



SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church
9230 Old Bustleton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19115
Church Phone: 215-676-3311

Pastor: Father Stephen Siniari
Rectory Phone: 1-609-385-3757



Church Bulletin ~ August 2005

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Meditate on These Things

Let anyone who can hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches: to those who prove victorious I will give some hidden manna and a white stone, with a new name written on it, known only to the person who receives it.

-- Revelation 2:17

Parable of the two sons

'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'In truth I tell you, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, showing the way of uprightness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

-- Matthew 21:28-32

Not even the archangel Michael, when he was engaged in argument with the devil about the corpse of Moses, dared to denounce him in the language of abuse; all he said was, 'May the Lord rebuke you.'

-- Jude 1:9

It is widely reported that there is sexual immorality among you, immorality of a kind that is not found even among gentiles: that one of you is living with his stepmother. And you so filled with your own self-importance! it would have been better if you had been grieving bitterly, so that the man who has done this thing were turned out of the community. For my part, however distant I am physically, I am present in spirit and have already condemned the man who behaved in this way, just as though I were present in person. When you have gathered together in the name of our Lord Jesus, hand such a man over to Satan, to be destroyed as far as natural life is concerned, so that on the Day of the Lord his spirit may be saved.

-- 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FATHER STEPHEN:

All confessions and consultations on Sunday mornings shall take place from 9 AM to 10 AM before the Divine Liturgy. Thank you.

Father Stephen may be reached at **267-973-9775**, Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM; e-mail: ssiniari@covenanthousepa.org

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - August/September 2005

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH - Divine Liturgy, **9 AM**

Schedule of Services for the Week of August 7 - 13

AKATHIST TO ST. HERMAN - AUGUST 9 (TUES) - **10 AM & 7 PM** - Veneration of His Holy Relics and anointing with Holy Oil from the Lampada over His Holy Relics in the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Kodiak, Alaska

MOLEBEN & AKATHIST TO ST. ANNA - AUGUST 11 (THURS) - **10 AM & 7 PM** - Anointing with Holy Oil from the Wonder-working Icon of St. Anna and Veneration of Icon Print

AKATHIST TO ST. TIKHON OF ZADONSK - AUGUST 13 (SAT) - **10 AM & 5 PM**
VESPERS - AUGUST 13 (SAT) - **6 PM**

Church News & Reminders

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2005 - Dues are \$100 per person and can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Scheduled for Monday, August 8, 7 PM. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

SPECIAL SERVICES - If you are planning to have a special service in the Church, please be considerate and notify either Father Stephen or the Church Committee one week in advance. When you are planning for a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, or any other Prayer Service in the Church, please speak with Father Stephen in advance to determine if there is any way you can contribute to help the Church in helping others. Thank you.

NO SMOKING/NO CELL PHONES - Please remember that SS Peter & Paul has a no smoking policy in the building and that ringers on cell phones should be off during the Divine Liturgy.

The Joy of Giving

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - Please continue to help feed the hungry. Frozen casseroles are collected on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month by Harry Halkedis. A \$10 donation for casseroles can be given at any time. *Thank you!*

NEW CENSER & NEW ICON DONATIONS - Donations are needed for a new censer and for the purchase of new Icons. *We thank you for your support in this project. Please donate generously.*

COLLECTION FOR THE POOR - A special collection for the poor will be held on the 1st Sunday of every month. Please plan to give generously every month to those whose lives are less fortunate than ours. Donations can also be placed in the **Poor Box** at any time.

DONATIONS OF WINE & OIL - Altar wine and virgin olive oil for the altar lamps are always needed. The name of the altar wine is **Mavrodaphne of Patras** and it is available at most PA State Stores. Please help make sure that we always have a plentiful supply.

PASTORAL FUND COLLECTION - Collections for the Pastoral Fund will take place every 3rd Sunday of the month. Please donate generously. "Pastoral Fund" donation envelopes are found in the Church foyer, on the left side of the glass partition, should you wish to donate at another time.

Sunday School News

START OF SUNDAY SCHOOL - Scheduled for October

Ladies' Society News

MEMORIAL SERVICES - If you are planning to have a Memorial Service, please inform the Ladies' Society as soon as possible, preferably 1 week in advance, so that efforts and tangibles are not duplicated. There is a \$25 donation to the Ladies Society for each Memorial. The Society will take care of the paper goods and coffee; the individual scheduling the Memorial is responsible for all food, for setup, and for clean up. Thank you!

