



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 2009

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.

Holy Days and Name Days in November

- ✦ *November 1*** - SS Cosmas & Damian; St Theodota; Martyrs John & James
- ✦ *November 8*** - Synaxis for the Archangel Michael & the Other Bodiless Powers
- ✦ *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*** - Greatmartyr Catherine; Greatmartyr Mercurius; St Philotheus the Romanian
- ✦ *November 25*** - Leavetaking of the Entry of the Theotokos; St Clement of Ochrid
- ✦ *November 30*** - Apostle Andrew, the First-Called

Martyr Menas of Egypt
(Commemorated November 11)

The Holy Great Martyr Menas of Egypt, an Egyptian by birth, was a military officer and served in the Kotyaeion region of Phrygia under the centurion Firmilian during the reign of the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). When the emperors began the fiercest persecution against Christians in history, the saint refused to serve these persecutors. He removed his soldier's belt (a sign of military rank) and withdrew to a mountain, where he lived an ascetic life of fasting and prayer.



Once he happened to arrive in the city during a pagan festival. At the climax of the games the saint's accusing voice rang out, preaching faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. At his trial before the prefect Pyrrhus, the saint bravely confessed his faith, saying that he had come to denounce the impious. The prefect was angered, and had Menas arrested.

Pyrrhus offered to restore the saint's former rank if he would offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. When he refused, he was put to cruel tortures, then he was beheaded. This occurred in the year 304. Christians gathered up the martyr's relics by night and hid them until the end of the persecution. Later, they were brought to Egypt and placed in a church dedicated to St Menas southwest of Alexandria.

The saint received grace from God to work miracles, and to help those in need. St Menas is noted for healing various illnesses, delivering people from possession by demons, and as a protector, especially during times of war. We also ask his help in finding lost objects.

~ Reading & Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

+++ Events & Announcements +++

Liturgical Schedule - November/December 2009

✦ ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM'S FEASTDAY & HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON'S VISIT TO OUR SISTER PARISH - NOVEMBER 14 - 15 - *NO SERVICES AT SS PETER & PAUL*

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

✦ EVE OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & ST BASIL THE GREAT - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 - **Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St Basil, 6 PM**

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 2009** - **Please note: THE CHURCH FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30TH;** *if you have not yet paid your dues of \$125 per person, please do so ASAP.*

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 Church Store. You will be given a receipt for all Icons returned. **ALL ICONS WERE TO BE RETURNED BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RETURNED***

YOUR ICONS, PLEASE DO SO ASAP. *All Icon Pledges are due by the end of December. Please check with Jim if you are not sure how much you owe.*

◇ **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.

◇ **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** - Monday, November 9, 7 PM. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

The Joy of Giving

◇ **CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS** - Please continue to help feed the hungry. Frozen casseroles are collected by Harry Halkedis. A \$10 donation for casseroles can be given at any time. Disposable razors and individual/small tubes of hand lotion are still needed. *Thank you!*

◇ **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.

◇ **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!*

◇ **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.

◇ **POP TAB COLLECTION PRGRAM 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 your tabs! Thank you!*

◇ **PASTORAL FUND BOX/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!*

Ladies Society News

◇ **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** - **Sunday, December 6**, 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!*

◇ **A REQUEST...** if you have borrowed any containers, trays, bowls, coffee carafes, etc. from the kitchen, **please return them as soon as possible.** These items are used for many of the functions held in the Church Hall and they are needed. *Thank you!*

Events at SS Peter and Paul

◇ **HOT DOG SUNDAY - November 1**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The Sunday School, with the help of the Ladies Society is hosting a Hot Dog Sunday a Bake Sale. All proceeds (including a special collection) will support a program run by the Church in Albania to buy Christmas Stocking Gifts for children in Albania.

◇ **SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF NEW & RE-ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE - November 8** - Congratulations to Both the Re-elected and the New Members of the Church Committee:

PRESIDENT, Katherine Halkedis; VICE-PRESIDENT, Stephen Murianka; TREASURER, Jim Schaeffer; SECRETARY, Christina Murianka

TRUSTEES: Joe Bacon, Joanne Johns, Belinda Mentzer

ADJUNCT MEMBERS: Rose Shaloka, serving as the liaison for the Sunday School and **Kakhaber Okropiridze**, serving as the liaison for the Georgian community

EMERITUS MEMBER: Al Antony

May God grant them all many, many years!

General Interest

◇ **ANCIENT FAITH RADIO - 24 hour a day internet Orthodox radio station:**

<http://ancientfaithradio.com>

◇ **ALBANIAN FORUM ON THE INTERNET (FORUMI SHQIPTAR)** - Ne gjuhen shqipe: per te dhena informative mbi Kishen Orthodhokse, klikoni "Komuniteti Orthodhoks" ne uebsajten Forumi Shqiptar me poshte: **www.forumishqiptar.com/forumdisplay.php?f=186**

◇ **IN THEIR OWN TONGUE** - The first in-depth documentary to chronicle the fascinating story of the Albanian Archdiocese in America, beginning with the conquest of the Albanian territory by the Ottomans through the early immigrants who were a part of the historical Divine Liturgy served for the first time in the Albanian language through settlement in the U. S. It ends with an exploration of the current day and a look beyond to the future of the Church.



