



***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/July 2005*

**Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful**  
**Equip the Saints for the Work —**  
**Build Up the Body of Christ**

Saint Paul writes to the people of the Church of Ephesus and urges them to be worthy of their high calling:

"...with all humility and gentleness,  
with patience, bearing one another in love,  
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as you were called  
to the one hope of your calling,  
one Lord,  
one Faith,  
one Baptism,  
one God and Father of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all

But each was given grace  
according to the measure of Christ's gift...  
The gifts He gave were  
that some would be apostles,  
some prophets,  
some evangelists,  
some pastors and teachers,  
to equip the saints for the work of ministry,  
for building up the body of Christ."

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FATHER STEPHEN:**

As of January 1, 2005, all confessions and consultations on Sunday mornings shall take place from 9 AM to 10 AM before the Divine Liturgy. Thank you.

**Father Stephen** may be reached at **267-973-9775**, Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM; e-mail: [ssiniari@covenanthousepa.org](mailto:ssiniari@covenanthousepa.org)

**Events & Announcements**

**Liturgical Schedule - June/July/August 2005**

**HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY - JUNE 9TH - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

**SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29TH - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

**CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY WITH HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON - SUNDAY, JULY 10TH - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

**HOLY TRANSFIGURATION - SATURDAY,, AUGUST 6TH - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

## **Church News & Reminders**

**ICON PLEDGES** - Pledges can still be made by contacting George Kendro, Jim Schaeffer or Stephen Murianka with the Saint's name and the amount.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2005** - Dues are \$100 per person and can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** - Monday, June 6, 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.

**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, 12 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!*

**NEW CENSER & NEW ICON DONATIONS** - Donations are needed for a new censer and for the purchase of new Icons. *We thank you for your support in this project. Please donate generously.*

**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**

**LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Sunday, June 5

## Ladies' Society News

**MEMORIAL SERVICES** - If you are planning to have a Memorial Service, please inform the Ladies' Society as soon as possible so that efforts and tangibles are not duplicated.

**MEATBALL & HOT DOG SUNDAY** - June 5, after Divine Liturgy

**MEETING** - Sunday, **June 12**, after Divine Liturgy

## Events

**ORDINATION OF GREGORY VRETO, JR.** to the ***Diaconate*** by His Grace Bishop Nikon is scheduled to take place on **Sunday, July 10, 9 AM**, the celebration of SS Peter & Paul Feast Day with His Grace Bishop Nikon. Please make every effort to arrive at the Church earlier, as it is a longer service.

~ **The Luncheon with the Bishop** will be held immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall. Tickets will be available at the door.

## 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). **Please note: This Bulletin is a combined June/July one. If need be, a short Bulletin will be published on 7/3/05.** The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, July 24. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday 7/31/05. 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, Donna Lane, Isabelle McGinely, John Siniari, Zinaida Zemlyanaya**

**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** is wished to the following parishioners who are celebrating **July** Birthdays: **Helen Banushi, Andrew Cappo, Charles Daka, John Douris, Michelle Murianka, Nick Muzekari, Ted Muzekari, Viktor Skuratovski, Jennie Speero, Lester Speero, Fr. Dn. Jason Vansuch, Silviya Yovtcheva, Mariya Zaychik**

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

## **CHRISTIAN SPEERO MAKES HIS GRANDPARENTS PROUD ONCE AGAIN!**

Christian Speero, grandson of Sandy & Lester Speero, is off to Europe again for 3 weeks as a Goodwill Junior Ambassador for the United States. He will be traveling to Italy, Germany, Switzerland, France, and Belgium. This is Christian's 2nd trip with the *People to People* group. *Congratulations, Christian, on all your achievements!*

**KNITTING CLASS FOR BEGINNERS:** *Start Date: Sunday, June 12.* If you've ever wanted to learn how to knit, now is the time to learn... just imagine all the gifts you can knit for Christmas! You must bring a set of size #7, 9 inch aluminum knitting needles and a skein of light colored worsted weight yarn.

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF AWARD RECIPIENTS:** If you have any photographs of yourself or other Parishioners receiving the *Herald of St. Constantine & St. Helen Award* or the *Knight of St. George Award*, please lend your photos to **John Palmerick**. John will copy your photo and return it to you. He is trying to set up an **Awards Wall** in the Hall. Also, if you or anyone you know has received either of these awards, please give your name to Alicia, as we are trying to generate a list of recipients. Thank you!

**THE 5 YEAR MEMORIAL FOR LISA GRIPMAN,** Sandy and Lester Speero's daughter, was held on Sunday, May 22.

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU** to **Irene Prifti** for donating an icon of St. Rafael Nicholas & St. Irene. The 40 days Commemoration will be held on Sunday, June 12.

**THE MEMORIAL FOR PAUL PETER SHALOKA,** Greg Shaloka's father, will be held on Sunday, June 26.

### **Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers**

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: ***Elaine Quirias, Gregory Vreto, Sr., Debbie Krimetz, Presbytera Cleopatra Gregory, Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Harry Cappa, Matthew Murianka***

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

### **Holy Synod Elects Bishop Tikhon of South Canaan Ruling Hierarch of the Diocese of Philadelphia & Eastern Pennsylvania**

*Article posted on OCA Webpage: 5/27/2005 8:00 PM*

**SOUTH CANAAN, PA [OCA Communications]** — At a special session of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America held at Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery here Friday, May 27, 2005, His Grace, Bishop Tikhon of South Canaan and auxiliary to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, was elected Bishop of the Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Bishop Tikhon's election followed a special assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania held at the monastery two days earlier, during which he was nominated to the vacant episcopal see by parish clergy and lay delegates.





Metropolitan Herman, who chaired the Holy Synod's special session, had headed the Eastern Pennsylvania diocese for over two decades. He continued to oversee its life after his election as OCA Primate in July 2002. The see was declared vacant at the Holy Synod's spring 2005 session, at which it was announced that Metropolitan Herman would assume duties as ruling bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Washington and New York on May 1.

Bishop Tikhon was born in Boston, MA on July 15, 1966, the son of Francis and Elizabeth Mollard. After brief periods living in Connecticut, France, and Missouri, he and his family settled in Reading, PA, where he graduated from Wyomissing High School in 1984. In 1988 he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Sociology from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, after which he moved to Chicago.

In 1989 he was received into the Orthodox Faith from Episcopalianism and, in the fall of the same year, he began studies at Saint Tikhon's Seminary. The following year he entered Saint Tikhon's Monastery as a novice.

After receiving his Master of Divinity degree from Saint Tikhon's Seminary in 1993, he was appointed instructor in Old Testament at the seminary. He subsequently served as senior lecturer in Old Testament and taught master level courses in the prophets, the psalms, and wisdom literature. He also served as an instructor in the seminary's extension studies program, offering a number of courses related to the Old Testament.

Archimandrite Tikhon collaborated with Igumen Alexander [Golitzin] in the publication of *The Living Witness of the Holy Mountain*, published by Saint Tikhon's Seminary Press, by illustrating this classic book about Mount Athos.

In 1995 he was tonsured to the lesser schema and given the name Tikhon, in honor of Saint Tikhon, Enlightener of North America and Patriarch of Moscow. Later that year he was ordained to the holy diaconate and priesthood at Saint Tikhon's Monastery. In 1998 he was elevated to the rank of igumen, and in 2000 to the rank of archimandrite. In December 2002, he was appointed by Metropolitan Herman to serve as the monastery's deputy abbot.

Archimandrite Tikhon was elected to the episcopacy by members of the Holy Synod of Bishops at their October 2003 session. His consecration was celebrated on February 14, 2004 at Saint Tikhon's Monastery.

