



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



### SPIRITUAL WARFARE: "DISMISS"

#### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

##### GIVING UPDATES

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In **June** we are collecting **Bath & Shower Products**.

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

##### STEWARDSHIP 2019 "One Body In Christ"

10% Tithe is the traditional and biblical standard. Not all parishioners are able to give at that level but all who continue to grow in generosity, as well as ministry and hospitality and prayer and repentance, are blessed beyond expectation.

##### Future St. Nicholas House – Update

For a counter-offer to come back favorably and quickly, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy!



##### Office Update -

##### Thank You Message from Kh. Vera

Thank you, thank you, thank you to my St. Philip's family!

Thank you for being my home church, where I know I will always be welcome.

Thank you for being a nurturing community in which my sons grew up learning to love Christ and His Church.

Thank you for the picnic send-off, your good wishes and prayers, and your gifts.

Thank you for 30 years of friendship, love, and support.

Some of you I've known for all those years and some I know only as names in the directory; most of you fall somewhere in between. I love each and every one of you and will miss you all.

When you visit the Delaware Beaches, be sure to come visit us at St. Andrew's in Lewes!

In Christ,  
Kh. Vera

#### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,  
Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is risen!

As the forty days of Pascha are quickly drawing to a close, I'd like to reflect on a couple of things:

1. The Resurrection is the single most important historical event, upon which all eternity hinges. Our Lord Jesus Christ has changed humanity by his incarnation, paid the debt of sin by his death, and overturned death by his resurrection. Human nature, indeed all of creation which is under our stewardship, has been changed. That change is extended to us personally by our sacramental incorporation into His Body, the Church, and our abiding in Him which involves our repentance, service, and self-sacrifice.

2. The Ascension could be called the enthronement or coronation of divinized humanity. The humanity of Jesus, along with His Divinity, is exalted above the heavens and seated, enthroned, at the right hand of God the Father.

3. The Pentecost feast is our celebration of Jesus sending the Holy Spirit upon His disciples and apostles to empower them to do His work... prayer, preaching, teaching, healing, serving.

What a joy for us to join the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints, in the sharing and celebration of God's love and mercy!

In the Risen Lord Jesus Christ,  
+Fr. Noah

#### Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday nights, 7 p.m.

Compline & Patristic reading – discussing our way through *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*.

**Leave-Taking of Pascha & Ascension**  
*Wed, June 5 - Vespers & Artoklasia 7 p.m.*  
*Thursday, June 6 - Liturgy 10 a.m.*  
*With Festal Potluck to follow*

**Holy Bread Baking Workshop**  
*Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.*



**Pentecost**  
*Sunday, June 16*  
*Kneeling Prayers, 1 p.m.*

**Apostles' Fast**  
*June 24-29*

**Ss Peter & Paul**  
*Saturday, June 29 - Liturgy 10 a.m.*  
*With Festal Potluck to follow*

**Parish Life Conference**  
*June 26 - June 30*

**Vacation Church School**  
*July 29 - Aug 2*

**Dormition Fast**  
*August 1-14*  
Daily Paraklesis - See calendar  
Holy Unction, Aug 7, 4 pm

**Liturgy w/ Youth Choir**  
*Sunday, August 4*

**International Food Festival**  
*Sept 20 & 21 - Mark your Calendar!*



#### CONGRATS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!



**Taylor Nicholas Cardell** graduated from Penn Foster High School, and will be attending Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, Pa., majoring in Residential Construction and Carpentry Design. At St. Philip, he has been an altar boy for 10 years, and participated in several other ministries. He is an avid basketball and soccer player!

**Noah G. Hyatt** completed the Bucks County G.E.D. Program, and will be pursuing Graphic Design at Lake Superior College. His interests include robotics, concert band, ethnic dance, and serving as SOYO officer & Altar Boy captain at St. Philip.

**Kyle Joseph Kovalenko** is graduating from Upper Perkiomen School, with a decorated career in swimming and water polo, including placing 2nd at District 1 as AAA in the 100 breast. He will be attending Scranton University, studying biology (pre-med), and he will also be on their swimming

team. Kyle loves AV camp and will be a CIT this year. He is also a swim instructor and a lifeguard at the YMCA.

**Eden Marian Fesseha** is graduating Cum Laude from the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, NJ, and will be attending Harvard University with plans to major in

Molecular and Cellular Biology and/or Statistics. Among her many extracurricular activities, including being a Handmaiden at St. Philip, one highlight was fundraising for Project Mercy, a non-profit organization located in Ytebon, Ethiopia.

**Helen Rose Shaw** is graduating from Souderton High School, and will be attending Temple University, Fox School of Business. Helen was a SAVE officer, and was involved in Link Crew, Superintendent's Council, and a Special Olympics volunteer. The first female to ever qualify for the Souderton golf team, Helen played 3 seasons on the boys' team, qualifying for Districts her Senior year. Helen served for many years as a Handmaiden at St. Philip.

