



***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 2008*

**Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful**  
**10-19-82 Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary**  
**Father Joseph Allen, Professor, Pastoral Theology**  
**Assignment: 3 short paragraphs on any subject:**

When anyone, laity or clergy, becomes involved in the administration, finances, ethnicity, or social activities of the church to the point where his or her growth in Christ suffers; to the point where development toward Theosis is impaired, then it is prudent to put aside these things for a time and allow them to regain their proper focus and balance in the Light of Life.

The danger lies in not discerning the gradual nibbling away of the inner spiritual man by the subtle mouse of virtuous activity.

Sincere desire to help, concern, ego, need for attention, pride, whatever the motivation, we must protect ourselves and each other from being led unaware away from the safety of the Sacramental Communion of the Mystical Body of Christ to which both priest and layman are called.

— *Seminarian S. Siniari*

**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 2008**

**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 per-****

*son 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** - Disposable razors and individual/small tubes of hand lotion are still needed. Please continue to help feed the hungry. Frozen casseroles are collected 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!*

### **Sunday School News**

**SEPTEMBER 14** - The start of Sunday School

### **Ladies Society News**

**SEPTEMBER 7** - *Meeting*, following the Divine Liturgy

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

**ANNUAL PARISH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Sunday, September 14**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. All should have received an announcement about this meeting. Please note that any suggestions for discussion are due today, September 7. The tear-off may be given to any Council member.

*Please make every effort to stay for this important meeting and participate in the discussions that will guide our parish for the upcoming year. Thank you!*

**SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE - Saturday, September 20 - 3PM-6PM ~ 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 the Volunteer sheet in the Church Hall.** *There's lots of work to be done to make this Clam Bake a success one more time!*



**Prices:** Lobster, \$30; Steak, \$25; Adult Hot Dog/Burger, \$10; Child (11-14) Hot Dog/Burger, \$5; Children 10 & under Free (*accompanied by ticketed adult*)

See **Dave (215-632-4234)** or **Alicia (215-742-0492)**; e-mail **aliciaj17@mac.com** to reserve your tickets now! **Deadline** for purchase of tickets is **Sunday, September 14!**

### **General Interest**

**9/11 INTERFAITH CEREMONY OF PRAYER, PEACE, AND REMEMBRANCE - Thursday, September 11, 7:00 PM** - co-hosted by Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church (BVM), 9220 Old Bustleton Ave. and Temple Beth Ami Synagogue (TBA), 9201 Old Bustleton Ave. *This ceremony will start promptly at 7:00 PM at BVM.* There will then be a candlelight procession to nearby TBA for the ceremony's conclusion. Refreshments will follow. *Please make an effort to attend this most inspiring and memorable event.* There is no charge. For further information, please contact TBA at: 215-673-2511 or e-mail: bethami9201@yahoo.com

**ST VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY ORTHODOX EDUCATION DAY - Saturday, October 4** The theme is "Holy Icons and Sacred Arts". Please see the flyers posted on the bulletin board in the Church Hall for further information or visit: **www.svots.edu**

**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](http://www.forumishqiptar.com/forumdisplay.php?f=186)

## **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/aliciaj17/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: [aliciaj17@mac.com](mailto: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](mailto:alicia17@mac.com). *The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **September 28**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **10/5/08**. 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 **September** Birthdays: Richard Burdumy, Brunilda Çepele, Elizabeth Hansburg, Angie Kozlowski, David Lane

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

**A VERY HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY** is wished to the following parishioners and friends: Marie Muzekari (July), John Rubis (July), Imogene Costas (August), Catherine Hondros (August), Sandy Speero (August)

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

OUR MOST SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO READER ANDREW RUBIS on his Ordination to the Diaconate on Friday, August 29, 2009.

*May God grant Deacon Andrew Rubis 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!*

