



# CHRISTMAS IN JULY



St. Philip's Parish Press

BABY STEPS TO HOLINESS - BITE YOUR TONGUE AND KEEP SMILING



## CHRISTMAS IN JULY GREETINGS

It is a pleasure to greet our parishioners AND our many friends who have supported the work of Christ through Saint Philip's over many years. A great many special projects have been possible because you went beyond your basic pledge and made a special Christmas in July offering.

This is our 37th appeal, and our identified needs this summer are: The Camp Scholarship Fund, the Cemetery Endowment, and the Library.

Your love and generosity have made a difference in previous years. Please make a difference again this summer! We are grateful for your support and encouragement.

Please note that we no longer have a P.O. box but all mail comes to our street address. Gifts can be placed in the offering basket at Church or mailed to:

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

Thank you and God bless you,  
In Christ, Father Boniface



## A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
I am writing from Antiochian Village, our archdiocese's largest summer camp, where I am laboring day and night in my volunteer work as a "Session Priest," hearing confessions, preaching, teaching, counseling, serving, discussing, and answering question after question. Lord, have mercy! It is both exhausting and refreshing to be surrounded by 300 children and to be there for them in their growth in Christ and His Church.

Though it is hard to peel myself from my bed each morning, I am excited to strengthen the future of our archdiocese. They are bright, loving, faithful, diligent, and humble children and young adults who are excited about serving God as clergy and laity.

I want to bring back to our parish and into our families and our hearts, the fire of the love for God that is kindled so strongly here. To do that, I ask you to come to all the services that our parish offers, pick up a spiritual book, redouble your effort in prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and reconciliation. Also, be a friend, a brother or sister, to each of the members of our parish. Build each other up by sticking together, rejoicing together, weeping together, and journeying to Heaven together!

As the arch of the gate to the Village says, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!"

Gratefully, I Remain Your Servant in Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

## Mark Your Calendar:

### Military Chaplaincy

Presentation by Fr Joseph Butts  
*Saturday, July 12, following Vespers*  
(Please bring a dish to share for the potluck supper.)

### Theotokos/Dormition Fast

*August 1-14*

### Paraklesis Services

*August 1-13*

*Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays at 4 p.m.*  
*Wednesdays, Fridays at 7 p.m.*

### VCS - August 4-8

The Virgin Mary - Mark your calendars now and look for more information.

### Services for Transfiguration

*Tuesday, August 5*

Vespers & Artoklasia 6 p.m.

Matins 7 p.m.

Blessing of harvest

*Wednesday, August 6*

Divine Liturgy, 9 a.m.

Blessing of harvest

Potluck - Fish, wine & oil



### Services for Dormition

*Thursday, August 14*

Vespers & Artoklasia 5 p.m.

Matins 6 p.m., Divine Liturgy, 7 p.m.

Lamentations

Blessing of herbs & flowers

Festal Potluck

## 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.

**May God bless all our faithful givers!**  
(Be sure to read the thank-you notes posted.)

### VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

We are gearing up for another week of VCS to learn about the Virgin Mary, 9am-noon, August 4-8. Thanks for your support and prayers for this important time of spiritual growth for our youth!



## OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST

is offered to the **Pilgion family** upon the passing of **Sophia** in June 18. The funeral took place here at St. Philip's on June 14, and burial was in St. Philip's Cemetery.

**MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

## Did You Know?

- Fabienne El-Cid** graduated from The Mount Saint Joseph Academy with honors as an Archdiocesan scholar and member of the National Honor Society. She will be attending Georgetown University on a full scholarship this fall as an International Politics major in the hopes of becoming an international lawyer. **Congratulations!** 
- Evana Habib** graduated from North Penn High School, where she was an active member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, & French National Honor Society, and was an officer in French Club. She graduated with honors & received a full scholarship to Drexel University where she will major in Psychology & Biology. She hopes to go to medical school to become a psychiatrist. **Congratulations!**
- Michael & Marcia Ibrahim** spent two weeks in Scotland in May & June, celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary. **Many Years!**
- Alex Ibrahim** has expanded his responsibilities for his New York law firm, covering business in Geneva, London, and Dubai. He has spent time in each city. **Congratulations!**
- Subdeacon Ben Daniel** has just moved to Massachusetts to begin full-time ministry to the youth of the Cathedral in Worcester! God bless him!
- We still have **young parishioners at camp** for the rest of the summer. Please keep them in your prayers!
- Going on VACATION?** - Don't take a vacation from church! Look at the website: [orthodoxyinamerica.org](http://orthodoxyinamerica.org) to search quickly for churches in North America. If you'd like to take communion, please contact the priest ahead of time to ask his blessing for that. Also, bring back a bulletin and a story for Fr. Noah who would like to stay connected.
- The Blue Psalter** (Book of Psalms) on the service book cabinet 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!"
- Our Website** – [www.st-philip.net](http://www.st-philip.net) - has been reorganized and is rich with edifying and useful material.
- Your **Amazon** purchases can benefit St Philip's! Simply start your shopping from the link at the top of every page of the St Philip's website. (St Philip's has earned over \$400 in commissions so far.) 
- Your consistency in **giving during the Summer** helps the church stay on top of the bills. God bless our faithful stewards!
- One of the **Marks of a Healthy Parish** is "**Loving Relationships.**" I am grateful that ours is a loving parish. Do you hinder or help? How can you grow to contribute to our parish's loving atmosphere?

## 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.

## Ask Abouna

**Previous Question:** I'd like to be more peaceful. How can I do that?

**Answer:** Peace is, perhaps, the most important and most elusive human emotion. It is ultimately a gift from God, but it is a gift that we can and should cultivate.

**Eternal Peace** - Jesus Christ is our peace with God (Ephesians 2:14). This is really all we need to know - that God loves us; that He is not angry at us. If we really know this, that the Creator of the Universe is our loving Father, than all else is just details. And yet, they are important details if we are to remain in and grow in the peace of God! So here are some simple things we can do to abide in Christ's peace:

**External Peace** - In order to foster peace, it is necessary to have a degree of external peace. We can't participate in activities or indulge in media that bring chaos to our souls. Heavy music, fractious lyrics, quarrels, too much entertainment. Likewise, we must relate to others with love and patience to create interpersonal peace. We must not over-commit or overspend. This is what I experienced on Mt. Athos, at other monasteries, and at Antiochian Village.

**Internal Peace** - External Peace can assist us in fostering internal peace. So often people are so busy with stimuli that they have no idea that their souls are boiling. In order to cultivate inner peace, we need to pray more and more, meditate on truth and beauty (Philippians 4:6-9) and keep our conscience clear.

Trusting in God, let us foster peace in our hearts as well as in our relationships, our finances, and in our surroundings.

**New Question:** Father, tell us about our new Metropolitan.



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