



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

St. Philip's Parish Press



BABY STEPS: BITE YOUR TONGUE AND KEEP SMILING!



CHRISTMAS IN JULY GREETINGS

It is time to say THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU to our parishioners and stewards AND to our many friends. Your support of Christ's work through Saint Philip's has continued year after year to make a difference. This year should be no exception as we pause to count our many blessings.

This is our 39th year for this annual appeal, and through the years, many special projects and needs have become possible through your gifts. This year our identified needs are the Camp Scholarship Fund, the refugees from Syria and the troubled Middle East (through I.O.C.C.), and also a "tithe" to the Cemetery Endowment.

Thank you for making a special offering beyond your regular pledge. Your gift and encouragement will add strength to all our ministries in the Lord's Name.

Please place your Christmas in July offering in the basket at Church or send by mail to:

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



Many thanks and God bless you for your generosity.

HOW TO DRESS FOR CHURCH

1. Wear clean clothes
2. Wear modest clothing.
3. Save "beach" wear and muscle shirts for the beach.
4. Avoid clothing with slogans or advertisements.
5. Long pants for men, skirts or slacks for women.
6. "Sunday Best" still has meaning for us.
7. Be strict with yourself, and if necessary, be lenient with others.



A Message from Fr Noah

Dear Saint Philip's Family,
Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. (from Psalm 55/54)

This is the Biblical Model of a vacation. And this is the prescription for our cyber-insanity and media mania.

With these words of the Psalmist we can thank God for the beauty of the natural world, the generosity of family and friends, and most especially the peace and love that we have in Christ! During our vacations, let us be present, attentive, in the little things as well as the big things. For our Lord said, "be faithful in little and I will set you over much!" (Luke 16:10).

I'd like you to especially consider the meaning of "Recreation." Recreation is not just fun and games and exotic, expensive expeditions. It is a change to imbibe the purity of family, God's Creation, and human achievements. In a small way, it is a return to the simplicity of the Garden of Eden. To be recreated, refashioned, reimaged by attending to the simple joys of family and God's creation. It is a chance to cultivate stillness and experience the nearness of God in prayer, contemplation.

Set aside your phones, log out of FaceBook, put a vacation responder on your email. Communicate with people face-to-face, communicate with God and His saints in prayer, holy reading, and in Church services.

Lord, it is good for us to be here!!!
In Christ,

+ Fr. Noah

Mark Your Calendar:

Chant Workshop

Wednesdays at 7 pm, July 6-27

Missionary Meg Engelbach

Saturday, July 9, following Vespers
(with potluck refreshments)

Bible Study - Ephesians

Saturdays at 5 pm, July 23 - August 27

Vacation Church School

August 1-5 - The New Testament

Theotokos/Dormition Fast

August 1-14

Check calendar for weeknight services



Transfiguration

Friday, August 5

Vespers 7 pm, Matins 8 pm

Saturday, August 6

Divine Liturgy 10 am

Blessing of fruit & garden produce.

Dormition

Sunday, August 14

Vespers, Artoklasia & Lamentations 7 pm

Monday, August 15

Matins 9 am, Liturgy 10 am

Blessing of herbs & flowers.

Beheading of the Forerunner

Sunday, August 28

Vespers & Artoklasia 6 pm

Monday, August 29 - STRICT FAST DAY

Divine Liturgy 10 am

Sunday School begins Sept 11

International Food Festival

September 16-17



Holy Mysteries

Michael Prazak was received into the Orthodox Church by Chrismation here at St Philip's on April 30.

Justin & Kate Gohl, along with their children Caleb, Phoebe, and Evan, were baptized into Christ here at St Philip's on Saturday, June 18.

Sarah Hodge was also baptized into Christ here at St Philip's on Saturday, June 18.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!

NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

GIVING UPDATES

MONTHLY OUTREACH COLLECTION: Thank you for your generosity to the needy of our community! In July, we are collecting **Oral Care Products.**

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION: We continue to collect non-perishables of all kinds for the food pantries.

