



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

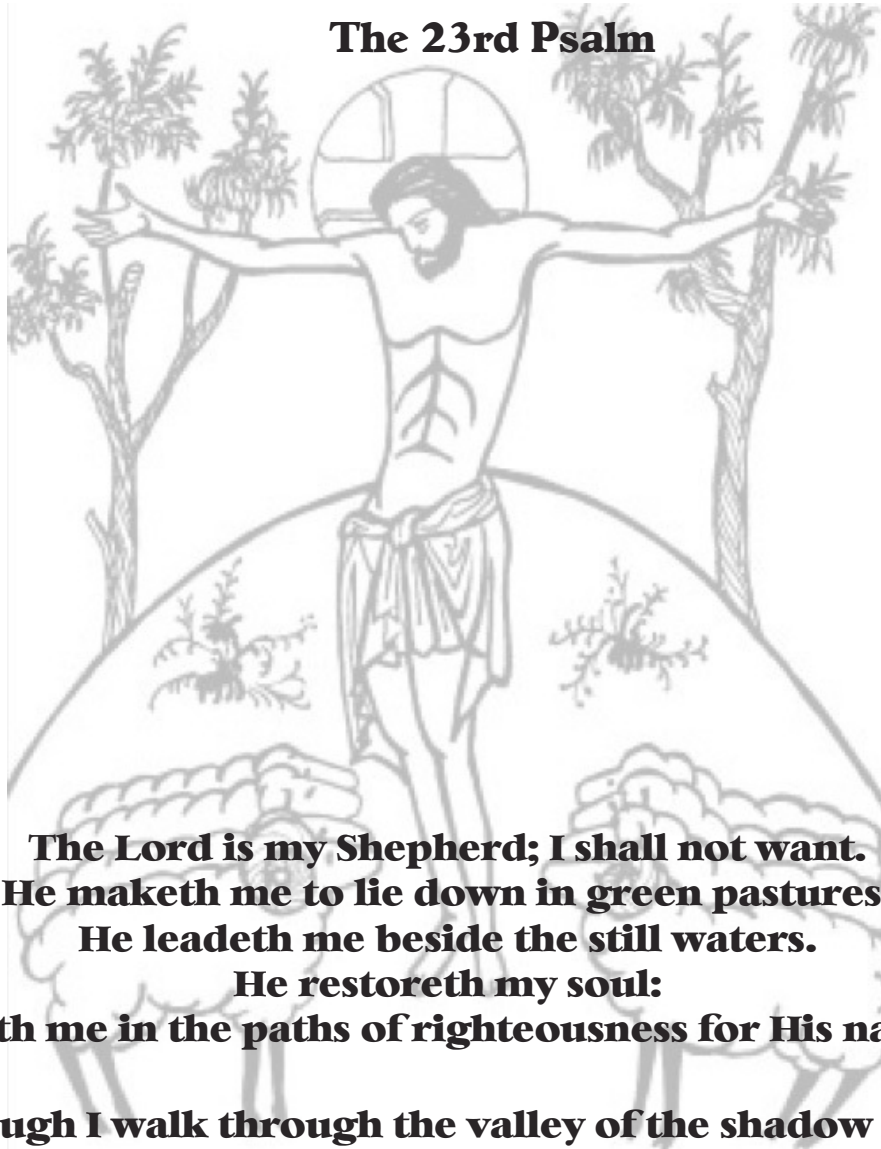
Pastor: Father Stephen Siniari
Rectory Phone: 1-609-385-3757



Church Bulletin ~ July/August 2008

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

The 23rd Psalm



**The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name' sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: For thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine ene-
mies; Thou annointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over.**

Special Announcements from Fr. Stephen

*** *Father Stephen* may be reached at **609-385-3757, Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM** or by e-mail: **ssiniari@covenanthouse.org**

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 & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - July/August/September 2008

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS - FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Schedule of Other Services

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM - 8:30 PM in the Church Hall - Bible Study led by **Fr. Dn. Gregory**. The title for the Bible Study is "*Seeking the Treasure of Christ Throughout Scripture*." The study will use the new Orthodox Study Bible of the Old and New Testament as a base. The first topic of discussion will be the meaning of the story of Adam and Eve and the discussions will proceed with a journey through the Hebrew Bible.

Church News & Reminders

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2008 - *Please note: THE CHURCH FISCAL YEAR ENDS SEPTEMBER 30TH; if at all possible, please have your dues of \$115 per person paid by that time.* Dues can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

ICON PLEDGES - Can be paid at any time to our treasurer, James Schaeffer. ***Please note: when returning your Icons, please return them to the Church Store. You will be given a receipt for all Icons returned. All icons are to be returned by the end of September.***

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - The 1st Monday of each month, 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. *Please note: if the services of the Church Choir are required, please notify the Choir Director, Christina Murianka, as soon as possible.*

Memorials: Any help in setting up and cleaning up from the families involved is truly appreciated and welcomed by the Ladies Society.

