



**Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America ~ <http://www.aoaa.org>
SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church**

9230 Old Bustleton Avenue ~ Philadelphia, PA 19115 ~ Church Phone: 215-676-3311

Pastor: Father Stephen Siniari - Phone: 609-385-3757 - Email: frsiniari@gmail.com

FATHER STEPHEN'S MESSAGE TO THE FAITHFUL

For Whatever We Do With Our Virtues...

St. Mark The Ascetic

When Scripture says:

"He will reward every man according to his works."
(Matt 16:17)

Do not imagine that works in themselves merit either hell or the kingdom.

On the contrary, Christ rewards each man according to whether his works are done with faith or without faith in Himself;

and He is *not* a dealer bound by contract, but God our Creator and Redeemer.

We who have received baptism offer good works, *not* by way of repayment, but to preserve the purity given to us.

Every good work which we perform through our own natural powers causes us to refrain from the corresponding sin;

but without grace it cannot contribute to our sanctification.

The **self-controlled** refrain from **gluttony**;

Those who have **renounced possession**, from **greed**;

The **tranquil**, from **loquacity**; (How about in our parish?)

The **pure**, from **self-indulgence**,

The **modest**, from **unchastity**, (Are we dressing for a dance-club or church?)

The **self-dependent**, from **avarice**;

The **gentle**, from **agitation**; (How about in our parish?)

The **humble**, from **self-esteem**;

The **obedient**, from **quarreling**; (How about in our parish?)

The **self-critical**, from **hypocrisy**.

Similarly, those who **pray** are protected from **despair**;

The **poor**, from having **too many possessions**;

Confessors of the faith, from its **denial**;

Martyrs, from **idolatry**...

Do you see how every virtue that is performed even to the point of death is nothing other than refraining from sin?

Now to refrain from sin is a work within our own natural powers, but *not* something that buys us the kingdom.

If You Want Your Sins To Be "Covered" By the Lord (Ps. 32:1)

Do Not Display Your Virtues To Others...

For whatever we do with our virtues...

God will also do with our sins....

Special Announcements from Fr. Stephen

Father Stephen may be reached at **609-385-3757**, Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM or by email: **frsiniari@gmail.com**

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 and Announcements

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE - AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011

- + HOLY TRANSFIGURATION - SATURDAY - AUGUST 6 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
- + DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS - MONDAY - AUGUST 15 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
- + EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 14 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

SCHEDULE OF OTHER SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM - 8:30 PM in the Church Hall - Led by **Fr. Dn. Gregory**
PLEASE NOTE: NO Bible Study on Wednesday, August 24.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF 9/11 - SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 11 - at SS Peter & Paul

CHURCH NEWS AND REMINDERS

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2011 - Please note: THE CHURCH FISCAL YEAR ENDS SEPTEMBER 30; if at all possible, please have your dues of **\$125 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.

COFFEE HOUR - The Coffee Hour sign up sheet is located upstairs in the Church Hall by the door to the kitchen. Please write your name, email address and phone number by the date you sign up for. Questions, see Linda Biando.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Sunday, August 7, after Divine Liturgy. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

THE JOY OF GIVING

COLLECTION SUNDAYS - May God bless you for your generosity!

1st Sunday of each month - Collection for the Poor

2nd Sunday - IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities)

3rd Sunday - Pastoral Fund

OTHER DONATIONS:

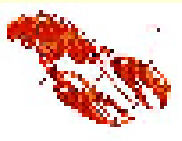
Church Library

Pop Tab Collections for Ronald McDonald House

Wine: Altar wine: **Manischewitz Concord Grape** (please do not donate any other brand of concord grape)

Oil: **Virgin Olive Oil**

FUTURE EVENTS AT SS PETER & PAUL



SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE - Saturday, September 17 - Keep the date open for our most fun-filled & delicious event of the year. More information to come soon. For questions or to offer your help, please see David Lane or Jim Schaeffer.



SS PETER & PAUL 2ND COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET - To be scheduled for a Saturday in October - A really fun time was had by all during our 1st flea market in May! Not only did some of us sell items, but the Church made a nice profit. Join us in the Fall for our 2nd flea market. If you don't want to sell, come out and have a great time supporting your Church family!

Events and Announcements *(Continued)*

GENERAL INTEREST

ANCIENT FAITH RADIO 24 hour a day *internet Orthodox radio station:*
<http://ancientfaithradio.com>

ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY - will be held on August 23rd and 24th in Trumbull, CT.

MAKE A PURCHASE THROUGH AMAZON AND HELP ST GEORGE CATHEDRAL IN SOUTH BOSTON - Go to the Cathedral website: **www.saintgeorgecathedral.com** and scroll down to "Shop Amazon" on the left side. Type in the product you wish to obtain. *When you click on that Amazon icon on the website and make a purchase, a portion of your purchase price will automatically be sent to the Cathedral. Thank you!*

OCCM MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT - There are currently 23 Orthodox Christians from United States serving, or preparing to serve, as long-term OCCM missionaries in places like Alaska, Albania, Kenya, Japan, and Tanzania. These faithful servants offer a living witness to the Orthodox Faith and the hope, love, and salvation made possible through Christ to people who may have never heard the message of the Gospel. Please pray for our brothers and sisters who have answered the call to give two or more years of their life to the work of making disciples of all nations. Please remember them in your prayers and support their ministry efforts by visiting **<http://www.ocmc.org/donate>** and click "Support a Missionary". Thank you in advance for making this vital work of the Church possible.

