



***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 ~ November 2003*

## **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*

### **To the Church in Philadelphia:**

### **Where the Bishop Is, there Is the Church**

Saint Ignatius was thrown to the lions in Rome.

As a little boy he was held in the arms of Jesus, the Christ, when Jesus said, "Suffer the  
little children to come unto me."

When Ignatius got older he became a disciple of the Apostle John, who was the beloved  
disciple of our Master.

The Apostle John wrote the many books of the Bible, including the Gospel of John. He  
stood at the foot of the Cross. He took the Holy Virgin to live with him in his home in  
Ephesus. John worked as a janitor in a pagan bath house in Ephesus to support his  
household. Before he died, he was granted by God to write the last book of the Bible,  
the Revelation, on the island of Patmos.

Ignatius was John's disciple. In 69 AD Ignatius was consecrated the second Bishop of Antioch. He refused to worship the emperor as God, and was condemned to death. On his way to Rome to be martyred, Ignatius wrote letters to the churches he couldn't visit.

Take a look at what he says to the ancient church of Philadelphia concerning the place of the Bishop in the Orthodox Church.

"For as many as belong to God and Jesus Christ, these are with the Bishop.

Be eager therefore to use one Eucharist-- for there is one flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ and one cup for union with His blood, one sanctuary, as there is one Bishop, together with the presbytery and the deacons...

The Holy Spirit says, Do nothing apart from the Bishop..."

At our church in Philadelphia, Saints Peter & Paul, we thank God for our newly elected Father, Bishop NIKON. There was a time in the history of the church when only the Bishop was addressed as Father...

As a parish community we will do nothing apart from our Father Bishop. We will consult with him in every matter concerning the life of our church.

Practices of our recent past which do not conform with obedience to the Bishop will cease.

Everyone of us must remember to pray for Bishop NIKON everyday. Please pray that God will strengthen him, guide him, and fill him with the love of Jesus Christ for God's people, by the indwelling and grace of the Holy Spirit.

— *Father Stephen*

## **Events & Announcements**

### **Church News & Reminders**

**HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON** will be visiting St. John Chrysostom's for their Name Day Celebration November 8 - 9. There will be no services held at SS Peter & Paul on **Sunday, November 9**. We are invited to come worship with our sister Parish, St. John's.

**ICON PLEDGES** - The Church Fiscal Calendar 2003 has now ended. Please fulfill your pledges as soon as possible. Pledges are being accepted by George Kendro every Sunday.

**RETURN OF ICONS** - Please return your icons as soon as possible to George Kendro or tell him when you return them.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2003 - MEMBERSHIP DUES 2003** - If you have not yet paid your dues for 2003, please do so as soon as possible. The Church Fiscal Year 2004 began October 1.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2004** - Dues for 2004 are \$100 and are payable immediately to our treasurer, George Kendro.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS** - 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** - **Harry Halkedis** will be taking over the delivery of Casseroles to the Homeless starting in November. **Thank you** again, **Debbie & Bob**, for all your fine work and time contributed! Harry has a hard act to follow, but we're certain he's more than up for it! You may donate \$10 (We hear that Harry is quite the chef!) or ready-made casseroles to Harry any Sunday. **Thank you**, Harry, for volunteering! Let us all contribute and help continue this most worthwhile cause.

**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.

## **Sunday School News**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Please remember that adults not associated with the Sunday School are asked not to appear in the Hall until the Dismissal of Liturgy.

## **Ladies' Society News**

**MEETING** - Sunday, **November 16**, after Divine Liturgy

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** - Will be held on **Sunday, December 7**. The Ladies Society is accepting donations of cash or goods for the Penny Party. Please see any Ladies Society member (the list is posted on the kitchen door) if you do not know what to donate or can volunteer your time to help. *Thank you!*

## **Events**

**VALAAM MONASTERY A CAPPELLA ENSEMBLE** - **Monday, November 3rd, 7:00 - 8:00 PM** at Villanova University. Sacred and Folk Music. In the Bartley Hall Amphitheater, Room 1011. Free parking on Lancaster Avenue, across from Bartley Hall (Bartley is on the corner just west of the stadium).

