



SS. Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

9230 Old Bustleton Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19115

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Church Bulletin ~ June/July 2010

**Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful
In Anticipation of His Grace Bishop Nikon's Visit**

The bishop is the "overseer" of the congregation and clergy in a given area. Often the terms "bishop" and "elder" are interchangeable in the New Testament (*Acts 20:17, 28*), with the bishop being the leader of the elders. The qualifications for bishop listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9 underscore this role. Nonetheless, "bishop" is a specific office both in the New Testament and in the early Church. The Twelve were the first to hold this office (in Acts 1:20 "office" is literally translated "bishopric") and they in turn consecrated other bishops to follow them. For example, Timothy and Titus are clearly of a separate order from that of elder (*see 1 Tim. 5:17-22; Titus 1:5*). Early records show James was bishop of Jerusalem by A.D. 49 and functioned accordingly at the first council there (*Acts 15:13-22*). Peter is on record as the first bishop of Antioch prior to A.D. 53, and later first bishop of Rome, where he was martyred about A.D. 65.

Perhaps the strongest early reference outside the New Testament to the presence of the four orders in Church government occurs in the writings of Ignatius, bishop of Antioch from A.D. 67-107, the very heart of the New Testament era. To the church at Philadelphia (*see Rev. 3:7-13*) he writes of "Christians [*laity*] at one with the *bishop* and the *presbyters* and the *deacons...*" (*Ign. Phil., salutation; italics added*).

In the Orthodox Church, authority is resident in all four orders, with the bishop providing the center of unity. His authority is not over the Church but within the Church. He is an icon of Jesus Christ, "the Shepherd and Overseer [literally, "Bishop"] of your souls" (*1 Pet. 2:25*). Church leadership is not one or more of the orders functioning without the others. Rather the Church, with Christ as Head, is conducted like a symphony orchestra, a family, the body of Christ, where all the members in their given offices work together as the dwelling place of the Holy Trinity.

-- from The Orthodox Study Bible

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 June

- June 6** - All Saints of American & Russia
- June 9** - St Cyril of Alexandria
- June 11** - Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
- June 14** - Prophet Elisha
- June 19** - Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord
- June 24** - Nativity of St John the Baptist
- June 29** - Holy Apostles Peter & Paul

St Cyril of Alexandria (Commemorated June 9)

Saint Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria, a distinguished champion of Orthodoxy and a great teacher of the Church studied the secular sciences, including philosophy, but most of all he strove to acquire knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and the truths of the Christian Faith. In his youth Cyril entered the monastery of Macarius in the Nitreia hills. Theophilus (385-412), the Patriarch of Alexandria, ordained him as a deacon, numbered him among the clergy and entrusted him to preach. Upon the death of Patriarch Theophilus, Cyril was unanimously chosen to the patriarchal throne of the Alexandrian Church. He led the struggle against the spread of the Novatian heresy in Alexandria, which taught that any Christian who had fallen away from the Church during a time of persecution, could not be received back into it.



Nestorius, a presbyter of the Antiochian Church, was chosen in 428 to the see of Constantinople and there he was able to spread his heretical teaching against the dogma about the uncommingled union of two natures in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Nestorius called the Mother of God not the Theotokos, but rather Christotokos or "Birth-giver of Christ," implying that she gave birth not to God, but only to the man Christ. The holy Patriarch Cyril repeatedly wrote to Nestorius and pointed out his error, but Nestorius started an open persecution against the Orthodox. One of his partisans, Bishop Dorotheus, pronounced an anathema against anyone who would call the Most Holy Virgin Mary the Theotokos. Nestorius hated Cyril and brought out against him every kind of slander and fabrication, calling him a heretic. The saint continued to defend Orthodoxy with all his powers. It became necessary to call an Ecumenical Council in the city of Ephesus in 431. Having examined the teaching of Nestorius, the Council condemned him as a heretic and Nestorius was deposed and deprived of priestly rank. By order of the emperor he was sent to the Libyan wilderness, where he died in grievous torments. His tongue, having blasphemed the Mother of God, was overtaken by punishment — in it there developed worms.

Cyril guided the Alexandrian Church for 32 years, and towards the end of his life the flock was cleansed of heretics. Gently and cautiously Cyril approached anyone, who by their own simpleness and lack of knowledge, fell into false wisdom.