### Did You Know?

- We are starting to burn olive oil rather than paraffin on the seven branch altar candelabrum. I am thankful to David and the other altar men for learning this art – traditional, biblical, historical, spiritual, time-consuming, and sometimes miraculous. Your offering of “classic” olive oil (not virgin or especially not extra-virgin) is an assistance to our ministry. You can put your bottles under the icon of St Thekla on the north/left of the iconostasis with prayer requests.
- Don't take a vacation from God this summer! **Go to church on vacation**, and connect with Orthodox believers in another place!
- Modesty** is a Christian virtue. So is **timeliness** and **diligence**.
- Please remember that **the narthex** is an important part of the church-temple and is not a place to talk.
- Now that **warmer weather** is here and Sunday School will not be in session, our children will naturally want to **play outside** during coffee hour. **Parents**, please teach your children to be **watchful** of cars (even when they're parked), to be **respectful** of others' property, and to **pick up** their trash. (They should not bring cups or plates out with them. Have them finish their snack indoors and place their trash in the bin.) Also, younger children **MUST** be properly supervised.



### Spiritual Warfare:

#### Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ "Dismiss"

The word "dismiss" is from the Latin root meaning to *send away*. When applied to thoughts and the life of the mind, we find an application quite consistent with the metaphor of combat/warfare for the spiritual life.

Our souls are cities, with our physical and spiritual senses, guided by Wisdom (Prov 1:20-21), stationed as sentinels at the gates. Some thoughts are welcome guests, while others are emissaries of hostile forces which, if given a foothold, would invade our souls and plunder it.

This is why the most wise Solomon counsels, *Keep your heart with all watchfulness* (Prov 4:22 OSB), retaining the good, dismissing the bad.

### Knowing, Praying, Living the Holy Scriptures



"How I have loved thy law, O Lord! The whole day it is my meditation." (Ps 118:97)

#### The Liturgy: Scripture's True Home

American Christianity has been thoroughly shaped by *pietism*—the creeping rejection of Christianity's "outward" spiritual practices and the reduction of piety to "internal" religious feeling and devotion. Pietism leads to a fundamental redefinition of the role of Scripture: Scripture ceases to be the Church's Book, and becomes rather an (inspired) book by which God speaks to the individual, as interpreted by the individual. On the way to something like a "self-help" manual ...

Now, while we would all do well to read the Scriptures on our own with diligence, the Orthodox Church offers a powerful, corrective witness that the Scriptures are themselves thoroughly "liturgical," and that the Church has always understood that the primary venue in and through which to hear the voice of God in Scripture is the Eucharistic assembly of the Church.

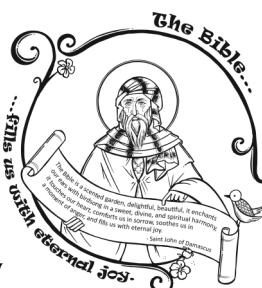
This is the very picture we see in St. Justin Martyr's *First Apology*, dating to around AD 150, which gives us one of the earliest descriptions we have of the Church's worship (as he experienced it in Rome):

*And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things.* (ANF 1.185-6)

Immediately after this, St. Justin describes the culmination of the Liturgy in the Eucharist.

St. Justin's witness to the Church's worship shows a faithful continuity with the paradigmatic picture given in St. Luke's account of the "Road to Emmaus" (Lk 24:13-36). Here, after His Resurrection, Jesus expounds the Scriptures to the disciples and their hearts burn within them, but their eyes are not opened until He breaks bread with them at table. It is in this Eucharistic Communion with Christ that the Scriptures themselves are transformed, and we too are transformed, for it is in this Eucharistic Assembly that we truly come to know Christ (Lk 24:31), and thus ourselves.

So, *Let us attend!*



### Ministry Together

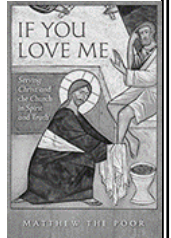
w/ Sdn David Hyatt

"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."  
*Ephesians 6:10*

"Have you renounced Satan?" This question is asked not once, not twice, but *three times* when a catechumen is being received into the Church. After the response, "I have," something peculiar and of profound significance happens. The priest instructs the catechumen to, "Breathe and spit upon him."

This act is nothing less than a declaration of *war* "against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). From the beginning, this is the reality of our lives and ministries in the Church, to be "newly-enlisted warrior(s) of Christ our God" against the Enemy of our souls.

Matthew the Poor writes, "Christian service is a direct opposition and enmity to the powers of darkness... Therefore, it is of the utmost importance for the servant to reconcile himself to a life of longsuffering, struggle, persistence, patience and a resolution never to waver in the face of the enemy's attack, even if it means death!" (*If You Love Me*).



How is that for a message of encouragement? Get ready for battle! Those who swear allegiance to Christ and spit on the Devil enter the arena, and those who go further and engage their lives in ministry in the Church will most certainly experience resistance from the "rulers of darkness." Why? Because we are investing our time, talent and treasure in the Kingdom of God! And there are few things that the Evil One hates more than losing another soul to his archenemy, the King of Heaven and Earth.

Matthew the Poor writes that because of this, we need to be ready and watchful for "hidden snares and terrifying attacks" that are intended to take us out of service to our King. Some of these snares are doubt, self-importance (pride), criticism from others, disputing and quarrels, and more. Do not be surprised, he tells us, because "strife and conflict are a necessary part of Christian service."

St. Paul instructs us then to "put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." This armor is truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, the Spirit and the word of God – "praying always."

May we be faithful, obedient and stouthearted warriors for Christ our God, through the power of His might!