



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 ~ October 2007

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Pope Benedict: Just so we're clear, your church isn't real...

LOENZAGO DI CADORE, ITALY (AP)

...Orthodox churches are defective and other denominations (protestant) are not true churches... ...Orthodox churches are indeed "churches," because they have apostolic succession and that they enjoy "many elements of sanctification and of truth." But they lack something because they do not recognize the primacy of the Pope -- a defect or a "wound" that harmed them...

Wondering Out Loud

The Greek word *Ecclesia*: means the gathered, the called-out, and most often, the church.

It is said that 96 out of the 109 times the word *Ecclesia* is used in the New Testament, it refers to a local congregation.

Ecclesiology, we might say, pertains to the study of who, what, when, where, why, and how the church is "actualized" in time and space.

There are many different "ecclesiologies" out there, all claiming to be the true church.

A 1980's UN study cited the existence of over 23, 0000 sects, all claiming to be the church.

2 classic definitions of Ecclesiology stand out in the "catholic" world:

-- Eastern Catholic/Orthodox we might call Eucharistic Ecclesiology

-- Western Catholic/Roman we might call Universal Ecclesiology

Forgive the oversimplification, but this is, after all, just a monthly church bulletin intended for local non-seminary-student consumption!

Universal Ecclesiology:

Lots of members, and local congregations spread universally and geographically throughout the world,

Who in and of themselves are not fully the church,

But, when united with a visible head, a bishop over all bishops, who holds primacy and power over all the constituent members and congregations...

...Then, the sum of the parts become the church if and when they submit in unity and obedience to the visible episcopal (bishop) head who holds authority based on valid apostolic succession proved to be legitimate by the laws and canons of the church.

In this Universal ecclesiology: A defective or wounded church might be envisioned, might be possible...

Eucharistic Ecclesiology:

A supreme primacy and power exercised from without over the local church would not be harmonious with a Eucharistic vision of the church. Nor would a "wounded or defective" church be possible.

Although there needs to be a visible head in the local congregation (the priest) and among the bishops, a first among equals, (Patriarch or Metropolitan) the Eucharistic vision must be faithful to the scriptural icon represented by Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke:

Paraphrasing:

Your great men must not exercise power like the gentiles and lord it over others, but the greatest among you must be the servants of the rest... ...You are all brothers and sisters...

So, power and primacy may abide within the sacramental orders of the community, bishop, priest, deacon... but never over and above or from without...

Each local congregation, diocese, and bishop relates to the other, members, congregations, diocese, and bishops, those within and those without, in the communion of love, by apostolic succession varying geographic areas relating through the meeting of their bishops in Eucharistic union & councils:

1. As a witness to the truth of our ontological oneness in Christ through the Eucharist... And...

2. To refute the existential lie that people relate to one another and to God through a system of power and primacy, one exercising dominance over another, in a word, compelling them from without based upon order, law, or apostolic authority supported by the ability to demonstrate a "valid" pedigree...

Just as the complete entity is present in DNA... in the smallest atomic particle, so the fullness of Christ is present in each local congregation, every local parish and diocese manifests the fullness of the catholic church in Eucharistic union with her bishop...

And if we conclude that because of certain actions some have departed from unity with the church, then...

Although we may "appeal to one another for the building up of the Body," and for their return...

No censure can be imposed over the Body of Christ from without nor is the Body of Christ in any way diminished by those who have separated from it, even if the Church is numerically in the "minority"...

A defective or wounded church or a church lacking "something," is not in harmony with Eucharistic ecclesiology. Either we are the church, or we are not.

The Holy Church, the Heavenly Icon Of The Body of Christ cannot be envisioned as wounded or defective because by the love of the Father and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is fully present, and we have access to His saving love in the Mysteries of the Church in so far as our synergistic relationship to Him and to one another allows us to receive... "We are planted in the church and find there everything necessary to our salvation." Either we are in the Church or we are not...

Power and primacy in Orthodox ecclesiology may be understood only as icons of the servanthood and love we are called to live for one another and the good order we are called to maintain in the church and are founded upon a Christ-centered communion lived in harmony with "that which was delivered once for all to the saints."

Power and primacy as understood by the Orthodox are incongruous with heteronomous impositions, however well documented or supported by canonically demonstrated apostolic heritage.

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 - October/November 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*

Schedule of Other Services

AKATHIST SERVICE - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM

Church News & Reminders

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2007 - *Please note: THE CHURCH FISCAL YEAR ENDS SEPTEMBER 30TH; if at all possible, please have your dues of **\$115 per person** paid by that time.* 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 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 - *In September: 23 casseroles were delivered.* Disposable razors and individual/small tubes of hand lotion are still needed. Please contin-

ue 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 PRGRAM 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

HOT DOG/MEATBALL SUNDAY - October 28 - Please come and support the Ladies Society and have some delicious food!

General Interest

ETHNIC FOOD FESTIVAL - Saturday, October 20, 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM at St Stephen's Church, 8598 Verree Rd., Phila., PA 19111

Foods Available: Borscht, Pelmeni, Halupki, Pierogi, Haluski, Kiebasi, Piroshkey, Spanakopedakic, Desserts, Beverages, Fresh Baked Goods, Frozen Take Out

A LECTURE WITH DR. KYRIAKOS C. MARKIDES, Author of Gifts of the Desert: The Forgotten Path of Christian Spirituality and The Mountain of Silence: A Search for Orthodox Spirituality

Date & Time: *Saturday, November 3, 12:30 - 3:30 PM* at St Elizabeth Chapel at the St. Katherine Drexel Mission Center and Shrine, 1663 Bristol Pike (Rt 13 & Rt 63 Woodhaven Rd), Bensalem, PA

Book Signing: *Saturday, November 3, 9:30 - 11:30 AM* at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 835 Old York Rd, Jenkintown, PA

Tickets: Price: \$10 Adult ~ \$8 Senior/Student - Please mail a check to SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 9230 Old Bustleton Ave, Phila, PA 19115 (tickets will be mailed through October 27; otherwise held at the door)

Additional Information: Call Alicia at 215-742-0492 or e-mail: aliciaj17@mac.com

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: docandrn1@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

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, **October 28**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bul-

letins at the Church on Sunday **11/4/07**. 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 **October** Birthdays: **Helen Arndt, Raisa Belous, Michael Cappo, Nina Horowitz, Lucille John, Margie Kelly, Ted Muzekari, Jr., Matushka Irene Rachko, Jean Rifkin, Jim Schaeffer, Father Stephen Siniari, Ann Stephano, James Vesho**

May God grant them all many, many years!

PLEASE KEEP SOPHIE BACON in your prayers. She had surgery on a 2nd broken arm on Thursday, October 11th. *May God grant her good health!*

2 YEAR MEMORIAL FOR GEORGE STEFFA - Sunday, October 21 - *May his memory be eternal!*

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH THE RE-ELECTED AND THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEE:

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

TRUSTEES: Joe Bacon, David Lane, Belinda Mentzer

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

May God grant them all many, many years!

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES to **Rdr Daniel** and **Taissa Drobish** who are celebrating their 20th Wedding Anniversary on October 24th!

May God grant Rdr. Daniel and Taissa many, many years!

A SUPER HUGE THANK YOU to **David Lane and all the wonderful volunteers** who made this year's Clam Bake another spectacular success!

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...

SS Peter & Paul Annual Clam Bake ~ Saturday, October 6, 2007

"Let's do it again next year!"





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, Brother of the Lord
- October 24 - Blessed Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia
- October 25 - St Tabitha
- 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

Apostle and Evangelist Luke

Commemorated on October 18

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul, and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, St Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Sts Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.



Luke accompanied St Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's coworkers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry. After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, St Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits St Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. St Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. St Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses, St Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known

by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching. He carefully investigated the facts, and made gen-

erous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him.

In St Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance.

St Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world. The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" until the Second Coming of Christ.

The holy relics of St Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. Perhaps this was during the infamous Crusade of 1204. In 1992, Metropolitan Hieronymus (Jerome) of Thebes requested the Roman Catholic bishop in Thebes to obtain a portion of St Luke's relics for the saint's empty sepulcher in the Orthodox cathedral in Thebes.

The Roman Catholic bishop Antonio Mattiazzo of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of St Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of St Vico in Prague.

The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. In 2001, a tooth found in the coffin was judged to be consistent with the DNA of Syrians living near the area of Antioch dating from 72-416 A.D. The skull in Prague perfectly fit the neck bone of the skeleton. The tooth found in the coffin in Padua was also found to fit the jawbone of the skull.

Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the relics to Metropolitan Hieronymus to be venerated in St Luke's original tomb in the Orthodox cathedral at Thebes.

~ Reading and Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~