



SS Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

9230 Old Bustleton Avenue ~ Philadelphia, PA 19115 - Church Phone: 215-676-3311

Pastor: Father Stephen Siniari - Rectory Phone: 609-385-3757

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

You Call Yourself a Sinner

First I will accuse you:

You call yourself a sinner,
but in fact you *do not* show
that you acknowledge this.
One who acknowledges himself
to be a sinner and guilty of many evils:
Never *contradicts* anyone,
Does not *quarrel* with anyone,
Does not become *angry* at anyone,
But considers everyone as *better*
and *more intelligent* than himself.

And if your thoughts,
reviling you, tell you that this is so in actual fact -
then how can they arouse your heart
against those who are better than you?

Be heedful, O brother/sister -
this is wrong.

We have *not yet* attained to the point of
considering ourselves sinners.

The one *who loves the one*
who accuses him is most wise. (cf. Prov. 9:8)

But if one loves someone
and does not fulfill what he hears from him,
this is more like hatred.

If you are sinful,
then *why do you reproach your neighbor*

and *accuse him*, as though sorrow
were coming to you through him?

Do you not know that *everyone is tested*
by his own conscience (Rom. 14:22)
and this gives rise to *sorrow* in him...

And with regard to the fact that you
consider yourself a fool (I tell you):
Beware, lest you be deceived;
test yourself, and you will find
That you in fact *do not* consider yourself such;
for if you think thus of yourself,
you should *not become angry* with anyone,
being in no condition to judge
whether a matter has been done well or ill;

After all, a fool is called senseless,
and fool and senseless one,
as has been said, does not have
in himself the salt (of wisdom)
and *not* having salt in himself,
how can he season and salt others?

Behold, O brother/sister,
how we are made a mockery:
We only speak with the lips,
but in deeds we show something entirely different.

from Guidance Toward Spiritual Life
Saints Barsanuphios and John

Events and Announcements

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

+ EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

SCHEDULE OF OTHER SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM - 8:30 PM in the Church Hall - Led by *Fr. Dn. Gregory*

CHURCH NEWS AND 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 Church Store. You will be given a receipt for all Icons returned.*

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2010 - *Please note: THE CHURCH FISCAL YEAR ENDS SEPTEMBER 30TH; if at all possible, please have your dues of \$125 per person paid by that time.* Dues can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

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, September 13, 7 PM. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

THE JOY OF GIVING

A "THANK YOU" NOTE FROM FR GREGORY BECKER - "Dear Fr. & Parishioners of St. Peter & Paul, Thank you so much for your most kind gift to help me get boots on my feet after the horrible home fire in February. With your help, I hope to replace some of the items, furniture and books which were destroyed. Progress with the rebuilding is going very slow. God bless you for your concern." *Please see Fr Becker's letter on our bulletin board outside the Church Hall.*

COLLECTION SUNDAYS - *May God bless you for your generosity!*

1st Sunday of each month - *Collection for the Poor*

2nd Sunday - *Orthodox Herald*

3rd Sunday - *Pastoral Fund*

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - *In August: 13 casseroles, a frozen chicken and men's toiletries were delivered to St John's Hospice.* 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!*

OTHER DONATIONS:

Church Library

Pop Tab Collections for Ronald McDonald House

Wine: Altar wine: **Manischewitz Concord Grape** - please do not donate any other brand of concord grape;

Oil: Virgin Olive Oil

Events and Announcements *(Continued)*

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

MEETING - To be announced for a Sunday in September. Anyone interested in joining the Ladies Society, please attend the meeting in September.

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!*

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We invite all children to attend our Sunday School, led by Rdr. Gregory Shaloka and Mrs. Rose Shaloka. Sunday School begins immediately after Holy Communion and takes place upstairs in the Church Hall.

FUTURE EVENTS AT SS PETER & PAUL

ANNUAL PARISH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Sunday, October 3, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. ***Please make every effort to stay for this most important meeting.***

SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE - Saturday, October 9, from 3 PM - 6 PM, Rain or Shine. Save the date!

Cost: Lobster Platter - \$30; Steak Platter - \$25 (All lobster & steak platters include: clams, shrimps, scallops, corn-on-the-cob, salad, coffee, soda, dessert)

Adult Hot Dog/Hamburger Platter - \$10; Children (Ages 11 -14) Hot Dog/Hamburger Platter - \$5; Children 10 & Under - Free (Accompanied by a Ticketed Adult)

Deadline to Purchase Tickets: Sunday, October 2 (Tickets will be available on Sunday, September 26. *You can let Alicia know your platter preference at any time.*)

Please volunteer to help! There's lots of work to be done to make this event a success! See David Lane or Jim Schaeffer. If you can't come, buy a ticket and let it be donated to a parishioner who can't afford to buy a ticket.

