



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 ~ October 2003

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

**This month, as we elect our Parish Leadership,
Let us consider our present situation and look toward the future:**

"...No Power In The Present???"

A tourist back from visiting Maine told the story of a little village in the hills that was doomed to extinction.

The state was building a power dam on the river and in a year or so the entire area would be flooded by a large lake.

The effect on the little village was quite demoralizing:

- Everything came to a standstill.
- All building stopped.
- No improvements or repairs were made.

What was the use of painting a house if in a year or so it would be covered with water?

So, month by month the town became bedraggled and ghostly and the tourist commenting said:

"Where There Is No Faith In The Future, There Is No Power In The Present."

To The Younger Men & Women Of Our Community:

Our elders have served on the Church Board for many years now. They have gone above and beyond.

We are thankful to God for their service.

It is now your turn to serve. By virtue of your Baptism, it is your calling.

Our Bishop, Nikon, has directed we elect 7 members to our Board.

Father Stephen will be watching. He would be greatly encouraged to see men and women from all our representative communities: Georgian, Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian, Albanian, and American, augment our experienced leadership in building bridges to the future.

Thank you.

Events & Announcements

Church News & Reminders

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, SUNDAY, 10/5 - Immediately following the Divine Liturgy. A new Church Council will be elected as well as delegates selected to the Annual Assembly and to the Special Assembly, to be held at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in New York, October 9 - 11, to nominate a Hierarch for the position of Diocesan Bishop.

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 - 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.

10 YEAR MEMORIAL FOR FR. ANTONY - scheduled for **Sunday, October 26**. Anyone wishing to help in any way, please see any member of the Ladies Society.

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 - We are looking for a volunteer or volunteers to collect and deliver casseroles to St. John's Hospice. Casseroles would be collected throughout the month and delivered at the end of the month from September through the end of May. We need to continue this outreach of giving from SS. Peter & Paul's. Please see Debbie Krimetz for details and Stephen Murianka to volunteer. Thank you!

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

START OF SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday School will commence on Sunday, October 5, 2003. The focus will be on the Old Testament. Priftesha Margot is anticipating 2 classes to begin immediately following Holy Communion. Adults not associated with the Sunday School are asked not to appear in the Hall until the Dismissal of Liturgy.

Ladies' Society News

HOT DOG SUNDAY - Will be held Sunday, October 5

MEETING - Sunday, **October 12**, after Divine Liturgy

Events

ARCHDIOCESE CONFERENCE - takes place October 9 - 11

CLAM BAKE - The Annual SS. Peter & Paul Clam Bake is scheduled for **Saturday, October 18**. Please see *Alicia or David Lane immediately to reserve your spot!* Money is due by Sunday, October 12. Menu: Lobster, \$30; Steak, \$25 (all platters include clams, shrimp, corn-on-the-cob, salad, coffee, soda, bear & desert); Adult Hamburger/Hot Dogs, \$8; Child (ages 5-13) Hamburger/Hot Dogs, \$5; Children under 5 free.

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.

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

WEB PAGE/E-MAILS - SS Peter & Paul Webpage is now officially published! Computer folk, check it out at:

<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 with your e-mail info. 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**. The deadline for the next Bulletin is **Sunday, October 26**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 11/2/03**. 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 **October** Birthdays: **Helen Arndt, Raisa Belous, Harry Cappo, Michael Cappo, Elena Horowitz, Lucille John, Llambi Quirias, Father Stephen Siniari, George Steffa, Ann Stephano, James Vesho**

May God grant them all many, many years!

Notes from St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary by Seminarian David Rodney Fox

Four days a week I leave at 6 a.m., drive over the George Washington Bridge just as the sun is rising over New York, and, on most days, arrive in time for Matins at 7:30. The music is incredible, the priests and deacons take turns serving, and the students take turns preaching.

After Matins, I offer my own petitions, remembering you in Philadelphia, and after a quick bite, I go to classes, such as Canon Law (a practical theology class learning to serve), a class on the theology of SS. Symeon the New Theologian, Gregory Palamas, and Nicholas Cabasilos (how theology comes through prayer and worship), Byzantine Chant and American Church History. I have learned about Archbishop Noli and the Albanian Archdiocese: did you know Bishop Noli translated Shakespeare into Albanian and actually served as Prime Minister of Albania for a short time?

