



SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church
9230 Old Bustleton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19115
Church Phone: 215-676-3311

Pastor: Father Stephen Siniari
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Church Bulletin ~ June 2006

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Shall We Not Build the House of the Lord

In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of Yahweh was addressed through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel governor of Judah and to Joshua son of Jehozadak the high priest as follows, 'Yahweh Sabaoth says this, "This people says: The time has not yet come to rebuild the Temple of Yahweh." ' 'Is this a time for you to live in your panelled houses, when this House lies in ruins? So now, Yahweh Sabaoth says this, "Think carefully about your behavior. You have sown much and harvested little; you eat but never have enough, drink but never have your fill, put on clothes but feel no warmth. The wage-earner gets his wages only to put them in a bag with a hole in it." Yahweh Sabaoth says this, "Think carefully about your behavior. Go up into the hills, fetch timber and rebuild the House; and I shall take pleasure in it and manifest my glory there -- Yahweh says. The abundance you expected proved to be little. When you brought the harvest in, I blasted it. And why? -- Yahweh Sabaoth declares. Because while my House lies in ruins, each of you is busy with his own house. That is why the sky has withheld the rain and the earth withheld its yield. I have called down drought on land and hills, on grain, on new wine, on olive oil and on all the produce of the ground, on humans and animals and all your labors." ' `

...

Haggai, the messenger of Yahweh, then passed on Yahweh's message to the people, 'I am with you -- declares Yahweh.' And Yahweh roused the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel governor of Judah, the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak the high priest and the spirit of the entire remnant of the people; they came and set to work in the Temple of Yahweh Sabaoth, their God.

-- Old Testament, Prophet Haggai, Chapter 1

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 - June/July 2006

HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY - JUNE 1 - Divine Liturgy 9 AM

FEAST OF HOLY PENTECOST - JUNE 11 (SUN) - Divine Liturgy 10 AM
followed by the Vespers and Kneeling Prayers

ORDINATION OF FR DN JASON VANSUCH TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD -
JUNE 17 (SAT) - Hierarchal Divine Liturgy 9 AM- at St. Stephen's
Cathedral; Reception to follow in the Church Hall

GREAT VESPERS - FR JASON'S FIRST VESPERS - JUNE 17 (SAT) - 6 PM -
at SS Peter & Paul

NEWLY ORDAINED FR JASON'S FIRST LITURGY - JUNE 18 (SUN) - 9:30
AM - at SS Peter & Paul; Picnic/Luncheon following the Divine Liturgy

CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY WITH HIS GRACE
BISHOP NIKON - JUNE 24 - 25 (SAT & SUN) - Divine Liturgy 9 AM -
Parish Meal after the Divine Liturgy

SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY - JUNE 29 - Divine Liturgy 9 AM

Schedule of Other Services/Events

AKATHIST TO THE THEOTOKOS - 6/5 (TUES) - 7 PM

EVE OF THE FEAST OF HOLY PENTECOST - 6/10 (SAT) - GREAT VESPERS
(at St Stephen Cathedral) - 5 PM; VESPERS (at SS Peter & Paul) - 6 PM

AKATHIST "GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS" - 6/13 (TUES) - 7 PM

Church News & Reminders

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2006 - **Please note:** effective Oct 1st, 2005, dues were increased to \$115. If you have already paid the \$100 2006 Dues, please understand that you are still obligated to pay the extra \$15 per person. 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 - Monday, June 5, 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 May, 9 casseroles 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.

Sunday School News

CHURCH SCHOOL ICE CREAM SOCIAL - Sunday, **June 11th - For All Children of the Parish** - following the Divine Liturgy and Vespers of Holy Pentecost in the Church Hall. Please see Fr Dn Jason or Reader Gregory Shaloka for more information. Further details will be made available next week in the weekly bulletin (Sunday June 4). Thank You!

Church School/Adult Education

EVERY SUNDAY - Following Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall

Ladies' Society News

MEETING - Sunday, June 11th, after Divine Liturgy.

Ordination of Fr Dn Jason to the Priesthood

SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH - at **St Stephen Cathedral** on Verree Road

THE HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY will begin at **9:00 AM**. *His Beatitude Metropolitan THEODOSIUS* and *His Grace Bishop NIKON* will be concelebrating the Divine Liturgy with numerous clergy, deacons, subdeacons, and Altar Servers.

THE CHOIR will be under the direction of *Ms CHRISTINE NASS*, Choir Director at St Stephen Cathedral. For all of those who are interested in singing in the Choir for the Hi-

erarchical Divine Liturgy on Saturday June 17th, please see or contact Fr Dn Jason as soon as possible and he will provide more information.

THE ENTIRE PARISH FAMILY OF SS PETER AND PAUL is invited to attend the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy as well as the Reception in the Church Hall following the Divine Liturgy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please refer to the Invitation to the Ordination of Fr. Dn. Jason, which is on the Bulletin Board in the Hallway by the restrooms upstairs or please see or contact Fr. Dn. Jason or Katia. Thank You!

Miscellaneous

WEB PAGE/E-MAILS - SS Peter & Paul Webpage: <http://homepage.mac.com/alicaj17/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: alicaj17@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: alicaj17@mac.com. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **June 25**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **7/2/06**. 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 **June** Birthdays: **George Gulisashvili, Katherine Halkedis, Tatyana Kuznetsova, Donna Lane, Isabelle McGinley, John Siniari, Zinaida Zemlyanaya**

May God grant them all many, many years!

A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED FATHER'S DAY to all of our Fathers, Grandfathers, Great-Grandfathers, Uncles, and to all of the men in our lives who have been like Fathers to us.

KUDOS TO JACQUELINE AND ALYSSA VITALI for their generosity and sacrifice during the Lenten Season and filling to overflowing 2 boxes with coins for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center.

A BELATED AND SINCERE THANK YOU - A Very Special Belated Thank You to all of the following Parishioners for their dedication and hard work in setting up the Epitaphios on Good Friday: *Jim & Edna Bachelor, Janet Bachelor, Belinda Mentzer, Elizabeth Vaynshteyn, Kathryn Jankowski, Dianne Miller, Alexandra*

Murianka, Kristen & Jan and also a Special Thank You to the all-around handyman and driver, *Lester Speero*

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, Helen Arndt, 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...*

Prayers for the Departed Servants of God

†VRev *Peter Krochta*, †George *Steffa*, †Margaret *Kenny*, †Angeline *Gundlach*, †Amelia *Daka*, †Llambi *Quirias*, †Archpriest *Victor Sokolov*, †Yelena, †Matushka *Margaret Ressetar*, †Matushka *Helen Donovan*, †Tamara, †Jane *Scollard* (*Step-mother of Fr John Scollard*)

OCA News: Bishop Nikon Visits Albania

BOSTON, MA [OCA Communications, 5/5/2006] — His Grace, Bishop Nikon of Boston, New England, and the Albanian Archdiocese of the Orthodox Church in America left on May 3, 2006 for an eight day visit to Albania.

This marks the first time Bishop Nikon has visited Albania.

During his visit, Bishop Nikon will meet with His Beatitude, Archbishop Anastasios, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Albania, at which time he will convey greetings from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America.

Bishop Nikon will concelebrate the Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Anastasios at the Annunciation Cathedral in Tirana, the nation's capital, on Sunday, May 7. His Excellency, Albanian President Alfred Moisiu, also will receive Bishop Nikon at the Presidium of the Republic.

Bishop Nikon is also expected to visit the Resurrection Orthodox Seminary and Monastery of Saint Blaise near Durres, where he will be hosted by His Grace, Bishop Ilia [Katre] of Aneaion, director of the seminary, and meet with the faculty and students. [The OCA Albanian Archdiocese currently has a second-year student studying at the seminary, Anthony Gjonej.]

In addition, Bishop Nikon will visit the Home of Hope foster home and orphanage, a project of the Church of Albania in conjunction with the UN's Development Program.

His Eminence, Metropolitan John [Pelushi] will host Bishop Nikon in the Diocese of Korce, where they will concelebrate the Divine Liturgy and tour the icon museum, the historic 10th century church in Mborja, and outlying 17th century churches in Pogradec and in Boboshtica -- the ancestral village of Bishop Nikon's family. He also will visit the historic 15th century redoubt of Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg and museum in Kruja and Tiran's National Historic Museum.

