



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



WISDOM FROM FR. B: THIS IS EARTH!

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

GIVING UPDATES

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION: Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In **January** we are collecting **Oral 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!

Wisdom from St. Basil the Great

Homily on Detachment from Worldly Things,

"Each of us, after leaving the wombs of our mothers, is at once seized and swept along by the flow of time, continually letting go of the day already lived and never able to return to



yesterday, even if we want to do so. Yet we take pleasure in being borne forwards, and find joy in exchanging one period of life for the next, as if we were acquiring something great ... We fail to recognize, then, that the time used up at each stage of life adds up to the time that we have already lived. And we do not realize that our life is being spent, even if we always measure it according to what has passed by and flowed away. Therefore, we do not grasp how indeterminate is the time which the One who has sent us on this journey wants to give us to complete our course. Neither do we know when he will open the entrance gate for each runner, nor do we realize that we should be prepared each day for our departure there and wait for the decision of the Master with our eyes fixed upon him ..." (Paragraph 2)

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,

Happy New Year!!!!?? Define "happiness" first.... I pray for and hope for my family, our parish family: "mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of sins, and furtherance in all good things". But, I don't want the shallow, comfortable, self-centered, self-serving happiness. In fact, along with Orthodox saints and faithful down through the centuries, I get a little nervous when things are "too good". This is for three reasons:

1. In the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6), our Lord says: "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." (vs 21). And just in case we didn't get the message He repeats it in the negative: "Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep." (vs 25)
2. We don't want our reward here and now but in the Kingdom of Heaven.
3. Our Lord came, just as those who faithfully take up his prophetic ministry, to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

Lord, bless us with deep, unshakable joy and peace in this new year and by our blessings in this life – which we pass on freely to others – prepare us for eternal blessedness in the light of your face.

In Christ,

+Fr. Noah

Mark Your Calendar:

Adult Education Class - "Orthodoxy & Heterodoxy"
Jan 3 - Feb 14, Wednesdays after Compline

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Thursday, February 1 -
Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 pm
Friday, February 2 -
Matins & Liturgy w/Candle blessing 9 am

Great Lent Begins

Monday, February 19 - Clean Monday

Lenten Retreat - "A Christian Ending"

Saturday, March 17

Pascha

Sunday, April 8

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!

Saturday: VESPERS, 6 p.m.

Sunday: MATINS, 8:45 a.m.
DIVINE LITURGY, 10 a.m.

Wednesday: AKATHIST, 7 p.m.
(unless a festal service supersedes)

Check our calendar for special services!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

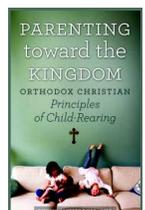
Saturday, January 13, 8-10 am

Breakfast at St Philip's.
"Becoming Men of Prayer."

Parenting Suggestion

From *Parenting Toward the Kingdom* by Philip Mamelakis:

"Connect your family rules and rituals to the life of the Church... Make your best effort to incorporate the fasting and feasting cycles of the Church into the home... As children observe the parents living the sacramental life of the Church, they will internalize the life of the Church as real" (p. 265).



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. We are looking for some volunteers and sponsors.
- A **Good Attitude** will help you and others along in the bumps and bruises of life.
- Many blessed years to the newly illumined Baby **Isaac Giordano**, and to his family! 
- **Holy Bread** is now being offered fresh each week.
- You can offer **Altar Candles** in thanksgiving to and for the glory of God. A sign-up sheet is on the Ministries bulletin board.
- As we enter the New Year, we are in need of **Coffee Hour Sponsors**. Enlist the help of a friend, and sign up! Keep it simple.
- If you haven't yet, check out our parish podcast, **Living Orthodoxy**, available at the bottom of the homepage of our parish website. Stimulating discussions and interviews to help us live our Living Faith!
- Stay connected with parish life by synching with our calendar on **Google Calendar**. See  <https://www.st-philip.net/calendar.html> for instructions on how to add the parish calendar to your own device.

Everyday Evangelist

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

Pray for family members who do not know the Lord.



Ask Abouna

Previous Question:

Fr Noah, please tell us about your upcoming trip to Mt. Athos.

Answer:

Glory to God! I'm very excited and overwhelmed for another opportunity to visit this center of Orthodoxy. I would not have planned another trip there after going four years ago, but when a priest friend of mine extended an all-expense-paid invitation to me I could hardly say "no". I really don't know more than these few bits:

- We are leaving on January 22 and coming back on the 31st.
- Fr. Theodore Petrides (of Stroudsburg, PA) is handling all the arrangements. The group will include Abbott Sergius from St. Tikhon's, Dr David Ford, and Fr Andrew Damick and others I don't know.
- I have my Wife's, Bishop's, and Archbishop's blessing, and Fr. James' assistance!
- I need a prayer boost!

Please pray that our travels will be both safe and spiritually beneficial.

New Question:

Fr. Noah, how can we support the work of God at St. Philip's?



Pray for our Catechumens!

Gabe, Sze, and Rebecca were recently enrolled in the Catechumenate. Please pray for, welcome, and get to know them! And pray for God to send us many more.

Challenge for 2018: Keep the Feasts and the Fasts

Our contemporary society, de-sacralized by Protestantism, secularized by atheism, distracted by the media, hypnotized by screens, is attempting to make us forget that God is with us. But, we are Orthodox Christians and we rejoice in the great works of God and the mighty men and courageous women He has worked through throughout history. We remember them. We keep our eyes fixed on them. We participate in them by rearrange our schedules and our diets, by keeping the feasts and the fasts!

~ Sacrament of CONFESSION ~

As Orthodox Christians we prepare for **Holy Communion** by prayer, fasting, a life of keeping the commandments and repentance, and quarterly Confession. **Great Vespers** on Saturday night is an important part of our preparation as well, as part of the Church's cycle of services, along with Orthros and the Feasts/Fasts. Vespers is also a good service to bring visitors, and following Vespers is a convenient time for **Confession**.

Wisdom from Fr. B.

This is EARTH!

Fr. Boniface said this many times to help people remember that this present life is not perfect. This is earth, not heaven. Don't expect everything and everyone to be perfect. Don't begrudge the opportunities for sacrifice, suffering, patience, forgiveness, because these are gifts from God to prepare us for a rich entrance into His heavenly kingdom.