



**Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America ~ <http://www.aoaa.org>
SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church**

9230 Old Bustleton Avenue ~ Philadelphia, PA 19115 ~ Church Phone: 215-676-3311

Pastor: Father Stephen Siniari ~ Phone: 609-385-3757 ~ Email: frsiniari@gmail.com

FATHER STEPHEN'S MESSAGE TO THE FAITHFUL

Holy Communion? For The Orthodox -- Still Only At Home

Q. When our grandson received first Communion, the parish booklet printed guidelines for receiving Communion. If I read it correctly, members of the Orthodox churches may now receive Communion in the Catholic Church.

I've always been Catholic but was not aware of this. Our daughter's husband is Greek Orthodox. May he receive Communion in the Catholic Church? May we receive Communion in his church? I was taught that we do not have intercommunion with this or other non-Catholic churches. (New Jersey)

A. Intercommunion policies are more lenient now than in the past, at least from the Catholic standpoint. The guidelines you read are those approved by the American bishops for inclusion in missalettes and similar publications.

The Orthodox churches, not in full communion with the Catholic Church, still "*possess true sacraments, above all - by apostolic succession - the priesthood and the Eucharistic.*"

This fact gives foundation for "*allowing, and even encouraging some sharing in liturgical worship, even of the Eucharist with these churches.*"

Whenever it is necessary, or some genuine spiritual advantage suggests, it is lawful for any Catholic, who cannot approach a Catholic minister, to receive the sacraments, including the Eucharist, from a priest of the Orthodox Church.

Many Orthodox churches, however, are severely restrictive in the acceptance of other Christians, even Catholics, to share Communion in their churches. We have an obligation to respect those restrictions.

Similar freedom exists for members of Orthodox churches to receive Communion in a Catholic church, again without prejudice regulations placed on them by their own faith.

The above quotations and policies are from the 1993 Norms on Ecumenism of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The above appeared in the *Growing In The Faith* question & answers series of the **Catholic Star Herald** February 18, 2011.

Orthodox Christians who have prepared according to the teachings of our Fathers and Mothers may receive Holy Communion only in an Orthodox Church. If you have further questions please see Father Stephen.

Special Announcements from Fr. Stephen

Father Stephen may be reached at **609-385-3757**, Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM or by email: **frsiniari@gmail.com**

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

Events and Announcements

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE - JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2011

- + HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY - JUNE 2 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
- + HOLY PENTECOST SUNDAY - JUNE 12 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM
- + CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEASTDAY LUNCHEON - SUNDAY, JUNE 26 - Immediately following the Divine Liturgy
- + SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
- + HOLY TRANSFIGURATION - SATURDAY - AUGUST 6 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
- + DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS - MONDAY - AUGUST 15 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

SCHEDULE OF OTHER SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM - 8:30 PM in the Church Hall - Led by **Fr. Dn. Gregory**

CHURCH NEWS AND REMINDERS

ICON PLEDGES Can be paid at any time to our treasurer, James Schaeffer.

COFFEE HOUR - The Coffee Hour sign up sheet is located upstairs in the Church Hall by the door to the kitchen. Please write your name, email address and phone number by the date you sign up for. Questions, see Linda Biando.

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.

Please note: if the services of the Church Choir are required, please notify the Choir Director, Christina Murianka, as soon as possible.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Sunday, June 5, after Divine Liturgy. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

THE JOY OF GIVING

COLLECTION SUNDAYS - May God bless you for your generosity!

1st Sunday of each month - Collection for the Poor

2nd Sunday - IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities)

3rd Sunday - Pastoral Fund

OTHER DONATIONS:

Church Library

Pop Tab Collections for Ronald McDonald House

Wine: Altar wine: **Manischewitz Concord Grape** (please do not donate any other brand of concord grape)

Oil: **Virgin Olive Oil**

Events and Announcements *(Continued)*

FUTURE EVENTS AT SS PETER & PAUL

SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON - *Sunday, June 26* - Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

Father Stephen has given us his blessing to add dairy to the fish, wine and oil which are permitted, as the feast day celebration is still in the fast period.