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

CHURCH LIBRARY DONATIONS - We are greatly in need of monetary donations for buying books to establish our Church Library to help all of us continue to learn about the Orthodox Faith. Any amount is truly appreciated and can be given to our Treasurer, James Schaeffer, at any time. *May God bless you for your generosity!*

PASTORAL FUND/POOR BOX - Please note: There are now 2 collection boxes in the back of the church, **the Poor Box AND a Pastoral Fund Box**. *Please donate generously!*

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - *In July:* 10 casseroles and toiletries were delivered. Disposable razors and individual/small tubes of hand lotion are still needed. 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!*

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.

ORTHODOX HERALD COLLECTION - Collections for the *Orthodox Herald* will take place every 2nd Sunday of the month. Please donate generously.

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.

POP TAB COLLECTION PROGRAM FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE - RJ (and his parents, Debbie & Bob Krimetz) is collecting flip tabs from any aluminum cans to donate to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. *Help by bringing in your tabs! Thank you!*

Other Events at SS Peter & Paul



SEPTEMBER 20 (RAIN OR SHINE) ~ SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE - *Remember to keep this date open for our most fun event of the year!* More information in September's Church Bulletin. **Deadline for purchase of tickets will be Sunday, September 14th!**

General Interest

ALBANIAN ARCHDIOCESE CENTENNIAL GRAND GALA - Saturday, September 27, 2008, World Trade Center, Boston. Cocktails, 6 PM, Dinner, 7 PM. For more information, go to: www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/anniversary.html The website will be updated shortly with all relevant information and will include information for credit card payments.

~**Deadline for tickets** (\$125) is September 1, 2008. For questions, contact Mrs. Dorothy Cornetta at gala100th@yahoo.com or 781-329-0454.

~ **Room reservation deadline** at the Seaport Hotel is August 26, 2008. Call 617-385-4000, identify group name as *St George's Church*. Rates are \$259/night.

~**Souvenir Journal Ads:** Deadline, August 15, 2008. As part of our legacy to the next generation, please support the 100th Anniversary celebrations by placing an ad. This permanent record of our community in 2008 will be a treasured memory for years to come. For questions, contact Jeanne & Kristine Kotelly at 617-489-1892 or jmkotelly@earthlink.net

ANCIENT FAITH RADIO - 24 hour a day *Orthodox radio station* providing high quality internet-based Orthodox programming, music, teaching, interviews, features, convert testimonies, conference recordings, and much more! The URL is: <http://ancientfaithradio.com>

ALBANIAN FORUM ON THE INTERNET (FORUMI SHQIPTAR) - has a section on: Komuniteti Orthodhoks. It has extensive offerings on Orthodoxy in the Albanian language. They are divided into many themes, i.e. "The Birth of Christ," "The Church is One," a catechism and includes Fr. Thomas Hopko's entire Rainbow series.

Ne gjuhen shqipe: per te dhena informative mbi Kishen Orthodhokse, klikoni "Komuniteti Orthodhoks" ne uebsajten Forumi Shqiptar me poshte:

Theurlis: www.forumishqiptar.com/forumdisplay.php?f=186

SOPHIA: SECRET WISDOM - A film about Orthodox spirituality around the world needing funds to finish the "Russian/Ukrainian" part of the monastic visits. Please contribute: <http://sophiasecretwisdom.com> or send a check (with "SOPHIA: SECRET WISDOM" on left corner) to: **Sarah Masters, The Hartley Film Foundation, 49 Richmondville Avenue, Suite 204, Westport, CT 06880** You can listen to Fr John McGuckin at: <http://www.myocn.net/index.php/CRTL/Show-Descriptions/CRTL-Archives> Scroll down to the Archives, 03/28/08 - Sophia: Wisdom From Today's Christian Ascetics - Rev. Dr. John McGuckin

Miscellaneous

SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH STORE - Open every Sunday at 9:30 AM (one half hour before Divine Liturgy) and after Divine Liturgy until 1:30 PM

Items available: Icons; Crosses (Baptismal, lapel pins, Georgian style, orthodox); Prayerbooks (Georgian and English); Censors; Unique and different wearing apparel; CDs and cassettes; Religious Books

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 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 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 31. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday 9/7/08.* 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 **July** Birthdays: Helen Banushi, Andrew Cappo, Charles Daka, John Douris, Linda Dudash, Michelle Murianka, Ted Muzekari, Sr., Jennie Speero, Lester Speero, Silvia Yankova Yovtcheva

May God grant them all many, many years!