Available for immediate purchase in our Church Store!

Miscellaneous

◇ **SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH STORE** - Open Sundays at 9:30 AM (1/2 hour before Divine Liturgy)

Items available: Divine Liturgy Books, Icons; Crosses (Baptismal, lapel pins, Georgian style, orthodox); Prayerbooks (Georgian and English); Censors; Unique and different wearing apparel; CDs and cassettes; Religious Books

◇ **SS PETER & PAUL HAS A NEW WEBSITE - The new url is: www.sspeterpaulalbanianorthodox.org.** We will be gradually phasing out the current website. If you have any news or announcements that you would like to see up on the new website, please e-mail David Biando at **davidbiando@verizon.net** or call him at 215-725-3797 and he will post it ASAP. Suggestions are always welcomed.

◇ **WEB PAGE/E-MAILS** - SS Peter & Paul Webpage: **<http://homepage.mac.com/aliciaj17/sspeterpaulhome1.html>**. New Bulletins available online by Saturday 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 Alicia an e-mail at: **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: aliciaj17@mac.com. *The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, November 29.* Thank you! *Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday 12/6/09.* 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. ◇ **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, Alicia Jaroni, Joanne Johns, Sallie Muzekari, Al Rifkin, Fr Dn Gregory Vrato, Nick Zeo.

May God grant them all many, many years!

◇ **WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL LIGHTS** - Beginning November 1, envelopes will be available at the counter of the Church Store for special prayers to be said during the week in conjunction with the burning of the Seven-Day Votive Light hanging above the Royal Doors. The specific need of purpose can be checked from a host of choices. The suggested offering for the weekly prayers is \$10, which will go towards building up our Pasotral Fund with the ultimate goal of supporting a full time priest.

◇ **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 6.**

◇ **GOOD COMPANY & GOOD FOOD: HELP BUILD UP OUR PASTORAL FUND** - *The pancake/sausage breakfast was just the beginning!* Let's start a new tradition --serving a hot meal of some sort on most Sundays to build up our Pastoral Fund. If you have any ideas or are interested in participating or sponsoring a particular Sunday, please talk to Jim Schaeffer or Letitia Desloges. *Your help and support is needed to get this project up and running!*

◇ **A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED TO DIRECT THE CASSEROLE PROGRAM** - Harry Halkedis is retiring in January 2010! *Thank you, Harry, for all your incredibly hard work.* We desperately need someone to take over this most worthwhile program.

◇ **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO WORK IN THE CANDLE/BOOKSTORE ROOM** - Please speak with Joe Bacon or Harry Halkedis if you are interested.

◇ **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., Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, Mary Palmerick, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, James Vesho, Margot Craig, Eteri Okropiridze, Katherine Halkedis, Mary Ann Clark, Paulette Steffa, Alexandra Pana, Nicholas Desloges, Steven Yarrow**

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

+++ Memorial Eternal +++

÷ The 40 day Memorial Service for †Terry Hassis will be on Sunday, November 22 ÷

May her memory be eternal!

✠✠✠ Patriarchal Divine Liturgy and Departure from Georgia ✠✠✠

POSTED 10/19

TBILISI, GEORGIA [OCA Communications/St. Catherine Representation Church] – On Sunday, October 18, 2009, the last day of the official visit of the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America to Georgia, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah of All America and Canada once again concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with His Holiness and Beatitude, Ilia II, Archbishop of Mtskheta and Tbilisi, Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, this time at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Concelebrating the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy with the Primate of two local Autocephalous Churches were hierarchs and clergy of the Georgian Orthodox Church and members of the official delegation of the Orthodox Church in America who accompanied Metropolitan Jonah on his first visit to Georgia.

Following the reception of Holy Communion, Catholicos-Patriarch Ilia blessed an icon of Saint Nina, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia, which was entrusted to Archimandrite Zacchaeus to bring to the Moscow Representation of the Orthodox Church in America for veneration by the faithful and visitors to the parish.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Catholicos-Patriarch Ilia welcomed Metropolitan Jonah to the cathedral and thanked him for making this first historic visit to the Georgian Orthodox Church. He also presented an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos to Metropolitan Jonah.

After the Divine Liturgy, a festal banquet was held in the visiting delegation's honor, at which Catholicos-Patriarch Ilia once again offered words of gratitude and filial love to Metropolitan Jonah and presented him with an icon of the Holy Prophet Jonah. In turn, Metropolitan Jonah thanked him for the kind hospitality shown to him and the OCA delegation and presented him with a silver bowl on behalf of the Orthodox Church in America. In a spirit of Christian love and hospitality, and despite the grueling schedule of the day, Catholicos-Patriarch Ilia escorted Metropolitan Jonah to the airport, where he personally saw off the Primate and OCA delegation. Giving glory to God for the countless blessings received during the short visit to the Georgian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Jonah and those with him departed Tbilisi filled with joy and gratitude.

To view the article online and also the photo gallery of the event (including beautiful pictures of the Church in Tbilisi), go to:

<http://www.oca.org/news/1967> and scroll to the bottom