**BUS TRIP TO ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY - After Pascha 2004** - The bus will be leaving St. John Chrysostom's at 9 AM. Lunch, tour of Museum and Monastery, spiritual talk by Monk Nickodemos, Vespers, etc. Reservations are \$20. Please contact Nick Naum at 856-429-2099 for information and/or reservations.

### **Adult Religious Education**

**BASIC CHURCH HISTORY CLASS** - Immediately following Divine Liturgy, in the Church Hall. Taught by Stuart Barenbaum, the class is studying **The History of the Church** by Eusebius. Learn about the immediate results of our Lord's Resurrection, The Holy Martyrs, and our Greco-Roman, Jewish Heritage.

### **Miscellaneous**

**CHILDREN'S NAMES/E-MAILS** - The Bishop has requested a complete list of our Members and non-Members. Unfortunately, our data at this time does not include children's names or e-mails. Please check with Alicia to see if she needs this information from you. There are forms upstairs in the Church Hall for listing children's names and/or e-mails. Thank you for your cooperation.

**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 (just click on the top link, "**Church Bulletin**"). I still would like to begin an "e-mail info chain" for the dissemination of information about special services or events. Please send me an e-mail at: [aliciaj17@mac.com](mailto:aliciaj17@mac.com) with your e-mail info or if you would like to stop receiving our paper Bulletin. Thanks very much!

**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, November 23**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 11/30/03**. 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 **November** Birthdays: **Yelena Alekseyeva, Marie Antony, Jim Bachelor, Cathy Cappo, Spiro Costas, Alicia Jaroni, Poulhiria Pappas, Al Rifkin, Gregory Vreto, Jr., Nick Zeo**

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

**CONGRATULATIONS TO HARRY & KATHERINE HALKEDIS** on the engagement of their son, John, to Niki Mutchler on October 24, 2003!

**NIQUI COCO** has a new address: Neshaminy Manor, 1660 Easton Road, #C-139, Warrington, PA 18976. If you remember Niqui, please mail her a short note or card. She'll be glad to hear from you!

**ONE YEAR MEMORIAL FOR SOPHIE HONDROS** - will be held on Sunday, November 16

## **Outreach Package Drive for Homeless Kids**

**Marcus Siniari** is collecting items to be put into bags and distributed to homeless kids in Philadelphia through Covenant House. The drive will begin on Sunday, November 2nd and continue throughout the holidays. A donation box has been placed upstairs in the church hall. Please be generous. Your donations are desperately needed. The kids need small items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, soap, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, socks, underwear, gloves, etc. If it is easier to donate cash, Marcus will be happy to purchase the necessary products. But please be creative, and try to donate items that you think would be important to have if you or someone you love was living on the street. **Thank you for participating by helping those in need right here in our own city!**

## **November 8 Retreat at Church of the Annunciation**

*"The Home as a Little Church"*

*"Help from the Saints for Advent and Beyond"*

**Guest Speakers:** Dr. David C. Ford and Dr. Mary Ford

**Location:** Church of the Annunciation  
7921 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

**Schedule:**

9:00 to 10:30	Divine Liturgy
10:30 to 10:45	Registration
10:45 to 12:15	First address
12:15 to 1:15	Lunch
1:15 to 2:45	Second address
2:45 to 3:00	Closing comments, QA and prayer
3:00 to 3:30	Forgiveness Service

**Registration Fees:** Before 11/7 - \$20.00; At the door - \$25.00

**More Info:** Contact Anastasia Gleeson at 609-919-0681 or the Church Office at 215-635-0316

## **Installation of Bishop Nikon in Boston, Saturday 11/22**

**TRANSPORTATION** - SS Peter & Paul will rent a passenger van if enough people express an interest in going. The van would depart Phila. late Friday afternoon and leave Boston late Sat. afternoon following the banquet (ticket price for the banquet is \$60). Deadline for signing up for transportation is **Sunday Nov 9**. Please call **Stephen Muri-**