A SUPER BIG THANK YOU to members of the Ladies Society for their tremendous help with the setup and clean up for His Grace Bishop Nikon's Luncheon.

MEETING - Sunday, **August 14**, after Divine Liturgy

Events

SPECIAL SERVICES/EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH - Fr. Dn. Jason will be scheduling special services during weekdays and on Saturdays. There will be flyers in the Church, announcements each Sunday, and current schedules online. Only one week will be listed in the Bulletin because times and dates change weekly; we are considering the feasibility of putting the weekly schedule on the Church's answering machine.

9/11 INTERFAITH SERVICE WITH MATERNITY BVM AND TEMPLE BETH AMI - Sunday, **September 11**, 3 PM. Services will begin at BVM with a procession ending at Beth Ami for concluding services. If you can join in representing our church, please meet at SS Peter & Paul at 2:30 PM. All are invited.

SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE - Saturday, September 17. The Clam Bake can only be a fun & successful event if we all pitch in and help. If you can volunteer in any way, please see **David Lane** ASAP. *There's lots of work to be done, but it'll be well worth it!*

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Sunday, **October 2**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. ***Please make every effort to stay for the meeting.*** Thank you!

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS - Starting in the Fall (probably in October when Sunday School starts), Fr. Dn. Jason will be having an Adult Education Class on **Wednesday evenings** to discuss the Bible, Orthodox Teachings/Doctrines, Feasts/Fasts of the Church, as well as the Divine Services of the Orthodox Church. By having these

services and these educational classes, we offer more for our parish to come and grow spiritually. Come and join us for the services and for the classes -- so that we all can grow together in our Faith!

Miscellaneous

WEB PAGE/E-MAILS - SS Peter & Paul Webpage: <http://homepage.mac.com/alicaj17/sspeterpaulhome1.html>. New Bulletins can be viewed the Saturday before distribution by 7 PM. If you would like to be kept up-to-date by e-mail or to be removed from our "paper" mailing list, please send me an e-mail at: alicaj17@mac.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS ABOUT PARISHIONERS - If you have any items to include in next month's Bulletin, please see Alicia or call her at **215-742-0492** or e-mail: alicaj17@mac.com. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **August 28**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **9/4/05**. Bulletins will be mailed to any Parishioners unable to attend.

Please remember to let Alicia know the names of our members who are ill or in need of prayer so that they can be included in our Bulletins.

Thank You to all members of the Parish who have helped out or volunteered in any way with their time and efforts, and a very special **thank you** to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin.

Parishioner's Corner

A **VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **August** Birthdays: **Alvin Antonescu, Sophie Bacon, Daniel Drobish, Denise Gormley, Anna Jeka, Evanthia Jeka, Marion Merkle, Eteri Okropiridze, Oleg Petrenko, Christina Reeves, Christine Schaeffer, Reader Gregory Shaloka, Jayne Siniari, Sandy Speero, John Vesho, Connie Vreto**

May God grant them all many, many years!

HELEN SHUTTIE ARNDT is going into Nazareth Hospital on August 18th for a knee replacement. *Please remember Helen in your prayers!*

PHOTOGRAPHS OF CLERGY & PHOTOGRAPHS OF AWARD RECIPIENTS: If you have any photographs of yourself or other Parishioners receiving the *Herald of St. Constantine & St. Helen Award* or the *Knight of St. George Award*, or any photos taken with any clergy from SS Peter & Paul, please lend your photos to **John Palmerick**. John will copy your photo and return it to you. He is trying to set up an **Awards Wall** in the Hall. Also, if you or anyone you know has received either of these awards, please give your name to Alicia, as we are trying to generate a list of recipients. Thank you!

Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Elaine Quirias, Helen Arndt, Gregory Vreto, Sr., Debbie Krimetz, Presbyteria Cleopatra Gregory, Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Harry Cappo, Matthew Murianka, Barbara Bassoline**

**** God knows the names and ages of all who need His love and mercy...*

May Her Memory Be Eternal

His Grace Bishop Nikon's mother-in-law -- his late wife Prifteresha Sarah's mother, +Martha (Bardho) Arthur -- reposed in Springfield, MA, July 16th, 2005 at the age of 82. As a three time cancer survivor, Martha was forever thankful, yet amazed, for her time on earth. She will be remembered for her quiet manner, her wit, and her ability to make all in her company feel at ease. She cherished her friendships deeply. *May her memory be eternal!*

News from our Sister Parish, St John Chrysostom

Farewell to Fr. Gregory O'Leary

Father Gregory O'Leary, who had been on loan from the Antiochian Archdiocese to the Orthodox Church in America, has been serving at St John Chrysostom Church in Philadelphia for the past 3 years. On Sunday, July 31, he will serve his last liturgy in that assignment. We wish Fr. Gregory and his wife, Jane, a blessed return to his former work and retirement and express prayerful gratitude for his diligent pastoral work and contributions to our diocesan presbyterium.