MISCELLANEOUS

WEBSITE: **<http://sspeterpaulphila.org>**

E-MAILS: New Bulletins are available online by Saturday 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 Alicia an e-mail at: **aliciaj17@mac.com**

SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH STORE - Open Sundays at 9:30 AM (1/2 hour before Divine Liturgy) **Items available:** **SS Peter & Paul 90th Year Celebration DVD** (\$15); Divine Liturgy Books, Icons; Crosses (Baptismal, lapel pins, Georgian style, orthodox); Prayerbooks (English); Censers; CDs and cassettes; Religious Books. Also available: **IN THEIR OWN TONGUE**, a documentary chronicling the Albanian Archdiocese in America

"DAILY BREAD" - The Church distributes a daily email entitled "Daily Bread" containing scripture readings for the day and the commemorated saints. To add your name (or the name of anyone who would enjoy getting it) please forward the email address to the Church email address:
sspeterpaul2@verizon.net

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL LIGHTS - Envelopes are available at the Church Store counter for special prayers to be said during the week in conjunction with the burning of the Seven-Day Votive Light hanging above the Royal Doors. Suggested offering: \$10, which will go towards building up our Pastoral Fund with the ultimate goal of supporting a full time priest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS ABOUT PARISHIONERS - If you have any items to include in next month's Bulletin, please see **Alicia** or call her at **215-530-0118 (PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A NEW NUMBER)** or email: **aliciaj17@mac.com**. *The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, August 21. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the August Bulletin at the Church on Sunday 8/28/11.* 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. ***Please note: You cannot arbitrarily be removed from the Prayer List. You must let Alicia know to remove your name. Thank you.*

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 **August Birthdays**: *Al Antony, Sophie Bacon, Imogene Costas, Rdr. Daniel Drobish, Denise Gormley, Catherine Hondros, Anna Jeka, Evanthia Jeka, Valentina Maskuti, Marion Merkle, Eteri Okropiridze, Oleg Petrenko, Christina Reeves, Christina Schaeffer, Rdr. Gregory Shaloka, Jayne Siniari, Sandy Speero, John Vesho, Connie Vrato*

May God grant them all many, many years!

DONATE AN ITEM A MONTH CAMPAIGN - We are in need of the following items: **39 gallon large heavy plastic trash bags, paper towels, paper cups for the water cooler.** *Your continued help is truly appreciated! A sincere "Thank You" to all parishioners who so kindly donated any requested items.*

CHURCH LIFT (TYPE OF ELEVATOR) UPDATE - The Church Council is awaiting the final results of the engineering survey before they can proceed with a request for approval from the Parish membership (through a membership meeting) to proceed with construction of the lift. More information to follow.

GOOD COMPANY & GOOD FOOD: HELP BUILD UP OUR PASTORAL FUND - A new tradition has started -- serving a hot meal on most Sundays to build up our Pastoral Fund. If you have any ideas or are interested in participating or sponsoring a particular Sunday, please talk to **Jim Schaeffer** or **Letitia Desloges**. *Your help and support is needed to get this project up and run-*

A VERY SPEEDY RECOVERY is wished for **Connie Vrato** who is recovering from a fall.

Please keep Connie in your prayers. May God grant her good health!

STEVEN YARROW is currently residing in an assisted living facility. His address is: Moorestown Estates, 1205 North Church Street, Room #260, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

Please keep Steven in your prayers. May God grant him good health!

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 PM

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

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 _____, 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.

Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Gregory Vrato, Sr., Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Mary Palmerick, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, Margot Craig, Eteri Okropiridze, Mary Ann Clark, Alexandra Pana, Nicholas Desloges, Steven Yarrow, Martha Murianka, Anthony Sarris, Jeannie Rifkin, Nick Zeo, His Grace Bishop Nikon, Debbie Krimetz, Christina Murianka, Eurania (Elaine) Quirias, Lester Speero, Lester Paul Speero**

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

HOLY DAYS AND NAME DAYS IN AUGUST

- August 1** - **Procession of Life-Giving Cross**
- August 6** - **Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord**
- August 9** - **Ven. Herman of Alaska; Apostle Matthias**
- August 12** - **Martyrs Anicetus & 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; Righteous 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**

THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER, AND BAPTIST JOHN
(Commemorated on August 29)

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (*Mt. 14:1-12*) and Mark (*Mark 6:14-29*) provide accounts about the martyrlic end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, St John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee.

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife and instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (*Luke 3:19-20*). On his birthday, Herod made a feast and Salome, the daughter of Herodius, danced and charmed Herod. In gratitude, he swore to give her whatever she asked, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet and also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. Because of his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of St John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of St John and gave it to her mother, who repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in an unclean place. The pious Joanna, wife of

Herod's steward, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of St John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (*Luke 23:7-12*).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice, similar to how she once had danced, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. She was trapped until the sharp ice cut through her neck. Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of St John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter (Herod's lawful wife), made war against Herod who suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligula (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, then to Spain.

The Beheading of St John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

Today the Church makes remembrance of Orthodox soldiers killed on the field of battle, as established in 1769 at the time of Russia's war with the Turks and the Poles.



Reading & Icon Courtesy of OCA Website