



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



WISDOM FROM FR. B: "IF IT ONCE AGAIN BECOMES ILLEGAL TO BE CHRISTIAN WE SHOULD MAKE SURE THERE IS ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT US."

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### GIVING UPDATES

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In **August**, we are collecting **Paper Products**.

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

#### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Choir** - Women singers needed! If you are interested in participating, please get Fr. Noah's blessing and speak with Kh. Elizabeth about singing in the choir.

#### Festival Preparations Continue ...

Work and pray for success in this our major outreach event of the year! Success means showing hospitality to many from our community, bringing visitors into contact with the Orthodox Church and Her Gospel. Success means our parish community grows closer from our common work. Success means we can help with funding for some local charities and, lastly, for special projects for our parish.



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR  
FAITHFUL GIVING & SERVICE!

### OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

is offered to **Mark Leon and family** upon the repose of Mark's mother, Olga, on July 12. Funeral services were held on July 18 in Chalfont.



AND to the **Freudig family** upon the passing of **Helen Freudig**, who reposed on July 13. The funeral was held on July 16 at St. Philip.

AND to the **Stavrou family** upon the passing of **Christina Stavrou**, a founding member of St. Philip, who reposed on July 20. The funeral was held on July 25 at St. Philip. She is buried next to her husband, Barry, in our cemetery. The 40-Day Trisagion will be on Sept. 2.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family, Glory to God!

I'm writing this, unwinding from another successful day of Vacation Church School. It is a special time of prayer, instruction, fellowship, and fun. This year we have been "sailing on the ark of salvation" (the Church has Jesus as the Captain, the Holy Spirit is the Pilot) and getting to know the Virgin Mary, who is the First Mate.

It has been a nice time to reflect with the students on the purity and simplicity of her life. My favorite lesson has been the one on the Annunciation. I liked discussing with the children the "Holy Yes" (to God's will) and the "Holy No" (to temptation and our own wills) which we come to with prayer, counsel (from parents, priests, etc.), and consideration. I especially enjoyed their faces when they noticed that Royal Doors have the Annunciation on them and the "Holy Yes" (Behold, the Handmaiden of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word) opens the doors between Heaven and Earth.

I'm grateful for this fast that we've just begun. A chance to focus on Jesus, His Mother, our service to the Church, our sacrifices to get closer to God and all His Family. I especially ask you all to join me in severely moderating your screen time. Use your "Holy No", even to good things, to be able to give your "Holy Yes" to God!!!

In Christ,

+Fr. Noah



### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Dormition Fast

August 1-14

#### Paraklesis Services

M/W/F, 6 p.m., through Aug. 13  
T/Th, 12 p.m., through Aug. 14

#### Young Adult Retreat

Saturday, August 11, 2 pm

#### Transfiguration of Christ

Monday, August 6

Divine Liturgy 10 am, w/  
Blessing of fruit & garden produce.

#### Dormition

Tuesday, August 14

Vespers, Artoklasia & Lamentations 6 pm

Wednesday, August 15

Orthros 9 am, Liturgy 10 am, w/  
Blessing of herbs & flowers.  
Fish/Wine/Oil Potluck to follow.

#### Beheading of the Forerunner

Tuesday, August 28

Vespers 6 pm

Wednesday, August 29 -

**STRICT FAST DAY**

Orthros 9 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am  
Fasting Potluck to follow.

#### Sunday School begins Sept 9

#### International Food Festival

Sept 21 & 22



### Holy Mysteries

**Miriam Bushelli**, daughter of Fr Noah & Kh Elizabeth, was baptized into Christ here at St Philip on July 29.

**Raja & Christina** Kyriakos were united in Marriage on July 14 at St. Philip.

**Joseph & Katie** Helinski were united in Marriage on July 28 at St. Philip.

**Jordan & Natalie** Gamble were united in Marriage on July 29 at St. Anne in Oakridge, TN.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!

**Challenge for 2018:**

**Keep the Feasts & the Fasts**

On the subject of "time," Fr. Alexander Schmemmann comments:

The natural dependence of man upon the world was intended to be transformed constantly into communion with God in whom is all life. Man was to be the priest of a eucharist, offering the world to God, and in this offering he was to receive the gift of life. But in the fallen world man does not have the priestly power to do this. His dependence on the world becomes a closed circuit, and his love is deviated from its true direction.

