



# THE PARISH PRESS



## St. Philip Orthodox Church

WISDOM FROM FR. B: THE LITURGY NEVER ENDS.

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### GIVING UPDATES

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In April we are collecting **Cleaning Supplies**.

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

**MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAITHFUL GIVERS!**

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
**Saturday, April 28, 8-10 am**  
 Breakfast at St Philip's  
 "Repentance."



### Wisdom from The Way of a Pilgrim

✦ "Turning my eyes carefully upon myself and watching the course of my inward state, I have verified by experience that I do not love God, that I have no love for my neighbors, that I have no religious belief and that I am filled with pride and sensuality."

✦ "If I were firmly persuaded and believed, without a doubt, that beyond the grave lies eternal life and recompense for the deed of this life, I should continually be thinking of this. The very idea of immortality would terrify me, and I should live this life like a foreigner who gets ready to enter his native land."

✦ "Were the Holy Gospel taken into my heart in faith, as the Word of God, I should be continually occupied with it. I should study it, find delight in it, and fix my attention upon it — with deep devotion."

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family, Hosanna in the Highest!

We had an amazing Lenten retreat recently on "A Christian Ending." Dn. Mark Barna gave us a very practical, pointed, and poetic reminder about something that our modern society—even Orthodox Christians—has forgotten. He spoke about caring for the elderly, how to manage a church funeral, how to work with a funeral director, and how and why to prepare a body of a loved one for burial, and how to keep vigil over the departed. I'm thankful to say that this has sparked a group who are working to set up a Burial Ministry Team. Jonathan Y, Stephanie M, and Martha M are the master-planners. They are also looking for parishioners who can help with visiting the ailing, reading Psalms, preparing and transporting the holy remains of our brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as lots of behind-the-scenes administrative tasks.

Another product of the retreat is the formation of an excellent compendium of legal documents regarding end-of-life and post-death care, that will be a gift to our loved-ones. The church office will be making these available shortly.

I know our modern culture distracts us from considering and preparing for death, but that is not the Orthodox Christian way. We remember our death with faith, hope, and love, with the conviction that our Lord Jesus Christ has trampled down death by His death. Indeed, this is the only lasting joy!

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

+Fr. Noah

### Holy Mysteries

**Gabriel Quinodoz** was received into the Orthodox Church by Chrismation here at St Philip's on March 25.

**MAY GOD GRANT HIM MANY YEARS!**

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Bright Week

*Services every day!*

Including Divine Liturgy on Monday, Thursday, & Friday at 10 a.m.  
**Thomas Sunday - Cemetery Blessing**

**Bible Study: Sacrifice in Scripture**  
*Saturdays, Apr 14 - June 16, 4:30 p.m.*

**Compline & Adult Education**  
*Wednesdays at 7 pm, beginning Apr 18*

**St. Basil Center Lecture @ St Philip's**  
*Friday, April 20, 6 pm*

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

*Saturday, April 21*  
 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

We will have an information table; see Larry or Louise Shaheen to help.

**Ascension**  
*Thursday, May 17*

**Pentecost**  
*Sunday, May 27*

**Blood Drive**  
*Wednesday, May 30, 2-7pm*  
 "Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood!"

**High School Graduate Recognition**  
*Sunday, June 10*

**Parish Life Conference**  
*June 27 - July 1*

### CELEBRATE PASCHA AT HOME:

- ✦ We say or sing the Resurrection Troparion every day with our devotions.
- ✦ We continue to share the good news with the greeting, "Christ is risen!"
- ✦ We read the Book of Acts in our family Bibles.
- ✦ There is no fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays. (Communion fast continues as usual.)
- ✦ In honor of the Resurrection, there is no kneeling, in Church or at home, until the Pentecost Kneeling Prayers.
- ✦ "O Heavenly King" is not said or sung until Pentecost. Instead, we say or sing the Resurrection Troparion three times.

