



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



### BABY STEPS TO BIBLICAL LITERACY - DANIEL

#### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

##### GIVING UPDATES

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY (& AUGUST!):** Your offering supports the Cemetery Fund, additional Children's Books for our Library, Syrian Relief through IOCC, and the Camp Scholarship fund. God bless your generosity!

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:** Thanks to all for your generosity to the needy of our community! For **August**, we are collecting **paper 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 Daniel



This great and well-loved prophet was active faithful to God's law during the exile. The heroic deeds Daniel, the Three Holy Youths, and the near-tragedies of Susanna and Bel and the Dragon serve as a reminder of God's power through his faithful people. The main message of this book, though, is a prophetic look at history and a glimpse into the end of the ages. In August, dust off your Bibles, read the wonderful and terrible works of God with your families and ask me, Fr. James, or Dn Herman if you have any questions.

#### A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Glory to God!

Patriarchal and Patriotic Greetings in Christ!

I am back from Boston (what a beautiful city which has rekindled my joy in being an American) and the Archdiocesan Convention with my family and getting settled. It was a wonderful time to be with our Patriarch John, and hear his very sober and grounded teaching on the Christian life and the unity of the church. Many clergy and faithful send their greetings. It was a joy to have Linda Morelli and Angie Drăghici seated with me at the General Assembly as delegates. There were wonderful services, homilies, and Bible Studies.

Please look at our Archdiocese's Website - [Antiochian.org](http://Antiochian.org) - for photos and articles about the convention.

All the "nicely nice" aside... it was a blessing to be with our Patriarch, who is carrying the burden in Christ of our Antiochian Church that is embattled by persecution and war in Syria and the rest of the Middle East. He was very kind and positive but he was also very serious and focused on the work, life, and unity of the Church.

By God's grace, through the prayers of the great Antiochian saints, may he hold our church together through the violence and vicissitudes of our day in history.

In Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

#### Mark Your Calendar:

**DORMITION FAST, AUGUST 1-14**

**Bible Study: Transfiguration**  
*Saturdays in August, 5 p.m.*

**Services for Transfiguration**  
*Wednesday, Aug 5*

Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm,  
Matins 7 pm

Blessing of firstfruits.

*Thursday, Aug 6*  
Divine Liturgy 9 am  
Blessing of firstfruits.



**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

**Beheading of the Forerunner**  
*Friday, Aug 28*

Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm, Matins 7 pm  
*Saturday, Aug 29 - Strict Fast Day*  
Divine Liturgy 10 am

**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**

**Elevation of the Cross**  
*Sunday, September 13*

Vespers & Artoklasia, 7 p.m.  
*Monday, September 14 - Strict Fast Day*  
Matins 9 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m.

**International Food Festival**  
*September 18-19*

How will you be helping?  
Whom will you invite?

### Did You Know?

- **Nick Burke** has been hired as Head Basketball Coach at Bucks County Community College. Congratulations!
- **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.

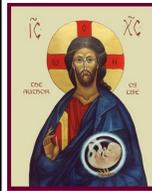
- We have **19 children** participating in the **Summer Reading Club**. They are reading many scriptural and spiritual books with a special eye on "Character". Please pray with me for them to develop strong Christian Characters and a deep Orthodox Identity!
- Our **Library** is available for "checking out" spiritually nourishing books.
- As beautiful as our choir sounds, it is not singing a concert but leading the faithful in prayer. **Please join in the singing** and "Make a joyful noise to the Lord!"
- We live in a post-Christian culture and society. We have to be very intentional about raising our children as Orthodox Christians against the worldviews, moralities, and enticements that compete for their souls. Are you equipped for the battle? Lord, have mercy!!!

### Sacred Life vs. Consumerism

I am very disturbed by the recent exposures of the procurement and selling of baby body parts by Planned Parenthood. Please pray with me for our nation to wake up to the sanctity of life and put an end to these atrocious acts. These are sometimes justified by the medical myth of embryonic stem cells but below is the reality check:

Dr. Michelle Cretella, president of the **American College of Pediatricians**, says, "Fetal tissue research, like embryonic stem cell research, has failed to produce a single successful treatment for human disease, and both have been associated with significant side-effects including overgrowth of cells and the need for immunosuppressive chemotherapy.

"Adult stem cell research, in contrast, has yielded treatments for 73 different diseases including several forms of cancer, diabetes, Parkinson's, cardiac disease, autoimmune illnesses and more. Adult stem cells do not overgrow or require immunosuppression, and most importantly, they do not require the killing of innocent human life."



[source: www.breitbart.com]

### Ask Abouna

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

**Answer:** The Dormition fast has been kept since at least the year 450 (St. Leo the Great mentions it). St. Symeon of Thessalonica (early 15th Century) writes, "The fast in August was established in honor of the Mother of God the Word; Who, foreknowing Her repose, ascetically labored and fasted for us as always, although She was holy and immaculate, and had no need for fasting. Thus, She especially prayed for us in preparation for being transported from this life to the future life, when Her blessed soul would be united through the Divine Spirit with Her Son. Therefore, we also should fast and praise Her, emulating Her life, urging Her thereby to pray for us."



This ancient holy time is a gift from God for us to draw near to Him and also to the Panagia. Don't neglect the fast or the feasts!

**New Question:** Why are we having another festival?

### Wisdom

#### On Love of Enemies:

- ✦ We are commanded to have only one enemy, the devil. With him never be reconciled! But with a brother, never be at enmity in your heart.
- ✦ Praying against one's personal enemies is a transgression of law.
- ✦ Prayer for our enemies is the very highest summit of self-control.

- St. John Chrysostom

#### On Fasting:

That great man Moses, when fasting, conversed with God, and received the law. Great and holy Elijah, when fasting, was thought worthy of divine visions, and at last was taken up like Him who ascended into heaven. And Daniel, when fasting, although a very young man, was entrusted with the mystery, and he alone understood the secret thing of the king.

- St. Athanasios of Alexandria

As the salvation of our souls is not gained solely by fasting, let us fill up what is wanting in our fasting with almsgiving to the poor. Let us give to virtue what we take from pleasure. Let the abstinence of the man who fasts be the dinner of the poor man.

- Saint Leo of Rome

### Missions Minute

Vince Ciralo

As you may know, President Obama has recently been to Kenya. Did you also know that we support a mission priest there? His name is Fr Michael Mbugua Njau. Ordained to the priesthood in January 2003, Fr Michael currently serves at St John the theologian church in Kahuhu. Please pray for him & all our mission priests.

### Everyday Evangelist

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

Prayer prepares you to share the gospel anyplace or anytime.

### Challenge for 2015:

### Build Up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4)

The Church is the Body of Christ. It is also a hospital, since Jesus Christ is the physician of our souls and bodies. Why do you come to church? Because you are spiritually sick and dying (not to mention physically) without God's grace - in the sacraments, the services, the scriptures, and the saints!

### Orthodoxy Online

#### Antiochian Archdiocese:

www.antiochian.org

#### Lives of Saints:

www.abbamoses.com

#### Radio:

www.ancientfaith.com  
www.myocn.net

#### Orthodoxy in America - directory of all Orthodox Churches in North America:

www.orthodoxyinamerica.org  
(click on Church Locator)

#### International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC):

www.iocc.org

#### Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC):

www.ocmc.org

#### Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve (FOCUS) - a social action fellowship:

www.FocusNorthAmerica.org

#### Traditional Marriage & Resources:

www.crownthem.org