**anka** asap at **215-673-8985** if you are interested in going by van and for information on banquet tickets.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS** - You will have to make your own hotel reservations. It is suggested that you make hotel reservations in advance since Autumn is a prime season for foliage tourism and Fall sports in New England. Downtown hotels are also available. The following suggestions are new or newly renovated hotels nearby the Cathedral:

1. THE CLUB HOTEL (Doubletree) at BAYSIDE

240 Mt Vernon Street, South Boston, MA 02125

Rate: \$129 plus 12.45% tax      Tel: 617-822-3600

Web: [www.doubletree.com](http://www.doubletree.com) or [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

*Intimate Club ambience. 4 yrs old. 5 minutes to Cathedral. Shuttle from Logan Airport. Au Bon Pain. Near beach boardwalk and public transportation. Guest parking free.*

2. THE SEAPORT HOTEL

Seaport Lane (off Northern Avenue)      Tel: 617-385-4000

Special Rate: \$139 plus 12.45% tax

Web: [www.seaporthotel.com](http://www.seaporthotel.com)

*Classic, luxury-style accommodations. 2 yrs old. Nearby Anthony's Pier 4. 8 minutes to the Cathedral.*

3. THE RAMADA INN - Boston

800 Morrissey Blvd, Boston (Dorchester), MA

Rates: \$113 plus 12.44% tax      Tel: 617-287-9100

Web: [www.bostonhotel.com](http://www.bostonhotel.com)

*Shuttle from Logan airport. Newly renovated. Two restaurants. 9 minutes to the Cathedral. Guest parking free.*

**SERVICES** - Will take place at Saint George Cathedral in Boston beginning at 9:30 a.m. A Banquet will follow at Anthony's Pier 4 on Boston Harbor. His Beatitude shall also preside at a concelebrated Hierarchal Liturgy on Sunday, November 23, at Holy Trinity OCA Cathedral on Park Drive in Boston.

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*Enter into the Church and wash away your sins. For here is a hospital and not a court of law.*

*Do not be ashamed again to enter the Church; be ashamed when you sin, but not when you repent.*

*— St. John Chrysostom*

**Letter from Father Arthur**  
**Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America**

Dear Fathers and Friends,

Yesterday, I met a fine young Seminarian at our Cathedral by the name of Ervin Kule. He is 24 and a graduate from the University of Athens Theological Faculty. He is presently at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological School in Brookline, MA studying for his Master of Theology degree. He was born in Fier, Albania.

He made a very fine impression here in Boston with our Cathedral folks, is bilingual, of course, and I thought you might want to know of this and communicate with him and give him encouragement in his studies.

His e-mail is: **ervinkule@hotmail.com** and his address is:

Ervin Kule Holy Cross G.O. Theological School 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02146  
Be well and enjoy the Autumn.

In Christ,  
Fr. Arthur

**Installation Booklet**  
**Letter from Very Rev. Joseph Gallick**

Dear Friends,

On November 22nd, we anticipate with joy the Installation of our new bishop, His Grace Bishop Nikon. Your participation is most welcome at the Hierarchal Liturgy and Banquet on that day. This marks the first time in history that a bishop of our ancestry will be enthroned on American soil.

For this historic occasion, a Commemorative Installation booklet will be presented to all those in attendance. It shall include select pages of sponsors of this auspicious occasion. Those wishing to participate in this event may select their gift offering for this special day in the life of our community.

Benefactor - \$500 Patron - \$250 Sponsor - \$100

We invite you to complete the form below\* and mail it to us by November 10th. Thank you for your consideration and prayerful support.

Sincerely,  
Very Rev Joseph Gallick (General Secretary)

*\* For your convenience, forms will be available upstairs in the Church Hall. See Alicia!*



## **Orthodox Practice & Episcopal Ettiquette**

**Q: What is the proper and accepted manner in which to refer to a bishop when one is engaged in conversation with him?**