*For the Life of the World*, p. 17.

The idea that history is "going somewhere" is so familiar to us that, very likely, we can hardly imagine relating to time in any other way. But there is in fact nothing self-evident about that understanding. It is a distinctly Biblical & Christian—divinely revealed—way of organizing our time, lives, and experience of the world. Pagan cultures, by contrast, held to a purely *circular* understanding of time—as a relentless and infinite cycle of the natural world.

The Orthodox Church year, as the fulfillment of the Old Covenant liturgical year, unites in harmony these two experiences of time. As we cycle through the Fasts & Feasts on a yearly basis, we are called to remember the past as the theater of God's presence and work in the world, to make it present now, and to see in it the future to which we are travelling.

In this way, our whole experience of the world is re-oriented towards that which is eternal, and is given direction and aim—such that every moment takes on a sacramental character, as an opportunity to commune with God and his Saints via God's good creation.

**Holy Wisdom**

**Solomon's Provrbrs**

For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth.  
- Proverbs 3:12

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.  
- Proverbs 6:6

Wisdom is better than rubies.  
- Proverbs 8:11

A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.  
- Proverbs 10:1

**Did You Know?**

- The Dormition Fast (August 1-14) is a time to tune up our souls and bodies, to bring us closer to Christ and His Holy Mother! Please plan on attending at least one Paraklesis.
- We are taking a break from **Wednesday nights** during the Summer. We will **resume in late August at 6 pm** with Little Compline and reading/discussing the *Ladder of Divine Ascent*.
- Don't miss the blessing of **going to church when you go on vacation**. Research. Call ahead. Ask a blessing from the priest before taking Holy Communion. Bring back a bulletin or other info and ideas for Fr. Noah.
- Your **Amazon** purchases can benefit St Philip's! Simply start your shopping from the link at the top of every page of the **St Philip's website**.
- An Orthodox Christian ought to **come to confession** about four times per year and as needed.
- The **liturgical offerings** of our parish (Prophora, Artos, Kolyva, Altar Candles, Wine, Flower Decorations) are simple and profound ways to offer our talents to God and to each other.



**Wisdom from Fr. B.**

**"If it once again becomes illegal to be Christian we should make sure there is enough evidence to convict us."**

In this saying, Fr. Boniface points us to a key tension, found in the Gospel, that characterizes the Christian life. When it comes to conformity to the world, we are prone to one extreme or the other: either we cultivate an eccentricity that undermines our gospel witness, or—more likely—we become so much like the world that we are indistinguishable from the world we are called to reach.

Even more, though, Fr. Boniface raises the question of our allegiance, of our willingness to accept the cost of following Christ. In the early centuries of the Church, and at different times throughout the Church's life (e.g., the "Bolshevik Yoke"), Christians have had to choose for or against Christ at risk of life and limb.

In our seemingly more "civil" society, such a choice is less clear-cut, but it is in fact no less real and no less consequential. Are we willing to follow Christ into the "martyrdom" of unpopularity, of public shame, of legal reprisal—with our families, nation, etc.? Or will we sell our soul and our Holy Tradition, and the Orthodox witness with it, for the temporary gain of "fitting in" or "getting along"?

God help us, lest we deny Christ and thus be denied by Christ before His Father (Matt 10.33).



**St Philip's Closet**



Always accepting donations & items free for you to take, St. Philip's Closet is located in the south entrance foyer! Leave bags on the left side upon entering to be sorted and put up. Any questions, contact BethAnn Hyatt or Inga Kovalenko.

As we approach Fall, we will be looking for some **good, lightly-worn warmer clothes that others might be able to use.**

**Missions Minute**

**Mission Work in Kenya and Albania**

Help the Orthodox mission work in Kenya and Albania with focused outreaches to women and youth. Clergy wives and women lay leaders Teams to Albania (Sep 17-27) and Kenya (Nov 19-28) to offer encouragement, education, and guidance to women in their roles to strengthen the church's witness. Team opportunities in Kenya – Nairobi (Nov 28-Dec 8) and Kisumu (Nov 28-Dec 8) – to participate in the church's outreach to youth and young adults. Participate in the unending work of Orthodox missions. Apply today to serve on an Orthodox Mission Team at [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)!

**Everyday Evangelist**

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

*"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink" (Prov 25:21).*