A **VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **August** Birthdays: Al Antony, Sophie Bacon, Rdr. Daniel Drobish, Denise Gormley, Anna Jeka, Evanthia Jeka, Valentina Maskuti, Marion Merkle, Eteri Okropiridze, Oleg Petrenko, Christina Reeves, Christine Schaeffer, Rdr. Gregory Shaloka, Jayne Siniari, Viktor Skuratovskiy, John Vesho, Connie Vrato

May God grant them all many, many years!

OUR MOST SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTINA QUIRIAS for receiving the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement and to her brother, **CHRISTOPHER QUIRIAS** for receiving a Hockey Award.

May God grant Christina & Christopher many, many years!

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 any-time from noon to 8:00 PM.

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

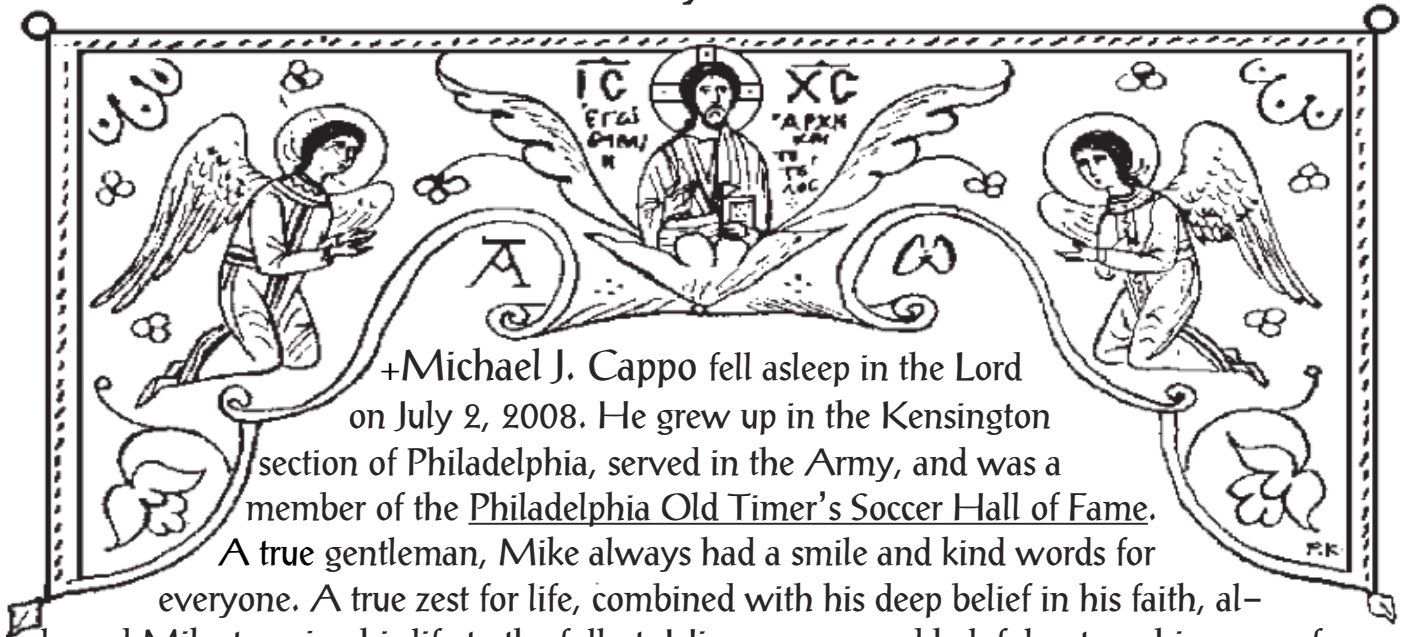
THE SS PETER & PAUL PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATE is long overdue. With this Bulletin you will find enclosed a separate Memo which lists whether or not you are currently listed in the Directory. Please look over all the information and make certain it is correct. If there are any changes or additions, please contact Alicia by **September 14, 2008**. If you have not received a Memo, but wish to be listed in the Parish Directory, please contact Alicia by phone (215-742-0492) or by e-mail, aliciaj17@mac.com by September 14, 2008. Anyone on the e-mail only list will receive the same information via e-mail by Friday, July 18th. **If all the information is correct, do nothing. The new Parish Directory will be included with the October or November Bulletin.** E-mail only Parishioners will receive a paper copy as well; extra copies of the Directory will be available in the Church Hall in early October or early November. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Gregory Vreto, Sr., Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, Angie Kozlowski, James Vesho, Margot Craig, Hope Vrato, Eteri Okropiridze**

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

Memory Eternal



+Michael J. Cappo fell asleep in the Lord on July 2, 2008. He grew up in the Kensington section of Philadelphia, served in the Army, and was a member of the Philadelphia Old Timer's Soccer Hall of Fame. A true gentleman, Mike always had a smile and kind words for everyone. A true zest for life, combined with his deep belief in his faith, allowed Mike to enjoy his life to the fullest. His generous and helpful nature, his sense of humor, and his friendliness towards everyone will always be remembered. Mike is lovingly remembered and greatly missed by family, friends and parishioners of SS Peter & Paul.