The main courses will be catered and we are requesting that parishioners bring other food items, such as soup, appetizers (e.g. hummus), vegetables, salad, side dishes, bread, butter, desserts, beverages. A sign up sheet for the Luncheon is being posted next to the Coffee Hour sign up.

Please join your church community in the celebration of our Feast Day.

GENERAL INTEREST

ANCIENT FAITH RADIO 24 hour a day internet Orthodox radio station:
<http://ancientfaithradio.com>

MISCELLANEOUS

WEBSITE: <http://sspeterpaulphila.org>

E-MAILS: New Bulletins are available online by Saturday 8 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 Alicia an e-mail at: **aliciaj17@mac.com**

SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH STORE - Open Sundays at 9:30 AM (1/2 hour before Divine Liturgy) **Items available:** **SS Peter & Paul 90th Year Celebration DVD** (\$15); Divine Liturgy Books, Icons; Crosses (Baptismal, lapel pins, Georgian style, orthodox); Prayerbooks (English); Censors; CDs and cassettes; Religious Books. Also available: **IN THEIR OWN TONGUE**, a documentary chronicling the Albanian Archdiocese in America

"DAILY BREAD" - The Church distributes a daily email entitled "Daily Bread" containing scripture readings for the day and the commemorated saints. To add your name (or the name of anyone who would enjoy getting it) please forward the email address to the Church email address:
sspeterpaul2@verizon.net

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL LIGHTS - Envelopes are available at the Church Store counter for special prayers to be said during the week in conjunction with the burning of the Seven-Day Votive Light hanging above the Royal Doors. Suggested offering: \$10, which will go towards building up our Pastoral Fund with the ultimate goal of supporting a full time priest.

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 email: **aliciaj17@mac.com**. **PLEASE NOTE: The current bulletin is a June/July Bulletin. There will be no bulletin for the month of July. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Wednesday, July 27.** Thank you! *Parishioners will be able to pick up the August Bulletin at the Church on Sunday 7/31/11.* 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. ***Please note: You cannot arbitrarily be removed from the Prayer List. You must let Alicia know to remove your name. Thank you.*

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 **June Birthdays:** *Katherine Halkedis, John Hondros, Mary Jaxheimer, Tatyana Kuznetsova, Donna Lane, John Siniari, Lyudmila Sivak, Zinaida Zemlyanaya* and **July Birthdays:** *Helen Banushi, Andrew Cappo, Charles Daka, John Douris, Matushka Linda Dudash, Michelle Murianka, Marie Muzekari, Ted Muzekari, Viktor Skuratovskiy, Jennie Speero, Lester Speero, Silvia Yankova Yovtcheva*

May God grant them all many, many years!

DONATE AN ITEM A MONTH CAMPAIGN - We are in need of the following items: **paper coffee cups (no styrofoam, please), paper towels, 8" paper plates.** *Your continued help is truly appreciated! A sincere "Thank You" to all parishioners who so kindly donated any requested items.*

OUR FLEA MARKET WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! 14 tables were sold! Another flea market is being planned for the Fall. *Many thanks to Jim Schaeffer for organizing the event, to all the parishioners who helped set up and take down the tables, and to all the folk who participated.*

A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED FATHER'S DAY to all of our Fathers, Grandfathers, Great-Grandfathers, Uncles, Godfathers, and to all the men in our lives who have been like Fathers to us.

May God grant them all many, many years!

PHILIP CHRISTOPHER COSTA recently graduated from the University of Florida, Warrington College of Business and College of Health and Human Performance on Saturday, April 13, 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-Marketing and a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. Both degrees are with honors. Philip will pursue his MBA in Sport Business Management at the University of Florida's College of Business Administration. He is the son of Christopher and Donna Costa and grandson of Marge Costa.

Congratulations to Philip. May God grant him many years!

EURANIA (ELAINE) QUIRIAS is currently in Bryn Mawr Terrace Nursing Home, 773 East Haverford Rd, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010. 610-525-8300. Elaine is in room #14 and her direct number is: 610-519-1959

Please keep Elaine in your prayers. May God grant her good health!

STEVEN YARROW is currently in the hospital.

Please keep Steven in your prayers. May God grant him good health!