NEWSPAPERS: Salfid Rescue Kennel, our neighbor on Clearview Road, is always in need of old newspapers. Look for the box in the hallway.

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR FAITHFUL GIVERS!

Did You Know?

- Sarah Case and the Teen Theater Ensemble at Yocum Institute for Arts Education has received international attention for their suicide-prevention production. The 30-minute play, titled "Beyond Apartment 2-B and the End Zone," travels to middle and high schools in Berks County starting a dialog about this serious topic that is the second-leading cause of death among people ages 10-25.
- 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.
- **Carpooling to Church** can be a great way to save money and deepen your relationship with your neighboring parishioner.
- The **kingdom of heaven** is not a reward for works, but a **gift of grace** prepared by the Master for His faithful servants. Are you a faithful servant?



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: Why is going to church necessary if God is everywhere?

Answer: God is in the world, holding it together by the presence of His Holy Spirit. We must pray to God constantly, ceaselessly and rejoice in His Presence all the time. And yet there is a particular place and time which God has directed His people to gather to praise Him. It is an invitation to a fore-taste of Heaven. We are called to transcend the man-in-Heaven paradigm.

There is sense of the "scandal of particularity." Just as God choose a particular nation to be a blessing for the world, and a particular Man to be the salvation of the world, so too He directs particular times and places and styles for his blessing.

New Question: Fr. James, please tell us about your pilgrimage to Scotland.



Missions Minute

Concerning the land of Georgia, when the Theotokos intended to evangelize there, she was told by an angel "not to depart from Jerusalem; the land which has fallen to thee by lot will be enlightened in later days."

From the akathist hymn that is chanted before the miraculous Iveron icon.

Everyday Evangelist

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

July: Evangelism is necessary for our own growth in Christ
(Philemon 6)

Holy Wisdom

Solomon's Proverbs

For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth.
- Proverbs 3:12

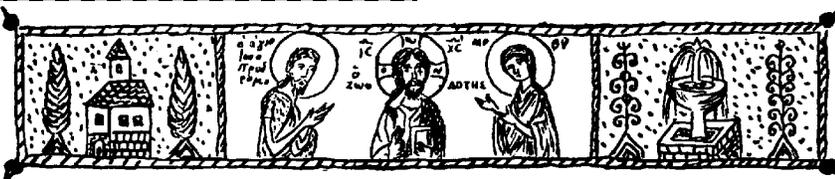
Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.
- Proverbs 6:6

Wisdom is better than rubies.
- Proverbs 8:11

A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.
- Proverbs 10:1

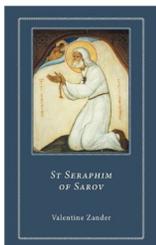
**Challenge for 2016:
Pray Without Ceasing**
(1 Thessalonians 5)

St. Theophan the Recluse tells us that "Prayer is standing before God with your mind in your heart." Try to plunge your mind into your quieted heart in the joy, fear, and knowledge that God is everywhere. Lord, teach us to pray!



Book Recommendation

St Seraphim of Sarov
by Valentine Zander



Orthodox spirituality has produced many holy and famous men, but none in recent centuries to compare with Seraphim, staretz of the monastery of Sarov. After an initial period as a monk, working with the community, he was led to become a hermit, living deep in the forest in a world of solitude which was only destroyed when he was attacked by brigands. He returned to the community and in 1825, after fifteen years in silence, he began to receive visitors again and to spend his energies in their spiritual

direction. By means of his faith and asceticism he performed a number of miracles. His fame and humility brought a steady stream of visitors, religious and royalty alike, to him for advice. His humility and concern for people made Sarov a center of pilgrimage until the events of the 1917 revolution. Zander has constructed this biography from the notebooks of people who knew him, the nuns whose spiritual director he became, the people whose lives he influenced, and the clergy who sought his advice. She adds to this information her own recollections of pilgrimages to Sarov before 1917. The life of the staretz is told with a touching simplicity which allows his life and work to be their own witnesses. All four books help to illumine the spiritual tradition so faithfully embodied in St Seraphim.