



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 ~ August 2007

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

It's only a Fairy Tale – but It's a nice Fairy Tale

The lady telling the tale is a character in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's book called The Brothers Karamazov. Her name is Grushenka. She is very beautiful. She is telling the tale to a young man who thinks he wants to be a monk. He is wearing a cassock. His name is Alyosha. The fairy-tale is called:

The Onion

It's only a fairy-tale, but it's a nice fairy-tale. I heard it as a child, from Matrona, who is my cook now. It's like this:

Once upon a time there was a very wicked old woman, and she died. And she did not leave a single good deed behind.

The devils caught her and threw her into the lake of fire. But, her guardian angel was wondering what good deed of hers he could remember to tell God.

Then he remembered and said to God: She once pulled an onion in her kitchen garden and gave it to a beggar woman.

And God said to him: Well, take that onion and hold it out to her in the lake of fire, let her catch hold of it and pull, and if you can pull her out of the lake, let her come to Paradise, but if the onion breaks, then the woman must stay where she is.

The angel ran to the woman and held out the onion to her: "Come on, woman", he said, "Get hold of that and pull yourself out".

And he began pulling her, cautiously and was on the point of pulling her out when the other sinners in the lake, seeing that she was being pulled out, began catching hold of her so as to be pulled out with her.

But the woman was terribly wicked and she began kicking them: "It's me who's being pulled out," she said, "and not you. It's my onion, not yours."

The moment she said that, the onion broke. And the woman fell back into the lake and she is burning there to this day.

And the angel wept and went away.

So this is the fairy-tale, Alyosha, and I know it by heart, for I'm that wicked woman myself.

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 - August/September 2007

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

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

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

Schedule of Other Services

AKATHIST SERVICE - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM

CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY WITH HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON - SATURDAY/SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 - 16 - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM (Sunday, 9/16); Parish Meal after the Divine Liturgy. Other details to be announced.

Church News & Reminders

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2007 - **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 - To be announced (usually the 1st Mon of each month). 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 - 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 PRGRAM FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE - RJ (with the help of his parents, Debbie & Bob Krimetz) is collecting flip tabs from any aluminum cans to donate to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. **A container has been placed upstairs in the Church Hall for the tabs.** *Help RJ help the Ronald McDonald House! Thank you and remember to bring your tabs!*

Other Events at SS Peter & Paul



SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE - Saturday, September 29 – **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.** *More details to follow soon!*

General Interest

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:

The url is: **www.forumishqiptar.com/forumdisplay.php?f=186**

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>**

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 leave the information in my wicker basket in the office. Or, call Alicia at **215-742-0492** or e-mail: **alicia17@mac.com**. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **September 2**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **9/9/07**. 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 of SS Peter & Paul who are celebrating **August** Birthdays: **Al Antony, Sophie Bacon, Daniel Drobish, Denise Gormley, Anna Jeka, Evanthia Jeka, Valentina Maskuti, Marion Merkle, Eteri Okropiridze, Oleg Petrenko, Christina Reeves, Christine Schaeffer, Gregory Shaloka, Jayne Siniari, Sandy Speero, John Vesho, Connie Vrato**

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, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, Martha Murianka, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, Fr Stephen Siniari**

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

Our Gratitude

Dear Fr. Stephen, Margot & Faithful Friends at SS Peter & Paul,

All of our family are most appreciative of the comfort you offered to us on the repose for our beloved mom, + Helena. Your expression of loving support and your spiritual presence with us give us strength and perspective for which we are most grateful.

It was most kind and generous of spirit to offer a donation to the Theological Student Fund of our Archdiocese in our mom's memory. We look forward to sharing moments of joy

together with you in the future.

May the Lord bless you and yours now and in the days ahead.

Prayerfully yours,

✿ Bishop Nikon, Fr. Arthur & Jim

from the Radius magazine

HELENA LIOLIN: Grande Dame in the Albanian Community, 1917-2007

Helena P. Liolin of Milton, MA formerly of Garden City, NY and Danbury, CT in her 90th year.



Born and bred in Worcester, Helena (nee Peter / Shoqo) distinguished herself as an accomplished singer of light opera after pursuing studies in voice at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music. In the 1930's, her concerts at the Worcester Auditorium received raving reviews by music critics. The Worcester Telegram had given her the sobriquet: "The Albanian Nightingale," referring to her ancestral origins and her lyrical renditions of European choral music. As a founding member of the "Golden Strings" ensemble she had helped to awaken an appreciation for Balkan music before it became fashionable decades later. As a coloratura soprano, her recordings of Verdi, Puccini, Gilbert and Sullivan as well as popular favorites were aired on weekly radio programs: Worcester's "Albanian Songs and Melodies," Boston's "Voice of Albania" as well ethnic programs in Philadelphia and Detroit right through the 1990s.

