



# CHRISTMAS IN JULY

## St. Philip's Parish Press



### BABY STEPS TO BIBLICAL LITERACY - EZEKIEL



### CHRISTMAS IN JULY GREETINGS

It is time to pause and thank God for the many blessings showered upon us here at Saint Philip's! May God bless you as once again we make a special summer offering of thanksgiving. This is our 38th annual appeal. During the years we have been able to accomplish a great many projects which helped to strengthen our ministry.

This year's identified needs are: a "tithe" to the Cemetery Fund, additional Children's Books for our Library, Syrian Relief through I.O.C.C., and "seed money" for a new round of Camp Scholarships.

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

St Philip's Orthodox Church  
1970 Clearview Rd.  
Souderton, PA 18964



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

In Christ, Father Boniface

### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Glory to God!

I am writing these lines from Antiochian Village during my time serving here. It has been a spiritually refreshing and physically exhausting time of prayer, preaching, teaching, playing, hiking, hearing confessions, and answering questions. I invite each of you to taste camp in the following ways: Volunteer. Donate to our camp scholarship fund. Lay aside your cell phones for extended periods. Pray, chant, deepen your knowledge of the faith twice daily! We can all have the "camp experience" and be refreshed as children of our Heavenly Father!

Grateful to serve you in God's Name,  
*+ Fr. Noah*

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### Baseball Outing

July 7, 7:05 game time, Reading

#### Visit from Bp JOHN (Abdalah)

July 11-12

#### Sacred Music Institute at Antiochian Village

July 8-12 - Info on bulletin board

#### Archdiocese Convention

July 20-26 - Boston, MA  
www.acboston2015.com

#### DORMITION FAST, AUGUST 1-14

#### Services for Transfiguration

Wednesday, Aug 5

Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Matins 7 pm

Thursday, Aug 6

Divine Liturgy 9 am



#### Bible Study: Transfiguration

Saturdays in August, 5 p.m.

#### Vacation Church School

August 3-7

The Old Testament: Preparing for Christ

#### Youth Choir Singing Liturgy

Sunday, August 9th

#### Services for Dormition

Friday, August 14

Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 p.m.

Lamentations & Blessing of herbs & flowers

Saturday, August 15

Matins 9 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m., Herb blessing

#### Nativity of the Theotokos

Monday, September 7

Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Matins, 7 pm

Tuesday, September 8

Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

#### Church School begins September 13



#### International Food Festival

September 18-19

How will you be helping?  
Whom will you invite?

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### GIVING UPDATES

#### MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Thanks to all for your generosity to the needy of our community! For July, we are collecting oral care products.

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

**NEWSPAPERS:** Salfid Rescue Kennel, our neighbor on Clearview Road, is always in need of old newspapers. Look for the box in the hallway.

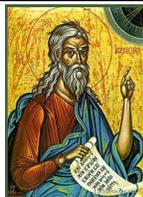
**USED CLOTHING DROP-OFF SHED:** Have you seen the shed in the rear parking lot? You can drop off used clothing & stuffed animals (no rags or household goods) to be sent to the needy locally and throughout the world.

**MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAITHFUL GIVERS!**

#### Baby Steps to Biblical

#### Literacy:

### Old Testament Prophet Ezekiel



This great prophet spoke of judgment and also restoration. He acted out many of his messages about God's sovereignty. His call to ministry came in a vision of four angels with faces of a man, a lion, ox, and eagle surrounding the radiance of the Spirit. This is one of the scriptural roots of the phrase introducing the Angelic Hymn in the Liturgy: "Singing the Triumphant Hymn, shouting, proclaiming and saying... ." Dust off your Bibles, discuss the wonderful and terrible works of God with your families, and ask me, Fr. James, or Dn. Herman if you have any questions.

## Did You Know?

- We have a new **Antiminsion**, signed by Metropolitan JOSEPH. It will be available for veneration on July 12, and in use thereafter. 
- We had winners in the Diocesan Creative Arts Festival! **Nolan Henry and Jacob Muzekari** both won third place in their respective grades for their artwork. Winners must meet criteria for use of theme, craftsmanship, composition, and creativity. Awards were presented at the Parish Life Conference in Long Island on July 4. Congratulations!
- **Fr. Noah** is forming a newly established **Department of Homeschooling** for our Archdiocese. He asks for your special prayers for this and also your extra help in the ministries of the parish.
- **Katie Burke** recently made a career change: from administrative assistant to personal trainer and group fitness instructor. Congratulations and best wishes!
- **Vacationing this summer?** Go to church on Sunday. Introduce yourself to the priest. Bring Father Noah a bulletin and your impressions. **Don't take a vacation from God!!!**
- There are many **monasteries** within a day's drive. Take a day or two off and make a little pilgrimage this summer.

