



***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: 856-616-0782***



*Church Bulletin ~ June 2003*

**Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful**  
**Morning Prayers of the Elders of Optina Monastery**

*O Lord  
Grant that I may meet  
All this coming day brings to me  
With spiritual tranquility  
Grant that I may fully surrender myself  
To Thy Holy Will  
At ever hour of this day  
Direct and support me in all things  
Whatsoever news  
May reach me in the course of the day  
Teach me to accept it with a calm soul  
And the firm conviction  
That all is subject  
To Thy Holy Will  
Direct my thoughts and feelings  
In all my words and actions  
In all unexpected occurrences  
Do not let me forget  
That all is sent down from Thee  
Grant that I may deal straightforwardly and wisely  
With every member of my family,  
Those with whom I work,  
And those whom you have blessed me to serve  
Let me neither embarrass nor sadden anyone*

*O Lord  
Grant me the strength to endure the fatigue  
of the coming day  
And all the events that take place during it  
Direct my will and teach me to pray  
Pray Thou, Thyself in me  
Teach me to believe  
To hope  
To be patient  
To forgive and to love.  
Amen.*

# Events & Announcements

## Church News & Reminders

### BISHOP NIKON'S VISIT ~ JUNE 29 ~ OUR PATRONAL FEAST DAY

**His Beatitude Metropolitan HERMAN** has blessed the request of Father Stephen that **Stephen Murianka, Nicholas Muzekari, Kakhaber Okropiridze, Viktor Skuratovskiy,** and **Gregory Vrato, Jr.,** be tonsured readers by **His Grace, our Bishop NIKON** during his Archpastoral visit for our parish Feast Day on June 29, 2003. *Glory to God!*

**Bishop NIKON,** during his Archpastoral visit for our parish Feast Day will receive by Holy Chrismation, former Methodist Pastor, **David Fox,** his wife, **Kerri,** who is pregnant with their fourth child, and their three children, **Hurley, Maximos,** and **Paris,** immediately prior to Divine Liturgy. With the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, David Fox has enrolled for a year of supplementary study at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary. During this year he will complete his PhD studies at Drew University in addition to completing his Master in Theology at St. Vladimir's. Seminarian Fox will serve our parish in the capacity of Director of Religious Education as well as assisting Father Stephen with other pastoral duties. *May God grant the Fox family many years!*

Reader **Andrew Rubis,** his wife, **Ekaterina,** and their new son **Isaak,** will be with us for our Patronal Feast Day and His Grace, **our Bishop NIKON** will church Ekaterina and Isaak prior to Liturgy. *May God grant them many years!*

**Father O'Leary** and his wife **Jane,** and our brothers and sisters from St John Chrysostom Church will be with us for the celebration of our Feast Day.

**Luncheon Immediately following Divine Liturgy** - The luncheon will be held at the Tiffany Diner, Roosevelt Boulevard and Welsh Road. Tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance and will be available in the Church Hall starting Sunday, June 8, after Divine Liturgy. The **deadline** for purchasing tickets is **Sunday, June 22.** The cost will be approximately \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. It is a tremendous honor for our parish to host His Grace Bishop Nikon. Come celebrate with your brothers and sisters!



**ASCENSION THURSDAY LITURGY** will not be celebrated at SS Peter & Paul, but you are encouraged to attend Liturgy at an Orthodox Parish near you.

**ICON PLEDGES** - Your Icon Pledges for 2003 are being accepted by George Kendro every Sunday. Please begin fulfilling your pledges as soon as possible.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2003** - Dues have been raised to \$100 per person and they can be paid starting now.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS** - Held the 1st Monday of every 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.

**NO SMOKING POLICY** - Having sought guidance from our Bishop regarding the limited space in our Church building, Father Stephen and the Church Committee ask, for the sake of our children and the health of everyone, that we cease all forms of smoking: cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc. as of Pascha 2003. Thank you.

**CELL PHONES** - Please be respectful of the Divine Liturgy and courteous to Father Stephen and other members of the congregation and turn off the ringer of your cell phone. Thank you.