In 1941, following her marriage to Evans J. Liolin of Long Island, NY, her career turned to applying her musical talents and energies in numerous ways as a long-time activist in New York's Albanian community, participating in fraternal, patriotic and cultural organizations. She organized the first choir for Saint Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church in Manhattan and later in Jamaica Estates, L.I., which she directed for over thirty years. As consummate hosts, their home on Long Island was notably ecumenical in spirit and was visited by diplomats and bishops, dissidents and exiles, scholars and compatriots: a broad spectrum of a community that embraced many political and religious persuasions. Most notable was the exchange visits of parishioners on the given feast day of saints, a custom when a family member is feted with an open house on their "name day."

Helena and her late husband also helped to establish the Theological Student Fund of the Albanian Archdiocese and as Fr. Stephen Siniari noted: "in this way they had many sons."

Known for her engaging personality, charm and forthright manner, she was an advocate of human rights and religious freedom both here and abroad, as well as advancing the

Albanian identity and its culture in the U.S. Ever active in her later years, she served as an interpreter in the N.Y. judicial system, while also operating a music studio, where she taught over 100 young students during the 1950's and 60's.

She leaves three sons, Bishop Nikon Liolin of Boston, Very Rev Arthur Liolin and his wife, Margaret of Milton, MA and James Liolin and his wife Christine of Danbury, CT, eight grand-children and six great grandchildren.

The Albanian-American community occupied her life and the Orthodox church was its heart.

Sunday School Graduation ~ June 24, 2007



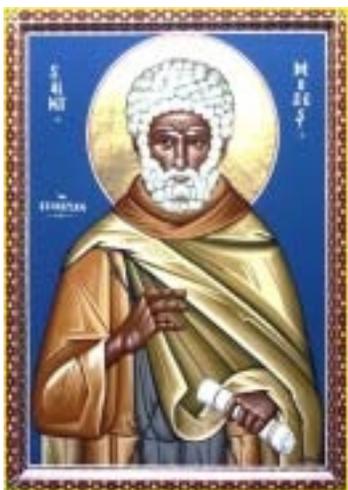
Holy Days and Name Days in August

- August 1 - Beginning of Dormition Fast; Procession of Life-Giving Cross
- August 6 - Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord
- August 9 - Ven. Herman of Alaska; Apostle Matthias
- August 12 - Martyrs Anicletus & Photius
- 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 26 - Martyrs Adrian & Natalia
- August 27 - Ven. Poemen the Great
- August 28 - Ven Job of Pochaev; Ven. Moses the Black; Right. 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

Venerable Moses the Black of Scete

Commemorated on August 28

Saint Moses Murin the Black lived during the fourth century in Egypt. He was an Ethiopian, and he was black of skin and therefore called "Murin" (meaning "like an Ethiopian"). In his youth he was the slave of an important man, but after he committed a murder, his master banished him, and he joined a band of robbers and because of his bad character and great physical strength they chose him as their leader. Moses and his band of brigands did many evil deeds, both murders and robberies. People were afraid at the mere mention of his name.



Moses the brigand spent several years leading a sinful life, but through the great mercy of God he repented, left his band of robbers and went to one of the desert monasteries. The monks were not convinced of the sincerity of his repentance, but the former robber would not be driven away nor silenced. He continued to ask that they accept him. St Moses was completely obedient to the brethren, and he poured forth many tears of sorrow for his sinful life. After a certain while St Moses withdrew to a solitary cell, where he spent the time in prayer and the strictest fasting in a very austere lifestyle.

When the saint reached age 75, he warned his monks that soon brigands would descend upon the skete and murder all that were there. The saint blessed his monks to leave, in order to avoid violent death. His disciples began to beseech the monk to leave with them, but he replied: "For many years already I have awaited the time when the words of my Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, should be fulfilled: 'All who take up the sword, shall

perish by the sword' (Mt. 26: 52)". After this, seven of the brethren remained with the monk, and one of them hid nearby during the attack of the robbers. The robbers killed St Moses and the six monks who remained with him. Their death occurred in about the year 400.

~ Reading and Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~