



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 2006

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

A hunter in the desert saw Abba Anthony enjoying himself with the brethren and he was shocked. Wanting to show him that it was necessary sometimes to meet the needs of the brethren, the old man said to him, "Put an arrow in your bow and shoot it." So he did. The old man said, "Shoot another." And he did so. The old man said, "Shoot yet again." And the hunter replied, "If I bend my bow so much I will break it." Then the old man said to him, "It is the same with the work of God. If we stretch the brethren beyond measure they will soon break. Sometimes it is necessary to come down to meet their needs." When he heard these words the hunter was pierced by compunction and greatly edified by the old man, he went away. As for the brethren, they went home strengthened.

A brother in the monastery committed a fault. A council was called to which Moses the Black (the Ethiopian) was invited, but he refused to go. The priest sent someone to him saying, "Come, for everyone is waiting for you." So he got up and went. He took a sack, filled it with sand and cut a small hole at the bottom and carried it on his shoulders. The others came out to meet him and said, "What is this, father?" Abba Moses said to them, "My sins run out behind me, and I do not see them, and today I am coming to judge the errors of another." When they heard that they said no more to the brother but forgave him.

Some old men went to Abba Poemen and asked, "If we see brothers sleeping during the synaxis (common prayer) should we wake them?" Abba Poemen answered, "If I see my brother sleeping, I will put his head on my knee and let him rest." Then one old man spoke up, "And how do you explain yourself before God?" Abba Poemen replied, "I say to God: You have said, "First take the beam out of your own eye and then you will be able to remove the splinter from the eye of your brother."

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 - September/October 2006

ELEVATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 -
NO SERVICES AT SS PETER & PAUL

Schedule of Other Services

AKATHIST SERVICE - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM

Church News & Reminders

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2006 - *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 treasurer, James Schaeffer.*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Wednesday, September 6, 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.*

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!*

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 - Sunday, **September 17**

Ladies' Society News

MEETING - Sunday, **September 10**, after Divine Liturgy

HOT DOG/MEATBALL SANDWICH SUNDAY - Sunday, **September 17**, after Divine Liturgy

Other Events at SS Peter & Paul

CHURCH SCHOOL/ADULT EDUCATION - *Every Sunday* following Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall

9/11 INTERFAITH MEMORIAL PRAYER SERVICE WITH MATERNITY BVM AND TEMPLE BETH AMI - Monday, **September 11, 7 PM**. Services will begin at BVM with a procession ending at Beth Ami for concluding services. We have once again been invited to join in this Memorial Service. Please come and represent our Church. All are invited. A flyer with full information is on the bulletin board upstairs

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Sunday, **October 1**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. ***Please make every effort to stay for this important meeting. Thank you!***

SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE - Saturday, October 7th, **3 PM to 6 PM, Rain or Shine**. The Clam Bake is a fun tradition at SS Peter & Paul, but we all need to 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 to make this Clam Bake a success one more time!*



Prices: *Lobster, \$35; Steak, \$25; Adult Hot Dog/Burger, \$8; Child (5-13) Hot Dog/Burger, \$5; Children under 5 Free.*

See Dave or Alicia (or call her at 215-742-0492 or e-mail aliciaj17@mac.com) to reserve your tickets now! Deadline for purchase of tickets is Sunday, October 1st!

Miscellaneous

WEB PAGE/E-MAILS - SS Peter & Paul Webpage: <http://homepage.mac.com/aliciaj17/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: **aliciaj17@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: **alicia17@mac.com**. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **September 24**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **10/1/06**. 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, Jean Rifkin, Ann Stephano**

May God grant them all 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 anytime from noon to 8:00 PM.

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

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, Harry Cappo, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, Martha Murianka, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka**

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

A Letter from Katherine & Harry

We are back sooner than expected from our mission work in Albania at The Home of Hope because Harry had a mishap on the soccer field, but we are ready to go back.

All the children and the wonderful women who work at the Home of Hope in Shen Vlash have infused their way into our hearts and our lives. We now have an Albanian family of 30 youngsters, the staff of men and women who care for them, and, of course, the other members of our group. There is not one person we could have done without.

Not an orphanage in the usual sense, The Home of Hope is a large foster home which cares for children whose parents are not able to provide an adequate life for them. Some of the children still have contact with a parent, and some never see anyone. All have experienced sadness in their lives, but the love invariably evident in The Home is slowly healing body and soul. New ties are being created: we saw friendships and squabbles; we saw older ones take care of younger ones; we saw them in The Home's chapel, morning and evening, reciting and chanting the prayers by memory. At mealtimes, three year old Annamaria is helped by 16 year old Kristina and 15 year old Mateo when she can't manage the food on her plate.

We miss them all! We have already called back once to wish Kozmai a happy Name Day on the 24th of August when the Church celebrated St. Kosma of Berat.

We will share more later.

Love and prayers,

Haralambi and Katerina

May God grant Harry & Katherine many, many years!

