and ministries, strong stewardship, continued mission and monastery support, well-maintained facilities, welcoming atmosphere) as well as completed some projects (nave iconography, choir closet) and broken some ground (food festival, outreach collection). We've buried or said good bye to some dear parishioners and have welcomed many new families. We have updated many administrative and communication processes, including a resource-rich website and email-based bulletins. In addition to our regular youth programs, we've sent many children to summer camp and on mission trips. We are bearing fruit to the glory of God!



How have you grown in these past years? Will you join me for internal growth in prayer, stewardship and service; in getting out of our comfort zones; in radical obedience to the Gospel; in Living Tradition with the Holy Fathers; for our salvation, for building up the church, and for the glory of God?

**New Question:** Fr. Noah, since priests only work two hours a week, what do you do with the rest of your time?

## Walking in the Steps of the American Saints SERVE GOD QUIETLY

There are about 15 men who lived in America who have been glorified and canonized as saints. But there are many more men and women, like Matushka Olga, who served God quietly and whose sanctity is still hidden in God. Most of them may be forgotten by us, but their memory is eternal as they rejoice in the Light of Christ's countenance and pray for us. Let's live our lives, by God's grace and their examples, to be worthy of this hymn in honor of the unknown saints of America:

*Today, as we celebrate the memory of All Saints of North America, let us praise them as is fitting, for they lived all of Christ's beatitudes.*

*Deprived of material wealth, they became rich in spirit.*

*Meek, they inherited the earth.*

*Mourning, they were comforted.*

*Thirsting for righteousness, they were satisfied.*

*Merciful, they obtained mercy.*

*Pure in heart, they beheld the image of God.*

*As peacemakers, they became God's children.*

*Persecuted and tortured for righteousness' sake, they now rejoice in heaven;*

*And they pray fervently to the Lord to have mercy on our souls.*

## More Wisdom from Elder Epiphanius (+1989)



- I fear much that those who consciously ignore the practice of fasting, without having health reasons, are not really interested in the salvation of their souls!"
- If afflictions did not exist, we would not seek paradise.
- My child, you must know that Christ is everywhere: in the kitchen, the living room, and the bedroom.
- And who told you that the children are yours? They are God's! They are His little sheep and he has put you to guard them!
- A small child asked him: "Elder, where was I before I was born?" "In God's mind, my child."

## MAILING ADDRESS CHANGE - P O BOX IS NOW CLOSED!

In order to save the time and expense of traveling to the Post Office, we have installed a mailbox at the church, and will now be receiving mail at our street address. Make a note:

**1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964**

If you use your bank's bill-pay feature for your contributions, please be sure to **notify your bank** of the change.