



***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 ~ July/August 2006*

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

## **The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles**

Translated by Robert A. Kraft

### **The two ways<sup>1</sup> (1:1-6:2)**

**1** There are two ways -- one of life, and one of death. And there is a great difference between the two ways [cf. Jer 21:8; Matt 7:13ff].

#### **A. The way of life**

On the one hand, then, the way of Life is this: 2. First, you shall love the God who made you. Second, your neighbor as yourself [Lev 19:18b; Matt 22:37-39]. And whatever you do not want done to you, do not do to anyone else [Matt 7:12]. 3. Now this is the teaching of these words:

Bless those who curse you [cf. Luke 6:28a; Matt 5:44 var.] and pray for your enemies but fast for those who persecute you [cf. Luke 6:27, 28b; Matt 5:44];

For wherein do you excel if you love those who love you? [cf. Luke 6:32a]  
don't the Gentiles also do likewise? [cf. Luke 6:33b; Matt 5:46b, 47b]

But you should love those who hate you [cf. Luke 6:27; Matt 5:44],  
and you will not have an enemy [cf. 1 Pet 3:13].

4. Abstain from fleshly and bodily desires [cf. 1 Pet 2:11].

If someone hits you on your right cheek,  
turn the other to him also [see Matt 5:39b; Luke 6:29a]  
and you will be perfect [cf. Matt 5:48; 19:21].

If someone compels you to go one mile, go with him for two [cf. Matt 5:41].

If someone takes your coat, give him your shirt too [cf. Luke 6:29b; Matt 5:40].

If someone takes from you what is yours [cf. Matt 5:42b; Luke 6:30b]  
don't demand its return [cf. Luke 6:30b]  
for you cannot [cf. Matt 5:39a].

5. Give to all who ask you, and don't ask for it back [cf. Luke 6:30; Matt 5:42];  
for the Father wishes that all men should receive from his own gifts.

Blessed is he who receives according to the command, for he is blameless.

Woe to him who receives;

for if someone who is in need receives, he is blameless, but he who is not in need will be called to account as to why he received and with what results, and when he has been imprisoned, he will be interrogated concerning his actions, and he will not be released from there until he repays the last penny [cf. Matt 5:25ff. 18:34; Luke 12:58ff].

6. But it has also been said concerning this matter:  
Let your alms sweat in your hands  
until you know to what end you are giving.

<sup>1</sup>This section, life vs. death, is paralleled by Barnabas 18:1-21:9, light vs. darkness.

## **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 - July/August/September 2006**

**HOLY TRANSFIGURATION - SUNDAY, AUGUST 6** - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

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

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

### **Church News & Reminders**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2006** - *Please note: the Church Fiscal Year ends September 30th.* Dues are **\$115 per person** and 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** - Monday, 7/10, 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** - *In June*, 4 casseroles and 1 bag of food and towels 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!*

**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.

## **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](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, **August 27. PLEASE NOTE:** *There is NO Bulletin for the month of August.* Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **9/3/06**. 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 **July** Birthdays: **Helen Banushi, Andrew Cappel, Charles Daka, John Douris, Michelle Murianka, Viktor Skuratovskiy, Jennie Speero, Lester Speero, Fr Jason Vansuch, Silviya Yankova Yovtcheva, Mariya Zaychik**

**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **August** Birthdays: **Al Antony, Sophie Bacon, Rdr Daniel Drobish, Linda Dudash, Denise Gormley, Anna Jeka, Evanthia Jeka, Valentina Maskuti, Marion Merkle, Nicholas Muzekari, Ted Muzekari, Sr, Eteri Okropiridze,**

**Oleg Petrenko, Christina Reeves, Christine Schaeffer, Gregory Shaloka, Jayne Siniari, Sandy Speero, John Vesho, Connie Vreto**

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



**SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE** - Scheduled for September. Please remember that we will need many volunteers to ensure that the Clam Bake will once again be a tremendous success! More information to follow.

