



***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 ~ September 2003*

## **Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful**

### **Want to Continue Helping the Devil and Hurt Yourself and Others?**

**(Then Don't Read this)**

*You cannot be too gentle or too kind  
in your relationship with each other*

*Shun even appearing harsh  
in your treatment of each other*

*Joy, radiant joy, streams from the face of the person  
who gives gentleness and kindness*

*And giving gentleness and kindness  
kindles joy in the heart of the one who receives*

*All condemnation is from the devil  
Never condemn each other*

*We condemn others only because  
we shun knowing ourselves*

*When we gaze at our own failings  
we see such a swamp that nothing  
in another person can equal it*

*That is why we turn away  
and make much of the faults of others*

*Instead of condemning others  
strive to reach inner peace by  
keeping silent and refraining from judgement*

*This will raise you above the  
deadly arrows of slander, insult and outrage  
against each other and will shield  
your glowing hearts against all evil*

— Saint Seraphim of Sarov

## **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 is quickly coming to an end. 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 this Church year, please do so as soon as possible. The Church Fiscal Year ends September 30.

**10 YEAR MEMORIAL FOR FR. ANTONY** - scheduled for **Sunday, October 26.**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS** - This month the Council Meeting will be held on Monday, September 15, 7 PM. Normally the meetings are held the 1st Monday of every 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.

**NO SMOKING POLICY** - Having sought guidance from our Bishop regarding the limited space in our Church building, Father Stephen and the Church Committee ask, for the sake of our children and the health of everyone, that we cease all forms of smoking: cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc. as of Pascha 2003. Thank you.

**CELL PHONES** - Please be respectful of the Divine Liturgy and courteous to Father Stephen and other members of the congregation and turn off the ringer of your cell phone. Thank you.

## **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** - On the 1st Sunday of every month SS. Peter & Paul will hold a special collection for the poor. Please plan to give generously every month to those whose lives are less fortunate than ours.

**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.

## Events

**CLAM BAKE** - The Annual SS. Peter & Paul Clam Bake is scheduled for Saturday, October 18. Details to be announced.

## Miscellaneous

**WEB PAGE/E-MAILS** - I hope to have our own Church Web Page launched by October 1st. Watch for announcements. Also, I 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: [bobotomy@earthlink.net](mailto:bobotomy@earthlink.net) with your e-mail info. Thanks very much, Alicia.

**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, September 28**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 10/5/03**. 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 **September** Birthdays: **Richard Burdumy, Angie Kozlowski, David Lane, Jean Rifkin**

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

## Plea to Support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

John and Linda Vesho's 8 year old granddaughter, Laura Brumbaugh, was diagnosed with Type 1 juvenile diabetes in December 2002. To date, Laura has endured the following: 960+ finger pricks, 720+ insulin shots, and 3 endocrinologist check-ups with blood work, as well as being on a tightly controlled diet and scheduled food intake.

As parents, we try to protect our children from any harm. We must do everything we can to help find a cure for this disease. Researchers are getting closer than ever before, but research cannot be done without funding.

On Sunday, September 21st, 2003, John and Linda's family team will participate in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's (JDRF) Walk to Cure Diabetes. JDRF is the largest worldwide organization dedicated to finding a cure for diabetes.

There are 3 ways you can help make a difference and help JDRF find a cure:

- ◆ Join the Vesho Family Team, which consists of family and friends who collect pledges, and walk with them. If you intend to participate in the walk, please contact John Vesho at 215-661-1277 or at JohnVesho@aol.com for further details.
- ◆ You can send a tax-deductible contribution of any amount, made payable to “JDRF” to: John Vesho, 313 Upper Valley Rd., North Wales, PA 19454.
- ◆ You can give a cash or check (made out to “JDRF”) donation to Jean Rifkin.

## **Christian Education in the Fall at SS Peter and Paul**

This year, on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, several Christian Education classes will begin, to help us grow in our understanding of the Orthodox Faith. We are blessed to have gifted teachers.

### ***Children:***

◆ Priftesha Margot will lead the education of our children, helping the teachers teach our children their Orthodox faith. Classes will begin on Sunday, October 5. Would you like to become a teacher, too? Do not be intimidated: the best way to learn is to teach. This year, our goal is to present a new Bible to every one of our children. We have found an excellent Bible, with pictures, maps and explanations, which we hope to supplement with icons. Wouldn't it be great to create here at SS Peter and Paul, the first truly great Orthodox Children's Study Bible? Why not? In the fall, the children will study stories from the Old Testament and how these relate to the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church. For instance, what was God saying to us in the Great Flood about Baptism and the Church? Talk with your children about what they study and you can learn together.

