



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



### BABY STEPS TO BIBLICAL LITERACY - EXODUS THROUGH DEUTERONOMY

#### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
 "My Cup Runneth Over ..." This Psalm verse (22/23 vs. 5) describes my heart during and after our recent International Food Festival. Why is my heart overflowing?

It is overflowing with thanksgiving to God for good weather and the good press. It is overflowing with thanksgiving the joy, hard work, and unity in throwing open the doors of our church to our neighbors. I am bursting with joy for the festival planning team, the team leaders, the kitchen angels, and everyone who worked so hard to pull off an amazing weekend of tasty hospitality and warm outreach.

Our parish has risen to the challenge to "raise our profile" in the local community. The important number, I believe, is the estimated 200 people who toured our church with their many wonderful questions. Please pray for all our guests to be drawn back to our church as a refuge along the road to Heaven. A family that came to the church because of the festival has

already come to the liturgy and has gotten their children involved in Sunday School; their intention is to make St. Philip's their spiritual home! Glory to God!

I am thankful to all who fasted with me on Friday. It was difficult not eating the meat and dairy that we served our guests. I am thankful to all who didn't eat any festival food on Saturday because of the concern that we would run out of food for our guests.

My cup runs over with thanksgiving for our church realizing its apostolic mission in not just preserving Orthodoxy but spreading the Good News.

I am thankful for the money that we raised for Keystone Opportunity Center and Manna on Main Street as well as our own Emergency and Capital Improvement Funds.

Primarily, I am thankful that our parish's budget is funded entirely by our Stewards' generous pledges only and our fund raisers can go to special projects.

Praying that we do not grow weary in doing good, I remain,

Your Servant in Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

#### Mark Your Calendar:

**Bible Study**  
**The Prophet Jeremiah**  
 Saturdays 5 pm, Oct. 4-25,  
 Presented by Fred Kompass



**Bible Study**  
**The Shape of Biblical Language**  
 Saturdays 5 pm, November 1-22  
 Presented by Todd Moore

**Youth Choir Rehearsals**  
 Saturdays, Nov 1-29, 5 pm  
 Singing Liturgy for St Philip, Nov. 13  
 & Vespers for St. Nicholas on Dec. 5

**Bishop THOMAS visit**  
 November 13-16

**Advent Fast begins November 15**

**Friends & Family Day**  
 December 14

#### Christmas Services - Note changes!

**Wednesday, December 24**  
 Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil, 9:00 am  
 Matins for Nativity, 8:00 pm  
 Divine Liturgy, 9:00 pm

**Thursday, December 25**  
 Vespers for Synaxis of the Theotokos,  
 12 noon

**Friday, December 26**  
 Matins for Synaxis of the Theotokos 9 am  
 Divine Liturgy 10 am

#### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

*And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."  
 (Acts 20:35)*

**Forty Days of Growth in Stewardship begins October 5.**

Thank you for prayerfully considering increasing your pledge for 2015.



#### GIVING UPDATES

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Thanks to all for your generosity to the needy of our community! For **September**, we are collecting **Bath & Shower Products**.

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

**USED CLOTHING DROP-OFF SHED:** Did you see the shed in the rear parking lot? You can drop off used clothing (no rags or household goods) to be sent to the needy locally and throughout the world.



**Challenge for 2014:**  
**Be like the Bee,**  
**not like the Fly!**

How do we deal positively with negative things? Firmly but kindly, address the person involved: "I am concerned with what I am seeing..." Being a Bee Doesn't mean ignoring the bad part of life... but it does mean dealing with it in a positive, constructive manner and not in a spirit of complaint.

### Did You Know?

- Holly Vergara and Ben Daniel are newly engaged! A wedding date has not yet been set. Congratulations!
- Alex Ibrahim is newly engaged to Kaitlyn Dougan of Hatfield. Kaitlyn is in her final year of medical school. A wedding date has not yet been set. Congratulations!
- Niko Chocheli has been selected for inclusion in the 2015 edition of Who's Who in the World, which contains information on the world's most distinguished individuals. Congratulations!
- God loves a cheerful giver!