## Wisdom

On Obedience,  
by St. Silouan of Mt. Athos

- + Obedience is necessary not only for monks, but for all people. Even the Lord was obedient. The proud and self-assured do not let grace reside within them, and therefore they never have internal peace, whereas the soul of the obedient easily accepts the grace of the Holy Spirit, bringing with it joy and serenity.
- + Whoever carries in him even a small amount of grace will submit to leadership with great joy. He knows that the Lord controls heaven and earth and the netherworld, and his own self, and his affairs and all that exists in the world, and for this reason he is always at peace.
- + Obedience prevents pride. In return for obedience you receive the ability to pray, along with the grace of the Holy Spirit. This is why obedience is greater than fasting and prayer.
- + If the fallen angels had retained obedience, they would have stayed in the heavens and would glorify the name of the Lord to this day. And if Adam had retained obedience, then he and his issue would have remained in Eden.

## Holy Ascension Update



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Blessed Pentecost!

We at Holy Ascension, your daughter parish, were so blessed to see a number of you at our Titular Feast of our Lord's Ascension! I was greatly encouraged to be able to concelebrate the divine services with Fr. Noah and Fr. James, as well as with our new deacon! During Lent Sayedna Thomas visited our parish and ordained Nicholas Reid to the Diaconate. He and his wife, Sh. Beth, have five children and are a huge blessing to our parish. Dn. Nicholas completed the St. Stephen's course with a focus on the sacred art of Byzantine Chant, and has been regularly meeting with our Sbdn. Vladimir and a few others to develop our chanting skills.

Having sold our 10-acre property in Malvern, we are now putting in place a long term campus development plan at our existing location in West Chester. We are meeting with architects this summer as we obtain approvals for public sewer access. Our plans are to build a larger church hall initially, and then, some years later come back and build a Temple. We are especially desiring to make our parish a home for our people: a place where we can all come together and worship, share in the agape meal after liturgy, and fellowship; offering mutual encouragement and an opportunity to share our experiences working out our faith.

This summer we are expecting a number of significant events as we have four babies waiting to be born, and four engaged young couples. We continue to welcome a number of college students from Eastern University and West Chester University who are exploring Orthodoxy or more fully embracing the faith passed to them by their families. Thank God we have a number of mature senior folks in the community who are our pillars and keeping us all on track!

Your prayers as we continue to labor alongside you,

Fr Daniel

### Challenge for 2015: Build Up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4)

Saint Paul said that Christ appointed the leaders of the church "for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:12). Are you ready for ministry? You were re-born to serve, so pray to God for a servant's heart.

## Ask Abouna

**Previous Question:** Fr. Boniface, tell us about St. Andrew's in Lewes, DE, and also about the mission in Easton, MD.

**Answer:** What's happening at Saint Andrew the Apostle in Lewes, DE?

- Welcoming visitors every Sunday
- New Church dome is impressive.
- Planning for our summer ED Day for youth.
- Choir is beautiful.
- Setting plans in motion for Fall Fest.
- The official "kick-off" for building expansion on June 28th. The expansion project will enlarge the Church, add new Great Room, relocate the kitchen and provide two additional classrooms. **Special thanks** to Saint Philip's for your generous donation for our Expansion Project!
- Check our website: [www.orthodoxdelmar.org](http://www.orthodoxdelmar.org)



**What's happening at the Eastern Shore Mission (Easton, MD)?**

- The core group was made up of members of Saint Andrew in Lewes, DE, and Holy Cross, Linthicum, MD who live in the target area and travel to their home Churches on Sundays.
- Initial group has grown to over forty people.
- Meeting every second Wednesday at 6 pm for Divine Liturgy.
- Good singing.
- Had a table at local "Oxford Day" and met two new people.
- Developing a strong Stewardship Emphasis.
- Check out our website: [www.easternshoreorthodoxy.org](http://www.easternshoreorthodoxy.org)

**New Question:** Tell me about the Dormition Fast.

## Missions Minute

Vince Cirao

Every gift given for God's work is precious in God's sight because it is not merely given to the ministry, but to the Lord.

## Everyday Evangelist

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

Add to your prayer list family, friends, and colleagues who do not know Christ.