The pastoral assignment for St John Chrysostom parish will be assumed by the Very Rev. Matthew Searfoorce as of August 1.

Welcome to Very Reverend Matthew Searfoorce

The Very Reverend Father Matthew Searfoorce has been received in our diocese and assigned by His Grace, Bishop Nikon as pastor pro-tem of St. John Chrysostom Church in Center City Philadelphia, effective August 1, 2005.



Father Matthew received his B.A. in English and Education from Ursinus College in PA. Following studies at the Leningrad Theological Seminary and Academy, he earned his Doctor of Ministry (DMin) from the Ecumenical Theological Center of the Chicago Theological Schools and had been ordained to the Holy Priesthood in 1975.

Father Matthew spent two years teaching in the Philadelphia District School System as well as 12 years in Human Resource Management (Labor/Employee Relations) with several Fortune 50 companies. He is a computer network engineer, in addition to having served as a full time rector for 18 years at parishes in Michigan and Connecticut.

Fr. Matthew and his wife Barbara - who is an RN - have three grown children. David is a teacher in Camden, NJ and a Reader (tonsured by Bishop Nikon). Kira is a registered dietician in Morrisville, PA where she lives with her husband; and Elizabeth is a student at Southern Connecticut State University.

Fr. Matthew and Prifteresha Barbara enjoy photography.

We wish them a blessed and fruitful ministry at St. John Chrysostom Church.

Ordination to the Diaconate of Reader Jason Vansuch

On The Saturday of Saint Lazarus, April 23, 2005, His Grace, Bishop Nikon ordained the Reader Jason Vansuch to the Holy Diaconate. The Hierarchal Liturgy took place at St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, PA, where Jason's father, the Very Rev Eugene Vansuch is pastor. The new deacon was assigned at that time to SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church in Philadelphia. He will assist the bishop during archdiocesan visitations, in addition to serving diocesan parishes of our MidAtlantic Deanery.



Ordination to the Diaconate of Reader Gregory Vrato, Jr.

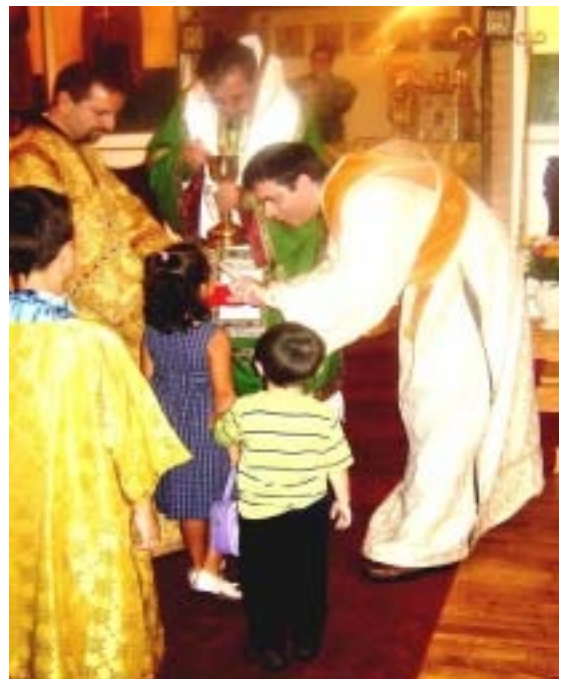
His Grace, Bishop Nikon ordained Gregory Vrato, Jr. to the Holy Diaconate on Sunday, July 10, 2005 at SS Peter and Paul Church in Philadelphia.

Rev. Vrato is a graduate of LaSalle University where he majored in English and was named a Lumbach Scholar in 1991. In 1994, he received his Doctorate in Jurisprudence from Widener School of Law. He is currently the Deputy Director of Legal Affairs with the Philadelphia Prisons System. A member of SS Peter and Paul Church in Northeast Philadelphia, he is married to Kathryn Vrato. Gregory is raised in a family active in the Albanian community and Orthodox Christian activities in Greater Philadelphia. He is the son of Gregory Vrato, Sr., a long time chair of their home parish, and Hope Vrato. His sister, Elizabeth Vrato, is author of books on women's issues.