Finally, Bishop Nikon will meet with Orthodox missionary teams, composed of several US faithful sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, as well as leaders of the country's other faith traditions.

Bishop Nikon will return to the US on May 11. The long-anticipated, semi-official visit is being funded by the OCA's Albanian Archdiocese.

OCMC News: Luisi Family Visits the Mission Center as they prepare to serve in Albania

The Mission Center was blessed to welcome Constance, Dennis and Domenico Luisi to St. Augustine during the week of May 9th – May 12th as they made final preparations to serve as OCMC missionaries in Albania.

Dennis and Constance are both converts to Orthodoxy. Constance became Orthodox in 1988 with her family, Fr. Patrick and Kh. Denise Reardon and her brother, Jeremy. Dennis converted with his whole parish in 1992. They married in February 1999 and were blessed by the birth of their son, Domenico, in June 2000.

For twelve years, Dennis has been the choir director at All Saints Orthodox Church in Chicago where he also taught Sunday School and assisted with facilities management. He has experience in multiple trades including carpentry, plumbing, HVAC and electrical maintenance. Constance has also been a choir director, as well as Sunday School Director and teacher. She earned her BA in French and German language and literature and enjoys being a chanter, composing and arranging music.

During their brief visit to the Mission Center, the staff was able to enjoy the presentation that the Luisi's have been giving to parishes around the country. As a wonderfully clogged wheel, Dennis and Constance worked as a team as they presented historical information on Albania beginning with the first centuries, through the establishment of the nation, through the coming of Communism and the persecution of religion and finally to the modern revival of the Orthodox Church.

Once their fundraising is complete the Luisi family will depart as OCMC missionaries to Albania. Their primary task will be to work with children's choirs, first in Tirana and then throughout the country. The Luisis will also explore other ways

their varied gifts and talents can be put to use for the glory of God in rebuilding the Church in Albania.

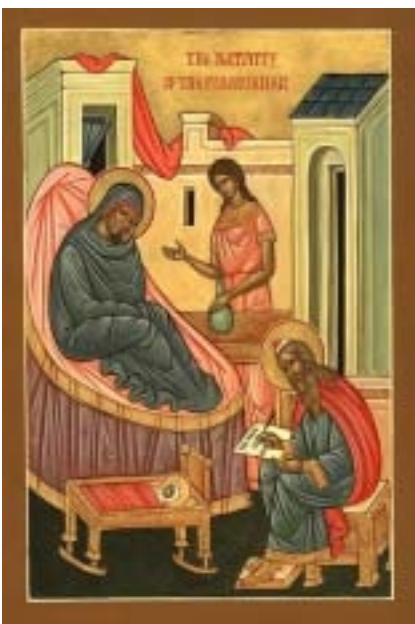
In their last few months before they depart for Albania, they will be visiting various parishes to speak about missions and raise the support for their ministry.

We ask for your continued prayers for the Constance, Dennis and Domenico. Funds to help support the Luisi Family can be sent to the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center**, designated for the "Luisi Family" in the memo line, to **P.O. Box 4319, St. Augustine, FL 32085-4319**.

Holy Days and Name Days in June

- June 1 - Ascension of Our Lord
- June 4 - Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
- June 8 - St John of Kronstadt
- June 9 - St Cyril of Alexandria
- June 11 - Holy Trinity; Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
- June 12 - Day of the Holy Spirit
- June 13 - 3rd Day of the Holy Trinity
- June 14 - Prophet Elisha
- June 19 - Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord; Beginning of SS Peter & Paul Fast
- June 24 - Nativity of St John the Baptist
- June 25 - All Saints of America; All Saints of Russia
- June 29 - Holy Apostles Peter & Paul

Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist of the Lord, John *(Commemorated on June 24)*



The Gospel (Luke 1:5) relates that the righteous parents of St John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth, lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. St Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that St Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

St Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her

Her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. St John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon St Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked St Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and St Zachariah glorified God.

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, St Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Herod sent soldiers to St Zachariah to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

~ Icon & Reading Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~