## 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. Check out the Facebook page for the PLC for other content and information!
- **Natalia Mamardashvili** put on a spectacular piano recital in March at the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. Her technical skills, passion, & musical genius were apparent to all, and bode well for her future in teaching and performing. Natalia is due to receive her graduate degree on May 12.
- **Finger Foods Foster Fellowship.** Coffee Hour doesn't have to be a meal. It doesn't have to be expensive or elaborate. Thanks to all who offer hospitality from their hearts!
- The **liturgical offerings** of our parish (Prospora, Artos, Kolyva, Altar Candles, Wine, Flower Decorations) are simple and profound ways to offer our talents to God and to each other.
- We have many **new babies** and **pregnant mothers** in the parish. The Women of St. Philip are preparing to have a baby shower for all the new moms.
- **Todd and Kristi** returned safely and blessedly from their pilgrimage to the Holy Land!
- We'll be hosting the St. Basil Center for Orthodox Thought and Culture of Eastern University's lecture on Friday, April 20 by **Jonathan Pageau**, contributor to Orthodox Arts Journal. Vespers at 6pm, with lecture at 7pm, and reception to follow. Please come and be edified!
- We have recently acquired **new liturgical furnishings**, including a Bishop's chair, with rug, a censer stand, processional torches, and tables.



## Parenting Suggestion

From *Children in the Church Today* by Sister Magdalen:

“St. John Chrysostom suggests mealtimes as a good occasion to introduce stories and examples from Scripture into conversation with children” (p 40).



## Ask Abouna

### Previous Question:

Fr. Noah, what are some good local places of pilgrimage?

### Answer:

Though obviously the holiest places in the world are across the Atlantic, there are many holy monasteries dedicated to prayer and repentance within a day's drive.

#### For Women -

Holy Protection  
1 St. Joseph's Way  
White Haven, PA 18661

Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery  
144 Bert Washburn Road  
Otego, NY 13825-2265

St. Irene Chrysovalantou  
36-04 23rd Avenue  
Astoria, NY 11105

Novo Diveevo Convent  
100 Smith Rd  
Nanuet, NY 10954

Sacred Monastery of Saint Nina  
9002 Clemsonville Rd  
Union Bridge, MD 21791



#### For Men -

Hermitage of the Holy Cross  
505 Holy Cross Rd, Wayne, WV 25570  
Phone: (304) 849-2072

St. Gregory Palamas Monastery  
934 Co Rd 2256, Perrysville, OH 44864  
(419) 368-5335

Monastery of Saint Nektarios  
100 Lake Anawanda Road  
Roscoe, NY 12776

St. Tikhon Monastery  
St. Tikhon's Road  
South Canaan, PA 18459

Hermitage of Saint Paisius  
RD 2, Box 213-A  
Troy, PA 16947

Mercy House  
320 East 3rd Street  
New York, NY 10009

St. Nicholas Monastery  
100 Wesley Avenue  
Beacon, NY 12508-2638

### New Question:

Fr Noah, please update us on the development of the Burial Ministry and the Green Burial portion of the Cemetery.

## Challenge for 2018: Keep the Feasts and the Fasts

The period of Great Lent is brought to a conclusion with Christ's raising up Lazarus from the dead, foreshadowing His own resurrection. Now we mystically join in with the children in the streets shouting “Hosanna!” Will you deepen your spiritual life this year and in the years to come by journeying with our Lord through His Passion, Crucifixion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection? Bring someone of your family, friends, neighbors, colleagues to the beautiful services of Holy Week and Pascha!

### AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

Were you not able to attend the **Choir Concert** or the **Lenten Retreat** this March? These were recorded and are being made available on our website (<http://www.st-philip.net/>) through the **Living Orthodoxy podcast** (<http://livingorthodoxy.podbean.com/>). As always, weekly and periodic publications—**Bulletins, Newsletters, etc.**—are available (<http://www.st-philip.net/bulletins.html>).

## Wisdom from Fr. B.

### The Liturgy Never Ends.

Ahhh! Those beautiful words coming from his gospel lips, which we are confident will be resurrected on the last day to join the heavenly choir. Of course in earthly terms this doesn't make sense. We begin with “blessed is the Kingdom” around 10 a.m. and end an hour and a half later with the final “Amen.” But in spiritual terms this is true in two senses, though. First, our earthly liturgies are just us “dipping in” to the forever flowing stream of life and light that is God's Kingdom, which we hope will engulf our whole lives. Indeed, we call our services “Divine”, rather than “holy”, because they are God's—God's love-gift to us so that we can be renewed in His Image. Secondly, we leave our lovely temple and go out to do His work: to have the good news of Jesus Christ on our lips, have peace in our hearts, good works in our hands... After all, the word “Liturgy” is Greek for “the work of the people”!

