



***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 2008*

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

### **Tomorrow Is in the Hands of God**

Remind yourself every day that now is in our hands,  
but tomorrow is in the hands of God...

...And that He who gave you this morning...

...Has not bound Himself with the promise to give you this evening too.

Refuse to listen to the devil when he whispers to you:  
Give me now, and you will give tomorrow to God.

No! No!

Spend all the hours of your life in a way pleasing to God;  
Keep in your mind the thought that after the present hour you will not be given  
another...

...And that you will have to render a strict account for every minute of this present hour.

Remember, the time you have in your hands is priceless...

...And if you waste it uselessly, the hour will come when you will seek and not find it.

Consider as lost a day when, although performing good deeds,  
you have not struggled to overcome your bad tendencies and desires.

To end my lesson on this subject, I shall repeat the Apostles commandment:

"Fight the good fight," always...

For one hour of diligent work has often gained Heaven...

...And one hour of negligence... has lost it.

Take great care if you want to prove before God your firm faith in salvation.

- - from *Unseen Warfare*

### **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 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

## 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, May 5th, 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**

**EASTER FLOWERS DONATION** - *Our sincerest Thanks* for the generous donations for Easter flowers.

**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** - *In April: 7 casseroles and 2 bags of food were delivered. 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**

**MAY 18 - Meeting**, following Divine Liturgy

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

## **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/aliciaj17/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: [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). The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **May 25**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **6/1/08**. 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 **May** Birthdays: Letitia Desloges, Olga Gorskaya, Haralambos Halkedis, Nina Iakimenko, George Kendro, Aleksandra Liberman, Dhimiter Maskuti

*May God grant them all 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 very special thank you* to **Fr Stephen Siniari, Fr Gregory Dudash, Fr Dn Gregory Vrato and all the Readers** for their participation in the Lenten and Pascha Services

~ A very special thank you to **Belinda Mentzer** and her helpers (**Lester Speero, Joe Bacon, Margot Craig**) for arranging all the flowers, and to **Mary Jaxheimer, Edna Bachelor and Inga** for helping with the palm crosses.

~ A very special thank you to the following Parishioners who helped set up our beautiful Epitaphios: **Edna Bachelor, Belinda Mentzer, Dianne Miller (Bachelor), Zayne Miller, Kristen Miller, Ian Miller, Elizabeth Vaynshteyn, Joanne Johns, Alexandra Murianka**

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

~ A most heartfelt thank you to **Members of our Georgian Community** for all their help and efforts, especially with painting the Church and with chanting during Pascha

~ A very special thank you to **Martha Murianka, Nina Iakimenko, Spiro and all other Parishioners** for all their help with the linens and with the cleaning

~ A very special thank you to **Joe Bacon and Harry Halkedis** for all their efforts with the candles, especially during Holy Week and Pascha

~ A most sincere thank you to **all who volunteered** their time, efforts and "elbow grease" to help during the **SS Peter & Paul Annual Clean Up Day** on Saturday, March 30th

~ Last, but not least, a truly special thank you and deep gratitude to **Stephen Murianka** for all his help and services not only during the Pascha Season but all through the year

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

**OUR MOST SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO JANET & PAUL CAPARROS (AND PROUD GRANDPARENTS JIM & EDNA BACHELOR)** on the birth of their son, *Matthew Martin* on April 30th at 11:30 PM. Matthew weighed in at 8 lbs., 14 oz. and 21 inches long. *May God grant Matthew Martin 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 any-time from noon to 8:00 PM.

*Please continue to keep Gregory in your prayers. May God grant him good health!*

**The 40 day Memorial Service for +Catherine Cappo will be on Sunday, May 4**

### **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, Pat Bergey, Eteri Okropiridze**

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

### **A Prayer for the Sick**

**O holy Father, heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies,  
Who has sent Thine Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to heal all our ailments and deliver us from death:  
do Thou visit and heal Thy servant (name) ,  
granting him/her release from pain  
and restoration to health and vigor,  
that he/she may give thanks unto Thee and bless Thy holy name,  
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

### **Holy Days and Name Days in May**

- May 1 - Prophet Jeremiah; St Tamara of Georgia
- May 3 - Ven Theodosius of Kiev
- May 4 - St Thomas Sunday
- May 5 - Great 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 - Prophet Isaiah; Ven Shio of Georgia
- May 10 - Apostle Simeon the Zealot
- May 11 - Holy Myrrhbearing Women; SS Cyril & Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs
- May 14 - St Isidore of Chios; St Isidore, Fool-for-Christ of Rostov
- May 15 - St Pachomius the Great
- May 18 - Sunday of the Paralytic
- May 20 - Relics of St Aleksy, Metropolitan of Moscow
- May 21 - St Constantine, Equal-to-the-Apostles & his mother Helen
- May 25 - Sun of the Samaritan Woman; 3rd Finding of Head of St John the Baptist
- May 28 - St Germaine of Paris
- May 29 - Blessed John of Ustiug

#### ***Repose of the Blessed John of Ustiug, the Fool-for-Christ***

*(Commemorated on May 29)*

Blessed John, Fool-for-Christ, Ustiug Wonderworker, was born in the village of Pukhovo, near Old Ustiug, of pious parents Sava and Maria. From his youth he distinguished himself by a strict life of fasting. On Wednesdays and Fridays he ate nothing, and on other days he ate only bread and water. His parents moved to the city of Orlets along the River Iug, forty versts from Ustiug. Left widowed, the saint's mother took monastic tonsure at the Orletsk Trinity monastery. The young John started by keeping silence, and then he embraced the struggle of foolishness for the sake of Christ.





Going about the city of Ustiug, he lived in a hut that had been built for him, and spent his nights at unceasing prayer. By day, however, he went about the streets of the city barefoot and in rags all year long, resting sometimes on a dung heap. He endured much abuse and derision from the people of the city.

During his life, the saint had been granted a gift of wonder-working. He died at a young age on May 29, 1494, and was buried near the Dormition cathedral in the city of Ustiug. Afterwards, a church dedicated to him was built over his relics.

The Service to Blessed John of Ustiug was composed in the sixteenth century. His life was written in 1554, based on the recollections of people who had known him. The holy ascetic was famed as an intercessor during invasions of enemies, and as a healer of those afflicted with various maladies.

~ Reading and Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~