## **The Joy of Giving**

**SEMINARY APPEAL** - June is Seminary Appeal Month. We will be having a special collection sometime during this month for this most important work of building up our Orthodox Churches.

**CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS** - will not be collected during the summer and will resume in September. Today, June 1 is the last day to contribute \$10 for casseroles. Please give your donation to **Debbie Krimetz**. A most sincere **Thank you** to Debbie and Bob for all of their time and effort throughout the year in helping the homeless! A sincere **thank you** to everyone who donated casseroles and/or money for this most worthwhile cause.

**POOR BOX DONATIONS** - Please continue to remember those who are less fortunate than we are.

**COLLECTION FOR THE POOR** - On the 1st Sunday of every month SS. Peter & Paul will hold a special collection for the poor. Please plan to give generously every month to those whose lives are less fortunate than ours.

**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.

## **Ladies' Society News**

**HOT DOG SUNDAY** will be on **June 8** and is being sponsored by the Ladies' Society. Please plan to attend and have a great time!

## **Sunday School News**

**OUR SINCEREST THANKS** to **Priftesha Margot Siniari** and all of the **Sunday School Teachers** for all of their hard work and for making our Sunday School a growing and successful spiritual learning experience for our children.

**VOLUNTEER TEACHERS** - Priftesha Margot Siniari is looking for a few good people to volunteer to be teachers for next year's Sunday School. No one would have to commit to every Sunday, but if you feel that you may have a special talent for sharing the Orthodox faith with young people, please see Priftesha Margot and volunteer! Any ideas for the Sunday School are always welcomed.

## **Events**

**PHILADELPHIA ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS (POYA)** meets every 3rd Saturday of every month at St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church in Center City at 6:30 PM for vespers, followed by dinner and discussion. For more information or to suggest topics of discussion, please contact **Katia** at **215-776-1162** or e-mail her at: **ekatarina2000@msn.com**

## **Miscellaneous**

**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: **alicia17@mac.com**. The deadline for the next Bulletin is **Sunday, June 22**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 6/29/03**. Bulletins will be mailed to any Parishioners unable to attend.

**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.

**PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR BULLETIN ENVELOPES** in either of the two wire baskets. Thank you!

## **Parishioner's Corner**

**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **June** Birthdays: **Katherine Halkedis, Donna Lane, Isabelle McGinley, John Siniari, Zinaida Zemlyanaya**

*May God grant them all many, many years!*

**SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES** to **Andrew and Ekaterina Rubis** on the birth of their first child, Isaak.

**WE ALSO WELCOME THE BIRTH OF A NEW CHILD, Matthew Paul,** to **Stephen, Michelle** and **Alexandra Murianka**. *Sincere congratulations and best wishes!*

**A BABY CHANGING STATION** has now been added to the Ladies' Room. Please take advantage of this wonderful new addition.

## **Let Us Keep Them in Our Prayers**

\*\*\* Please continue your prayers for the full recovery of **Matushka Katherine Toroney**.

\*\*\* Please continue your prayers for the full recovery of **Presbytera Cleopatra Gregory**.

## **A 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 (name),  
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.**

## **June is Seminary Appeal Month**

### **Support our Theological Schools in North America!**

**Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude Metropolitan HERMAN for the 2003 Seminary Appeal**

June 2003

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. (Matthew 28:19)*

At the recent Spring Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, I was happy to report that eighty-four new parishes and missions have been planted across North America since 1994. Today, just two months later, I am equally happy to report that seven additional parishes and missions have been established! Strong prospects for planting even more communities in the near future continue to present themselves, confirming the desire of so many to bring the saving message of the Risen Christ to any and all who would listen and respond.

Preparing dedicated and visionary clergy, choir directors, religious educators, and lay church workers is the task of the Orthodox Church in America's seminaries. Students at Saint Tikhon Seminary, South Canaan, Pennsylvania, and Saint Vladimir Seminary, Crestwood, New York, not only study Scripture, doctrine, liturgical worship, patristics, and Church history, but they are prepared to meet the challenge of a Church growing in diverse regions and settings across North America. Saint Herman Seminary, Kodiak, Alaska, shares in this process by preparing clergy and Church workers to meet the unique needs of the faithful in the very region in which Orthodoxy first took hold on this continent over 200 years ago. The need for well-trained clergy to nurture new communities, as well as to revitalize those which are well established, has never been more urgent.