For questions or reservations, see or call:

David Lane: 215-632-4234 Jim Schaeffer: 609-238-3774
Alicia Jaroni: 215-742-0492 (or email: aliciaj17@mac.com)



GENERAL INTEREST

SS PETER & PAUL 90TH YEAR CELEBRATION DVD - Copies are available at the Church Store. If the store runs out, you can still order a copy of the 90th Year Celebration DVD by seeing *Jim Bachelor*. Cost: \$15

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

<http://ancientfaithradio.com>

Events and Announcements *(Continued)*

FUTURE EVENTS AT ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 3RD ANNUAL GREGORY E. COSTA GOLF SCRAMBLE - **September 19** - After Divine Liturgy at Paxon Hollow Country Club in Media, PA.

All are invited to participate in this fun and enjoyable afternoon of golf and a delicious dinner opportunity. This is a great time for everyone to enjoy the fellowship with your Brothers and Sisters in Christ and to visit with friends of the Parish who come annually.

Tee Time is 12:15; Cocktails at 4:30; Dinner at 5:30

Cost: \$125 - Dinner & Golf

\$35 - Dinner only (Adults); \$20 - Dinner only (Children)

Deadline: Donna Dimitri needs to have a head count by **September 12** (you can send in a check or, if that is not possible, you can pay at the door). Please see David or Linda Biando (215-725-3797 or email: davidbiando@live.com) if you are

interested. Donna Dimitri's contact information: 609-0685-1651 or email: dimitri@willingboropolice.com

Golf Prizes: 2 year lease for a 2011 Volvo plus other cash prizes

Other Prizes: 50/50 Cash Raffle Tickets @ \$20 each; Raffle Tickets for "Albanian Auction" (includes gift certificates for gold, dinner, gift baskets) 2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10; Give-a-ways

Advertisement in the Golf Scramble Booklet: Full page ads are \$100. Deadline is September 7.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Sponsor a prize, sponsor a hole, or make a donation.

All forms are available in our Church Hall on the counter between the kitchen & the hall or online on our website or see David Biando.

MISCELLANEOUS

"DAILY BREAD" - The Church distributes a daily email entitled "Daily Bread" containing scripture readings for the day and the commemorated saints. To add your name (or the name of anyone who would enjoy getting it) please forward the email address to the Church email address: sspeterpaul2@verizon.net

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL LIGHTS - Envelopes are available at the Church Store counter 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. Suggested offering: \$10, which will go towards building up our Pastoral Fund with the ultimate goal of supporting a full time priest.

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. Also available: IN THEIR OWN TONGUE, a documentary chronicling the Albanian Archdiocese in America

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.

WEB PAGE/E-MAILS - SS Peter & Paul has a brand new Website (the other will be deleted within a month):

<http://sspeterpaulphila.org>

New Bulletins are 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 email: aliciaj17@mac.com. **The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, September 19.** Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the September Bulletin at the Church on Sunday 9/26/10. 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.

Parishioner's Corner



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **August Birthdays**: *Richard Burdumy, Brunilda Gepele, Elizabeth Hansburg, David Lane*

May God grant them all many, many years!

OUR DEEPEST THANKS & APPRECIATION to **Michael Desloges** and **Jim Schaeffer** for the absolutely beautiful job of renovating the bathrooms.

OUR SINCEREST THANKS to **Joanne Johns** and the following alternates: **Kaila Schaeffer, Belinda Mentzer, Eteri Okropiridze, and Jeantte Napier** for volunteering to work in the Candle/Bookstore Room. If anyone else is interested in volunteering, please speak to Harry Halkedis or Joe Bacon.

GOOD COMPANY & GOOD FOOD: HELP BUILD UP OUR PASTORAL FUND - A new tradition has started -- serving a hot meal 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!*

DONATE AN ITEM A MONTH CAMPAIGN - We are still in need of the following items: **Paper Towels, Ziplock Bags, Napkins, Handi-Wipes**. *Your continued help is truly appreciated! A sincere "Thank You" to all parishioners who so kindly donated any requested items.*

A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED TO DIRECT THE CASSEROLE PROGRAM - Harry Halkedis would like to retire from the casserole program in 2010! *Thank you, Harry, for all your incredibly hard work. We desperately need someone to take over this most worthwhile program.*

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 Vrato, Sr., Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, Mary Palmerick, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, 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...

Prayer for the Sick

O Holy Father, heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent Thine Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to heal all our ailments and deliver us from death: do Thou visit and heal Thy servant _____, granting him/her release from pain and restoration to health and vigor, that he/she may give thanks unto Thee and bless Thy Holy Name. of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Special Announcements from Fr. Stephen

Father Stephen may be reached at 609-385-3757, Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM or by email: 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.

LETTER FROM HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON



+ *Nikon*

Bishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese
Orthodox Church in America

Rt. Rev. Nikon (Liolin) P.O. Box 149 Southbridge, MA 01550 508-764-3222
Email: bpnikon@aol.com

August 6, 2010
Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Dear Brothers and Con-celebrants of the Holy Mysteries,

I greet you with the joy of the Feast of our Lord's Transfiguration,

I have been deeply touched and appreciative of all of the prayers, love and concern that all of you have shown to me before, during and after my surgery and illness, and wanted to write to you to express my love for all of you as well. I thought it also best that you hear from me personally as to where I am in my recovery and prognosis.