GOOD COMPANY & GOOD FOOD: HELP BUILD UP OUR PASTORAL FUND - A new tradition has started -- serving a hot meal on most Sundays to build up our Pastoral Fund. If you have any ideas or are interested in participating or sponsoring a particular Sunday, please talk to **Jim Schaeffer** or **Letitia Desloges.** *Your help and support is needed to get this project up and running!*

GREGORY VRATO, SR., is at the *John Neumann Nursing Home*, Room 726, at the intersection of Haldeman & Tomlinson Road (make a right on Tomlinson and the parking lot is immediately on your right). Visitors are welcome anytime from noon to 8 PM

Please continue to keep Gregory in your prayers. May God grant him good health!

Prayer for the Sick

O Holy Father, heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent Thine Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to heal all our ailments and deliver us from death: do Thou visit and heal Thy servant _____, granting him/her release from pain and restoration to health and vigor, that he/she may give thanks unto Thee and bless Thy Holy Name. of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Gregory Vrato, Sr., Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Mary Palmerick, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, Margot Craig, Eteri Okropiridze, Katherine Halkedis, Mary Ann Clark, Alexandra Pana, Nicholas Desloges, Steven Yarow, Martha Murianka, Anthony Sarris, Jeannie Rifkin, Nick Zeo, His Grace Bishop Nikon, Debbie Krimetz, Christina Murianka, Euria (Elaine) Quirias, Lester Speero, Lester Paul Speero**

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

HOLY DAYS AND NAME DAYS IN JUNE

June 2	- Ascension of Our Lord
June 9	- St Cyril of Alexandria
June 11	- Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
June 12	- Holy Pentecost
June 13	- Day of the Holy Spirit
June 14	- Prophet Elisha
June 19	- Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord
June 24	- Nativity of St John the Baptist
June 26	- All Saints of America & Russia
June 29	- Holy Apostles Peter & Paul

TRINITY WEEK - DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Commemorated on June 13)

On the day after every Great Feast, the Orthodox Church honors the one through whom the Feast is made possible. On the day following the Nativity of the Lord, for example, we celebrate the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos (December 26). On the day after Theophany, we commemorate St John the Baptist (January 7), and so on.

Today we honor the all-Holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, Who descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost in the form of fiery tongues in fulfillment of the Lord's promise to send the Comforter to His disciples (JN 14:16). That same Holy Spirit remains within the Church throughout the ages, guiding it "into all truth" (JN 16:13).

One of the hymns at Vespers on Saturday evening tells us that the Holy Spirit "provides all things. He gushes forth prophecy, He perfects the priesthood, ... He holds together the whole institution of the Church."

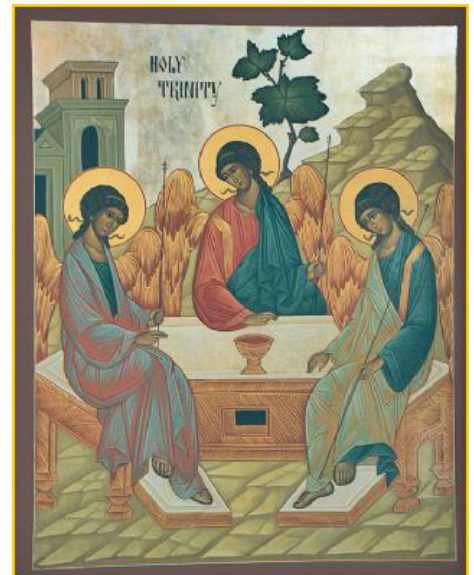
At Vespers on the day of Pentecost, we hear that the Holy Spirit is "the

Fountain of goodness, through Whom the Father is known, and the Son is glorified." He is "the living Fountain of spiritual gifts" Who "purifies us from our sins." It is by the Holy Spirit that "the prophets, divine Apostles, and martyrs are crowned." He is the source of life and of sanctification.

In the services of this day, we sing the same hymns as on Pentecost, except the Canon of the Holy Spirit, which is sung at Compline. The Vigil is not prescribed for the eve of today's feast. We sing the Great Doxology at Matins, but not the Polyeleos. The Irmos of the Ninth Ode ("Hail, O Queen, glory of mothers and virgins...") is sung in place of the Song of the Theotokos ("My soul magnifies the Lord...").

