



CHRISTMAS IN JULY



St. Philip's Parish Press

BABY STEPS FOR JULY: BITE YOUR TONGUE AND KEEP SMILING



CHRISTMAS IN JULY GREETINGS

It is time to say thank you to our parishioners and also to our many friends at a distance for helping us meet this year's "Christmas in July" challenge!

This is the thirty-fourth year we have been blessed with your special summer offerings. During the years we have been able to accomplish a great many projects which helped strengthen our ministry.

This year's identified needs are: Children's Bibles for Sunday School and home use; building up of our Emergency Fund; and our Cemetery Fund.

Your generosity will make a difference! Please place your special gift in the offering basket, or send by mail to:

St Philip's Orthodox Church
P.O. Box 64565
Souderton, PA 18964



Thank You and God bless you for your love for Christ and our Church.

+ Fr B

CHALLENGE FOR 2012

Celebrate the Great Feasts! Make these a special time for your family.

Next Great Feasts: August 6th, the Holy Transfiguration; and August 15th, Dormition of the Theotokos

Holy Mysteries

Mason Daniel Reigle, son of Jeremy & Amber Reigle and grandson of Don & Maryann Reigle, was baptized into Christ on Sunday, June 3. **Nikolai Anakin**, son of Sergeo & Felicia Anikin and grandson of Norman & Tatiana Dick, was baptized into Christ on Saturday, June 30.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to God! St. Philip's is an active, growing, and vibrant church. We've got new parishioners, we're gearing up for a festival to "raise our profile" in the community, replacing old roofs, redoing the kitchen, supporting ministries, donating tons of non-food items to those in need, sending many kids to camp and on a mission trip, not to mention the most important aspect of our community, that in the Divine Services we join all the hosts of Heaven in worshipping God! It is really a joy and a blessing.

Thanks to everyone's faithful generosity and the excellent management of our finance team and parish council, we are weathering this difficult financial time.

Let's think big and pray big!

Gratefully, I remain Your Servant in Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

GIVING UPDATES

The **Outreach Team** is continuing its successful program of Monthly Personal Items Collection. These essentials that food stamps do not cover will help needy families in our immediate vicinity, through Manna on Main Street (Lansdale) and Keystone Opportunity Center (Souderton). Thanks to all who contributed baby care items in June. **In July: Skin Care Items** (including sunblock). **May God bless all our faithful givers!**



FELLOWSHIP COOKOUTS

A new St. Philip's summertime tradition!



Once a month following Saturday Vespers. Join us July 14 - bring your own meat to grill, and a side dish to share.

Mark Your Calendar:

Sewing Club

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Learn or teach, work on your own project or on projects for those in need. all welcome.

Parish Life Conference

July 4-8

Oratorical presentations Friday morning
Bible Bowl Friday evening
New Brunswick, NJ

Visit www.stanthonyorthodox.org

Fellowship Cookout

Saturday, July 14, following Vespers

Theotokos Fast

August 1-14

Paraklesis Services

Weekdays, Aug. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13
7:00 p.m.

Services for Transfiguration

Sunday, Aug 5 - Vespers 6 pm,
Matins 7 pm

Monday, Aug 6 - Divine Liturgy,
9 a.m.



Vacation Church School

August 6-10

The Parables of Christ

Recipe

Revolutionary Berries

12 ounces white chocolate chips
Strawberries
Blue sugar or edible glitter



- Melt 12 ounces of white chocolate chips in a microwave according to the package directions (*make sure the container and the berries are dry; even a little moisture will alter the texture of the candy.*)

- One at a time, dip strawberries into the chocolate and then into blue sugar or edible glitter.

- Set them to harden on waxed paper.

- Makes 35 to 45 decorated berries.

<http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/revolutionary-berries-1015611/>

Did You Know?

- **12 youth** from the parish went to **Antiochian Village** for summer camp with the financial assistance of our Summer Camp Scholarship Fund. Glory to God for your generosity! Will your child go next year?
- We are sending a **group of 35** to the **Appalachian Mountains** for a work trip with FOCUS North America.
- New Parishioners – **Gabremariam and Zewdic Tsadik**
- **Sam Malriat** is in Ireland for an internship at an organic farm.
- **Niko Chocheli** is being considered for inclusion in the 2013 edition of **Who's Who in the World**, which contains information on the world's most distinguished individuals.
- We've got **two Bible Bowl Teams and an Orator** going to the **Parish Life Conference**, July 4-8. Are you going there to support them?
- The **Blue Psalter** (Book of Psalms) on the table near the confessional is there for you to read aloud while you are waiting during another person's confession. This Holy Noise helps retain the privacy of confession. Just grab and start reading! "Blessed is the man who walks not in the way of the ungodly!"

