



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



BABY STEPS TO BIBLICAL LITERACY - GENESIS

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

**FOOD FESTIVAL**

Our Church is again mounting our major outreach effort - our food festival, which will be held on Sept 19-20. Our goals this year is to simplify and smooth. Our priorities are in the following order: Bring the Community to our Church, Build Up Our Parish Family Relationships, Donate Money to Local Charities, and Raise Money for our Capital Improvement and Emergency Funds. Please pray for and work for this to be a joyous time and an opportunity for church growth! Invite as many people as possible!



**GIVING UPDATES**

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY:** Glory to God for a bountiful harvest of generosity and continued ministry. We raised over \$1700 for the Camp Scholarship Fund, the Library, and the Cemetery. Thanks to God for all who support our work for Christ and His Church! .

**MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:**

Thanks to all for your generosity to the needy of our community! For **September**, we are collecting **Cleaning Supplies**.



**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.



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

**A Message from Fr Noah**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
With the turning of the calendars to September, we are moving into the church's new year. The beautiful prayers that we prayed for this at our recent parish family picnic spoke of thanksgiving for the blessings of the past as well as prayers for God's continued protection in the new year. These prayers also speak of autumn, the time of the harvest, as the Crown of the Year. Holy Tradition also informs us that this is when Christ came into the synagogue to read and fulfill, once and for all, those blessed words of Isaiah (Luke 4, Isaiah 61): "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me."  
So... What will we make of this new beginning? Perhaps one of these exercises will help you. Compare who you are in your habits to who Christ is calling you to be. Ouch!!! Count your blessings! Build on habits of good communication and good perception. Be a honey bee, not a fly!!!  
Grateful to be forging ahead with you all in Christ, I remain,  
Your Servant in Christ, + *Fr. Noah*

**Reading of the Life of Elder Paisios**

Wednesdays following Akathist at 7 p.m.



**Holy Mysteries**

**Nick & Katie (Bitner) Burke** were married here at St Philip's on Saturday, August 16.

**Anthony & Alexander Podtelezchnikov**, sons of Alexei & Yuliya, were baptized into Christ on Sunday, August 17.



**MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!**

**Mark Your Calendar:**

**Catechumens & Inquirers**  
Wednesdays at 6 pm, Sept 3 - Nov 19

**Elevation of the Cross**  
September 14 - Falls on a Sunday this year.

**International Food Festival**  
Friday & Saturday, Sept. 19 & 20

**Bible Study**  
**The Prophet Jeremiah**  
Saturdays 5 pm, Oct. 4-25,  
Presented by Fred Kompass



**Bible Study**  
**The Shape of Biblical Language**  
Saturdays 5 pm, November 1, 8, 15  
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**  
November 13-16

**Advent Fast begins November 15**

**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?

- Vacation Church School** – about 60 people participated, including around 45 children! We learned about the Virgin Mary as our Mother in Christ.
- Youth Choir** – sang the Liturgy on August 10. Rehearsals will take place on the Saturdays of November at 5 pm, and the youth will sing the November 13th Liturgy (St Philip), December 5th Vespers (St Nicholas).
- Friends and Family Day** – We welcomed 17 visitors! Please pray for them and all our visitors.
- Summer Reading Club** – 16 students participated and celebrated their spiritual reading with a party on August 10.
- We have a **Sunshine List** - so that we can send cards, pray, and visit our shut-ins. Pick one up on the free literature table.



### Baby Steps to Biblical Literacy: Old Testament – Genesis

Can you open your Bible and understand the passage? Do you know where to turn to find the great heroes of our faith? Can you explain “Salvation History” from Creation to Christ’s Incarnation? Where do you turn for encouragement & direction? During this church year let’s journey together to understand more broadly the wonderful work of reconciliation that God has been doing since the beginning. As you read, ask me, Fr. James, or Dn. Herman questions to help you understand.

In September, read Genesis. Read with attention to the people and the big ideas, not just Adam and Eve. Pay special attention to Abraham’s call (Genesis 12:3: *And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*) and the history of Patriarchs.

These are foundational and an exciting part of our holy history. Ask yourself the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY & HOW of Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Lot, Melchizedek, Hagar & Ishmael, Isaac & Rachel, Esau, Jacob & Rachel, Joseph & his brothers.

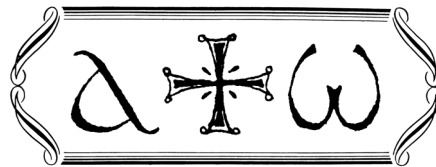


We have to understand what it “means” before we understand what it “means for us.”

## Wisdom

### On Prayer, by Abba Nilus

- † Everything you do in revenge against a brother who has harmed you will come back to your mind at the time of prayer.
- † Prayer is the seed of gentleness and the absence of anger.
- † Prayer is a remedy against grief and depression.
- † Go, sell all that belongs to you and give it to the poor, and taking up the cross, deny yourself; in this way you will be able to pray without distraction.
- † Whatever you have endured out of love of wisdom will bear fruit for you at the time of prayer.
- † If you want to pray properly, do not let yourself be upset or you will run in vain.
- † Do not always want everything to turn out as you think it should, but rather as God pleases; then you will be undisturbed and thankful in your prayer.



*And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*  
(Acts 20:35)

### Forty Days of Growth in Stewardship begins October 5.

Thank you for prayerfully considering increasing your pledge for 2015.

### 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:** Father, how can I forgive so-and-so?

**Answer:** Many people struggle with forgiveness. They know that they “should” forgive. They “want” to forgive. They try to forgive. But, their hearts are still constricted by resentment, bitterness, hurt. So, how do we move forward? I have two simple suggestions.

### Repent!!!

I came across a beautiful word recently that deepened the way I understand this.



“Forgiveness is born out of the soil of repentance.” This came from a podcast that I’ve since lost track of. It doesn’t mean that we are “at fault.” It means, perhaps, in our being too self-focused we cannot see and embrace God’s providence in this matter. Repentance means to “change the mind/heart.” We must change our hearts by doing the right thing, confessing to God personally and in the Sacrament our weakness and inability to forgive. Also, when we examine our hearts and repent of the wickedness lurking therein we become more understanding of others’ faults.

### Imitate our Lord!

As Jesus was hanging on the Cross, he said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” As hard as it is, we need to assume the best intentions in them. This will allow us to write off their hurtful behavior as proceeding from their own human limitations.

Beg God for the grace of repentance and for strength to follow our Lord’s example. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!

**New Question:** How is our Daughter Parish, Holy Ascension, doing way down there in West Chester?

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

Sweetness and Light!