### Holy Mysteries

**Jesse & Elizabeth (Stehman) Giordano** were married here at St. Philip's on Saturday, September 13.

**Eleni Matczak**, daughter of Andrew & Jennifer, was baptized into Christ on Saturday, September 27.

**Donella Nacole Strickland**, daughter of Maia & Fred, was baptized into Christ on Sunday, September 28.

**MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!**



### Wisdom

#### On Ministry and Generosity

Even if we have thousands of acts of great virtue to our credit, our confidence in being heard must be based on God's mercy and His love for men. Even if we stand at the very summit of virtue, it is by mercy that we shall be saved. - *St. John Chrysostom*

The Holy Spirit sets us all on different paths: one man lives a life of silent solitude in the desert; another prays for mankind; still another is called to minister to Christ's flock; to a fourth it is given to comfort or preach to the suffering; while yet another serves his neighbor by his goods or by the fruits of his labor.

- *St. Silouan the Athonite*

Of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.

- *Prophet Jacob (Genesis 28:22)*

### 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)

CONFESSIONS before or after Vespers and during Matins as time allows, or by appointment.

### Ask Abouna

**Previous Question:** How is our Daughter Parish, Holy Ascension, doing way down there in West Chester?

**Answer:** This is Fr. Daniel Meyer, pastor at Holy Ascension; one of your daughter parishes! I have had the pleasure of meeting a number of you over the past three years, and have been blessed to have Fr. Noah, Fr. James, and Fr. Boniface as dear brothers in Christ.

As many of you know, Holy Ascension was founded 11 years ago, from 40 St. Philip's parishioners living in that area. After renting a number of different facilities, and purchasing vacant land in 2006,



we acquired 6 beautiful acres in West Chester with an existing building for worship in 2010. Since then we have been seeking God's will for us, and after much planning and prayers, we were able to sell our vacant property just a few weeks ago. We now have our sights set on developing our West Chester church campus with a long-term vision so that we might more widely open our doors to those non-Orthodox in our surrounding neighborhoods.

We have been busy continuing to develop our liturgical life. Our choir and chanters continue to study and rehearse so that they might lead our people in the worship of the Holy Trinity. Sunday school classes continue, and we were gladly surprised to find that our Sunday School children's attendance is at 45 children this year, just under half of our entire lay community! Over the past year we have seen a significant rise in inquirers as a result of college students coming out from two local universities.

We treasure you all. Please remember us in your prayers.

**New Question:** Fr. Boniface, tell us about what is happening in Talbot County, Maryland.

### Baby Steps to Biblical Literacy:

#### Old Testament – Exodus through Deuteronomy

We are continuing to read for understanding the Old Testament. The books of Exodus through Deuteronomy tell the story of the Hebrews' exit from Egyptian bondage to the cusp of their entry into the Holy Land under the leadership of Moses. This is a most important section of the Scriptures for us because it prefigures Christ's coming as the new law-giver, the one who "spreads a table in the wilderness," and the prophet, priest, and king leading his people out of spiritual slavery. As you read through these books of the Bible, try to understand the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of the following people and events in the books:

**Exodus:** Moses, the Burning Bush, the Ten Plagues, the Passover, the Exodus, the Pillar of Fire, the Waters of Marah, Manna, Quail, the Rock, Amalek, Jethro, Sinai, the Ten Commandments, the Law of God, the Tabernacle, the Priesthood, Worship.

**Leviticus:** The Offerings, the Ordination of Aaron and his Sons, Purity Laws, the Yearly Feasts.

**Numbers:** Numbering the Tribes, Organization, the Spies, Failed Invasion, Rebellion, Tithes, the Copper Servant, Balaam, Cities of Refuge.

**Deuteronomy:** Moses not entering the promised land, the second giving of the law, Joshua, Moses' Death.

Many people are overwhelmed by the detail of these books, but take this opportunity to learn of God's concern for details and His providence in leading His people through the wilderness.



### Reading of the Life of Elder Paisios

Wednesdays following Akathist at 7 p.m.