



***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 ~ December 2004*

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

### **So, What Is God's Justice?**

"Real justice, "Father Maximos responded, "is for God to help us through his Grace to rectify that which truly wronged us.

And what is that?

Our estrangement from our Divine nature.

Real justice means the attainment of Theosis,  
the reunification with God  
who created us in His own image.

We are endowed with the potential  
of becoming gods through Grace.

Our ultimate goal is reunion with our Maker,  
our real homeland and final destination.

It is exactly at the core of our being,  
ontologically speaking  
that we have been wronged, through the Fall."

*-- From **The Mountain of Silence** by Kyriacos C. Markides*

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FATHER STEPHEN:**

As of January 1, 2005, all confessions and consultations on Sunday mornings shall take place from 9 AM to 10 AM before the Divine Liturgy. Thank you.

**Father Stephen** may be reached at **267-973-9775**, Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM; e-mail: [ssiniari@covenanthousepa.org](mailto:ssiniari@covenanthousepa.org)

## **Events & Announcements**

### **Liturgical Schedule - December 2004/January 2005**

**NATIVITY - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25** - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

**CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST/ST. BASIL THE GREAT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 1**  
- *No Services at SS Peter & Paul*

**THEOPHANY OF CHRIST - THURSDAY, JANUARY 6** - *No Services at SS Peter & Paul*

**THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATER - SUNDAY, JANUARY 9** - Divine Liturgy,  
10 AM

## **Church News & Reminders**

**ICON PLEDGES** - A reminder that Icon Pledges need to be paid in full by the end of December. Please see the treasurer, George Kendro. *Also, please remember to return your Icons to George or place them in the Church and tell George. Thank you!*

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** - Normally 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** - Please continue 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!*

**NEW CENSER & NEW ICON DONATIONS** - Donations are needed for a new censer and for the purchase of new Icons. Our Icons need to be updated and the following Saints need to be purchased: St. Nicholas, St. Basil, St. Gregory, St. Barbara, St. Antigone, St. Dimitri, SS Peter & Paul (together & separately), the 4 Evangelists, as well as others. *We thank you for your support in this project. Please donate generously.*

**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.

**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.

## **Ladies' Society News**

**MEETING** - Sunday, **January 9**, after Divine Liturgy

**A SINCERE THANK YOU** to the Ladies' Society members and to all parishioners who helped with their time, efforts, talents, and donations to make the Christmas Bazaar a big success.

## Events

**ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2005** - Immediately following the Divine Liturgy. This is SS Peter & Paul's single largest fund-raiser of the year. It is integral in funding our operating expenses. Please make every effort to attend and please bid generously. Absentee bids are also accepted.

**ORDINATION OF GREGORY VRATO, JR.** - His Grace Bishop Nikon will be at SS Peter & Paul on **Sunday, February 20, 2005**, for the ordination of Gregory Vrato, Jr. as a Deacon.

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Sunday, February 27, 2005**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please make every effort to attend this most important meeting. Among the agenda items at this time are: 1) Election of delegates to Archdiocesan annual assembly in Toronto in July. 2) Discussion of long term goals for parish. 3) Filling anticipated vacancies in the Church Board.

## Of General Interest

**A QUESTION BOX** has been set up in the Church Hall upstairs. If you have a question for Fr. Stephen, please fill out a question form (they are in the box) and leave it in the box. Father will answer a few of the questions each month in the Bulletin.

**SS PETER & PAUL BULLETINS - NOV '02 TO THE PRESENT** are now available for viewing at any time. They are in a white binder on the top shelf of the bookcase in the office.

**ALBANIAN LANGUAGE CLASS POLL** - If you are interested in having an Albanian Adult Language Class taught by Andrew Rubis at SS Peter & Paul, please contact Alicia (215- 742-0492/aliciaj17@mac.com) or sign the Poll sheet hanging to the right of the kitchen door by Sunday, December 19th. Please sign up only if you are willing to make a commitment to attend the class. Thank you!

## Miscellaneous

**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 (just click on the tip link "**Church Bulletin**"). 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](mailto: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 e-mail: [alicia17@mac.com](mailto:alicia17@mac.com). The deadline for the next Bulletin is **Sunday, January 2**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 1/9/05**. 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 **December** Birthdays: **Deacon Perry Angelos, Donna Bacon, Anne Halkedis, Christina Murianka, Tatyana Nilova, John Palmerick, Edna Quirias, Eurania Quirias, Katia Vansuch, Hope Vreto**

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

**SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO KATHERINE & HARRY HALKEDIS** on the marriage of their son, Mr. John Halkedis to Miss Niki Mutchler on October 16, 2004 in the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Camp Hill, PA. John and Niki are living in Centreville, VA, a suburb of Washington, D.C. *May God grant John & Niki many years!*

**SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN TO KATHERINE & HARRY HALKEDIS** on becoming grandparents. George Heller was born November 25 to Semele & Dave Heller. Mother and child are well. *May God grant George many years!*

### Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

\*\*\* Please pray for the full and speedy recovery of **Martha Murianka**.

\*\*\* Please pray for the full and speedy recovery of **Nina Horowitz**, who continues to be in tremendous pain.