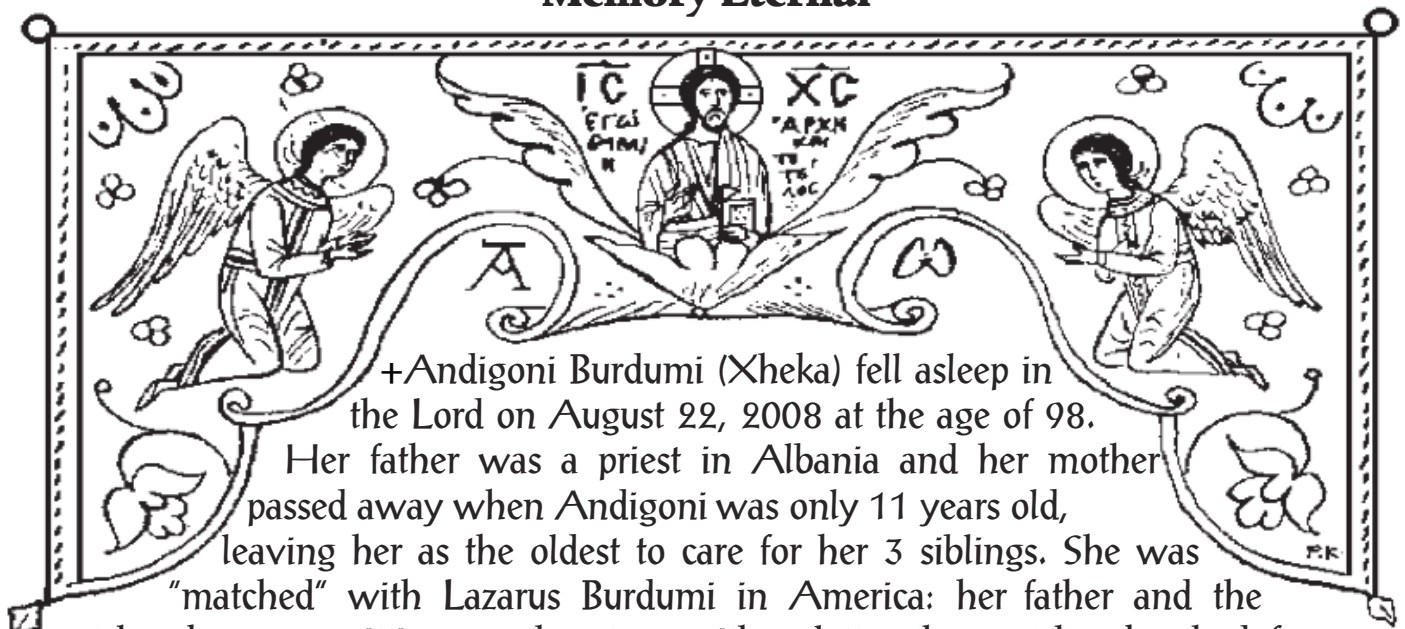
THE SS PETER & PAUL PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATE has been pushed back one month. Please make certain you have contacted Alicia (215-742-0492 or e-mail: aliciaj17@mac.com) **by October 19, 2008** for any changes, corrections or additions. *The Parish Directory will be mailed along with the November Church Bulletin, scheduled for 11/2/08.* E-mail only Parishioners will receive a paper Directory in the mail; extra copies of the Directory will be available in the Church Hall in 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



+Andigoni Burdumi (Xheka) fell asleep in the Lord on August 22, 2008 at the age of 98.

Her father was a priest in Albania and her mother passed away when Andigoni was only 11 years old, leaving her as the oldest to care for her 3 siblings. She was "matched" with Lazarus Burdumi in America: her father and the

matchmaker were sitting on the steps with a letter the matchmaker had from a woman in America requesting a "match" for her son. At that very instant, Andigoni came up and stepped between them, and her father said, "What about her?" She came to America

and married Lazarus in 1929. Andigoni was from that time an upstanding member of the Church and of the Ladies Society, always bringing her children to Church every Sunday, always dedicated to her church, and always assisting where she could. A loving and devoted mother, grandmother, and Nena, Andigoni is affectionately remembered and missed by family, friends, and church members.

May Andigoni's memory be eternal!

### **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 Holy Sepulchre; Hieromartyr Cornelius          |
| September 14 | - Elevation of the Precious Cross                                      |
| September 17 | - Martyr Sophia and her Daughters: Faith, Hope and Love                |
| September 23 | - Conception of St John the Baptist; Virginmartyr Irais (Rhais)        |
| September 24 | - Protomartyr Thecla; Martyr Peter the Aleut; Martyr Juvenal of Alaska |
| September 25 | - Repose of Ven. Sergus of Radonezh; Ven. Euphrosyne                   |
| September 26 | - Repose of St John the Theologian                                     |
| September 28 | - Martyr Wenceslaus, Prince of the Czechs; Ven. Chariton               |
| September 30 | - Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Armenia                               |

### ***Prophet Zachariah the father of St John the Baptist***

*(Commemorated September 5)*



The Holy Prophet Zachariah and the Righteous Elizabeth were the parents of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. They were descended from the lineage of Aaron: St Zachariah, son of Barach, was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and St Elizabeth was the sister of St Anna, the mother of the Most Holy Theotokos. The righteous spouses, "walking in all the commandments of the Lord" (Luke 1:6), suffered barrenness, which in those times was considered a punishment from God.

Once, during his turn of priestly service in the Temple, St Zachariah was told by an angel that his aged wife would bear him a son, who "will be great in the sight of the Lord" (Luke 1:15) and "will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias" (Luke 1:17). Zachariah doubted that this prediction would come true, and for his weakness of faith he was punished by becoming mute. When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit she announced that his name was John, although no one in their family had this name. They asked Zachariah and he also wrote the name John down on a tablet. Immediately the gift of speech returned to him, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, he began to prophesy about his son as the Forerunner of the Lord.

When King Herod heard from the Magi about the birth of the Messiah, he decided to kill all the infants up to two years old at Bethlehem and the surrounding area, hoping that the new-born Messiah would be among them. Herod knew about John's unusual birth and he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was the foretold King of the Jews. But Elizabeth hid herself and the infant in the hills. The murderers searched everywhere for John. Elizabeth, when she saw her pursuers, began to implore God for their safety, and immediately the hill opened up and concealed her and the infant from their pursuers.

In these tragic days St Zachariah was taking his turn at the services in the Temple. Soldiers sent by Herod tried in vain to learn from him the whereabouts of his son. Then, by command of Herod, they murdered this holy prophet, having stabbed him between the temple and the altar (MT 23: 35). Elizabeth died forty days after her husband, and St John, preserved by the Lord, dwelt in the wilderness until the day of his appearance to the nation of Israel.

~ Reading and Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

***Our Georgian Community Meets in Unity, Prayer and Protest of Russian Actions in Georgia ~ Tuesday, August 12, 2008***





