



***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 ~ June 2008*

## Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

**"Where the Bishop is, so is the Church"**

~ St. Ignatius of Antioch

*"For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God... holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught..."* -- Titus 1:7,9

The word "bishop" is the English translation of the Greek word *episkopos*, which means "overseer." Both the New Testament and the writings of the Church Fathers describe the bishop's role. He has to teach and to lead.

The bishops were and still are the teachers and leaders of the Church, both directly and through their representatives: the priests and deacons. The apostles were commissioned by Jesus to carry on His work in the world, and were given His own powers in order to do so, including commissioning and ordaining others who would follow them.

Thus the apostles, through the laying on of their hands upon those chosen to be their successors, transmitted that same Holy Spirit, the life-force of the Church, to the bishops who came after them.

The bishop is called to teach the Tradition and beliefs of the Church and make sure that nothing is omitted from them and nothing is added to them. He is called to lead his diocese of the Church in the way of Christ, with love and compassion. He is called to administer the Sacraments of the Church. And he is called to ordain men to be priests, deacons, subdeacons and readers to minister to his diocese.

*"For as many as belong to God and Jesus Christ — these are with the Bishop."* -- St. Ignatius of Antioch



From: OCA Webpages

## 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 2008

HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY - JUNE 5 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

PENTECOST SUNDAY - JUNE 15 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY WITH HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON - SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 22 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM;  
*Parish Meal after the Divine Liturgy*

SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY - JUNE 29 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

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

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS - FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 - Divine Liturgy, 9 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** - 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 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** - Monday, June 2, 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 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 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!*

## **Ladies Society News**

**JUNE 1 - Roast Beef Sandwich Sunday**, following Divine Liturgy

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

**JUNE 3 ~ VISIT OF METROPOLITAN ISAIA FROM THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF GEORGIA, DIOCESE OF NIKOZI & TSKHINVALI** - A most gracious and sincere welcome is extended to Metropolitan Isaia who will be visiting with our Georgian parishioners and will serve Liturgy at SS Peter & Paul on Tuesday, June 3, 9 AM. All are welcome to attend.

**SEPTEMBER 20 ~ SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE** - *Remember to keep this date open for our most fun event of the year!*

## General Interest

**62ND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ALBANIAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION** - hosted at the Westin Philadelphia Hotel (99 South 17th St), **August 1 - 3, 2008**, dedicated to the memory of Steve Stefani. *More information and details can be found online at: [www.aano.org](http://www.aano.org). **Deadline for tickets and Ad Journal Advertisement is July 2, 2008.** (For ticket information, contact Carolyn Boria at 508- 864-9237 or e-mail: [carolynannb@yahoo.com](mailto:carolynannb@yahoo.com); for ad information, contact Damian Peters at [dami-an@barbudaful.com](mailto:dami-an@barbudaful.com)).*

**ALBANIAN ARCHDIOCESE CENTENNIAL GRAND GALA - Saturday, September 27, 2008**, World Trade Center, Boston. Cocktails, 6 PM, Dinner, 7 PM. For more information, go to: [www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/anniversary.html](http://www.saintgeorgecathedral.com/anniversary.html) *The website will be updated shortly with all relevant information and will include information for credit card payments.*

~**Deadline for tickets** (\$125) is September 1, 2008. For questions, contact Mrs. Dorothy Cornetta at [gala100th@yahoo.com](mailto:gala100th@yahoo.com) or 781-329-0454.

~ **Room reservation deadline** at the Seaport Hotel is August 26, 2008. Call 617-385-4000, identify group name as *St George's Church*. Rates are \$259/night.

~**Souvenir Journal Ads:** Deadline, August 15, 2008. As part of our legacy to the next generation, please support the 100th Anniversary celebrations by placing an ad. This permanent record of our community in 2008 will be a treasured memory for years to come. For questions, contact Jeanne & Kristine Kotelly at 617-489-1892 or [jmkotelly@earthlink.net](mailto:jmkotelly@earthlink.net)

~**Commemorative DVD (for sale at the Gala on September 27):** With your help, a documentary will be produced that tells our story. We need your historical photographs, documents, other media: (1) Photographs (old or new) showing **Church services** (Easter, ordinations, baptisms, weddings), **Albanian Archdiocese** (portraits of religious leaders, events, religious artifacts), **Architecture of Albanian Orthodox Churches**, **Church Events** (bazaars, picnics, dinners, past anniversary celebrations), **Albanian Culture** (Albanian Day, art exhibitions, choral groups), **Views of Albania** (land, seascapes, mountains, countryside, villages); (2) Videotape of any of the above in any format; (3) Audiotape (or video) of elders or key figures in the community telling our story; (4) Newspaper articles about Albanians, Albanian-Americans, Albanian Orthodoxy.

**Deadline for submitting any items is July 1, 2008.** Contact Sandra Kosta at 781-391-5033 or [sandra.kosta@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.kosta@gmail.com) if you have any of the above to send her. **All original items will be handled with care and returned.** Any photographs can also be given to Alicia (by June 22, 2008) who will scan them and forward the images to Ms. Kosta. **Please note:** any photos given to Alicia will also be replicated and used for our own pictorial history project to be put up in our Church Hall (more information about this project in the Fall). *Also, your photos will never leave Philadelphia and will be returned to you after scanning.*



**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)**

**SOPHIA: SECRET WISDOM** - A film about Orthodox spirituality around the world needing funds to finish the "Russian/Ukrainian" part of the monastic visits. Please contribute: **<http://sophiasecretwisdom.com>** or send a check (with "SOPHIA: SECRET WISDOM" on left corner) to: **Sarah Masters, The Hartley Film Foundation, 49 Richmondville Avenue, Suite 204, Westport, CT 06880** You can listen to Fr John McGuckin at: **<http://www.myocn.net/index.php/CRTL/Show-Descriptions/CRTL-Archives>** Scroll down to the Archives, 03/28/08 - Sophia: Wisdom From Today's Christian Ascetics - Rev. Dr. John McGuckin

## **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/alicaj17/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: **[alicaj17@mac.com](mailto: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](mailto:alicaj17@mac.com)**. *The deadline for the next Bulletin (which will be a combination July/August Bulletin) is Sunday, July 6.* Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **7/13/08**. 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 **June** Birthdays: George Gulisashvili, Katherine Halkedis, Mary Jaxheimer, Tatyana Kuznetsova, Donna Lane, John Siniari, Lyudmila Sivak, 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 women in our lives who have been like Fathers to us. *May God grant them all many, many years!*

**OUR MOST SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO LILIYA & VIKTOR SKURATOVSKIY** on the birth of their son, *Alexi Victor* on February 26, 2008. Alexi weighed in at 6 lbs., 7 oz. and 20 inches long. The family expresses warm thanks to Katherine & Harry Halkedis for their thoughtful baby gift. *May God grant Alexi Victor 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!*

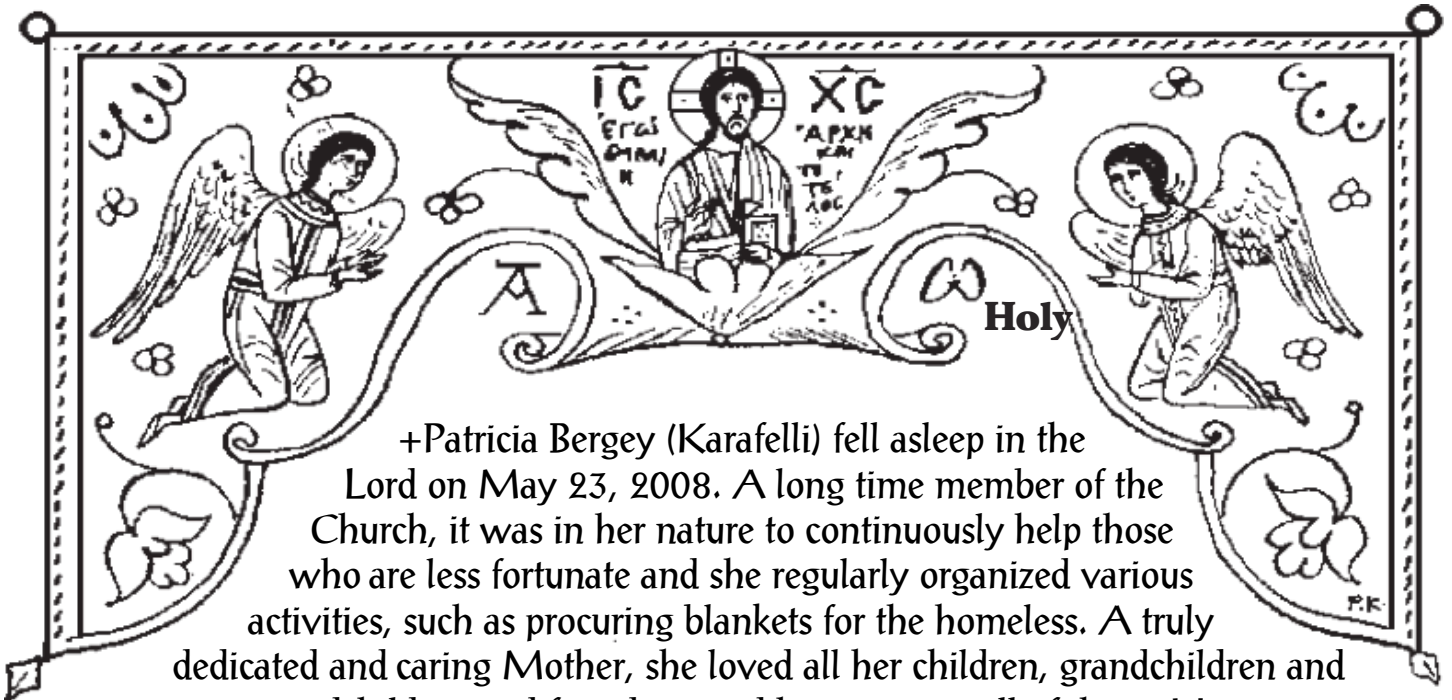
## Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Gregory Vreto, Sr., Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, 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



+Patricia Bergey (Karafelli) fell asleep in the Lord on May 23, 2008. A long time member of the Church, it was in her nature to continuously help those who are less fortunate and she regularly organized various activities, such as procuring blankets for the homeless. A truly dedicated and caring Mother, she loved all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and found joy and happiness in all of them. Her unique thoughtfulness extended to her Church family and Pat was always there to help in any way she could. Her bright smile, her marvelous sense of humor, her warmth, and her unceasing devotion to all will always be lovingly remembered and genuinely missed by family, friends, church members, and all those whose lives she so profoundly touched.

*May her memory be eternal!*

### Days and Name Days in June

- June 1 - Sunday of the Blind Man
- June 5 - Ascension of Our Lord
- June 9 - St Cyril of Alexandria
- June 11 - Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
- June 14 - Memorial Saturday of the Holy Forefathers; Prophet Elisha
- June 15 - Holy Pentecost
- June 19 - Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord
- June 23 - Beginning of SS Peter & Paul Fast
- June 24 - Nativity of St John the Baptist
- June 29 - Holy Apostles Peter & Paul

#### **Prophet Elisha**

*(Commemorated on June 14)*

The Holy Prophet Elisha lived in the 9th century before the Birth of Christ, and was a native of the village of Abelmaum, near Jordan. By the command of the Lord he was called to prophetic service by the holy Prophet Elias.





When it became time for the Prophet Elias to be taken up to Heaven, he said to Elisha, "Ask what shall I do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha boldly asked for a double portion of the grace of God: "Let there be a double portion of your spirit upon me." The Prophet Elias said, "You have asked a hard thing; if you see me when I am taken from you, then so shall it be for you; but if you don't see me, it wilt not be" (4 [2] Kings 2:12). As they went along the way talking, there appeared a fiery chariot and horses and separated them both. Elisha cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horse!" (4 Kings 2:12). Picking up the mantle of his teacher which fell from the sky, Elisha received the power and prophetic gift of Elias. While Elisha lived, he did not tremble before any prince, and no word could overcome him (Sirach 48:13).

The holy prophet worked numerous miracles. He divided the waters of the Jordan, having struck it with the mantle of the Prophet Elias; he made the waters of a Jericho spring fit for drinking; he saved the armies of the kings of Israel and Judah that stood in an arid wilderness by bringing forth abundant water by his prayer; he delivered a poor widow from death by starvation through a miraculous increase of oil in a vessel. The Shunamite woman showing hospitality to the prophet was gladdened by the birth of a son through his prayer, and when the child died, he was raised back to life by the prophet. The Syrian military-commander Namaan was healed from leprosy but the prophet's servant Gehazi was afflicted since he disobeyed the prophet and took money from Namaan on the sly.

Elisha predicted to the Israelite king Joash the victory over his enemies, and by the power of his prayer he worked many other miracles (4 Kings 3-13). The holy Prophet Elisha died in old age at Samaria. "In his life he worked miracles, and at death his works were marvelous" (Sir. 48: 15). A year after his death, a corpse was thrown into the prophet's grave. As soon as the dead man touched Elisha's bones, he came to life and stood up (4 Kings 13: 20-21). The Prophet Elisha and his teacher, the Prophet Elias, left no books behind them, since their prophetic preaching was oral. Jesus, son of Sirach, praised both great prophets (Sir. 48:1-15).

~ Reading and Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~