



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



BABY STEPS TO BIBLICAL LITERACY - JOSHUA, JUDGES & RUTH

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Glory to Jesus Christ!

We are coming quickly into the Advent Fast. Please join me in making these days Holy Days, not just holidays. How can we do this? Prayer. Fasting. Almsgiving.

**Prayer** – Go to Church (extra: Feasts, Vespers, Paraklesis, Compline). Say your Prayers (consistently: morning and evening, before meals, before and after Communion, for loved ones, colleagues, neighbors, friends). Remember God (Constantly, “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me!” Read your scripture.). Pray for me, my family, and our church. Pray for your family members who don’t know the sweetness of God’s love in Jesus Christ and continuing presence in the Orthodox Church.

**Fasting** – Keep the Dietary Restrictions and also fast from luxuries and unnecessary media engagement. Perhaps you can log off of Face Book during the fast or only check email once a day. Turn off the TV. Fast from

negative thoughts and words. Fast from day-dreaming. Fast from condemning your brother and sister. Pick up a spiritual book from the library or the bookshelf and feast on faith.

**Almsgiving** – Return your pledge. Increase your pledge! Donate to some of the funds at the church that need: Summer Camp Scholarship, Beautification, Pastoral Discretionary. Participate in the Outreach Collections. Support a local charity. Some people have the good practice of spending the same amount on the needy as they do on Christmas presents. Don’t say no to God when He sends you someone in need. Invest in Heaven!

These 40 Days of the Nativity Fast are a gift from God for us to prepare to receive the Newborn King into our hearts. Let’s redeem the time – this special time that God has given us.

Grateful for God’s gift of His Son, I remain,  
Your Servant in Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### GIVING UPDATES

**FORTY DAYS OF GROWTH IN STEWARDSHIP CONTINUES.** As of October 26, we have received 36 pledges. Thank you for prayerfully considering increasing your pledge for 2015. *‘And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”’ (Acts 20:35)*

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Thanks to all for your generosity to the needy of our community! For **November**, we are focusing on **Turkeys R Us**, and thinking ahead to **gifts for the needy under the tree** for St Nicholas Day.

**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. 

**AMAZON SHOPPING:** Have you begun your Christmas shopping yet? If you shop Amazon, begin with the link at the top of every page on our website ([www.st-philip.net](http://www.st-philip.net)), and St Philip’s will get a commission! Since we began this program, we have earned over \$600 in commissions!

**May God bless all our faithful givers!**

(Be sure to read the thank-you notes posted.)

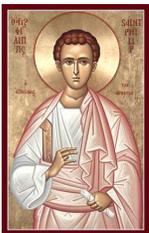
### Mark Your Calendar:

#### 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 -**  
Nov 13-16

**Services for St Philip**  
Thursday, November 13  
Vespers & Artoklasia 5 p.m.  
Matins 6 p.m., Liturgy 7 p.m.

**Advent Fast begins November 15**

**Advent Paraklesis**  
Friday, November 14, 4 p.m.  
Tuesdays & Thursdays in the Fast, 4 pm  
(exc. Thanksgiving)

#### Advent Compline

Mon-Wed-Fri in the Fast, 7 p.m.  
(replaced with Akathist on Nov 26)

#### Services for Entry of the Theotokos

Thursday, November 20  
Vespers & Artoklasia 6 p.m.  
Matins 7 p.m.  
Friday, November 21  
Liturgy 10 a.m.

**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

### Did You Know?

- We had almost **5,000** visits to our **website** in September (over 2,000 unique visitors). Were you one of them? [www.st-philip.net](http://www.st-philip.net) Share!
- The 2015 **Coffee Hour** chart has been posted, and there are still unsponsored Sundays remaining in 2014. **Coffee hour is a vital ministry of hospitality.** Please help us keep this tradition of fellowship strong in our parish. Remember, it doesn't have to be a meal; just a refreshing snack is sufficient.
- Our **Library & BookShelf Ministry** (bookstore) have a great selection of many topics related to our Holy Faith. Get a book for the Advent Fast!
- Our **Sunday School, Teens, and Young Adults** need your prayers and love to keep them living and growing in Christ.

### Practical Wisdom from the Saints

The ignorance of Scripture is a great cliff and a deep abyss; to know nothing of the divine laws is a great betrayal of salvation. - *St. John Chrysostom*

Do not ask for love from your neighbor, for if you ask and he does not respond, you will be troubled. Instead, show your love for your neighbor and you will be at rest, and so will bring your neighbor to love. - *St. Dorotheus of Gaza*

Let us not grieve when we make a slip, but when we become hardened by it. - *St. Isaac the Syrian*

The Lord commands us to love our enemies --- not for their sake, but for our own good. For as long as we wallow in the remembrance of an insult we have suffered from a friend, a neighbor, or a relative, we will neither have peace nor rest. We must become free from such thoughts. This means we must forgive from the heart. Everything must be forgiven. The peace we feel afterwards brings a sense of well-being, joy and comfort; not only to us, but to all who surround us. +*Elder Thaddeus of Serbia*

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

**Answer:** His Grace, Bishop THOMAS, has blessed a new "start up" mission community located to serve the Eastern Shore of Maryland, an area comprising cities and towns from Chestertown, on southward to Saint Michael's, Easton, Cambridge and Oxford. It's a large and promising area and there is no Orthodox Church on the entire Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Both Saint Andrew's in Lewes, DE and Holy Cross in Linthicum, MD have families living in the target area and commuting from the distance. After some months of planning, a historic first official meeting was held in September in Easton, MD with Bishop Thomas, Father Boniface and Father Gregory Mathewes-Green attending. Twenty four committed people were present. The October meeting brought out two new people. Counting family members the group numbers well over thirty people who are praying and working together.

The group is "Pan Orthodox" with convert, Russian, Greek, Egyptian, Romanian, Antiochian, etc., backgrounds.

Monthly meetings are planned in the future and a December Divine Liturgy with Bishop Thomas is anticipated. As God wills, eventually a regular Sunday Divine Liturgy will develop. Please pray for God's blessings! And check the website: [www.easternshoreorthodoxy.org](http://www.easternshoreorthodoxy.org).

**New Question:** Fr. Noah, Why do we have a bishop?

### Reading of the Life of Elder Paisios

Wednesdays following Akathist at 7 p.m.



### Holy Mysteries

**Vince & Kathy Ciruolo and Tim Nikitin** were received into the Holy Orthodox Church by chrismation on October 11.

**MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!**

### Baby Steps to Biblical Literacy:

### Old Testament – Joshua, Judges, & Ruth

We are continuing to read the Old Testament for understanding and application. **Joshua** tells the story of the conquest of Canaan and division of the Promised Land among the 12 tribes under the leadership of Joshua. This is a difficult book to read because of the bloodshed. **Judges** describes the difficulties and triumphs of God's people as they tried and failed to live in the Promised Land. **Ruth** tells the story of a Jewish family outside of Judea and the love between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law strengthening the Royal Family Tree. The people may have "inherited the land" but they sure had to work hard and to repent to obtain and keep it.

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 and then apply it to your life.

What is the significance of these names of people and places?

**Joshua** - Joshua, Rahab, Jericho, Ai, Achan, the Gibeonites, Amorites, the Cities of Refuge, Shiloh.

**Judges** – Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Jephthah, Samson, Delilah.

**Ruth** – Naomi, Ruth, Boaz.



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

So... You got up on the wrong side of the bed. You're having "one of those days!" You'd like to yell at someone. What should you do? Give yourself a little time out and pray for God to strengthen you to do the right thing. Take a walk. Have cup of tea. Do prostrations. Bite your tongue. Ask for God's mercy to overshadow your grumpiness.