



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 ~ November 2007

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Psalm 1

The Way of the Righteous and the Way of the Ungodly

Blessed *is* the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

Nor stands in the path of sinners

Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

He shall be like a tree

Planted by the rivers of water,

That brings forth its fruit in its season,

Whose leaf also shall not wither;

And whatever he does shall prosper.

The ungodly *are* not so,

But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in judgment,

Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

From: The Orthodox Study Bible

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 - November/December 2007

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM'S FEASTDAY & HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON'S VISIT TO OUR SISTER PARISH - NOVEMBER 10 - 11 - NO SERVICES AT SS PETER & PAUL

NATIVITY OF CHRIST - MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH - **Divine Liturgy 10 AM**

Schedule of Other Services

AKATHIST SERVICE - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM

Church News & Reminders



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 - To be announced (usually the 1st Mon of each month). 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 - 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 (with the help of his parents, Debbie & Bob Krimetz) is collecting flip tabs from any aluminum cans to donate to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. **A container has been placed upstairs in the Church Hall for the tabs.** *Help RJ help the Ronald McDonald House! Thank you and remember to bring your tabs!*

Ladies Society News

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - Sunday, December 2, after Divine Liturgy. Donations of new, **unused** items for the raffle are welcomed. Monetary donations are also welcomed. *Please help with your time, donations, or special talents! Thank you!*

Other Events at SS Peter & Paul



A LESSON IN MAKING "MESHE" - Sunday, November 18, after Divine Liturgy. Conducted by **Joe Bacon**. *If interested, please make every effort to attend this wonderful learning opportunity!*

SS PETER & PAUL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD - If you wish to have your name included in the Community Christmas Card, please see Jim Bachelor ASAP. This is a great opportunity to support your Parish! *The donation is \$10 and the deadline is Sunday, December 9.*

General Interest

AN AKATHIST TO ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM - This year, 2007, marks the 1,600th anniversary of the blessed repose of our father, St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, amongst the saints. To mark this event and to honor one of the most prolific guides of the Church, St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church invites you all to come celebrate with us an Akathist (a special prayer service) in St. John's honor. Just as he has guided our parish in Philadelphia for 76 years, so has he guided the whole Church - it's his liturgy we celebrate nearly every Sunday and weekday, it's his homily that we hear read every Pascha, and it's his theological works that we turn to in so many instances to find spiritual fruit. The whole Church is indebted to St. John, and so we are inviting everybody to come honor him with us.

Date & Time: *Saturday, November 10, 7 PM* at St John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church, 237 N. 17th St., Phila., PA 19103. We will not be celebrating Vespers that evening prior to the Akathist. His Grace, Bishop NIKON of Boston, New England, and the Albanian Archdiocese will be with us for this occasion. Following the Akathist and/or procession, everybody will be welcomed to join us in our church hall for refreshments, snacks and fellowship.

Parking: Parking will be available across the street from the church in the parking lot adjoining the Catholic Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.

Additional Information: Fr. Matthew Searfoorce Parish Phone: 215-563-0979 and e-mail: docandr1@verizon.net; UPenn OCF: upennocf@gmail.com

ALBANIAN FORUM ON THE INTERNET (FORUMI SHQIPTAR) - has a section on: Komuniteti Orthodhoks. It has extensive offerings on Orthodoxy in the Albanian language. Ne gjuhen shqipe: per te dhena informative mbi Kishen Orthodhokse, klikoni "Komuniteti Orthodhoks" ne uebsajten Forumi Shqiptar me poshte:

The url is: **www.forumishqiptar.com/forumdisplay.php?f=186**

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>**

Miscellaneous

SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH STORE - Open every Sunday at 9:30 AM (1/2 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

FROM ALBANIAN KITCHENS - Ethnic cookbook compiled by the Daughters of St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, Revised Edition 2007. Includes over 120 recipes for: appetizers, beverages, soups, saladas, vegetables & side dishes, main courses, Lenten specialities, breads, pies, pastries & sweets. *Order forms available in the Church Hall.* Or, send a check or money order for \$15 per book to: St Nicholas Orthodox Church, P.O. Box 650, Southbridge, MA 01550

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**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS ABOUT PARISHIONERS - If you have any items to include in next month's Bulletin, please leave the information in my wicker basket in the office. Or, call Alicia at **215-742-0492** or e-mail: **alicia17@mac.com**. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **December 2**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **12/9/07**. 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 **November** Birthdays: **Yelena Alekseyeva, Marie Antony, Jim Bachelor, Cathy Cappo, Spiro Costas, Alicia Jaroni, Joanne Johns, Sallie Muzekari, Al Rifkin, Fr. Dn. Gregory Vrato, Jr., Nick Zeo**