ON READING THE BIBLE

If you are mournful, you will find consolation in the Bible;

if you are sad, you will find joy;

if you are angry--tranquility;

if you are lustful--continence;

if you are foolish--wisdom;

if you are bad--goodness;

if you are a criminal--mercy and righteousness;

if you hate your fellow man--love.

In it you will find a remedy for all your vices and weak points, and nourishment for all your virtues and accomplishments.

- St. Justin Popovich

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for training in righteousness." [2 Tim. 3:16] The soul therefore gains great advantage from the reading of the Bible.

"Like a tree planted by streams of water," [Ps. 1:3] the soul is irrigated by the Bible and acquires vigor, produces tasty fruit, namely, true faith, and is beautiful with a thousand green leaves, namely, actions that please God. The Bible, in fact, leads us towards pure holiness and holy actions. In it we find encouragement to all the virtues and the warning to flee from evil.

The Bible is a scented garden, delightful, beautiful. It enchants our ears with birdsong in a sweet, divine and spiritual harmony, it touches our heart, comforts us in sorrow, soothes us in a moment of anger, and fills us with eternal joy.

- St. John of Damascus

Baby Steps to Holiness

July - Bite Your Tongue and Keep Smiling



We are all tempted to "say it as it is" (or at least as we think it is) to that person who gets under our skin. We are deceived into thinking that it will make things better, help the other person, or at least help us feel better. But we know that it doesn't help. In fact, we end up digging ourselves into deeper and deeper holes, isolating ourselves from the very people that God has brought into our life.

But there is a better way! We don't have to say anything. Elder Porphyrios of Greece says, "Words hammer the ears but prayer hammers the heart." That means we will be more effective if we pray about our problems than if we go in bull-headedly to "give it to him!" We are all going through a great battle, but we don't have to share that battle with everyone. In fact, we should keep our struggles to ourselves and a trusted guide and friend. That is what confession is for, that is what parents, Godparents, best friends, siblings and spouses are for.

WEBSITE UPDATES

Festival Menu (<http://www.st-philip.net/festival.html>) and **Camp**



Photos (<http://www.st-philip.net/photogallery.html>).

Wisdom On a Happy Home St Sgraphim of Sarov

- Neither do walls or rich furniture make a home. Millionaires in magnificent mansions may never know a home. But where there are good relationships, where love binds the family together and to God, there happiness is always to be found. For good relationships are heaven anywhere.
- Monotony and misery cannot exist where there is love. But the fire of love must be kept burning warmly and brightly with the sweet wood of sacrifice. In teaching us to cross the "I" out of life, our Lord tells us the secret of happiness; what the Saints call the ecstasy of self-forgetfulness.
- For divine love is always self-effacing, seeks to give rather than to receive, to serve rather than be served, to love rather than to be loved, and will sacrifice anything for the beloved. Only then does love become a clean and holy fire in the heart, and not an ugly flare of lust.

Ask Abouna

Previous Question: Why are we having a food festival, I mean, you know, since we've never done this before?



Answer: Before I answer your question, I'd like to dispel a false notion. Actually, according to Fr. Boniface, in the mid-1990's St. Philip's did host a small festival. Glory to God we've got a great start with experienced and dedicated people leading teams to handle each aspect of the festival. It is going to be a joyous, tasty, aromatic, spiritually-uplifting, community-inviting, and blessed event.

As a corollary to that, we can say we are (financially speaking) a "Stewardship Parish" rather than a "Fundraiser Parish." I mean that our income is based on people's tithes and pledges (Stewardship) rather than income from a fundraiser, like a festival. Even if, by God's grace we happen to make money during our festival, this will not change the dynamic of the parish for the reason I'll explain below. So, if we do happen to make any money it will be going to non-budget, special projects. First, at least 10% will be going to the excellent local organization, Keystone Opportunity Center, which we've supported consistently over the years. Secondly, the remainder will go the area of greatest need, determined by the Parish Council with my blessing, as restoring the Emergency Fund to having two months of expenses. This fund was depleted down to about half through 2011 and now we'd like to put about \$30,000 away for another rainy year.

So, we're not having a festival for the money, we're having it to "raise the profile of the parish in the community." We want people to know about Orthodox Christianity! We want people to get to know the original! So at least when they are driving by on 309, they'll see the dome and think fondly of Christ's Church.

We all need to share our faith by inviting people to church... this is the perfect way to do it! Tell your neighbor, your friend, your family, and your colleagues about the great food, of 7 different nationalities. While they are here, you never know, they may experience Christ very deeply. Fr. Symeon Kees and Fr. Mark Lichtenstein both were introduced to Orthodoxy at a food festival and they are now bearing fruit for Christ's Holy Church in the priestly ministry! May it be blessed for our festival as well!



New Question: Tell me a little about Antiochian Village summer camp.