



THE PARISH PRESS

St. Philip Orthodox Church



BABY STEPS TO BIBLICAL LITERACY - PROPHET ISAIAH

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

PHOTO DIRECTORY

PHOTO DIRECTORIES are now available. (Suggested donation to cover cost, \$3.) Please see Barbara Gibbs.

GIVING UPDATES

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION:

 Thanks to all for your generosity to the needy of our community! For **May**, we are collecting **skin 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 narthex.



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!

Be sure to read the Thank You notes on the bulletin board!

A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Christ is risen!

I am enjoying the bright and joyous days of Pascha and I hope that you are as well. As our services and prayers are brightened by this message, so too our outlook on life. Let me ask you a question. Are you living for today? Or are you living for Tomorrow?

Living for today means living for this life. Earning and saving lots of money. Eating well, living well. Working hard. Relaxing, but with an earthly goal in mind. Focusing on what "I want," what "I need," what "I deserve."

On the other hand, Living for Tomorrow, the Great Tomorrow, means living for Heaven. It means deciding everything with God's plan in mind. Not my will, by Thy Will be done. Focusing on what pleases God, what God expects.

The ironic thing is that if we live for God, rather than for ourselves, He will take care of the details of our life and pour out grace upon grace. Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you.

If we live for Heaven, we will inherit the earth. If we live for Tomorrow, today will be a foretaste of paradise... sweeter than it would be on its own.

Your Servant in Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega,

+ Fr. Noah



Mark Your Calendar:

Bible Study - The Letter of James
Five Saturdays, May 2 - June 6, 5 pm
Presented by Fred Kompass

Mid-Pentecost
Tuesday, May 5
Vespers 6 pm, Matins 7 pm
Wednesday, May 6
Divine Liturgy 10 am

Myrrh-Streaming Icon Bus trip
Wednesday, May 13
Sign up in the narthex

Honoring Fr Boniface & Kh Joyce
Tuesday, May 19
Dinner following 6 pm Paschal Vespers

Archdiocese Evangelism Presentation
Saturday, May 30, after Vespers

Parish Life Conference
July 1-5 - Hauppauge, NY
www.stjohnorthodoxchurch.com

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

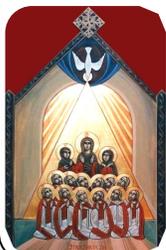
Vacation Church School
August 3-7

International Food Festival
September 18-19

INCREASE YOUR ORTHODOX WORD POWER

ASCENSION: The ascent of Christ to heaven forty days after his Resurrection.

PENTECOST: Fifty days after Christ's Resurrection the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples. Through the Sacrament of Chrismation, Orthodox Christians experience their own personal Pentecost. Every Divine Liturgy becomes a Pentecost through the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the faithful, and upon the gifts of bread and wine, transforming them into the Body and Blood of Christ.



Camp Scholarships Needed!

Our Camp Scholarship Fund has assisted 17 kids to camp this year, along with help from the Archdiocesan Order of Saint Ignatius. We need more money. **Please send donations**, large and small, for this worthy **investment in the spiritual formation of our youth**. The campers will be hosting a coffee hour in June to say thank you for the opportunity.

Did You Know?

- **March for Marriage** – Thirteen from our parish joined about 25 Orthodox clergy and about 150 Orthodox faithful who joined several thousand for the March for Marriage. We are praying for God's guidance in an upcoming Supreme Court hearing and, regardless of the decision, for God's protection for those who practice their faith conscientiously. Visit crownthem.org for more information and resources.
- We are sending about 30 campers, Counselors, CITs, and volunteers to **Antiochian Village** this summer.
- **Bring someone to church and you are an apostle.** We have a rich Christian tradition for which many Americans are hungry.
- Our **Sunday School, Teens, and Young Adults** need your prayers and love to keep them living and growing in Christ.
- **God loves you!** Share His love with others.
- We are blessed a **beautiful choir**, but please join in!
- An Orthodox Christian should **come to church** for Vespers, Matins, Feasts, and other special services.
- **Singing along with the choir** is the best way to keep your mind from wandering in church.



Wisdom from St Nektarios

- Sacred Tradition is the very Church; without the Sacred Tradition the Church does not exist. Those who deny the Sacred Tradition deny the Church and the preaching of the Apostles.
- Seek God daily. But seek Him in your heart, not outside it.
- Two factors are involved in man's salvation: the grace of God and the will of man. Both must work together, if salvation is to be attained.
- We ought to do everything we can for the acquisition of virtue and moral wisdom, for the prize is beautiful and the hope great.



Wisdom Spiritual Television St Paisios

Television dulls children's minds. They lose the ability to think on their own, to think critically -- not to mention the damage it causes to their eyesight. We are talking about man-made television. But there is another kind -- a spiritual television. When people uproot their old self, and the eyes of the soul are cleansed, they can see into the future without the aid of any machines. Have today's parents told their children about this other kind of television?



Missions Minute

Rdr. Nicholas

Planting seeds about Orthodox Christianity in your everyday conversations with people can bear fruit. While checking out at Home Depot a couple months ago, I noticed the employee's name was Dimitrius. I mentioned St. Demetrius, whom he had never heard of. So I told him a quick story about him... he was pretty amazed and said he was looking forward to "Googling" the saint when he got home.

Everyday Evangelist

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

May: Pray for and be ready for a conversational open door.

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

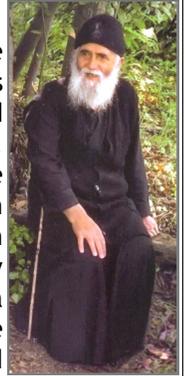
- Our Precious Lord Jesus Christ
- Our Precious Orthodox Church
- Our Precious Antiochian Archdiocese
- Our Precious Parish of St. Philip
- Our Precious Families
- Our Precious Souls and Bodies

"Lord, Thou hast knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 138/9:13

Ask Abouna

Previous Question: Tell me a little about the newly-canonized Saint Paisios.

Answer: Saint Paisios the Athonite (1924-1994) was born in Turkey and raised in Greece as a carpenter. After military service, he lived the monastic life in mainland Greece, on Mount Sinai, and finally on Mount Athos. He was a devout ascetic, whose gentle manner and acceptance of those who came to receive his counsel and blessing endeared him to his visitors, and who has become one of the most beloved of spiritual fathers.



He lived and embodied these most profound words on the spiritual life:

"One word of a humble and spiritually-experienced man that is painfully born from the depths of his heart has greater worth than a bunch of clever sayings of an external man that come out quickly from his educated mouth. His words don't speak truth to the souls of men, for they are fleshly words and not the flames of the fire of Pentecost."

May we have his prayers.

We are reading his life, piece by piece, following the Wednesday 7 pm Akathists. Join us for this beautiful time of prayer and also to draw nearer to God's chosen one from this generation.

New Question: What's new at our Daughter Parish of Holy Ascension in West Chester, PA?

Baby Steps to Biblical Literacy:

Old Testament Prophet Isaiah



The Holy Prophet Isaiah was from the Southern Kingdom of Judah and preached for about 65 years prior to and following the Assyrian captivity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Isaiah's message, in the face of national turmoil was "trust in God alone" and though God punishes the unrepentant he will later redeem, the Messiah's coming is the ultimate fulfillment of His words!