For nearly seven decades, our seminaries have enthusiastically embraced their calling to equip God's People with all that is necessary for building up the Body of Christ. Lacking the vast en-

dowments and unlimited resources which secular institutions often possess, our seminaries have relied — and continue to rely — on the generosity of the faithful to provide all that is necessary to the formation of pastors, teachers, and lay ministers. Hand in hand with the growth of the Church, our seminaries have also grown, and their growth would have been impossible if not for the generosity you have shown in years past.

Your generous support of the Orthodox Church in America's 2003 Seminary Appeal will help to ensure that our seminaries will be able to continue their mission — the same mission shared by the entire Church as it strives to bring the fullness of the Gospel to every corner of this vast continent. The generosity you display today will not only ensure that our seminaries will be able to meet their present needs and maintain their current programs, but will help in strengthening and expanding their mission to equip those who have a burning desire to fulfill the Great Commission now and in the future.

I pray that you will join me in supporting the work of our seminaries, so crucial to the ongoing growth of the Church. And I pray that God will bless you abundantly as we continue to work together for the building up of His Body, the Church.

Thanking you for your commitment and generosity to Christ and His Holy Church, I remain

With love in Christ,

+HERMAN

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

### **Holy Days and Name Days in June**

- June 1 - Sunday of the Blind Man
- June 4 - Leavetaking of Pascha; Forefeast of Ascension
- June 5 - Ascension of Our Lord
- June 8 - Holy Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council; St John of Kronstadt
- June 9 - St Cyril of Alexandria
- June 11 - Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
- June 14 - Prophet Elisha
- June 15 - Pentecost
- June 16 - Day of the Holy Spirit
- June 19 - Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord
- June 22 - All Saints
- June 23 - Beginning of SS Peter & Paul Fast
- June 24 - Nativity of St John the Baptist
- June 29 - Holy Apostles Peter & Paul; All Saints of America; All Saints of Russia

## ***Ascension of Our Lord***

The Lord Jesus passed forty days on earth after His Resurrection from the dead, appearing continually in various places to His disciples, with whom He also spoke, ate, and drank, thereby further demonstrating His Resurrection. On this Thursday, the fortieth day after Pascha, He appeared again in Jerusalem. After He had first spoken to the disciples about many things, He



gave them His last commandment, that is, that they go forth and proclaim His Name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. But He also commanded them that for the present, they were not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait there together until they receive power from on high, when the Holy Spirit would come upon them. Saying these things, He led them to the Mount of Olives, and raising His hands, He blessed them; and saying again the words of the Father's blessing, He was parted from them and taken up. Immediately a cloud of light, a proof of His majesty, received Him. Sitting thereon as though on a royal chariot, He was taken up into Heaven, and after a short time was concealed from the sight of the disciples, who remained where they were with their eyes fixed on Him. At this point, two Angels in the form of men in white raiment appeared to them and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven?"

This same Jesus, Who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven" (Acts 1:11). These words, in a complete and concise manner, declare what is taught in the Symbol of Faith concerning the Son and Word of God. Therefore, having so fulfilled all His dispensation for us, our Lord Jesus Christ ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat at the right hand of God the Father. As for His sacred disciples, they returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, rejoicing because Christ had promised to send them the Holy Spirit. It should be noted that the Mount of Olives is a Sabbath's day journey from Jerusalem, that is, the distance a Jew was permitted to walk on the day of the Sabbath. Ecumenius writes, "A Sabbath day's journey is one mile in length, as Clement says in his fifth Stromatis; it is two thousand cubits, as the Interpretation of the Acts states." They draw this conclusion from the fact that, while they were in the wilderness, the Israelites of old kept within this distance from the Holy Tabernacle, whither they walked on the Sabbath day to worship God.

~ Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA ~  
from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America web page  
~ ICON COURTESY OF ATHANASIOS CLARK ~





## **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**