In between classes I read, do research, write papers, or work on my dissertation.

At five p.m., we attend Vespers, celebrating the saint for the day or one of the Saints of North America, and afterward I leave for home, happy to see Kerri, getting there in time to tuck the children into bed at 7 p.m.

Last week, after Divine Liturgy on the Feast of The Protection of the Theotokos, I was walking around the beautiful new library, by the icons of SS. Herman, Innocent, Tikhon, Peter the Aleut, reading out loud one of St. Symeon's Hymns to Christ, whom he calls "the humble God," thankful to experience study finally as prayer.

Thank you, friends of SS. Peter and Paul, and may God bless you for all you have done to help make this possible!

Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark...

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
SIX: Build your future on high ground.
SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.
TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Metropolitan's Letter for the Annual Christmas Stocking Project

September 12, 2003

Reverend Fathers and Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

I am happy to once again ask your support for the Annual Christmas Stocking Project. I wish to offer my sincere thanks to all of you who made last year's program a success despite the slower economy. With your help, I am confident that we can look forward to another successful year.

In my recent visits to Russia, Ukraine and Poland, I received warm words of gratitude for the Christmas gifts that have been received in the past. My brother hierarchs assured me that, for the children in orphanages, those still in treatment from the aftereffects of Chernobyl, those in village parishes, the gifts are a highlight of their Christmas celebrations. In addition to the countries mentioned above, this year's Christmas stockings (or an equivalent gift) will go to children in Albania, Belarus, Slovakia, and some of the remote villages in Alaska.

I encourage you to engage your young people in creative efforts to raise funds for the Christmas stockings and gifts. The enthusiasm and fellowship these projects can generate are felt not only by the youth and young adults who become involved, but also encompass the entire parish community.

The cost to make and send each stocking (or an equivalent gift) is \$4.50. \$45.00 will provide for 10 children, \$450.00 for 100 children. We ask you to plan your projects and collections early in the fall. Please send your donations to the Chancery Office, to the attention of Mrs. Arlene Kallaur, as close as possible to October 31, 2003.

Please join me in continuing to provide this special joy for the children by supporting this important project — one that strengthens the ties between the Orthodox Church in America and its sister Churches overseas. I ask that you also remember that the work of the Office of Humanitarian Aid, which sponsors this project, is funded solely by the voluntary gifts made by the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards.

With love in Christ,

+HERMAN

Archbishop of Washington Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Address for Donations:

Christmas Stocking Project
c/o Arlene Kallaur
P.O. Box 675
Syosset, NY 11791-0675

Make checks payable to:

The Orthodox Church in America
Please send donations as close as possible to October 31, 2003

Holy Days and Name Days in October

- October 1 - Protection (Pokrov) of the Most Holy Theotokos
- October 6 - Holy Apostle Thomas; St Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow
- October 8 - Venerable Pelagia, the Penitent; Venerable Taisia of Egypt
- October 9 - Holy Apostle James, Son of Alphaeus; St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow
- October 10 - Martyrs Eulampius & Eulampia; Venerable Ambrose of Optina
- October 16 - Martyr Longinus the Centurian
- October 17 - Prophet Hosea
- October 18 - Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke
- October 19 - Prophet Joel
- October 23 - Holy Apostle James (Jacob), Brother of the Lord
- October 24 - Blessed Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia
- October 25 - St Tabitha the Widow, raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter
- October 26 - Great Martyr Demetrius; Great Earthquake at Constantinople, 740 AD
- October 28 - Venerable Job of Pochaev
- October 29 - Martyr Anastasia of Rome
- October 31 - Hieromartyr John Kochurov

Great Martyr Demetrius, the Myrrh-streamer



Saint Demetrius was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 190, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by time, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrius', came to the Saint in the bath-house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-

handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrius, help me!" and straightway he engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded straightway and Demetrius was pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house, As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.

~ Reading courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline MA ~
Icon courtesy of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese 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**