Gregory was tonsured a Reader by His Grace, Bishop Nikon in 2003. In September 2004, he successfully completed the three-year Late Vocation Program of St Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Canaan, PA. He describes his interests in US history, particularly Philadelphia's role during the Revolutionary period, and is a fan of the Eagles and the Phillies, with the Red Sox as a second childhood sentimental favorite. He is an avid reader of theology, world history and classic literature.

Rev. Vrato is assigned to the clergy staff assisting the Very Rev. Stephen Siniari at his home parish, in addition to St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church in Center City and to archdiocesan duties assigned by His Grace, Bishop Nikon.

We wish the Rev Deacon Gregory and his wife, Kathryn a blessed and fulfilling ministry.





New Deacon for Albanian Church in Worcester

His Grace, Bishop Nikon ordained Professor Dennis Nagi to the Holy Diaconate on Sunday, June 5, 2005 at St. Mary's Assumption Albanian Orthodox Church, 535 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA.

The new deacon will be attached to St. Mary's parish and has taken up residence in Worcester with his wife, Candice. In addition, he will assist the bishop on archpastoral visitations in the Massachusetts Deanery.

Having completed the Saint Stephen's Course of Study in Orthodox Theology, Dr. Nagi had attained a distinguished record in the field of history and higher education. Further, he has been accepted into the Master of Arts in Applied Theology Program through the St. John of Damascus School of Theology at Balamand University and will begin studies this Autumn.



Dennis Nagi is a cum laude graduate of Siena College where he majored in history and received both his A.B. and Master's degrees. He attained his Ph.D. from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute based on an ethnic awareness study and statistical survey of three generations of Albanian- Americans in Greater Boston. From 1967 to 2000, he was Professor of History and College Administrator at the Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY, and since then as Adjunct Instructor at Maria College in Albany.

Among his distinctions are the New York State Chancellors Award for Excellence in Teaching and Professional Service in 1998 and The Hudson Valley Community College President's Award for Outstanding Education and Academic Management in 1991.

Energetic and self-disciplined, Professor Nagi completed and compiled the following books and monographs: A Service Book entitled "The Sacraments of the Orthodox Church" (2004); authored the "Albanian-Americans" in 1997 for the Encyclopedia of American Immigrant Cultures. The Albanian-American Odyssey , containing the results of his research of the Boston-area Albanian community in 1989. In 1984, he authored: "Perspectives on the Modern World." A current work in progress is: Mesha Shqip...The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in Albanian and English, designed for catechetical use of newcomer faithful.

Among his hobbies and interests are reading, research, carpentry and sailing. Prayerful best wishes to Deacon Dennis and his wife, Candice for a fruitful ministry.

Holy Days and Name Days in August

- August 1 - Beginning of Dormition Fast; Procession of the Life-Giving Cross
- August 6 - Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord
- August 9 - Ven Herman of Alaska; Apostle Matthias
- August 12 - Martyrs Anicetus & Photius
- August 13 - St Tikhon of Zadonsk; St Maximus, Confessor; Ven Maximus of Moscow
- August 15 - Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos
- August 16 - Image of Christ "Not Made by Hands"
- August 18 - Martyrs Florus & Laurus; Ven John of Rila
- August 20 - Prophet Samuel

- August 21 - Apostle Thaddeus of the 70
- August 24 - St Kozma of Berat; St Cosmas of Aetolia
- August 25 - Relics of Apostle Bartholomew; Apostle Titus of the 70
- August 26 - Martyrs Adrian & Natalia
- August 27 - Ven Poemen the Great
- August 28 - Ven Job of Pochaev; Ven. Moses the Black; Righteous Prophetess Anna
- August 29 - Beheading of St John the Baptist
- August 30 - St Alexander Nevsky
- August 31 - Sash of the Theotokos; Hieromartyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage

Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they



hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28), He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that

He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, wither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him" (Matt. 17: 5).

Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). It is because of this that the Kontakion of this Feast is said daily (when there is not a great feast) in the Service of the Typica in

perpetual commemoration of the glory that will be the lot of the Saints. According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.

~ Reading Courtesy Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA ~
~ Icon Courtesy of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Webpage ~