



***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 ~ May 2006*

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

### **How Can I Explain the Scripture If You Don't Pay Me?**

The Elder, Father Zossima, is a fictional character from the book, *The Brothers Karamazov*, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

Dostoyevsky's life was changed forever when he met the real-life Elder, Saint Ambrose of Optina Monastery in Russia. It is said that he based Father Zossima on Saint Ambrose.

The Elder Zossima was dying and he knew it. Among other things, he reflected on the life of the Orthodox priests and their need for money.

"Friends and teachers, I have heard more than once, and now for some time past, it can be heard more often, our priests... are everywhere complaining bitterly of their small stipends and their degradation...

And they go so far as to declare plainly, and even in print - I have read it myself, that they are unable to expound the Scriptures to the people because their stipends are so small.

And that if Lutherans and heretics come and drive away the flock, then let them do so, for their stipends, you see, are so small.

Heavens above, I think to myself, may the stipends that are so precious to them be increased by all means (for their complaint is certainly just).

For verily I say, if anyone is to blame for it, half the fault is ours.

For even if he has no time to spare, if he is right in saying he is overwhelmed all the time with work and church services, it is not all the time.

He still has at least an hour a week in which to remember God. And his work does not go on all the year round.

If at first he gathered only the children, once a week, in the evening, their fathers would hear of it, and they, too, would beg to come.

And there is no need to build marble halls for this work, let him simply take them into his cottage, he need not be afraid, they won't make a mess of his cottage, for he will only have them for one hour.

Let him open the Book, and begin reading without learned words, and without conceit, without any feeling of superiority toward them, but gently and tenderly, rejoicing that he is reading to them, and that they are listening to him with understanding...

...loving those words himself, and pausing only from time to time to explain some words that simple people do not understand. Don't worry, they'll understand it all, the Orthodox heart will understand it all.

Read to them about Abraham and Sarah, about Isaac and Rebecca, about how Jacob went to Laban and wrestled with the Lord in his dream and said, 'How dreadful is this place,..'

And you will greatly impress the devout mind of the simple people. Read to them, and especially to the children, how the brothers sold their own brother, the sweet youth, Joseph, the dreamer of dreams, the great prophet, sold him into bondage and told their father that a wild beast had devoured him and showed their father Joseph's blood-stained coat...

Fathers and brothers, forgive me for talking like a child about something you knew long ago and can teach me a hundred times better and more skillfully...

Let him weep, too, the priest of God, and he will see how the hearts of those who listen to him will be shaken in response.

Only a little seed is needed, a tiny seed, drop it in the soul of a simple person and it will not die - it will live in his soul all his life... It is not necessary to teach and expound a lot... He will understand it all simply... You will pierce his heart...

...Regardless of the small stipend... the priest will see that our people are kind and grateful... They will voluntarily help him... ...in this way his stipend will be increased...

It is so simple a matter that sometimes we are afraid to even mention it for fear of being laughed at... He who does not believe in God, will never believe in God's people.

But he who has faith in God's people, will also behold His glory, though he had not believed in it til then..."

### **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 - May/June 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 24TH - 25TH (SAT & SUN) - Divine Liturgy 9 AM -  
Parish Meal after the Divine Liturgy**

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

### **Schedule of Other Services/Events**

**VESPERS - EVERY SATURDAY EVENING - 6 PM**

**AKATHIST "GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS" - 5/2 (TUES)**

**AKATHIST TO THE THEOTOKOS - 5/9 (TUES) - 7 PM**

**AKATHIST TO OUR LORD - 5/16 (TUES) - 7 PM**

**AKATHIST "GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS" - 5/17 (WED) - 7 PM**

**AKATHIST TO THE THEOTOKOS - 5/23 (TUES) - 7 PM**

**AKATHIST TO OUR LORD - 5/30 (TUES) - 7 PM**

**TYPICAL PSALMS - 5/31 (WED) - 9:30 AM**

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

**EVE OF THE FEAST OF HOLY PENTECOST - GREAT VESPERS (at St  
Stephen Cathedral) - 6/10 (SAT) - 5 PM; VESPERS (at SS Peter & Paul) -  
6/10 (SAT) - 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, May 1, 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 April, 14 casseroles and 30 more blankets were delivered. Thank you to Pat Bergey for arranging the blankets and to Joe Bacon for transporting them.* 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**

**YOUTH SUNDAY - SUNDAY, May 7**

**CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS' MEETING - SUNDAY, May 7,** in the Church Hall

**MOVIE DAY - SATURDAY, May 20 - 1 PM** in the Parish Hall

The Church School is sponsoring the showing of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

**For more information:** please see Reader Gregory Shaloka, Rose Shaloka, or contact Fr Dn Jason at 267-760-4561

**YOUTH SUNDAY - SUNDAY, June 4**

**CHURCH SCHOOL PICNIC - SUNDAY, June 11**

## **Church School/Adult Education**

**EVERY SUNDAY** - Following Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall

## **Ladies' Society News**

**MEETING** - Sunday, **May 21,** after Divine Liturgy

## **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**. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **May 28**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **6/4/06**. 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 **May** Birthdays: **Pat Bergey, Letitia Desloges, Olga Gorskaya, Haralambos Halkedis, Nina Iakimenko, George Kendro, Aleksandra Liberman, Dhimiter Mascuti**

*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.

**IN MEMORY OF THEIR CHILDREN, THOMAS AND KRIS**, Mary and John Palmerick have donated funds to beautify the Church and to do renovations in the Church Hall. It is the hope of Mary and John that a new tradition has been started. *Mary and John also wish to thank all parishioners who stayed to pick up and clean up before and after each job.*

*Our sincerest thanks, Mary and John, for your generosity!*

*May God grant you both good health and many, many years!*

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU** to all of our Parishioners who helped in any way with their time and efforts or with donations during Great Lent and Pascha.

*A Special Thank You to Belinda Mentzer for arranging all the flowers, to Mary Jaxheimer for helping with the palm crosses (and to the men who helped: Lester Speero, Joe Bacon, Stuart Barenbaum, Steven Yarrow).*

*A very special thank you and commendation to Tina Murianka and the entire SS Peter & Paul Choir for the beautiful singing at every service.*

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to **Harry Halkedis** for all his efforts to deliver goods to St. John's Hospice and for Harry's generous donations of candles that he himself makes.



**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**

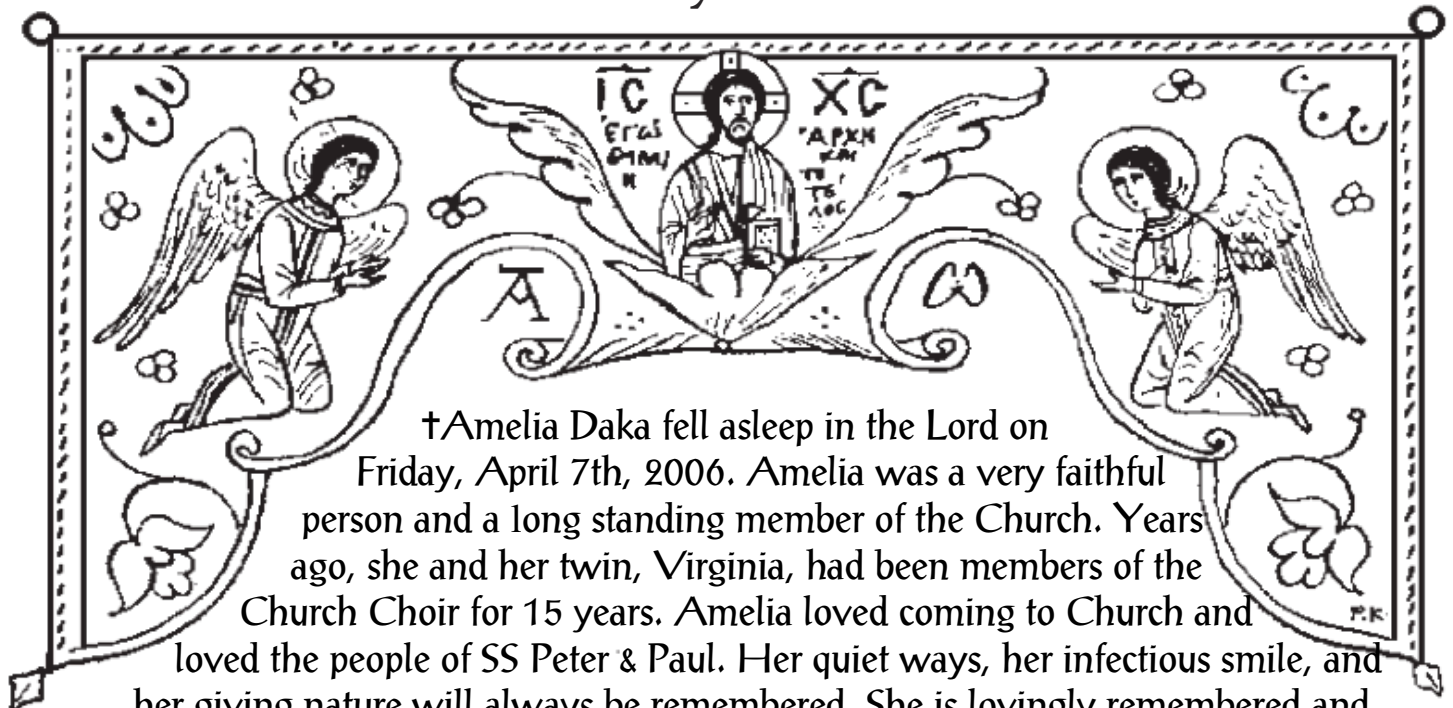
Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Metropolitan Philip, Archpriest Victor, Elaine Quirias, Gregory Vreto, Sr., Debbie Krimetz, Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Helen Arndt, Harry Cappo, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Steven Yarrow, Andi Steffa, Marie Antony, Child George, Eurania Gjor-go, Martha Murianka, Ivan M., Catherine P., Martin, Mary V., John Palmerick**

\*\*\* 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, Newly-Departed †Amelia Daka, †Llambi Quirias, †Jane Scollard (Step-mother of Fr John Scollard)

### **Memory Eternal**



†Amelia Daka fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, April 7th, 2006. Amelia was a very faithful person and a long standing member of the Church. Years ago, she and her twin, Virginia, had been members of the Church Choir for 15 years. Amelia loved coming to Church and loved the people of SS Peter & Paul. Her quiet ways, her infectious smile, and her giving nature will always be remembered. She is lovingly remembered and missed by family, friends and church members. *May her memory be eternal!*

†Llambi N. Quirias fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, April 7th, 2006. His generosity, his kind smile, and his gracious ways will always be remembered by all at SS Peter & Paul. Llambi is lovingly remembered and missed by his wife, Eurania, his children, family, friends and church members. *May his memory be eternal!*

**The 40 day Memorial Service  
for Amelia Daka and for Llambi Quirias  
will be on Sunday, May 14th**

**Holy Days and Name Days in May**

- May 1 - Prophet Jeremiah; St Tamara of Georgia
- May 3 - Venerable Theodosius of Kiev
- May 5 - Great Martyr Irene of Thessalonica
- May 6 - Righteous Job the Longsuffering
- May 7 - Sun of Myrrhbearing Women; Repose of St Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre
- May 8 - Holy Apostle John the Theologian
- May 9 - Prophet Isaiah
- May 10 - Apostle Simeon the Zealot
- May 11 - SS Cyril & Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs
- May 14 - Sunday of the Paralytic; St Isidore of Chios; St Isidore, Fool-for-Christ of Rostov
- May 15 - St Pachomius the Great
- May 20 - Relics of St Aleksy, Metropolitan of Moscow
- May 21 - Sun of the Samaritan Woman; SS Constantine & Helen
- May 25 - 3rd Finding of the Head of St John the Baptist
- May 28 - Sun of the Blind Man; St Germaine of Paris
- May 31 - Leavetaking of Pascha; Forefeast of Ascension

***Righteous Job the Long-Suffering***

*(Commemorated on May 6)*

The righteous Job (whose name means "persecuted"), God's faithful servant, was the perfect image of every virtue. The son of Zarah and Bossorha, Job was a fifth-generation descendent of Abraham. He was a truthful, righteous, patient and pious man who abstained from every evil thing. Job was very rich and blessed by God in all things, as was no other son of Ausis (his country). However, divine condescension permitted him to be tested.



Job lost his children, his wealth, his glory, and every consolation all at once. His entire body became a terrible wound covered with boils. Yet he remained steadfast and patient in the face of his misfortune for seven years, always giving thanks to God.

Later, God restored his former prosperity, and he had twice as much as before. Job lived for 170 years after his misfortune, completing his earthly life in 1350 B.C. at the age of 240. Some authorities say that Job's afflictions lasted only one year, and that afterwards he lived for 140 years, reaching the age of 210.



Job's explanations are among the most poetic writings in the Old Testament book which bears his name. Job teaches us that we must endure life's adversities patiently and with trust in God. As St Anthony the Great says, without temptations, it is impossible for the faithful to be saved.

The Orthodox Church reads the book of Job, the first of the seven wisdom books of the Old Testament, during Holy Week, drawing a parallel between Job and Christ as righteous men who suffered through no fault of their own. God allowed Satan to afflict Job so that his faithfulness would be proven. Christ, the only sinless one, suffered voluntarily for our sins. The Septuagint text of Job 42:17 says that Job "will rise again with those whom the Lord raises up." This passage is read on Great and Holy Friday, when the composite Gospel at Vespers speaks of the tombs being opened at the moment the Savior died on the Cross, and the bodies of the saints were raised, and they appeared to many after Christ's Resurrection (Mt.27:52)

~ Icon & Reading Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~