**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: **Metropolitan Philip, Elaine Quirias, Gregory Vreto, Sr., Debbie Krimetz, Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Harry Cappo, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Steven Yarrow, Andi Steffa, Marie Antony, Child George, Eurania Gjorgo, Martha Murianka, Ivan M., Catherine P., Martin, Mary V., John Palmerick, Margaret Vansuch, Katia Vansuch, George, Peter**

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

### **Katherine & Harry are traveling to Albania!**

Harry (Haralambos) and Katherine Halkedis are part of this year's mission team to Albania and will be working at the **Children's Home of Hope** in St. Vlash. They will be in Albania from August 1st through August 18th when the mission concludes. They are asking for your prayers.

If you would like to make a contribution to the **Children's Home of Hope**, there will be a collection at SS Peter & Paul on **Sunday, July 9th**. *All funds will be sent to the **OCMC** and will be designated for the **Children's Home of Hope**.* If you are writing a check, please make the check payable to: **OCMC** and designate **Halkedis-Albania** in the memo line.

If you miss the collection on July 9th but still wish to contribute, you can send a check to SS Peter & Paul Church made out to: **OCMC** or you can mail your check directly to:

Orthodox Christian Mission Center

P.O. Box 4319

St. Augustine, FL 32084-0321

(please remember to designate **Halkedis-Albania** in the memo line)

*The Halkedis' sincerely thank you for your prayers and for your generous donations for the Children's Home of Hope.*

## **New Skete Pilgrimage Marks 40 Years of Monastic Witness**

**CAMBRIDGE, NY [OCA Communications/New Skete]**

In celebration of 40 years of monastic witness, the New Skete monastic communities here are hosting their annual pilgrimage on Friday and Saturday, August 11-12, 2006.

Pilgrims will be greeted by the new entrance area at New Skete Monastery, created to express the core monastic value of hospitality and enhance the overall welcoming atmosphere of the monastery. Two flights of steps have been replaced by a gradual ramp, which facilitates access for all, and a series of meditation gardens.

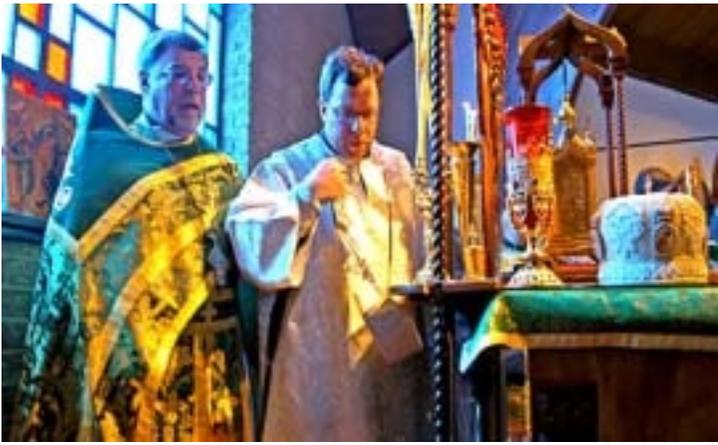
A presentation on the history of New Skete will be given on Friday at 3:45 p.m., followed by Vespers at 5:00. Saturday's events begin with Matins at 8:30 a.m., followed by the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at 9:30. Two talks will be given on Saturday afternoon. The Very Rev. Alexis Vinogradov will speak on "Alexander Schmemmann and New Skete: Road to Orthodoxy." Dr. Roberta Ervine and New Skete monastics will speak on "Liturgy at New Skete: Roots in Jerusalem and the Great Church of Constantinople."

Exhibits, tours, and a variety of demonstrations are planned throughout the day. Special activities for young people will include hiking, dog training, and conversation with monastics. An array of delicious ethnic foods, the nuns' cheesecakes, and delicious baked goods from the chapel community will be available for purchase on Saturday.

The pilgrimage will end on Saturday with the celebration of the Vigil at 5:00 p.m. All visitors are welcome. For more information, contact Vera Beecroft at 518-753-4877 or Anna Chapman at editorinvt@aol.com

## **Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Fr Dn Jason Vansuch Saturday, June 17th, 2006 ~ St Stephen's Church**



