



***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 ~ September 2005*

## **Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful**

### **God Knows the Truth**

At the turn of the year, at the time when kings go campaigning, David sent Joab and with him his guards and all Israel. They massacred the Ammonites and laid siege to Rabbah-of-the-Ammonites. David, however, remained in Jerusalem.

It happened towards evening when David had got up from resting and was strolling on the palace roof, that from the roof he saw a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David made enquiries about this woman and was told, 'Why, that is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite.' David then sent messengers to fetch her. She came to him, and he lay with her, just after she had purified herself from her period. She then went home again. The woman conceived and sent word to David, 'I am pregnant.'

David then sent word to Joab, 'Send me Uriah the Hittite,' whereupon Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah reached him, David asked how Joab was and how the army was and how the war was going. David then said to Uriah, 'Go down to your house and wash your feet.' Uriah left the palace and was followed by a present from the king's table. Uriah, however, slept at the palace gate with all his master's bodyguard and did not go down to his house.

This was reported to David; 'Uriah,' they said 'has not gone down to his house.' So David asked Uriah, 'Haven't you just arrived from the journey? Why didn't you go down to your house?' To which Uriah replied, 'The ark, Israel and Judah are lodged in huts; my master Joab and my lord's guards are camping in the open. Am I to go to my house, then, and eat and drink and sleep with my wife? As Yahweh lives, and as you yourself live, I shall do no such thing!' David then said to Uriah, 'Stay on here today; tomorrow I shall send you off.' So Uriah stayed that day in Jerusalem. The next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk. In the evening, Uriah went out and bedded down with his master's bodyguard, but did not go down to his house.

Next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by Uriah. In the letter he wrote, 'Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest and then fall back, so that he gets wounded and killed.' Joab, then besieging the city, stationed Uriah at a point where he knew that there would be tough fighters. The people of the city sallied out and engaged Joab; there were casualties in the army, among David's guards, and Uriah the Hittite was killed as well.

Joab sent David a full account of the battle. To the messenger he gave this order: 'When you have finished telling the king all about the battle, if the king's anger is aroused and he says, "Why did you go near the town to give battle? Didn't you know that they would shoot from the ramparts? Who killed Abimelech son of Jerubbaal? Wasn't it a woman who dropped a millstone on him from the ramparts, causing his death at Thebez? Why did you go near the ramparts?" you are to say, "Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead too."'

So the messenger set off and, on his arrival, told David everything that Joab had instructed him to say. David flew into a rage with Joab and said to the messenger, 'Why

did you go near the ramparts? Who killed Abimelech son of Jerubbaal? Wasn't it a woman who dropped a millstone on him from the ramparts, causing his death at Thebez? Why did you go near the ramparts?' The messenger replied to David, 'Their men had won an initial advantage and then came out to engage us in the open. We then drove them back into the gateway, but the archers shot at your retainers from the ramparts; some of the king's retainers lost their lives, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead too.'

David then said to the messenger, 'Say this to Joab, "Do not take the matter to heart; the sword devours now one and now another. Attack the town in greater force and destroy it." That will encourage him.' When Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for her husband. When the period of mourning was over, David sent to have her brought to his house; she became his wife and bore him a son. But what David had done displeased Yahweh.

-- 2 Samuel, Chapter 11

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FATHER STEPHEN:**

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.

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

## **Events & Announcements**

### **Liturgical Schedule - September/October 2005**

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

### **Church News & Reminders**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2005** - The Church Fiscal Year ends September 30. 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, November 7, 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** - *In August, 8 casseroles were delivered.* 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!

**MEATBALL & HOT DOG SUNDAY** - **September 11**, after Divine Liturgy

**MEETING** - Sunday, **September 18**, after Divine Liturgy

## **Events at SS Peter & Paul**

**SPECIAL SERVICES/EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH** - Fr. Dn. Jason is scheduling special services during weekdays and on Saturdays. There will be announcements each Sunday for the coming week.

**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.

**ALERT!** **SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE** - Now scheduled for Saturday, September 24. 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** or sign up on the sheet in the Church Hall ASAP. *There's lots of work to be done, but it'll be well worth it!*

**PRICES:** Lobster, \$30; Steak, \$25; Adult Hot Dog/Burger, \$8; Child (5-13) Hot Dog/ Burger, \$5; Children under 5 Free.



*See Alicia to reserve your tickets now! Deadline for purchase of tickets is Sunday, September 17!*

**FOS (FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX STEWARDS) PRESENTATION** - Sunday, **October 2**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. *The Presentation will be given by Fr. Eugene Vansuch. Please stay and learn about the FOS.* Thank you!

**ALERT! GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** - Now scheduled for Sunday, **October 9**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. *Please make every effort to stay for the meeting.* Thank you!

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASS** - Tentatively starting in the Fall and led by Fr. Dn. Jason. **Wednesday evenings:** discussion of the Bible, Teachings/Doctrines, Feasts/Fasts, Divine Services.

### **Other Events of General Interest**

**THE SACRED MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE -- "IN GLORY AND HONOR CROWNED"** ~ **SATURDAY, 10/15, 10 AM TO 3:30 PM** - At St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 4th & Fairmount, Phila., PA. Adults, \$20; Youth/Sr. Citizens, \$15. Mail to: Eastern Churches Conference, PO Box 85, Folcroft, PA, 19032. Last minute registration will be available at the door. *If you can't afford the fee, come anyway -- no one will be turned away!* More info, call **Fr. John Udics** at **610-713-9358** or e-mail:

**john.udics@verizon.net** Last minute info, call St. Michael's Church at **215-627-6148**.

**2005 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL ASSEMBLY** - Will be held Thursday through Saturday, October 20 - 22 in South Boston, MA

**A PARISH LIFE STRATEGY SEMINAR: FOCUS ON THE FUTURE ~ SATURDAY, NOV 12, 10 AM TO 3:30 PM** - By Fr. Protodeacon Peter Danilchik, at St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, 615 Mercer St, Cherry Hill, NJ. Adults, \$25; Youth/Sr. Citizens, \$15. *If you can't afford the fee, come anyway -- no one will be turned away!* More info, call **Fr. Vincent Saverino** at **610-989-0519** or e-mail:

**john.udics@comcast.net** Last minute info, call St. Thomas Church at **856-665-1731**.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:alicaj17@mac.com). The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **September 25**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **10/2/05**. 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 **September** Birthdays: **Richard Burdumy, Brunilda Gepele, Elizabeth Hansburg, Angie Kozlowski, David Lane**

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

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CONNIE VRATO** for receiving not 1 but 2 commendations from her principal and from the Regional Superintendent for Connie's outstanding service and leadership as Special Education Liaison at the Willard School. **Keep up the great work, Connie!**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTINA & AL REEVES** on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Alexandra

and **CONGRATULATIONS TO FR. GREGORY DUDASH AND FAMILY** on the birth of their new granddaughter.

Charlotte Alexandra Reeves was born on June 29th and Baptized on August 14th.

*God grant Charlotte many, many years!*

## Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Elaine Quirias, Gregory Vreto, Sr., Debbie Krimetz, Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Harry Cappel, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey**

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

### Memory Eternal

†Mary D. Leo, mother of Barbara Bassoline, fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, August 2nd, 2005. Services were held on Saturday, August 6th at St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre. Memorial donations may be sent to St. Mary AO Church, 905 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

*May Mary Leo's memory be eternal!*

†Presbytera Cleopatra Gregory, wife of †Fr. George Gregory, fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, August 10th, 2005. Services were held on Friday, August 12th at St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall.

*May Presbytera Cleopatra's memory be eternal!*



### Metropolitan Herman Calls upon Faithful to Offer Aid to Katrina Victims

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] In a letter dated August 31, 2005, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, called upon the Church's faithful to "give sacrificially" to efforts aimed at relieving the suffering of the hundreds of thousands of individuals in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi victimized by Hurricane Katrina.

"While Hurricane Katrina itself was nothing less than catastrophic, its aftermath and its effect on the lives of so many is nothing short of horrible," Metropolitan Herman wrote. "How, many ask, are those most affected by the storm and its aftermath to find the comfort of God? To whom can they turn in their hour of need?"

In an effort to maximize relief efforts, the faithful are being asked to send their donations directly to the Baltimore-based International Orthodox Christian Charities [IOCC], which has already dispatched teams to the affected area and is monitoring the rapidly deteriorating situation there.

OCA faithful are asked to send their donations to

**IOCC "Hurricane Relief"**  
**PO Box 630225**  
**Baltimore, Maryland, 21263-0225**

Contributions may also be made by calling IOCC's toll-free donation hotline at **877-803-4622** or by going to **<http://iocc.org>** and submitting an online donation.

### **Holy Days and Name Days in September**

- September 5 - Prophet Zachariah & Righteous Elizabeth; St Athanasius of Brest
- September 8 - Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos
- September 9 - Righteous Joachim & Anna
- September 13 - Founding of Church of the Holy Sepulchre; Hieromartyr Cornelius
- September 14 - Elevation of the Precious Cross
- September 17 - Martyr Sophia & her Daughters: Faith, Hope & Love
- September 23 - Conception of St John the Baptist
- September 24 - Protomartyr Thecla
- September 25 - Repose of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh; Ven. Euphrosyne
- September 26 - Repose of St John the Theologian
- September 28 - Martyr Wenceslaus, Prince of the Czechs
- September 30 - Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Armenia

### ***Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna***

St. Joachim, son of Barpathir, was a descendant of King David, to whom God had revealed that the Savior of the world would be born from his descendants. St. Anna was the daughter of Matthan. On her father's side, she was of the tribe of Levi, and on her mother's side, of the tribe of Judah.

The spouses lived at Nazareth in Galilee. They were childless into their old age and all their life they grieved over this. They had to endure derision and scorn, since at that time childlessness was considered a disgrace. They never grumbled, but fervently prayed to God, humbly trusting in Him.



Once, during a great feast, the gifts which Righteous Joachim took to Jerusalem for offering to God were not accepted by the priest Reuben, who considered that a childless man was not worthy to offer sacrifice to God. This pained the old man very much, and he, regarding himself the most sinful of people, decided not to return home, but to settle in solitude in a desolate place.

His righteous spouse Anna, having learned what sort of humiliation her husband had endured, with prayer and fasting, she sorrowfully entreated God to grant her a child. In his desolate solitude and with fasting Righteous Joachim also asked God for this. The prayer of the saintly couple was heard. An angel told them that a daughter would be born of them, Who would bless all the race of



mankind. By order of this Heavenly Messenger, SS. Joachim and Anna met at Jerusalem where, through the promise of God, a daughter was born to them, who would become the Mother of God.

St. Joachim died a few years later, at the age of 80, after the Entry of his daughter into the Temple. St. Anna died at age 70, two years after him, spending time in the Temple with her daughter.

SS. Joachim and Anna are invoked by couples trying to have children.

~ Icon & Reading Courtesy of the OCA Webpage ~