### ***Adult Study:***

◆ For any English-speaking adult, there will be a class on basic Church History taught by Stuart Barenbaum. We are ordering easy-to-read editions of Eusebius' History of the Church, a classic book written around 350 A.D. that describes what happens from the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ to the time of Constantine. We will read about the lives of the Apostles. Did you know that James, the Brother of our Lord, was called "camel-knees" because of the callouses from prayer? We will read the incredible account of the martyrdom of Polycarp, and see what it is to be a Christian and face the toughest things in life. There will be many other things we will study and read. At the end, you will have a good grounding in the history of your faith and see how this sacred history really applies to our lives today. The times of the classes will be offered soon.

◆ For the Russian-speaking members, Viktor Skuratovskiy will help lead this class through the basics of Orthodox Faith, as presented in Russian by former dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox

Seminary, Fr. Thomas Hopko. Fr. Hopko's works are world-renowned, and this book is excellent. This class will meet right after Liturgy on Sundays.

◆ We hope also to begin Georgian Language classes with Kaha's help. More about this soon.

We invite you to get involved in one of these classes. They will help you understand what we do in Church, why we believe what we believe, and give us and our children a great foundation for our lives. If you have any questions, speak with one of the teachers mentioned above, with Fr. Stephen or Seminarian David Fox ([DFox@CovenantHouse.org](mailto:DFox@CovenantHouse.org); 973-292-0662).

— *Seminarian David Fox*

### **Message from Gregory Shaloka & Family**

My family and I would like to extend our deepest thanks to Fr. Stephen and the entire Church community of SS. Peter and Paul. It was not an easy decision for our family to join the Orthodox Church although we had felt drawn to do so for many years. Your warmth and generosity of spirit made us feel welcomed without pressuring us. As Byzantine (Ukrainian) Catholics, we followed the Eastern Rite and were thus already very Orthodox, so to speak, in our liturgical and spiritual lives. As members of a Byzantine Catholic Church we felt much closer to the Orthodox than to our own Latin Rite brethren. On all of the issues that divide the two Churches, we sided with the Orthodox.

There were many factors that influenced our final decision, and if asked, I don't know that we could even put our finger on any one or two that really played the decisive role. It was more of a growing feeling that joining the Orthodox Church was the right thing for us to do. We prayed over the decision very much and, in the end, as strange as this may sound, it just seems to have happened on its own. After years of our going back and forth and trying to make an intellectual decision based on research, the Holy Spirit just seemed to lead us to the Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church just seemed closer to our hearts. We felt at home in the Orthodox Church and at SS Peter and Paul in a way that we no longer felt in our Ukrainian Catholic Church. As the day of our acceptance into the Orthodox Church grew nearer there was some anxiety. What were we doing? How would this affect our relationship with our Catholic family members and friends whom we loved dearly? In many ways we felt as if we were turning our backs on them, being cut off from them. It was not, and is not easy. We still have a deep love, respect, and appreciation for the Catholic Church, but we believe that the Holy Spirit has led us to the Orthodox Church as a fuller and deeper expression of the one true Faith.

Having joined the Orthodox Church, we feel more strongly than ever the desire for the reunion of the two Churches. We feel in our very beings the torment and sadness of the rending of Christ's Church. Our most fervent prayer is for the reunion of the Churches; but a true union, one based on mutual love, respect, and understanding. A true union that does not cause more di-



vision as did the unions of various portions of the Orthodox Church with the Church of Rome in the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries.

As with my family's reception into the Orthodox Church, the reunion of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches can only be accomplished by the Holy Spirit, for only by His grace can past wounds be healed and the pride and obduracy of man's fallen nature be overcome. God's ways are mysterious indeed, and we pray that His will be done in our lives and the life of His Church. May we all attain to the oneness of the faith and the knowledge of God's unutterable glory by the power of the Holy Spirit. In entering the Orthodox Church, one journey has ended for my family, and one has begun. May God guide and strengthen my family and all of us at SS. Peter and Paul by His grace in our continuing growth in life, faith, and spiritual understanding.

Thank you all again for accepting us into your spiritual family. We are truly blessed.

### **Holy Days and Name Days in September**

- September 5 - Prophet Zachariah & Righteous Elizabeth; St Athanasius of Brest
- September 8 - Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos
- September 9 - Righteous Joachim & Anna
- September 13 - Founding of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; Hieromartyr Cornelius
- September 14 - Elevation of the Precious Cross; Repose of St John Chrysostom
- September 17 - Martyr Sophia & her Daughters: Faith, Hope & Love
- September 23 - Conception of St John the Baptist; Virgin Martyr Raissa
- September 24 - Protomartyr Thecla; New Martyrs Juvenaly & Peter the Aleut
- September 25 - Repose of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh; Ven. Euphrosyne
- September 26 - Repose of St John the Theologian
- September 28 - Martyr Wenceslaus, Prince of the Czechs
- September 30 - Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Armenia

### ***Universal Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross***

***The Reading is from John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30***

At that time, when the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment



seat at a place called the Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King!" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. Then when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

~ Reading & Icon courtesy of the 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**