At the Liturgy, the priest or deacon chants the Entrance Verse ("Be exalted in Thy strength, O Lord. We will sing and praise Thy power.") as on the day of Pentecost. "Holy God" replaces "As many as have been baptized...." The dismissal of Pentecost is also used.

This whole week is fast-free, and the Leave-taking of Pentecost occurs on Saturday.



Reading & Icon Courtesy of OCA Website

HOLY DAYS AND NAME DAYS IN JULY

- July 1** - **Unmercenary Wonderworkers Cosmas & Damian**
- July 4** - **St Andrew of Crete; Ven Andrew Rublev; Ven Martha**
- July 5** - **Relics Ven Sergius of Radonezh; Ven Athanasius of Mount Athos**
- July 10** - **Ven Anthony of the Kiev Caves**
- July 11** - **Greatmartyr Euphemia; Blessed Princess Olga**
- July 15** - **Great Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles**
- July 16** - **Virginmartyr Julia; Martyr Alevtina (Valentina)**
- July 17** - **Greatmartyr Marina (Margaret)**
- July 18** - **Martyr Emilian**
- July 19** - **Ven Seraphim of Sarov; Ven Macrina; Blessed Stephen of Serbia**
- July 20** - **Holy Prophet Elijah**
- July 21** - **Prophet Ezekiel**
- July 22** - **Myrrbearer Mary Magdalene, Equal-to-the-Apostles; Martyr Marcella**
- July 24** - **Martyr Christina; Martyrs Boris & Gleb, Passionbearers**
- July 25** - **Dormition of Righteous Anna, Mother of the Theotokos**
- July 26** - **St Jacob, Enlightener of the Peoples of Alaska**
- July 27** - **Greatmartyr & Healer Panteleimon**

MARTYR CHRISTINA
(Commemorated on July 24)

The Martyr Christina lived during the third century born into a rich family. Her father was governor of Tyre and envisioned that his daughter should become a pagan priestess and placed her in a dwelling with two servants where he set up many gold and silver idols, and he commanded his daughter to burn incense before them.

In her solitude, Christina began to wonder who had created this beautiful world. She was delighted by the stars of the heavens and she constantly came back to the thought about the Creator of all the world and was convinced that the idols could not create anything, since they themselves were created by human hands. She began to pray to the One God, entreating Him to reveal Himself. Her soul blazed with love for the Unknown God, and she intensified her prayer, combining it with fasting.

One time Christina was visited by an angel, who instructed her in the true faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. The angel called her a bride of Christ and told her about her future suffering. The holy virgin smashed all the idols and threw them out the window. Christina's father, Urban, asked her where all the idols had disappeared. Christina was silent. Urban learned the truth from the servants.

In a rage the father began to slap his daughter's face. At first, the holy virgin remained quiet, but then she told him

about her faith in the One True God, and that she had destroyed the idols. Urban gave orders to kill the servants and gave Christina a fierce beating and threw her in prison. St Christina's mother came in tears, imploring her to renounce Christ and to return to her ancestral beliefs. Christina remained unyielding. Urban brought his daughter to trial and urged her to offer worship to the gods, and to ask forgiveness for her misdeeds. Instead, he saw her firm and steadfast confession of faith in Christ.

They tied her to an iron wheel, beneath which they lit a fire. The body of the martyr, turning round on the wheel, was scorched on all sides. They then threw her into prison.

An angel of God appeared at night, healing her wounds and strengthening her with food. Her father gave orders to drown her in the sea. An angel sustained the saint while the stone sank down, and Christina miraculously came out of the water and reappeared before her father. He imputed this to sorcery and decided to execute her in the morning. That night he himself suddenly died. Another governor was sent in his place and also tried to persuade her to renounce Christ, but seeing her unyielding firmness, he subjected her to cruel tortures and placed her in prison. People began to flock to her, and she converted about 300.

A new governor arrived and resumed the torture of the saint. He gave orders

to throw her into a red-hot furnace and lock her in it. After five days they opened the furnace and found the martyr alive and unharmed. Seeing this miracle, many believed in Christ the Savior, and the torturers executed St Christina with a sword.



Reading & Icon Courtesy of OCA Website