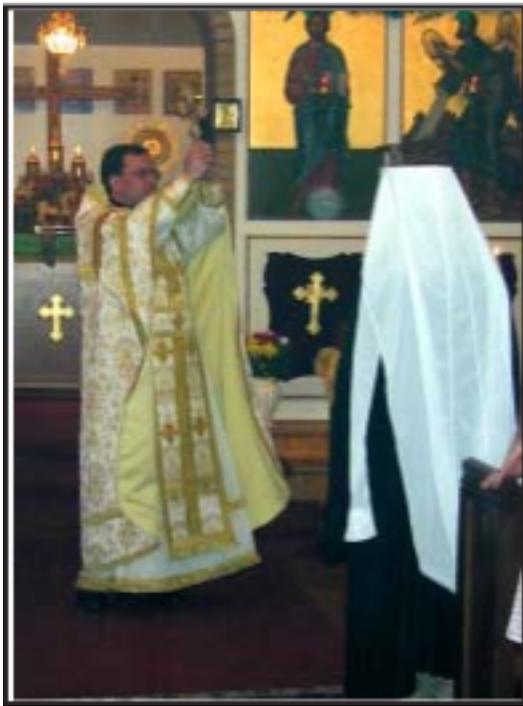




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**Fr Jason's 1st Vespers ~ Saturday, 6/17/06 and  
1st Liturgy ~ Sunday, 6/18/06  
SS Peter and Paul Church**





**Visit of His Grace Bishop Nikon, Sunday, June 25th**

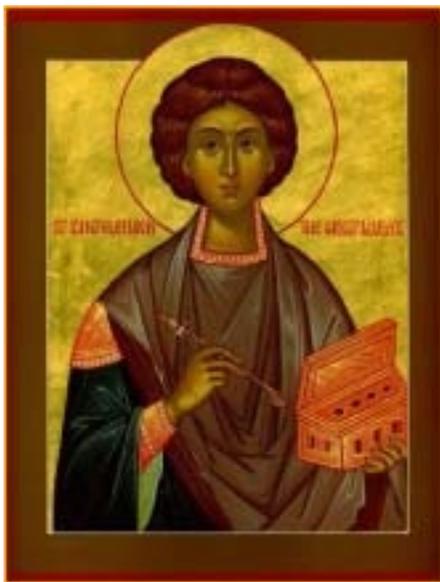


## Holy Days and Name Days in July

- July 1 - Unmercenary Wonderworkers Cosmas & Damian
- July 4 - St Andrew of Crete; Ven Andrew Rublev
- July 10 - Ven Anthony of the Kiev Caves
- July 15 - Great Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles
- July 17 - Great Martyr Marina
- July 18 - Martyr Emilian
- July 19 - Ven Seraphim of Sarov; Ven Macrina; Bl Stephen of Serbia
- July 20 - Holy Prophet Elijah
- July 21 - Prophet Ezekiel
- July 22 - Myrrbearer Mary Magdalene, Equal-to-the-Apostles; Martyr Marcella
- July 24 - Martyr Christina of Tyre; Martyrs Boris & Gleb, Passionbearers
- July 25 - Dormition of Righteous Anna
- July 26 - St Jacob Netsvetov; Martyr Parasceva
- July 27 - Grt Martyr & Healer Panteleimon

### **Holy Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon**

*(Commemorated on July 27)*



The Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon was born in the city of Nicomedia and was named Pantoleon. His mother wanted to raise him in the Christian Faith, but she died and his father sent him to a pagan school, after which he studied medicine at Nicomedia.

The hieromartyrs Hermolaus, Hermippus and Hermocrates, survivors of the massacre of 20,000 Christians in 303 (December 28), were living secretly in Nicomedia at that time. St Hermolaus saw Pantoleon when he came to the house where they were hiding and invited the youth to the house and spoke about the Christian Faith.

One day the saint found a dead child on the street. He had been bitten by a great snake, which was still beside the child's body. Pantoleon began to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to revive the dead child and to destroy the venomous reptile. He firmly resolved that if his prayer were fulfilled, he would become a follower of Christ and receive Baptism. The child rose up alive, and the snake died before Pantoleon's eyes.

After this miracle, Pantoleon was baptized by St Hermolaus with the name Panteleimon (meaning "all-merciful"). When the father saw how his son healed a blind man by invoking Jesus Christ, he then believed in Christ and was baptized by St Hermolaus together with the man whose sight was restored.

After the death of his father, St Panteleimon dedicated his life to the suffering, the sick, the unfortunate and the needy. He treated all those who turned to him without charge, healing them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The envious doctors told the emperor that St Panteleimon was healing Christian prisoners. Maximian urged the saint to refute the charge by offering sacrifice to idols. St Panteleimon confessed himself a Christian, and suggested that a sick person, for whom the doctors held out no hope, should be brought before the emperor. Then the doctors could invoke their gods, and Panteleimon would pray to his God to heal the man. A man paralyzed for many years was brought in, and the pagan priests invoked their gods without success. But the saint healed the paralytic by calling on the name of Jesus Christ. Maximian executed the healed man, and gave St Panteleimon over to fierce torture.

The Lord appeared to the saint and strengthened him before his sufferings. They suspended the Great Martyr Panteleimon from a tree and scraped him with iron hooks, burned him with fire and then stretched him on the rack, threw him into a cauldron of boiling tar, and cast him into the sea with a stone around his neck. Throughout these tortures the martyr remained unhurt, and denounced the emperor.

By order of the emperor they brought the Great Martyr Panteleimon to the circus to be devoured by wild beasts. The animals, however, came up to him and licked his feet. The spectators began to shout, "Great is the God of the Christians!" The enraged Maximian ordered the soldiers to stab with the sword anyone who glorified Christ, and to cut off the head of the Great Martyr Panteleimon.

They led the saint to the place of execution and tied him to an olive tree. While the martyr prayed, one of the soldiers struck him with a sword, but the sword became soft like wax and inflicted no wound. The saint completed his prayer, and a Voice was heard from Heaven, calling the passion-bearer by his new name and summoning him to the heavenly Kingdom.

When the saint was beheaded, the olive tree to which the saint was tied became covered with fruit. The saint's body was thrown into a fire, but remained unharmed.

Portions of the holy relics of the Great Martyr Panteleimon were distributed throughout all the Christian world. His venerable head is now located at the Russian monastery of St Panteleimon on Mt. Athos.

St Panteleimon is venerated in the Orthodox Church as a mighty saint, and the protector of soldiers. This aspect of his veneration is derived from his first name Pantoleon, which means "a lion in everything". His second name, Panteleimon, given him at Baptism, which means "all-merciful", is manifest in the veneration of the martyr as a healer. The connection between these two aspects of the saint is readily apparent in that soldiers, receiving wounds more frequently than others, are more in need of a physician-healer. Christians waging spiritual warfare also have recourse to this saint, asking him to heal their spiritual wounds.

The holy Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon is invoked in the Mystery of Anointing the Sick, at the Blessing of Water, and in the Prayers for the Sick.

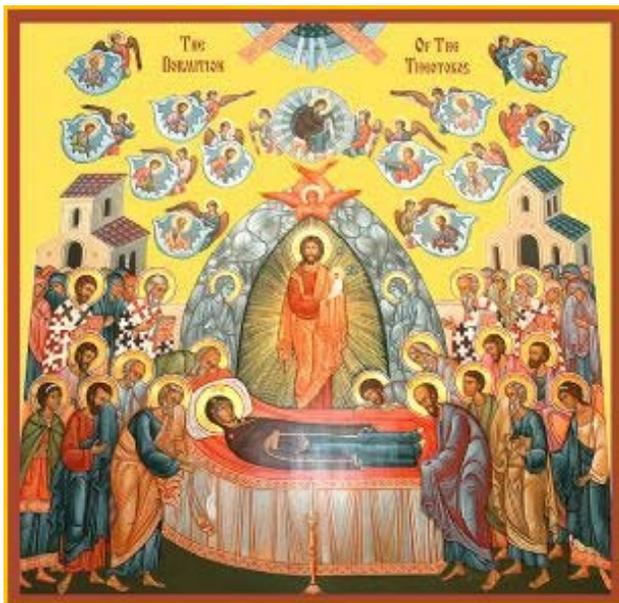
~ Icon & Reading Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

## 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 of the 70
- August 12 - Martyrs Anicletus & Photius
- August 13 - St Tikhon of Zadonsk; St Maximus, Confessor; St 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 Pimen 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

### ***Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos***

*(Commemorated on August 15)*



Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their

sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the

Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.

These things has the Church received from the traditions of the Fathers, who have composed many hymns out of reverence, to the glory of the Mother of our God.

~ Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

~ Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery ~