



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: 856-616-0782



Church Bulletin ~ May 2004

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

What is Love?

Though I command languages both human and angelic -- if I speak without love, I am no more than a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

And though I have the power of prophecy, to penetrate all mysteries and knowledge, and though I have all the faith necessary to move mountains -- if I am without love, I am nothing.

Though I should give away to the poor all that I possess, and even give up my body to be burned -- if I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offence or store up grievances.

Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth.

It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes.

Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophecies, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will fall silent; and if knowledge, it will be done away with.

For we know only imperfectly, and we prophesy imperfectly;

but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will be done away with.

When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and see things as a child does, and think like a child; but now that I have become an adult, I have finished with all childish ways.

Now we see only reflections in a mirror, mere riddles, but then we shall be seeing face to face. Now, I can know only imperfectly; but then I shall know just as fully as I am myself known.

As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love, the three of them; and the greatest of them is love.

*1 Corinthians 13:1-13
(from: The New Jerusalem Bible)*

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - May/June 2004

HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY - MAY 20 - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM

SS PETER & PAUL FEASTDAY - TUESDAY, JUNE 29 - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM

Church News & Reminders

ICON PLEDGES - A reminder that Icon Pledges can be paid at any time. Please see the treasurer, George Kendro.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2004 - Dues are \$100 per person and can be paid at any time to George Kendro, treasurer.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Normally held the 1st Monday of every month, 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 - 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! Please take note that Harry will not be here this month on the 2nd Sunday, May 9th, to collect casseroles; if you forget and do bring a casserole, it will have to be placed in the freezer in the basement.*

POOR BOX DONATIONS - Please continue to remember those who are less fortunate than we are.

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.

Ladies' Society News

MEETING - Sunday, **May 9**, after Divine Liturgy

Events

CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEASTDAY WITH HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON - **Sunday, July 11**. Our annual parish meal with His Grace Bishop Nikon will follow the Divine Liturgy.

Miscellaneous

PARISH DIRECTORY - I apologize for the delay. The Directory will definitely be ready to be included in the June Bulletin mailing. Thank you for your patience! Alicia

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 (just click on the tip link "**Church Bulletin**"). 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, May 30**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 6/6/04**. Bulletins will be mailed to any Parishioners unable to attend.

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.

PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR BULLETIN ENVELOPES in either of the two wire baskets. Thank you!

Parishioner's Corner

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **May** Birthdays: **Pat Bergey, Niqui Coco, Letitia Desloges, Olga Gorskaya, Haralambos Halkedis, Nina Iakimenko, George Kendro, Aleksandra Liberman, Helen Zallie**

May God grant them all many, many years!

A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY to all of our Mothers, Grandmothers, Great-Grandmothers, Aunts, and to all of the women in our lives who have been like Mothers to us.

Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

*** Please continue your prayers for the full recovery of *Presbytera Cleopatra Gregory*.

*** Please continue your prayers for the full and speedy recovery of *Isabelle McGinley* who underwent knee replacement surgery about 2 weeks ago.

Host Family Needed

German Podgorniy (nickname, Jerry), a 15 year old high school student from Kiev, Ukraine, is looking for a friendly host family with whom he could stay for the Academic year of September 2004 - June 2005. His goal is to improve his English in order to apply for the International Christian University in Kiev, Ukraine. Jerry has a great personality and is very helpful. His hobbies include cooking, gardening, and fishing.

Jerry is being sponsored by the American International Youth Student Exchange Program (AIYSEP). If you are interested in becoming a host family and/or have questions, please

contact Elena Batova at **267-251-1052** or e-mail her at: **elena_batova@yahoo.com**.
(*Elena is the young woman who read the Gospel in Slavonic at the Agape Service*)

News from the Orthodox Archdiocese of Tirana, Albania

An Offer with Special Significance

The burning of churches and mosques, does not promote justice and peace, and certainly neither progress. On the contrary, it is a return to times and practices which led the Balkans to stagnation, divisions, and tragedies.

Indeed, those who involve religion in the violence are essentially violating the spirit of religion. No matter how much one is in the right, he must respect the sanctity and the purpose of sacred places of worship. These should become centers of reconciliation and peace, and not breeding grounds for maintaining animosities.

It is only with peaceful coexistence of the religious communities that genuine social progress can take place. This is the principal that we Christians and Muslims alike have adopted in Albania: to live together and to cooperate with each other in harmony.

The sobriety of religious tolerance and courage of love must overcome the blind hatred that can only lead to an escalation of conflicts. In the 21st century, worldwide and particularly in the Balkan region, we are called – independent of the national or religious community in which we were born – to work hard to coexist peacefully, with mutual respect and solidarity.

With this conviction, the Orthodox Archdiocese of Tirana has made the following decision:

We offer \$600,000 for the restoration of a church and a mosque in Kosovo, or the construction of a youth center there that will promote peaceful coexistence. This sum comes from the funds that, with great effort, we have raised for the construction of the Orthodox Cathedral in Tirana. It will be dispatched appropriately, so that it be used equitably, according to the special significance of this initiative.

Tirana 26.3.2004

+Anastasios

Archbishop of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania

Metropolitan HERMAN returns from Official Visit to Orthodox Church in Georgia

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] - On April 24, 2004, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, returned from a nine day official visit to the Orthodox Church of Georgia.

Metropolitan Herman's visit, his first to the ancient Georgian Church since his election as OCA Primate in July 2002, took place in response to an invitation extended by the Primate of the

Georgian Church, His Holiness Patriarch-Catholicos Ilia II.

"While tradition holds that the Apostle Andrew first preached the Gospel in the region, then known as Iberia, the Orthodox Church of Georgia traces its official establishment to 330 A.D., when Saint Nino's preaching led to the conversion of the imperial house and the general population," according to the Very Rev. John Matusiak, OCA Communications Director. "Over the centuries, Georgia has witnessed numerous invasions, periods of political turmoil, and after the nation's annexation to the Russian Empire in the early 19th century and subsequent incorporation into the Soviet Union, several decades of communist rule. Yet the Orthodox Church has remained at the heart of Georgia's life and identity and, after the fall of communism and the nation's independence over a decade ago, has been a serious yet moderate, voice in the midst of the many challenges the fledgling state is facing as it transitions into a democratic, free-market society."

...

"Since his election, Metropolitan Herman has made fraternal visits to the Churches of Constantinople, Russia, and Poland, as well as the Church in Ukraine," Father Matusiak, added. "The Georgian Church, being neither Greek nor Slavic, is unique, maintaining its own traditions, iconographic and musical styles, language, and national consciousness. In light of the growing number of recent Georgian immigrants being served by OCA parishes, including Washington, DC's Saint Nicholas Cathedral, the strengthening of fraternal ties and mutual understanding between the Churches in Georgia and America is crucial."

...

Metropolitan Herman delivered the keynote address at the Spring 2004 Missionary Seminar hosted by the Georgian Patriarchate on Tuesday, April 20... Metropolitan Herman's well-received lecture, "The Church as Mission," traced the development of the Church's missionary efforts from apostolic times to the present, with special emphasis on Orthodox missionary work in North America. During the lively question and answer session that followed, it was evident that the Georgian faithful were not only intensely interested in Orthodox Christianity in North America, but viewed the Orthodox Church in America with great esteem. ...

Patriarch Ilia hosted a farewell reception for Metropolitan Herman and the OCA delegation ... "The head of the Orthodox Church in America is visiting Georgia today, and this is a historic visit," Patriarch Ilia emphasized in his remarks. "The Orthodox Church in America is the youngest of the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches in the world. In the 1970's of the last century, the Georgian Orthodox Church was the first to recognize the autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America."

In response, Metropolitan Herman reflected on his visit to Georgia and shared his joy in discovering "the great spirituality of the people that we've met."

(The full story and pictures can be found at: <http://oca.org/pages/news/news.asp?ID=584>)

Holy Days and Name Days in May

- May 1 - Prophet Jeremiah; St Tamara of Georgia
- May 2 - Sunday of the Paralytic
- May 3 - Repose of St Theodosius of Kiev
- May 5 - Martyr Irene of Thessalonica
- May 6 - Righteous Job the Longsuffering
- May 7 - Repose of St Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre
- May 8 - Holy Apostle John the Theologian
- May 9 - Sunday of the Samaritan Woman; Prophet Isaiah
- May 10 - Apostle Simeon the Zealot
- May 11 - SS Cyril & Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs
- May 14 - Martyr Isidore of Chios; St Isidore of Rostov, Fool-for-Christ
- May 15 - St Pachomius the Great
- May 16 - Sunday of the Blind Man
- May 19 - Leavetaking of Pascha; Forefeast of Ascension
- May 20 - Ascension of Our Lord; Relics of St Aleksy, Metropolitan of Moscow
- May 21 - SS Constantine & Helen, Equal-to-the-Apostles
- May 23 - Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
- May 25 - 3rd Finding of the Head of St John the Baptist
- May 28 - St Germaine of Paris
- May 29 - Memorial Saturday of the Holy Forefathers; Blessed John of Ustiug
- May 30 - Holy Pentecost
- May 31 - Day of the Holy Spirit

The Descent of the Holy Spirit - Pentecost Sunday



In the Old Testament Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God's gift of the ten commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the new covenant of the Messiah, the passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, the "exodus" of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the "new law," the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ.

When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a

mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed as resting upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit ... (Acts 2:1-4).

The Holy Spirit that Christ had promised to his disciples came on the day of Pentecost (Jn 14:26, 15:26; Lk 24:49; Acts 1:5). The apostles received "the power from on high," and they began to preach and bear witness to Jesus as the risen Christ, the King and the Lord. This moment has traditionally been called the birthday of the Church.

~ Reading courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

~ Icon Courtesy of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Webpage ~



Troparion for Saints Peter and Paul

**O Leaders of the Apostles
And Evangelizers of the World
Intercede with Christ our God
To grant Peace to the World
And Salvation to our Souls**