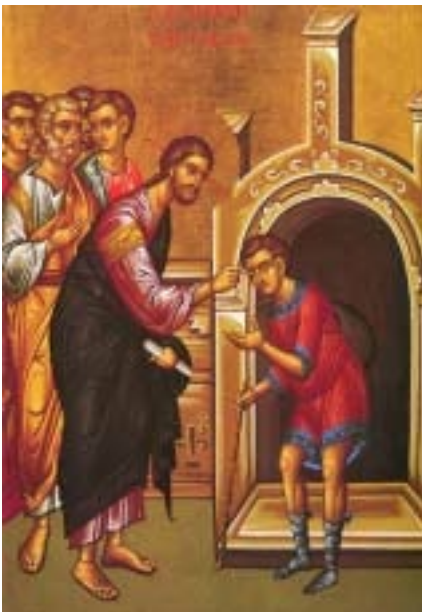
Additional information concerning Bishop Tikhon's installation, as well as further information on the special session of the Holy Synod, will be posted on the OCA web site at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)

## Holy Days and Name Days in June

- June 5 - Sunday of the Blind Man
- June 8 - Leavetaking of Pascha; Forefeast of Ascension
- June 9 - Ascension of Our Lord; St Cyril of Alexandria
- June 11 - Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
- June 12 - Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
- June 14 - Prophet Elisha
- June 18 - Memorial Saturday of the Holy Forefathers
- June 19 - Holy Pentecost; Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord
- June 20 - Day of the Holy Spirit
- June 21 - 3rd Day of the Trinity
- June 24 - Nativity of St John the Baptist
- June 25 - Feast of All Saints
- June 29 - Holy Apostles Peter & Paul

### ***Sunday of the Blind Man***

After the Midfeast (Jn 7:14), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (Jn 8:2). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man "who was blind from his birth (Jn 9:1).



The miracle described in today's Gospel (Jn 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. St. Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, "Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes...."

The Gospel says, "Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind" (Jn 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mk 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man's empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

~ Reading & Icon Courtesy of the OCA Webpage ~

## Holy Days and Name Days in July

- July 1 - Unmercenary Wonderworkers Cosmas & Damian
- July 3 - All Saints of America; All Saints of Russia
- July 4 - St Andrew of Crete; Ven Andrew Rublev
- July 10 - Ven Anthony of the Kiev Caves
- July 11 - Gr Martyr Euphemia; The All-Praised Bl Princess Olga
- July 15 - Great Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles
- July 16 - Virginmartyr Julia
- 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 - St Mary Magdalene; 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 Myrrhbearer & Equal of the Apostles Mary Magdalene***

Saint Mary was from Magdala in Galilee on the Sea of Tiberias, and for this was named Magdalene. When the Lord Jesus cast out seven demons from her, from which she had been suffering, she became His faithful and inseparable disciple, following Him and ministering unto Him even to the time of His crucifixion and burial. Then, returning to Jerusalem together with the rest of the Myrrh-bearers, she prepared the fragrant spices for anointing the body of the Lord. And on the Lord's day they came very early to the tomb, even before the Angels appeared declaring the Resurrection of the Lord. When Mary Magdalene saw the stone taken away from the tomb, she ran and proclaimed it to Peter and John. And returning immediately to the tomb and weeping outside, she was deemed worthy to be the first of the Myrrh-bearers to behold the Lord arisen from the dead, and when she fell at His feet, she heard Him say, "Touch Me not."



After the Lord's Ascension, nothing certain is known concerning her. Some accounts say that she went to Rome and later returned to Jerusalem, and from there proceeded to Ephesus, where she ended her life, preaching Christ. Although it is sometimes said that Saint Mary Magdalene was the "sinful woman" of the Gospel, this is nowhere stated in the tradition of the Church, in



the sacred hymnology, or in the Holy Gospels themselves, which say only that our Lord cast seven demons out of her, not that she was a fallen woman. "Madeleine" is a form of Magdalene.

~ Icon Courtesy of the OCA Webpage ~

~ Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA ~