



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church

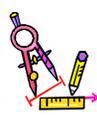


BABY STEPS FOR AUGUST: DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY.

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

GIVING UPDATES

 **CHRISTMAS IN JULY:** THANK YOU and God bless all our generous friends and parishioners for remembering to bring an extra offering for summer needs. This year we are especially in need of your generosity to strengthen our emergency fund; to purchase children's Bibles for Church and home use; and to make a tithe to the Cemetery Fund. This is the 34th year we have made this special offering. A great many projects have been accomplished through the years. Please help our church grow in Christ's service again this year.

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION: Over 100 skin & sun care items were collected. Thanks to all! **In August: Back-to-School supplies.** May God bless all our faithful givers! 

FELLOWSHIP COOKOUTS

St. Philip's new summertime tradition! Join us August 18 - bring your own meat to grill, and a side dish to share.

NARTHEX ILLUMINATION

The **Beautification Team** is ready to start receiving donations toward new Standing Saint Icons. Each icon will be about \$800. Talk to Terry Kaminsky about how the plan for the narthex is going. If you are up to date on your pledge, speak to Father Noah about sponsoring an icon.

Wisdom On the Jesus Prayer St. Barsanuphius of Optina

- How can one see Christ? The way to make this possible: the unceasing Prayer of Jesus, which alone is able to bring Christ to dwell in our souls.
- We have one sword – the Prayer of Jesus. It is said, “strike the unseen enemies with this sword, for there is no more powerful weapon, either in heaven or on earth.”
- Let your first task, as soon as you awaken, be the sign of the cross, and your first words – the words of the Jesus Prayer.

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Glory to God! August 1st marks six years that I've served at St. Philips. It has been a joy and blessing for me. I want to thank you for your patience during the transition. It has been a challenge to succeed such an excellent priest, but with God's help and your continued generosity, prayers, and zeal for ministry and evangelism, we'll be able to continue building on the excellent foundation to God's great glory!

Also, I'd like to share this word of encouragement as we continue the Dormition Fast. St. John Chrysostom writes, “Fasting is wonderful because it tramples our sins like a dirty weed, while it cultivates and raises truth like a flower.”

Grateful to be in this lovely spiritual garden with you and looking forward to many more years, I remain,

Your Servant in Christ, + *Fr. Noah*

Recipe

Portobello Burgers

- 1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 (4-inch) portobello mushroom caps



- Combine first 4 ingredients in a large zip-top plastic bag; add mushrooms to bag. Seal and marinate at room temperature for 2 hours, turning bag occasionally. Remove mushrooms from bag; discard marinade.
- Prepare grill to medium heat.
- Place mushrooms, gill sides down, on grill rack coated with cooking spray; grill 4 minutes on each side.
- Serve each mushroom cap on a toasted burger bun with roasted red peppers, lettuce, and tomato, or your favorite burger toppings.

Adapted from: <http://www.myrecipes.com/recipe/portobello-burgers-1000001036125/>

Walking in the Steps of the American Saints

Many people have benefited from and appreciated the “Baby Steps to Holiness,” so this will be a continuation...

Each month we'll learn about an American saint, to imitate and ask his or her prayers.

Mark Your Calendar:

Theotokos Fast

August 1-14

Paraklesis Services

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

Services for Transfiguration

Sunday, Aug 5 - Vespers & Artoklasia 6 p.m.,
Matins 7 p.m.

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

Vacation Church School

August 6-10 (The Parables of Christ)

Sewing Club

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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

Fellowship Cookout

Saturday, August 18, following Vespers

Services for Beheading of the Forerunner

Tuesday, August 28

Vespers & Artoklasia 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 29 - Strict Fast
Matins 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Services for New Year & Day of Creation

Friday, August 31

Vespers 6 pm, Akathist & Supplication 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 1

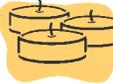
Lesser Blessing of Water, 10 a.m.

Baby Steps to Holiness

August - Don't take it personally

How many times have we been ignored, insulted, rebuffed, snubbed, etc., and have gone away steaming and grumbling, “Why does he always do that to me?!” Often, the devil magnifies a minor injustice by making us take it personally. This spiritual epidemic causes unnecessary strife in families, workplaces, and churches. What is the solution? Be humble enough to realize that you are not the center of everyone's life and they don't sit around plotting the next trap they will push you into. No, you are just like everyone else, trying to keep up with life, accidentally embittering and embarrassing (recognize that phrase from the morning prayer?) others, not meaning any harm. Don't take yourself so seriously as to take everything personally!

Did You Know?