News from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)

Monday, August 28, 2006

Dear Friends, Supporters and Loved Ones of Lynette,

It is with heavy hearts that the Orthodox Christian Mission Center announces the departure of our beloved Missionary Lynette Hoppe, who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, August 27, 2006 around 5:15 p.m., local Albanian time

During this past week, Fr. Luke and Presbyteria Faith Veronis, who served with Lynette and Nathan in Albania, were able to visit the Hoppe family during her last few days. Below is an excerpt from an email sent to the Mission Center as Fr. Luke reflects on the amazing life of Lynette and the wonderful Christian witness she faced during her illness, suffering and death.

"Our visit this past week will always remain one of my most memorable experiences of life. Although Faith and I went to Albania to see her for one last time, and to offer our love and encouragement to her, I must admit that we were truly blessed by the entire experience. If I had to describe Lynette's last days of life, I can only say that they were truly beautiful! She was surrounded by love. She was filled with love. She looked forward to be with her greatest love - her Lord Jesus Christ. An indescribable peace emanated from her room. The moments that she was awake, she was filled with a deep-rooted contentment and joy. Her faith was immovable. And divine love permeated everywhere.



I have read about different experiences where people describe the dying process as beautiful. Well, now I have witnessed such an event myself. One of the most moving times we had there were the last two evenings. Lynette was sitting in her recliner, mostly with her eyes closed and her breathing slowing down. At moments, she would open her eyes, and one of us would talk to her. Someone was always holding her hand, caressing her feet, and just letting her know that love was all around her. The bedroom

was full with Nathan, her children Tristan and Katherine, her three brothers and sister, together with her father, her best friend Gayle, Fr. Patrick Reardon (her parish priest from Chicago), and me and Faith. For hours, we just sat around singing hymns and songs. In-between the singing, people would just share different memories they had of Lynette. Sometimes, Lynette would smile. Sometimes she would respond softly. Most of the time she just sat with her eyes closed, slowly fading into another world. The deep peace of God was palpable.

Throughout the day, her co-missionaries and dear Albanian friends would be taking care of the many visitors who stopped by to ask how Lynette was doing. One dear friend, Kristina, had her husband Josif push her wheelchair at least an hour's walk every day, just so she could ask how Lynette was doing. Kristina also is suffering from cancer. Her love and concern for Lynette was symbolic of the concern of love of so many.

Lynette is now with the Lord, and many of us will miss her sorely. But we know that we now have an intercessor before our Lord, pleading on our behalf."

To read a eulogy prepared by Fr. Luke for Lynette, please visit our website at <http://www.ocmc.org> or visit <http://prayforlynette.org>

Her earthly remains will be stay at their home in Albania with her family, friends, and visitors tonight and tomorrow. Her funeral will be on Tuesday, August 29, 2006 at the Orthodox monastery of St. Vlash at 12:00 noon. Father Martin Ritsi, Executive Director of the Mission Center arrived in Albania today and along with many friends, family and supporters will attend the funeral services.

Please pray for Nathan and the children during this difficult, painful yet blessed period in their lives as they take it "one day at a time".

May her Memory Be Eternal!

Glory to You, O Christ our God and our Hope; glory to You. May Christ our true God, Who rose from the dead, have mercy on us; He Who as Immortal King has authority over both the dead and the living. Through the intercessions of His spotless, pure and holy Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all; praiseworthy Apostles; of our venerable and Godbearing Fathers; of the holy and glorious forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; of His holy and just friend Lazaros, who lay in the grave four days; and of all the Saints; establish the soul of His servant Lynette, departed from us, in the tentings of the Just; give her rest in the bosom of Abraham; and number her among the Just, through His goodness and compassion as our merciful God.

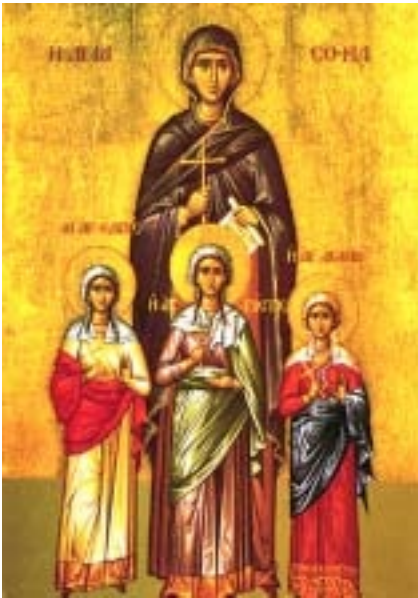
Holy Days and Name Days in September

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| 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; Virginmartyr Raisa |
| September 24 | - Protomartyr Thecla; Martyr Peter the Aleut; Martyr Juvenal of Alaska |
| 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 |

Martyr Sophia and her Three Daughters at Rome

(Commemorated on September 17)

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was 12, Hope was 10, and Love was 9. St Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone.



An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian, who ordered that they be brought to Rome. The holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When they came before the emperor, they looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them. The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. The holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith.

St Sophia was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage, and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All 3 maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword.

In order to intensify St Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill.

St Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for 3 days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

The relics of the holy martyrs have rested at El'zasa, in the church of Esho since the year 777.

~ Icon & Reading Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~