May God grant them all 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 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: **Gregory Vreto, Sr., Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, Martha Murianka, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, Fr Stephen Siniari, Angie Kozlowski**

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

Prayers of Thanksgiving

" When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

-- Luke 14:13-14

Before The Meal

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied.
Those who seek the Lord shall find Him.
Their hearts shall live forever.**

After The Meal

**We thank you, O Christ our God, that You
have satisfied us with Your earthly blessings;
Do not deprive us of Your heavenly kingdom;
But, as You came in the midst of Your disciples,
O Savior, and gave them peace,
So come to us and save us.**



This Thanksgiving Day, set an additional place at your table for the world's hungry and recite the prayer above. Allow that empty chair to remind you of those who will go this day without sustenance. As a way of sharing your blessings, prayerfully consider taking the money that you would have spent on your guest and send it to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) as a Thanksgiving offering for someone in need.

Your Thanksgiving offering helps:

- *Small-scale farmers in Greece who are trying to recover from the recent fires that have destroyed millions of olive trees, and thousands of acres of crops and livestock;*
- *Iraqi refugee children in Syria, as well as disadvantaged Syrian youths, who are able to go to school through an IOCC project that will impact over 4,000 young people;*
- *Ethiopian orphans whose parents have died from HIV/AIDS and who receive support from IOCC so that they can support themselves.*

Please send your donation to:

International Orthodox Christian Charities
P.O. Box 630225
Baltimore, MD 21298- 8503

Or, donate by phone: Toll free: 1-877-803-4622

Online Donations at <http://www.iocc.org> are unavailable until further notice due to technical difficulties

Holy Days and Name Days in November

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

St Justinian the Emperor

Commemorated on November 14

Saint Justinian, a major figure in the history of the Byzantine state, was also a great champion of Orthodoxy, a builder of churches and a Church writer. He is said to be of Slavic descent, perhaps born in Bulgaria. During his reign (527-565) Byzantium won glory with military victories in Persia, Africa, Italy, as a result of which paganism was decisively routed among the Germanic Vandals and Visigoth tribes. By command of the em-



peror Justinian the pagan schools in Athens were closed. Justinian sent John, the Bishop of Ephesus, throughout the regions of Asia Minor with the aim of spreading Christianity. John baptized more than 70 thousand pagans.

The emperor gave orders to build ninety churches for the newly-converted, and he generously supported church construction within the Empire. His finest structures of the time are considered to be the monastery at Sinai, and the church of Hagia Sophia at Constantinople. Under St Justinian many churches were built dedicated to our Most Holy Lady Theotokos. Since he had received a broad education, St Justinian assiduously concerned himself with the education of clergy and monks, ordering them to be instructed in rhetoric, philosophy and theology.

The right-believing sovereign devoted much attention and effort to the struggle with the Origenists of his time, who then were reviving the Nestorian heresy. To counter their heretical speculations, the Church hymn "Only-Begotten Son and Immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation..." was composed, and Justinian commanded that it be sung in the churches. From that time to the present day, this hymn is sung at the Divine Liturgy before the Small Entrance after the second Antiphon.

At the command of the sovereign, the Fifth Ecumenical Council was convened in the year 553, censuring the teachings of Origen and affirming the definitions of the Fourth Ecumenical Council at Chalcedon. He also attempted to secure religious unity within the Empire through his (unsuccessful) dialogues with the non-Chalcedonians.

The holy Emperor Justinian wished to have orderly rule and law within the realm. Under his guidance and supervision a complete compendium of Roman law was compiled. It has come down to us as a law codex known as "the Justinian Codex." The "Church laws" of Justinian are included in all the variants of the Russian collections of Canon Law.

In his personal life, St Justinian was strictly pious, and he fasted often. During Great Lent he would not eat bread nor drink wine. He is also remembered for promoting the idea of "symphony" between church and state. The holy Emperor Justinian died in the year 565.

The Empress Theodora, who died in the year 548, was also numbered among the saints with her husband. She was at first a notorious harlot and actress, and an adherent of the Monophysite heresy, but then she repented. After becoming empress, she led a virtuous life, maintaining purity of both soul and body. She provided wise counsel for her husband during his reign, and she also saved his throne during the Nika riots of 532 by her political intelligence and expertise.

~ Reading and Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~