



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



BABY STEPS TO HOLINESS - ASSUME GOOD MOTIVES IN OTHERS

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Metropolitan Philip Saliba 1931-2014

I am dedicating this issue of our newsletter to our newly-departed Metropolitan Philip. There is much available on our archdiocese's website (antiochian.org) by way of remembrances. I don't have time to go into that or into the many ways that he touched my life and many of ours. But, I would like suggest that it was his vision and example of bringing Orthodoxy to America that made the development of our parish, and its many strengths, possible. Many of you remember the blessed day of our church's consecration by his hands

Our founding pastor, Fr. Boniface, loves and respects him very much and labored to develop this parish with his vision of excellence in English-language worship, in ministry, in administration, in lay-leadership, and in welcoming many into Christ's Holy Orthodox Church.

With love for our Metropolitan and his robust vision of an engaged Orthodox Church, let us continue this beautiful work!

Your Servant in Christ, + *Fr. Noah*

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Lazarus Saturday - April 12

Matins 9 a.m.  
Liturgy 10 a.m.  
Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 p.m.



#### Holy Friday Friday, April 18

10:00 a.m. Royal Hours  
4:00 p.m. Vespers of Burial  
7:00 p.m. Lamentations Matins

#### HOLY WEEK & PASCHA

#### Palm Sunday Sunday, April 13

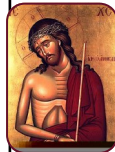
9:00 a.m. Matins  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

#### Holy Saturday Saturday, April 19

10:00 a.m. Vespertal Liturgy  
11:30 p.m. Nocturn, Paschal Matins, and Resurrection Liturgy

#### GREAT & HOLY PASCHA Sunday, April 20

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**  
2:00 p.m. Agape Vespers & Egg Hunt



#### Monday, April 14

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

#### Tuesday, April 15

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins

#### Wednesday, April 16

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy  
7:00 p.m. Holy Unction

#### Thursday, April 17

4:00 p.m. Vespertal Liturgy  
7:00 p.m. Twelve Gospels Matins

#### Bright Monday Monday, April 21

9:00 a.m. Paschal Matins  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Procession  
2:00 p.m. Paschal Vespers

#### International Spring Festival at North Penn H.S.

Saturday, April 26, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
We will have an information table; see Larry or Louise Shaheen to help.

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### GIVING UPDATES

**FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE:** Remember to turn in your collection box right after Pascha!

#### MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:



Thanks to all for your generosity to the needy of our community! For April, we are collecting **Cleaning Supplies.**

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

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

(Be sure to read the thank-you notes posted on the bulletin boards.)

#### ST. PHILIP'S LIST SERVE

St Philip's email list serve is the primary way we contact everyone with schedule changes and other announcements. Pickup a flyer in the narthex for instructions on how to sign up, or contact the church office.

#### INTRODUCING A NEEDS UPDATE

We'd like to start a **new publication** that will let everyone know about various **needs of St Philip's**, such as for ministries and special projects, to be published as needed. If you can think of a clever or memorable name for it, please contact the office.



#### RED EGGS FOR PASCHA

If you would like to try **dyeing red eggs naturally**, try red onion skins.



To prepare dye with red onion skins, place skins of 12 onions in non-aluminum pan, cover with 4-1/2 cups water, add 3 Tbsp vinegar, bring to a boil, then simmer 30 minutes or until desired color is achieved. Strain the dye and let cool to room temperature. Pour over 12 room-temperature eggs in single layer in large pan. Bring liquid to an easy boil over medium heat. Reduce to low and cover. Simmer for 10 minutes, then start checking for color by gently raising an egg out with a slotted spoon. It may take up to 20 minutes to get the right color. Do not cook for more than 20 mins.

<http://www.thekitchn.com/how-to-make-onionskin-easter-eggs>  
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**For other options and natural dyes for other colors**, visit <http://www.blogher.com/natural-egg-dye-rainbow-options>

**Did You Know?**

- **Metropolitan SILOUAN**, the bishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, is our Patriarchal Vicar until we have nominated, elected, and enthroned a new Metropolitan-Archbishop.
- **Joanne Wisneszki** recently retired from Landis Supermarket after 35 years. Congratulations! Many Years!
- **Michael and Marcia Ibrahim** spent the month of February in Sydney, Australia with their daughter Lisa and her family, helping her during her recovery from surgery. A blessed surprise for Michael: he found cousins and classmates from Lebanon he hadn't seen in 41 years!
- We recently welcomed **two missionaries.**



**Fr Seraphim** is a Romanian monk who is establishing a monastery on the Isle of Mull in Scotland.

Read more at [mullmonastery.com](http://mullmonastery.com). **Floyd Frantz** is an OCMC missionary to Romania, working to establish drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs. Read more at [OCMC.org](http://OCMC.org).

- Did you notice? **Our Great Room was recently painted!** Next up will be the Sunday School classrooms. Many thanks to all who contributed to St Philip's over the years so that our Capital Improvements account can cover such expenses.
- **Now available in the library: Gifted Pans!** You can borrow one to make Holy Bread, the same way you might borrow a book or CD.
- **Friends and Family Day:** February 23rd. Thanks to God for a great success. Seven guests came and all had a great experience in the services and in coffee hour. Four sat with me in the church for a tour and a Q&A session! I plan to schedule another one for August.
- **Confession** is a "second baptism." Come be washed in the waters of reconciliation to prepare for Pascha!

**Wisdom from Metropolitan PHILIP**

- God wants to be more and more in our lives and it is truly up to us to expand our awareness of Him. Because He not only lives "above," but also in our "depths," our attempt must be to contact, penetrate and plumb these depths.
- If we claim that we love God and our neighbor, but fail to translate this love into acts of mercy and compassion, we are living a false faith, a dead faith, and our Ecclesiology is left empty.
- We Orthodox have a tendency to glorify the past and feel proud of ourselves. There is no doubt that the church of the Ecumenical Councils was glorious and courageous in responding to the challenges of her time. Have we responded to the challenges of our time? As individual jurisdictions, I believe we have succeeded in building beautiful churches, in educating young priests and organizing good choirs and church schools, etc., but collectively, we have done absolutely nothing.
- The Church is not the bishop alone, or the priest alone, or the laity alone. The Church is the bishop, the priests and the laity working together.



**Challenge for 2014: Be like the Bee, not like the Fly!**

**Invite someone to Church!**

**Ask Abouna**

**Previous Question:** Father, Why is Great Lent so long? What's the point anyway?

**Answer:** Some people wrongfully consider the Great Fast to be a punishment or a prison-sentence. Great Lent has been called "the tithe of the year" by St. Dorotheos of Gaza. It is that and much more: it is a journey, a pilgrimage to Pascha.

Any worthwhile destination will require a difficult journey. This is why our Lord was transfigured on the top of a mountain.



This is why Moses received the Law on the top of Mount Sinai. We must labor to draw near to God by leaving aside the daily cares.

Lent is forty days plus Holy Week because, if we undertake the fast faithfully, we can have reset our habits God-ward, rather than downward.

Finally, Lent is a time to slow down. It may only take a race car three seconds to go from zero to sixty, but it takes us a long time to really acquire peace so that we can tune our hearts to God.

Don't lose hope, don't take your eyes off the prize. The rewards for keeping the Great Fast, which we offer to God in thanksgiving, will flood our hearts on Pascha, will make us "better people" in Christ and, by God's grace, we can acquire the Peace of God that passes all understanding.

With this hope in mind, I ask you to keep the fast with me and with our parish, our archdiocese, and the entire Orthodox Church!

**New Question:** Fr. Boniface, Please share some memories of Metropolitan

**Baby Steps to Holiness**

**April - Assume Good Motives in Others**



It is natural for us to assume the best of ourselves... We know we "meant" to finish the dishes. We "planned" to get there on time, but something came up. We "feared" falling into the same trap of poor communication, but it happened again ...

Why can't we do the same for others? Why can't we realize that others are doing the best they can? The answer is that we

are selfish, deeply selfish. Even when we are "serving others" it is not without a bit of self-serving in our motivation.

But God calls us to change this and gives us the means to do so. In the Great Fast, we repeat the Prayer of St. Ephrem (hopefully) several times a day with customary prostrations and bows... The last line of this reads: "Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother..." Don't just vainly repeat this prayer! Change! When you catch yourself judging someone by assuming an evil intent, reverse the trend and find something praiseworthy in them.