As you may know from our chancellor, today was my post-operation follow-up visit. In this visit we reviewed my progress so far, the biopsy results, and further treatment and recovery needs. The results were a mixed blessing. The doctor states that I will need about six weeks of radiation to my throat to ensure all of the growth is gone since he was unable to remove all of it surgically due to its proximity to my vocal cords. He is quite confident that I will not need to have chemotherapy. Many of you know that I had to have radiation therapy 55 years ago to remove a brain tumor and with much success, and I have no reason to doubt that this will again be the case. I will be meeting with the Oncologist on the 17th of August to review the results and set up the treatment schedule. While I know that this is not the best news possible, it is also not news that should cause anyone undue concern or worry. I am confident that this, (while not ideal), will be completely resolved in God's time. I do plan, and will evaluate with the oncologist on the 17th if this is acceptable to my recovery needs, I plan to resume a fairly regular weekend schedule of visits and ordinations after my required and mandatory three weeks of silence from the surgery. By the way, the Philokalia has much to say about the benefits of silence.

I ask you to continue to keep me in your prayers, and assure you of my constant prayers for all of you, your families and your flocks.

With Love in the Lord,

+ Nikon

+NIKON

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 Church of Holy Sepulchre; Hieromartyr Cornelius
- September 14** - Elevation of the Precious Cross
- September 17** - Martyr Sophia & her Daughters: Faith, Hope & Love
- September 23** - Conception of St John the Baptist; Virginmartyr Irais (Rhais)
- September 24** - Protomartyr Thecla; Martyr Peter the Aleut; Martyr Juvenal of Alaska
- 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; Ven. Chariton
- September 30** - Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Armenia

REPOSE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

(Commemorated on September 26)

The Holy, Glorious All-laudable Apostle and Evangelist, and Beloved Friend of Christ, John the Theologian and his brother James were called by our Lord to be His Apostles at Lake Gennesareth (the Sea of Galilee).



The Apostle John was especially loved by the Savior for his sacrificial love and his virginal purity. Apostle John was present when the Lord restored the daughter of Jairus to life, and a witness to the Transfiguration of the Lord on Mount Tabor.

During the Last Supper, he asked the name of the Savior's betrayer and followed when they led Christ bound from the Garden of Gethsemane to the court of the High Priests Annas and Caiphas and then followed after him on the way to Golgotha.

At the foot of the Cross he stood with the Mother of God and heard the words of the Crucified Lord addressed to Her from the Cross: "Woman, behold Thy son." Then the Lord said to him, "Behold thy Mother" (*John 19:26-27*). From that moment the Apostle John, like a loving son, concerned himself over the Most Holy Virgin Mary, and he served Her until Her Dormition.

He then went to Ephesus to preach the Gospel, taking with him his own disciple Prochorus His preaching was accompanied by numerous and great miracles.

There began a persecution of Christians under the emperor Nero (56-68). St John was sentenced to death and drank a cup of deadly poison, but remained alive. Later, he emerged unharmed from a cauldron of boiling oil. After this, the Apostle John was imprisoned on the island of Patmos for many years, where he worked many miracles.

The Apostle John imposed upon himself a 3-day fast. As he prayed the earth quaked and thunder rumbled. The Apostle John told Prochorus to write down what he said. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, saith the Lord, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty" (*Rev 1:8*), proclaimed the Spirit of God through the Apostle. About the year 67 the Book of Revelation was written (the "Apocalypse"), predicting the tribulations of the Church and the end of the world.

The Apostle John received his freedom and returned to Ephesus,

where in the year 95, he wrote his Gospel at Ephesus and called for all Christians to love the Lord and one another, and by this to fulfill the commands of Christ. The Church calls St John the "Apostle of Love", since he constantly taught that without love man cannot come near to God.

When St. John had lived more than 100 years, he went out beyond the city limits and bade his disciples prepare for him a cross-shaped grave and cover him over with soil. Other disciples came, opened the grave, and found it empty. Each year from the grave of the holy Apostle John on May 8 came forth a fine dust, which believers gathered up and were healed of sicknesses. The memory of the holy Apostle John is also celebrated on May 8.

The Lord bestowed on John and James the name "Sons of Thunder" as an awesome messenger in its cleansing power of the heavenly fire. The Savior pointed out the flaming, fiery, sacrificial character of Christian love, the preacher of which was the Apostle John. The eagle, symbol of the lofty heights of his theological thought, is the iconographic symbol of the Evangelist John the Theologian. "Theologian" is bestowed only to St John among the immediate disciples and Apostles of Christ, as being the seer of the mysterious Judgments of God.

Icon & Reading Courtesy of OCA Website