



# THE PARISH PRESS

## St. Philip Orthodox Church



BABY STEPS TO HOLINESS - DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY

### NEWS ~ N ~ NOTES

#### 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!

#### 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 celebration and an opportunity for church growth! Invite as many people as possible!

#### GIVING UPDATES

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY:** Offerings for the Camp Scholarship Fund, the Cemetery Endowment, and the Library are still being accepted. Thanks to all who support these ministries.

**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.

**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,

I am rejoicing in the stirring sermon that Dn Herman gave recently, "go to church, say your prayers, and don't forget God" as a way to re-identify ourselves in the image and likeness of God. He especially reminded us all of the importance of coming to vespers and how it will make us more and more God-like, so that people, without our intentional evangelism, will be drawn to us, to Christ and to our church.

I'd like everyone in the parish, starting with you, to make vespers a habit. This beautiful service has the thematic structure of Salvation History (Creation, Fall, Redemption) and incorporates the celebration of the great feasts and saints. It is the most convenient time to come to confession. It is the best time to bring a friend to church. It is traditional way to settle your heads and your hearts in preparation for Holy Communion.

Hoping to be praying together more and more, I remain,

Your Servant in Christ, +Fr. Noah

### OUR SYMPATHY IN CHRIST



Memory Eternal is offered to the Gula family upon the passing of Ken's mother, Maryjane, in late June. The funeral took place in Scranton on July 1.

AND to Sandy Miller and family upon the passing of her mother, Theresa Basara, on July 2. Her funeral was held here at St Philip's on July 7, and burial took place in Frackville.

**MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### VCS - August 4-8

The Virgin Mary - Please pray for an enjoyable & spiritually productive week.

#### 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



#### Youth Choir

Singing liturgy on Sunday, August 10

#### 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

#### Friends and Family Day - August 24

Please invite at least one friend to Divine Liturgy this day. Let's follow St. Paul's advice to St. Timothy: "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:1).

#### Beheading of the Forerunner

Thursday, August 28

Vespers & Artoklasia 6 p.m.

Matins 7 p.m.

Friday, August 29 - **Strict Fast**

Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Potluck - **Strict Fast**

#### Labor Day Picnic

Monday, September 1

At Spring Hollow (Jonathan &

MaryLynne's house)

Noon - 7 p.m.

Bring a dish to share.

### Did You Know?

- **Eternal Spring:** The art of Leila Chokheli, Niko Chocheli's mother, is now being exhibited at the Antiochian Village Heritage Center Museum. If you visit the Village for any reason, stop in the museum to see this beautiful display.
- We still have **young parishioners at camp** for the rest of the summer. Please keep them in your prayers!
- 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.
- **Coffee hour does not start until after the Liturgy is over.** The food is blessed after the announcements after we sing Our Father together.
- **You can help make our many visitors feel welcome** by a warm smile and a kind greeting. Please take a minute to say hello to visitors.



### Wisdom

#### On a Happy Home St Sraphim of Sarov

- Neither do walls or rich furniture make a home. Millionaires in magnificent mansions may never know a home. But where there are good relationships, where love binds the family together and to God, there happiness is always to be found. For good relationships are heaven anywhere.
- Monotony and misery cannot exist where there is love. But the fire of love must be kept burning warmly and brightly with the sweet wood of sacrifice. In teaching us to cross the "I" out of life, our Lord tells us the secret of happiness; what the Saints call the ecstasy of self-forgetfulness.
- For divine love is always self-effacing, seeks to give rather than to receive, to serve rather than be served, to love rather than to be loved, and will sacrifice anything for the beloved. Only then does love become a clean and holy fire in the heart, and not an ugly flare of lust.



### Ask Abouna

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

**Answer:** Sayedna JOSEPH was Born in 1950 in Damascus, Syria. After a pious upbringing, theological training, monastic formation, including assisting Patriarch Ignatius IV, and extensive pastoral experience, he came to America, to Los Angeles, to oversee the churches of the West Coast. After Sayedna PHILIP's passing this spring, Sayedna JOSEPH was elected by the Holy Synod of Antioch as the Metropolitan for our archdiocese.

In the few times that he has spoken publicly since his election as Metropolitan, Sayedna has emphasized the following:

- Building on the accomplishments of Metropolitan PHILIP and leaving a strong and unified archdiocese for the next Metropolitan.
- Remaining close to our Patriarch and the Church of Antioch.
- Working closely with all the Orthodox in America.
- Deepening of the Liturgical life in the parishes.
- Growth and support of monasteries and monastic life in the archdiocese.

I think that a recent little event demonstrates his priorities. Right after his election, Sayedna immediately returned to America so he could attend his diocese's Parish Life Conference in San Francisco. En route from the airport to the Conference, he went to the Russian Cathedral where the relics of St. John Maximovich are enshrined. He prayed there, asking God's blessing and St. John's prayers for his new archpastoral work, and only then continued to the conference.

Sayedna Joseph is a kind, God-loving, and very serious man and it will be a joy and blessing for us to follow his lead. Many years, Master!

More information at <http://www.antiochian.org/MetropolitanJoseph>

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



### Challenge for 2014:

#### Be like the Bee, not like the Fly!

Due to the many overwhelming influences and pressures in our lives, not to mention the negative voices of the media, it is very easy for us to settle into a sarcasm, cynicism, and despondency. But this is not our Christian faith. We are to renew our minds (Romans 12) and to think positively (Philippians 4), knowing that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"! Stop wallowing in the negative thoughts about yourself, your family, your career, your church. Buzz to the sweet nectar of God's love for you, your family, and His Church!!!



### Baby Steps to Holiness

#### August - Don't take it personally

How many times have we been ignored, insulted, rebuffed, snubbed, etc., and have gone away steaming and grumbling, "Why does he always do that to me?!" Often, the devil magnifies a minor injustice by making us take it personally. This spiritual epidemic causes unnecessary strife in families, workplaces, and churches. What is the solution? Be humble enough to realize that you are not the center of everyone's life and they don't sit around plotting the next trap they will push you into. No, you are just like everyone else, trying to keep up with life, accidentally embittering and embarrassing (recognize that phrase from the morning prayer?) others, not meaning any harm. Don't take yourself so seriously as to take everything personally!

### SEE YOU IN CHURCH!

- **Saturday:** VESPER, 6 p.m.
- **Sunday:** MATINS, 8:50 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.