**A:** *Your grace, or Hieresi.*

**Q: How would I make reference to the bishop when speaking to another person?**

**A:** *His Grace, Bishop\_\_\_\_\_*

**Q: If I were to write a letter to the bishop NIKON, how would I address the letterhead?**

**A:** *Rt Rev. NIKON (Rt Rev, means Right Reverend)*

**Q: What is the respectful manner in which one asks for His Grace's archpastoral blessing?**

**A:** *First, we approach him and make a small veneration (~metania~). Then we rise and prepare our hands to receive his blessing: the right hand on top of the left with our palms slightly cupped. "The left hand is a throne for the right hand," according to Saint Cyril of Jerusalem.*

**Q: What then?**

**A:** *We ask for the bishop's blessing, by saying: "Bless, Master" or "Master, Bless." The bishop then blesses us with the sign of the cross. His right hand will rest for a moment in our hands. We then kiss his right hand, and then bow gently and reverently towards him. It is extremely disrespectful to simply shake the bishop's hand.*

**Q: Is that the only time when we kiss the bishop's hand?**

**A:** *No. Whoever is serving with the bishop — priest, deacons, subdeacons, altar servers — should always kiss the bishop's hand when he is handed any liturgical item, such as the Cross, censei ~ dikiri & trikiri, and pastoral staff.*

**Q: Why do we kiss the bishop's hand?**

**A:** *Just as when we kiss and venerate a holy icon, we show reverence and respect for the bishop's episcopal office, which is to be an iconographic image of Christ, the one Great High Priest. The bishop is the image of Christ in our midst.*

**Q: What do we do when the bishop enters a room — and even the church — when we are already seated?**

**A:** *Stand. The bishop is the icon of Christ. We also stand out of respect to His Grace's episcopal office.*

**Q: Very often during a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy the choir sings, "Eis polla eti, Despota" or "Per Shume Vjet O Kryezot". What exactly does that mean?**

**A:** *"Many Years, Master."*

**Q: What are the hymns that the choir sings when the bishop enters the church, then is vested?**

**A:** *Entrance Hymns, followed by Vesting Prayers and Hymns.*

**Q: What is the rite referred to when a priest or monk becomes a bishop?**

**A:** *Readers are tonsured, deacons and priests are ordained; and bishops are first elected, then consecrated. This is the sequence each must pass through before becoming an Orthodox hierarch.*

**Q: When the bishop first enters the church, he is presented bread and salt. What is its meaning?**

**A:** *In the Russian tradition, rye bread and salt signify the gift of hospitality.*

## **International Orthodox Christian Charities News**

### **ORTHODOX NETWORK POISED TO HELP CALIFORNIA FIRE VICTIMS**

**Baltimore (IOCC)** - An emergency response network of Orthodox Christians is mobilizing to help victims of the wildfires raging in Southern California. The network, organized by the U.S. Program of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), will help people who have lost property as a result of the fires. "We are looking to respond with monetary assistance to the victims, as we determine what the victim count is and what the needs are," said Fr. David Kossey, national coordinator of the network.

An appeal for funds to member parishes of the network went out on Thursday, Oct. 30. Fr. Kossey is calling Orthodox priests in the affected areas in California to determine the extent of the property damage among their parishioners. "It is in our power to help these and other victims directly by providing money for immediate expenses," Fr. Kossey said. "By working with local Orthodox priests, the network will locate the most vulnerable victims and channel funds and other resources to them quickly."

At Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church in San Bernardino, Calif., five families have suffered the loss of their homes because of the wildfires, said Fr. Theofanis Degaitas, parish priest. "They've lost their houses completely," Fr. Degaitas said. "Others have lost buildings on their property." The fire in the San Bernardino area has destroyed an estimated 520 homes, killed four people, forced the evacuation of 80,000 people, and burned an estimated 36,000 acres, according to news accounts.

Among the evacuees is Fr. Alexander Lisenko of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in San Diego. In Hesperia, near Big Bear, St. George the Great Martyr Orthodox Church finds itself at a different kind of Ground Zero as residents are evacuated and a fire command station is set up.

Fr. Demetrios Tsigas, pastor of St. Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church in El Cajon, Calif., has agreed to coordinate IOCC's response on the local level. This is the fourth time in 2003 that the Orthodox network has been activated.

