



THE PARISH PRESS



St. Philip Orthodox Church

WISDOM FROM FR. B: I GUESS YOU DIDN'T WANT A BLESSING.

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

GIVING UPDATES

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION: Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In **September**, 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!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Friday, September 29, 8 pm

At the home of Damien Kovalenko.

"Practical ways to battle our sinful natures."

Wisdom

St. Herman of Alaska



✦ If we love someone we always remember him and try to please him; day and night our heart is occupied with that object.

✦ Is that how you, gentlemen, love God? Do you often turn to Him, do you always remember Him, do you always pray to Him and fulfill His holy commandments?

✦ For our good, for our happiness at least let us make a vow that from this day, from this hour, from this minute we shall strive to love God above all else and to fulfill His holy will.

OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

is offered to **Larry Tennant and family** upon the repose of Larry's father **Thomas Arthur**, who reposed on August 3. Funeral services were held on August 7 in Tamaqua, PA.



MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,

Blessed New Year. From Biblical and Byzantine times, we celebrate "the crown of the year" as the start of the Church's Year. As this year is beginning I have a lot of my mind and heart. There is much I need to repent of and much that our world needs to repent of. I am coming around again to the truth, not new in any way, that our church is really only one thing: a place of repentance and prayer. If we are here for another reason, we are here for the wrong reason.

Does this mean that our service and sacrifice, as well as our love for our rich heritage, are out the window? No. But they are subordinated to our need for the fire of God's love to burn more brightly in our hearts.

May this new year be a year of true repentance for me and you and all of our dear ones, as well as our parish, community, country, and world, by God's grace and our faithfulness!

In Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

Mark Your Calendar:

Labor Day Family Picnic

Monday, September 4 - 12-7 p.m.
At Spring Hollow; directions in the great room. Please bring a dish to share.

Nativity of the Theotokos

Thursday, September 7
Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Matins 7 pm
Friday, September 8
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Sunday School begins Sept 10

Elevation of the Cross

Wednesday, September 13
Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Matins 7 pm
Thurs, September 14 - STRICT FAST DAY
Divine Liturgy 10 am

International Food Festival

Sept 15 & 16
Pray, work, invite, & rejoice!



Intro to Orthodoxy - Fall Series

Saturdays at 4:30, Sept 23 - Nov 18
(exc. Nov 4)

Village at Home

Saturday, Nov 11 - more details to come

Advent Retreat

Saturday, December 9
Drs. David & Mary Ford: *When the Foundations Are Shaken: Biblical & Patristic Wisdom for Living through Spiritual Upheaval*

Bp Thomas visit

December 15-17

CHANT WORKSHOPS

Every other Wednesday after Compline,
September - November

Workshop sessions will cover
Free-chanting, Prosomia, and
Byzantine Notation.

Dates: Sept 6 & 20, Oct 4 & 18, Nov 1
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Missions Minute

There are still openings to participate with and assist the Church in Kenya and the Church in Nairobi with OCMC short-term missions. Visit ocmc.org for details.

Everyday Evangelist

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

Teach English as a Second Language classes.

Parenting Suggestion

From *Parenting Toward the Kingdom* by Philip Mamalakis:

"We would never deface an icon, yet when we get angry, attack, criticize, or mock our children, we vandalize the icon of Christ. We don't worship icons, either, yet when we are lenient or indulge our children's desires, giving in to their demands, we are worshipping our kids, not Christ--which is equally destructive."



Did You Know?



- **Nicholas Morelli and Martha Korban** are preparing for marriage this fall. Please pray for God's grace for them and all the young couples in our community.
- **Gabe Quinodoz**, a dear young inquirer in our community, has been making improvements to our website as part of his internship this summer as our assistant webmaster.
- There have been waves of **new families and visitors** to our church this past month. Greeting them with a smile, inviting them to sit with you during coffee hour, or inviting them out to a meal is a great way to build up the community of our parish.
- **Jeff and BethAnn Hyatt and their sons (Noah, Caleb, and Lucas)** are new to the area and to the parish.
- **Justin Gohl and Jeff Hyatt** are applying to the St. Stephen's program for further theological and ministry training.
- **New office hours!** Beginning September 5: Mon-Thu 8:30 am - 4 pm; Fri 10 am - 3 pm.
- **Starting in September**, God willing, on days when the office is open the clergy and/or office staff will be praying the **6th Hour at noon**. This is a very short and simple service. May God help us and shower his blessings on us as we draw nearer to him in humble, daily prayer.
- **Fr. Noah** is very thankful for the faithful, talented people in the parish, working together for the glory of God, making our church a hospitable, vibrant, and active house of prayer and community of repentance!
- Many families benefit from a **"screen Sabbath,"** in which screens (TV, phones, other devices) are turned off from dinner on Saturday to dinner on Sunday.

Wisdom from Fr. B.

I guess you didn't want a blessing.

Ouch!!! Fr. Boniface could be quite blunt in his reactions to people's choices. This phrase came out several times in my hearing when people were too impatient and headstrong to do things according to Godly counsel. This is a good point for me to reflect on as my life and ministry carries on: We are called to be obedient to God because we have the hope of blessings. Obedience brings blessings!!!

ADULT STUDIES

Every other Wednesday after Compline, September - November
 Topics to be presented will be announced.
 Dates: Sept 27, Oct 11 & 25, Nov 8
 Following Compline at 7 p.m.

Biblical Wisdom

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Rom 12:2a

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

The passions are ugly; distorted, disordered, unchecked ideas, desires and zeal. They are our "spiritual birth defects." They lead people into isolation away from each other and away from God. They seem "natural" but they aren't really natural. They seem normal to those who have formed their world view with the media and who don't constantly seek the Lord in the Scriptures, the Saints, the Sacraments, the Services, Suffering, Sacrifice, and Silence. The passions are ugly, indeed, but they are not inevitable.

Saint Cyprian of Carthage gives us the good news of repentance in very refreshing terms: "by being able to see and condemn what we are, we immediately become able to love what we shall be in God." This is repentance, changing the mind/heart, so we can see ourselves as God sees us. By the grace of God, the coming of Christ in the flesh, and the abiding of the Holy Spirit! Amen!!!

Ask Abouna

Previous Question: Fr. James, please tell us about your Alaska Pilgrimage.

Answer: In early August I had the pleasure and privilege of traveling to Alaska for a pilgrimage.



The first part of my pilgrimage took place in Eagle River, a town about 15 miles north of Anchorage. There is a large Antiochian Orthodox church there (St. John the Evangelist) and every year they sponsor speakers at an event called the Eagle River Institute. This year they had Professor Peter Bouteneff of St. Vladimir's Seminary and an Orthodox scientist, Dr. Gayle Woloshak, to speak on general themes of creation, revelation, science, and evolution. Before and between these talks I had the opportunity to go to Eklutna Village, an Athabascan Indian village with a charming Orthodox church and an interesting graveyard with small "spirit houses" built over the graves, and also to visit the Iditarod Museum.

we all celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration on Sunday, followed by a salmon potluck luncheon out on the lawn. Delightful!

The next day I traveled to Kodiak Island to participate in the St. Herman pilgrimage. His relics are in the cathedral in Kodiak, but the final day of the pilgrimage usually involves a short boat ride to his home on

Spruce Island. Unfortunately, the weather was rainy and windy that day, so no boats went out. But we had the Liturgy for St. Herman that day in Kodiak and venerated his relics (opened, but covered with his monastic robes). The night before we had had the vigil and the akathist for St. Herman. A wonderful and spiritually uplifting time to participate in this pilgrimage! Holy Father Herman, pray for us!

New Question: Fr. Joseph Butts, we miss you and are praying for you and your family. Can you please give us an update on your family and your service? Also, when are you visiting us again?

Festival Goals

1. Outreach to the community;
2. Bonding for parishioners;
3. Donation to local charities;
4. Contributing to the special funds.



PRAY - WORK

INVITE - REJOICE!

On Saturday the conference ended and