Cyril learned to overcome his prejudice against the memory of the great John Chrysostom (November 13). Theophilus, the Patriarch of Alexandria, and uncle of Cyril, was an antagonist of John, and presided in a council in judgment of him. Cyril thus found himself in a circle antagonistic to John Chrysostom, and involuntarily acquired a prejudice against him. Once in a dream he saw a wondrous temple, in which the Mother of God was surrounded by a host of angels and saints, in whose number was John Chrysostom. When Cyril wanted to approach the All-Holy Lady and venerate her, John Chrysostom would not let him. The Theotokos asked John to forgive Cyril for having sinned against him through ignorance. Seeing that John hesitated, the Mother of God said, "Forgive him for my sake, since he has labored much for my honor, and has glorified me among the people calling me Theotokos." John answered, "By your intercession, Lady, I do forgive him," and then he embraced Cyril with love. Cyril repented that he had maintained anger against the great saint of God. Having convened all the Egyptian bishops, he celebrated a solemn feast in honor of John Chrysostom.

Cyril died in the year 444, leaving behind many works, including commentaries On the Gospels of Luke and of John, On the Epistles of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians and to the Hebrews; also an Apologia in Defense of Christianity. Of vast significance are his Five Books against Nestorius; a work on the Most Holy Trinity and the Discussions, among which is the moving and edifying Discourse on the Exodus of the Soul, inserted in the Slavonic "Following Psalter".

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - June/July

+ CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 27 - **Divine Liturgy, 9 AM (with His Grace Bishop Nikon)**

+ SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY - TUESDAY, JUNE 29 - **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 & 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** - Membership Dues for 2010 are \$125. *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** - The first Monday of every month, 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!*

◇ **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*

◇ **OTHER DONATIONS: Church Library; Pop Tab Collections for Ronald McDonald House; Wine & Oil:** Altar wine: **Manischewitz Concord Grape** - **please do not donate any other brand of concord grape**; Virgin Olive Oil

Sunday School News

◇ **HUSH! PLEASE!** - Please, if you are upstairs in the Church Hall when Sunday School is in session, make an effort to speak softly so as not to disturb the teaching! Thank you!

Ladies Society News

◇ **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 & Announcements

Future Events at SS Peter and Paul

◇ 90TH YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF SS PETER & PAUL - SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2010 - Our Bishop, the Right Reverend Nikon, will be visiting our Parish that weekend to join us in this most joyous event. A luncheon will follow Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 27. Anyone wishing to help, please contact Joanne Johns.

*** **Photos for 90th Year Celebration** - Jim & Edna Bachelor's daughter, Brenda, has graciously offered to put together a vide presentation at the 90th Year Celebration Luncheon. Brenda needs photos of the following **BY JUNE 1**: any joyous, memorable events that took place at SS Peter & Paul (including weddings, baptisms, etc.); photos of past priests, both candid and formals; and interior and exterior photos of the old building.

All pictures can be given to Jim or Edna Bachelor and all pictures will be returned to you after they are scanned. Or, you can scan them yourself and email them directly to Brenda at: **brendajankowski@hotmail.com**.

Please look through your photos and see if there is anything at all that can be used. We want to make this a most memorable celebration of the founding of our Church. Thank you for your participation in this project.

*** **A "Memorabilia Table" will be set up at the 90th Year Celebration at the Sheraton. Please bring any memorable items, pictures, etc. of joyous occasions or events that took place at SS Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church**

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**

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.

◇ 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 email: **aliciaj17@mac.com**. **Please note that this Bulletin is a combination June/July Bulletin. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, July 18.** Thank you! *Parishioners will be able to pick up the August Bulletin at the Church on Sunday 7/25/10.* Bulletins will be mailed to any Parishioners unable to attend. **Please note that the calendar page is double-sided, one side June, the other side July.**

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 **June** Birthdays: Katherine Halkedis, John Hondros, Mary Jaxheimer, Tatyana Kuznetsova, Donna Lane, John Siniari, Lyudmila Sivak, Zinaida Zemlyanaya and **July** Birthdays: Helen Banushi, Andrew Cappo, Charles Daka, John Douris, Matushka Linda Dudash, Michelle Murianka, Marie Muzekari, Ted Muzekari, Sr., John Rubis, Viktor Skuratovskiy, Jennie Speero, Lester Speero, Silvia Yankova Yovtcheva

May God grant them all many, many years!