IOCC is establishing the national network to give Orthodox parishes and priests a shared mechanism for responding to disasters. Each of the 25 priests in the network will serve as regional coordinators for Orthodox emergency response. So far, 20 priests have been trained to be regional coordinators. The priests are trained at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va., in cooperation with Church World Service. "We have been able to assemble the majority of our clergy team," said Robert Pianka, IOCC's U.S. Program

director. "Our next step will be to build teams of qualified lay volunteers who can assist each clergyman."

"What Orthodoxy can do is, it can bring to disasters a canny and adept response at whatever scale we're able to afford," Fr. Kossey said. "We are working for a practical network to get practical things done for vulnerable families in the first days and weeks of a disaster."

**Anyone interested in getting involved with the emergency response network can call IOCC toll-free at 1-877-803-4622. Contributions may be sent to: IOCC/ U.S. Program, P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, MD 21263-0225. Please indicate "California Fire Aid" on the outside of the envelope and on the note line of your check.**

### **Holy Days and Name Days in November**

- November 1 - SS Cosmas & Damian; St Theodota; Martyrs John & James
- November 8 - Synaxis of Archangels Michael, Gabriel & All Heavenly Hosts
- November 11 - Great Martyr Mennas
- November 13 - St John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople
- November 14 - Holy Apostle Philip (of 12); Emperor Justinian & his Wife Theodora
- November 15 - Beginning of Nativity Fast
- November 16 - Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew
- November 17 - St Gregory the Wonderworker; St Lazarus, Iconographer
- November 21 - Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple
- November 24 - Great Martyr Catherine; Great Martyr Mercurius; Martyr Philothea
- November 25 - Leavetaking of the Entry of the Theotokos; St Clement of Ochrid
- November 30 - Holy Apostle Andrew, the First-Called

### ***St John Chrysostom***



Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, one of the Three Hierarchs, was born at Antioch around 347 into the family of a military-commander. He spent four years in the toils of wilderness life, 2 of those years, in a solitary cave in complete silence. In 386 St. John was ordained presbyter by Bishop Flavian of Antioch. He was a splendid preacher, and for his rare talent with God-inspired words he received from his flock the title, the "Golden-Mouthed" ("Chrysostomos"). For 12 years the saint preached in church, deeply stirring the hearts of his listeners.

In his pastoral zeal to provide Christians with a better understanding of Holy Scripture, St. John wrote commentaries on entire books of the Holy Scripture, homilies on individual texts of the Holy

Bible, instructions on Feastdays, laudations on the Saints. The fame of the holy preacher grew, and in the year 397 St. John was elected to the Constantinople throne. He exerted much effort in enhancing the splendor of the church services: he compiled a Liturgy, introduced antiphonal singing for the all-night Vigil, and wrote several prayers for the rite of anointing the sick with oil.

The saintly hierarch denounced the dissolute morals of people in the capital, especially at the imperial court. He spoke against the empress Eudoxia and a court was convened and declared St. John deposed, and that he be executed. The emperor decided on exile. An angry crowd surged at the church and St. John, in order to avoid a riot, gave himself into the hands of the authorities. That very night at Constantinople there was an earthquake. The terrified Eudoxia asked the Emperor to bring the saint back. After only 2 months Eudoxia was again angered and in March of 404 a Council gathered, decreeing the exile of St. John. Upon his removal, a fire reduced the temple of Hagia Sophia and the Senate Building to ashes. Devastating barbarian incursions followed. Even pagans saw in these events heavenly chastisement for the unjust judgement against the saint of God.

In Armenia, St. John wrote letters (245 are preserved) to bishops and friends in Asia, Africa, and Europe. In the winter of 406 St. John was confined to his bed with sickness, but was ordered transferred to desolate Pitius in Abkhazia. Worn out by sickness, under military escort for three months in the rain and frost, the saint made his final journey. At Comana, his powers failed him. At the crypt of St. Basiliskos, comforted by a vision of the martyr ("Despair not, brother John! Tomorrow we shall be together"), and having received the Holy Mysteries, the hierarch fell asleep in the Lord on September 14, 407 with the words, "Glory to God for all things!" The holy relics of St. John were solemnly transferred to Constantinople in the year 438.

~ Reading courtesy of OCA 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**