- **Father James Thayer**, a celibate priest, longtime friend to me and Fr. Boniface, is retiring to our area to be nearer his sisters. He has been attached to St. Philips with no pastoral responsibilities, but has expressed his willingness to offer his talents and experience as needed. It is a blessing for us to have him at our parish and I hope you will welcome him warmly!
- **Brian Fitzgerald** will be scheduling the epistle readers for Liturgies on Sunday & the Great Feasts, starting in September.
- **Niko Chocheli** is has been selected for inclusion in the 2013 edition of **Who's Who in the World** and **Who's Who in America**, which contain information on America's and the world's most distinguished individuals.
- **Ben Daniel** has been promoted to a "Trader" on Vanguard's Block & Options Trade Desk, working with Vanguard clients placing large and/or complicated trades in stocks, options, and other more complex securities.
- Get to know our **New Parishioners** – (Subdeacon) **Tom D'Eramo** and also **Nathaniel & Alexis Ryan, and their baby Constantine**.
-  **The Handmaidens** will be caring for the candles outside the altar starting in September.
- Our **Bible Bowl Teams** both placed third and **Abay Tadesse** won the Oratorical Festival at the recent Parish Life Conference, July 4-8. Thanks to all who supported this blessed time.
- We have a new **roof** and a newly sealed **driveway**. Thanks to everyone's past generosity and the careful management of the Maintenance and Finance Teams.
- The **blue Psalter** (Book of Psalms) on the table near the confessional is there for you to read aloud while you are waiting as someone else is confessing. This Holy Noise helps retain the privacy of confession. Grab it and start reading.
- **Sing with the Choir!** Though we have a beautiful choir, the Divine Liturgy is not a performance it is the work of the people. Sing along and make a joyful noise to the Lord!

CHALLENGE FOR 2012

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

Next Great Feasts: Aug 6th, the **Holy Transfiguration** (bring grapes & garden produce to be blessed); and Aug 15th, **Dormition of the Theotokos** (bring herbs & flowers to be blessed)



Ask Abouna

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

Answer: The Antiochian Village began as a dream of our beloved Metropolitan Philip and through the years has developed into a strong spiritual center for our Archdiocese. It consists of the Conference Center, the Village Camp, and the Convent of Saint Thekla, all on 380 acres in western Pennsylvania.

The Convent, under the leadership of Mother Alexandra, is the newest development and is in the building process, to enable the monastics better to live in quietness and maintain their regular schedule of services and prayer. Also, it is a wonderful educational and spiritual opportunity for the campers and all visitors to the Conference Center to interact with the nuns and be exposed to those following the monastic calling.

The Camp operates all summer, and there are also two winter camping opportunities. In addition, there are two "Family Camping Weekends" each year, spring and fall.

The Conference center is busy with Workshops, meetings and events. For example, this September there will be a Clergy Retreat for our Diocese of Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic. Many other groups hold retreats there. Local churches and business groups use the facilities for meetings. Wedding Receptions are also held there in the very spacious dining room. The food served there is well known to be exceptional.

There is a museum which presents Antiochian history, beautiful and historic icons, and much other history of our faith as it came with immigrants to America and grew into our present Archdiocese. Other collections have been exhibited there as well.

The Camp Church of Saint Ignatius and the Conference Center Church of Saints Peter and Paul are beautiful and provide Services for campers, visitors, retreatants and also staff members who live and work there to keep the Village up and running.



A hospitality center and a gift shop, many conference rooms, an icon studio, and an amphitheater provide space for lectures and a variety of needs for large or small groups.

The fields and meadows and woodlands are hallowed by the outdoor shrine of Saint Thekla, and also the resting place of Saint Raphael. We thank God for this beautiful oasis and this hallowed ground. I hope that at some time every one of us can visit and worship God on this special mountain. (*Visit www.antiochianvillage.org for more info.*)

Father B.

New Question: Why is it so important to have a Bishop?

Report from the Clergy Symposium

In mid-July Father Noah and Deacon Herman and I were at the Antiochian village for the Clergy Symposium which brought together our beloved Metropolitan Philip and our beloved Bishop Thomas and all the auxiliary Bishops and almost all of the brother clergy of the Archdiocese. It was week of prayer and worship with beautiful chanting and beautiful singing; and of course, study. We also had the opportunity to see the Village Camp in action, and to speak with Mother Alexandra about the Convent of Saint Thekla which is soon to be built to provide more adequate quarters for the ministry of the monastics.

We also bring greetings from some of our Saint Philip's "alumni." Tatiana (Pickett) and her husband Deacon David Jacobs (and son) are working full time with the Camp. Also we bring greetings from Father Andrew Damick, Father David Bleam, Father Symeon Kees, Father Stephen Salaris, Father John Hogg, Father John Oliver, and also from Paul Finley who is the executive Director of the Conference and Retreat Center.

Among others whose lives have intersected with ours here at Saint Philip's are Their Graces, Bishop Antoun, Archbishop Joseph, Bishop John, and Bishop Basil. We were greatly blessed by being together as an Archdiocesan family, representing so many parishes in our common Apostolic faith and ministry. The impression given is of an Archdiocese united in love and committed to mission with joy in our Lord.

In remembrance of the newly departed Archpriest Peter Gillquist (who has visited us several times through the years), His Eminence, Metropolitan Philip and all the Bishops, along with Father Peter John Gillquist, his son, celebrated a ninth day Memorial. "Memory Eternal," beloved brother and Father Peter.

Father B.