◇ **A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED FATHER'S DAY** to all of our Fathers, Grandfathers, Great-Grandfathers, Uncles, and to all of the men in our lives who have been like Fathers to us. *May God grant them all many, many years!*

◇ **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 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 Vrato, 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, Margot Craig**
God knows the names and ages of all who need His love and mercy...

Memory Eternal

+Cathryn S. Anderson (Salepi) fell asleep in the Lord on May 16, 2010 at the age of 74. She was married to the late +Edwin Anderson (who passed away in March 2010) for 48 years and is survived by her loving daughters Amy and Michele, her four cherished grandchildren and her devoted sister, Lilly Shallapi. She was also the sister of the late +Sophie Hondros. Cathryn was a former outstanding member of SS Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church, having been both baptized and married in our church. She also devotedly served in the Ladies Society for many years and was a member of the church choir. Loving, supportive, and generous to family, friends, and parishioners, Cathryn is lovingly remembered, cherished and greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched. *Contributions may be made in Cathryn's memory to: The William Figueroa MD Fund, c/o Lankenau Development Office, 100 Lancaster Ave, Suite 50, Wynnewood, PA 19096.*

May her memory be eternal!

Memory Eternal

The 3-year Memorial for +Harry Cappo will be held on Sunday, May 23rd.

May his memory be eternal!

Holy Days and Name Days in July

- July 1** - Unmercenary Wonderworkers Cosmas & Damian
- July 4** - St Andrew of Crete; Ven Andrew Rublev; Ven Martha
- July 5** - Relics Ven Sergius of Radonezh; Ven Athanasius of Mt Athos
- July 10** - Ven Anthony of the Kiev Caves
- July 11** - Greatmartyr Euphemia; BI Princess Olga
- July 15** - Great Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles
- July 16** - Virginmartyr Julia
- July 17** - Greatmartyr Marina (Margaret) of Antioch
- July 18** - Martyr Emilian
- July 19** - Ven Seraphim of Sarov; Ven Macrina; BI Stephen of Serbia
- July 20** - Holy Prophet Elijah
- July 21** - Prophet Ezekiel
- July 22** - Myrrbearer Mary Magdalene, Equal-to-the-Apostles; Martyr Marcella
- July 24** - Martyr Christina; Martyrs Boris & Gleb, Passionbearers
- July 25** - Dormition of Righteous Anna, Mother of the Theotokos
- July 26** - St Jacob, Enlightener of the Peoples of Alaska; Martyr Parasceva
- July 27** - Greatmartyr & Healer Panteleimon

Ven Martha the Mother of Ven Simeon Stylites (Commemorated July 4)

Saint Martha, mother of Saint Simeon of Wonderful Mountain (*May 24*), lived during the 6th century and was a native of Antioch. From her early years she yearned for monasticism, but her parents persuaded her to marry. Her husband, John, soon died, and righteous Martha with all her strength devoted herself to the raising of her son. She was an example of high Christian temperament for her son. She often visited the temple of God, she attended church services attentively and with piety, and frequently received the Holy Mysteries of Christ.



St Martha rose up to pray each night, and her prayers were offered with heartfelt warmth and tears. She particularly venerated St John the Forerunner, who was for her a protector, frequently appearing to her in visions. St Martha was charitable towards the poor, she fed and clothed them, she visited the convalescent and she attended to the sick, she buried the dead, and for those preparing to receive holy Baptism she made the baptismal garments with her own hands.

St Martha was reserved, and no one heard from her a frivolous, false or vain word, no one saw her angry, nor fighting with anyone, nor bitter. She was a model of chaste and pious life and by her example she guided many on the pathway to salvation. When her son, St Simeon, had become a renowned ascetic, she urged him not to exalt himself for his own efforts, but to thank God for everything.

The time of her death was revealed to St Martha. She beheld angels with candles saying that they would come for her in another year's time. The saint was also granted visions of Paradise, and the All-Pure Virgin Herself showed to her the heavenly habitations prepared for the righteous. St Martha's death was peaceful, and her body was buried on Wonderful Mountain, at the place of the ascetic deeds of her son, St Simeon the Stylite.

~ Reading & Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~