May his memory be eternal!

Holy Days and Name Days in July

- July 1 - Unmercenary Wonderworkers Cosmas & Damian
- July 4 - St Andrew of Crete; Ven Andrew Rubley; Ven Martha
- July 5 - Relics Ven Sergius of Radonezh; Ven Athanasius-Athos
- July 10 - Ven Anthony of the Kiev Caves
- July 11 - Greatmartyr Euphemia; Bl Princess Olga
- July 15 - Great Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles
- July 16 - Virginmartyr Julia
- July 17 - Greatmartyr Marina (Margaret)
- July 18 - Martyr Emilian
- July 19 - Ven Seraphim of Sarov; Ven Macrina; Bl 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 Netsvetov; Martyr Parasceva
- July 27 - Greatmartyr & Healer Panteleimon

Dormition of the Righteous Ann, the Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos

(Commemorated on July 25)



Saint Anna was the daughter of the priest Matthan and his wife Mary. She was of the tribe of Levi and the lineage of Aaron. According to Tradition, she died peacefully in Jerusalem at age 79, before the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos.

During the reign of St Justinian the Emperor (527- 565), a church was built in her honor at Deutera. Emperor Justinian II (685-695; 705-711) restored her church, since St Anna had appeared to his pregnant wife. It was at this time that her body and maphorion (veil) were transferred to Constantinople.

St Anna is also commemorated on September 9.

~ Reading and Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

Holy Days and Name Days in August

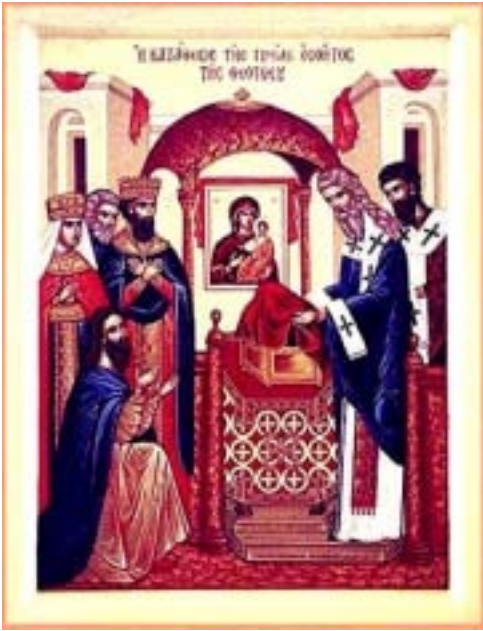
- August 1 - Procession of the Life-Giving Cross; Beginning of Dormition Fast
- August 6 - Transfiguration of Our Lord
- August 9 - Ven Herman of Alaska; Apostle Matthias
- August 13 - St Tikhon of Zadonsk; St Maximus, Confessor; Ven Maximus of Moscow
- August 15 - Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos
- 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 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

The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Most Holy Mother of God

(Commemorated on August 1)

The Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos in a church of Constantinople's Chalcostrateia district took place during the reign of the emperor Theodosius the Younger. Before this the holy relic, entrusted to the Apostle Thomas by the Mother of

God Herself, was kept by pious Christians at Jerusalem after Her Dormition. During the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise (886-911), his wife Zoe was afflicted with an unclean spirit, and he prayed that God would heal her.



The empress had a vision that she would be healed of her infirmity if the Belt of the Mother of God were placed upon her. The emperor then asked the Patriarch to open the coffer. The Patriarch removed the seal and opened the coffer in which the relic was kept, and the Belt of the Mother of God appeared completely whole and undamaged by time. The Patriarch placed the Belt on the sick empress, and immediately she was freed from her infirmity. They sang hymns of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Theotokos, then they placed the venerable Belt back into the coffer and resealed it.

In commemoration of the miraculous occurrence and the twofold Placing of the venerable Belt, the Feast of the Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos was established. Parts of the holy Belt are in the Vatopedi monastery on Mt. Athos, in Trier monastery, and in Georgia.

~ Icon & Reading Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

His Grace Bishop Nikon's Visit to SS Peter and Paul ~ June 22, 2008

The Herald of St. Constantine Recipients:

Stephen Murianka, Martha Murianka and Haralambox Halkedis







Troparion for Saints Peter and Paul

**O Leaders of the Apostles
And Evangelizers of the World
Intercede with Christ our God
To grant Peace to the World
And Salvation to our Souls**