\*\*\* Please pray for the full and speedy recovery of **Spiro Costas**, who was recently in the hospital again.

\*\*\* Please pray for the full and speedy recovery of **Zinaida Zemlyanaya**, who had foot surgery recently.

### St John's Hospice Update

Please continue your support for Saint John's Hospice which feeds 350 people daily. The hospice also provides beds. **Our parish donated 18 six pound casseroles in November.** And our parishioners supplied 13 sheets, 4 pillow cases, 1 pillow, 3 mattress covers, 3 blankets, 2 bed pads and 4 bath towels. We will continue to accept donations of these items.

A \$10.00 donation buys a six pound casserole. Pans are available if you wish to bake a casserole. Please see **Harry Halkedis**.

### SCOBA Hierarchs Name January 16th Share the Light Sunday

Ft. Lauderdale (November 1) - "Now it's our turn!" With those words **Come Receive The Light** founder and co-host Rev. Dr. Christopher Metropulos announced that **SCOBA** (The Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas) has named Sunday, January 16th, **Share The Light Sunday** in all of the Orthodox Christian parishes of America. This special Sunday will help all our Orthodox Christian parishes become partners with **Orthodox Christian Networks (OCN)** in creating a national media ministry tool for all our churches. "With over 800 Christian programs on the air each week in the US, we now have an opportunity to add an Orthodox Christian voice to the broadcast in-



dustry. For our children's sake, we can no longer remain silent on American media" states Fr. Chris.

**OCN** is a **SCOBA** agency charged with creating a national media presence for the Orthodox Christian Churches of the United States. The hierarchs have now called for the celebration of **Share The Light Sunday** to increase awareness and support of this vital ministry, nurturing the use of media to share the message of Orthodoxy with America.

Just as Orthodox missionaries have done in times past, **OCN** is using the tools available to the Church to declare the "*faith once, for all, delivered to the saints*" to the world around us. With over 800 Christian radio programs already airing each week on American radio stations across the country, now is the time for us to use this powerful communications tool to share the timeless wisdom and power of Orthodoxy. In the past two years, **OCN's** flagship program **Come Receive The Light** has begun broadcasting in over 20 major communities, and world wide through the internet.

All 1500 Orthodox Christian parishes will soon receive a **Share The Light Sunday** packet in the mail that will help them celebrate this first annual **Share The Light Sunday** in their local parish. The mailing will include a sample sermon, inserts for parish bulletins, a video, and more. **OCN** is depending on leaders within each Orthodox parish in America to step forward and champion this crucial outreach. All the funds raised from this special Sunday will be devoted to helping **OCN** expand the reach of its media ministry to every part of the nation.

**Come Receive The Light** is the flagship radio program of **Orthodox Christian Networks (OCN)** and is dedicated to spreading joy, hope and salvation in Jesus Christ while exploring Orthodox Christianity in contemporary society. Orthodox Christian Networks is headquartered in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and is a commissioned agency of **SCOBA (The Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas)** and a member of the National Religious Broadcasters. Visit us at <http://www.receive.org>

## Year-end Giving to OCMC

As the end of the year draws near, we reflect on the growth and accomplishments of the last twelve months. In 2004, the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center** has helped thousands to hear the Gospel for the first time. Over 6,000 people were given medical care, hundreds of children received housing, food, and education, nearly a hundred indigenous clergy and laity received training to become priests, addiction counselors, or youth and young adult ministers. Along with all this, six churches were built to serve as houses of worship for many generations to come.

**Send checks made payable to OCMC to PO Box 4319, St. Augustine, FL, 32085, call 1-877-GO-FORTH (463-6784) to make a credit card donation or give online at <http://www.ocmc.org/giving.php>.**

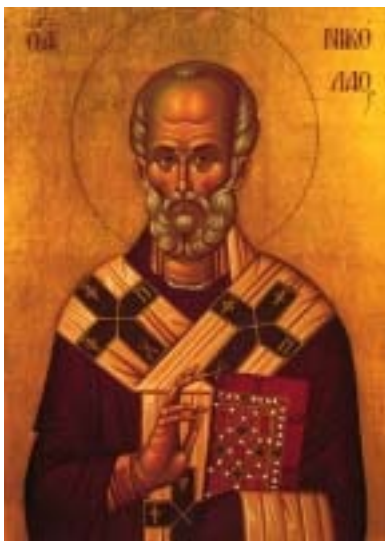
## Holy Days and Name Days in December

- December 4 - Great Martyr Barbara
- December 5 - Ven. Sabbas the Sanctified

- December 6 - St Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra
- December 9 - Conception of the Holy Theotokos by the Righteous Anna
- December 11 - Sunday of the Holy Forefathers
- December 12 - Sunday of the Holy Forefathers; St Spyridon the Wonderworker
- December 13 - Ven. Herman of Alaska
- December 15 - Holy Martyr Eleutherius
- December 17 - Holy Prophet Daniel & 3 Holy Youths
- December 22 - Great Martyr Anastasia
- December 24 - Eve of Nativity; Nun Martyr Eugenia & her Companions
- December 25 - Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
- December 26 - Synaxis of the Most-Holy Theotokos
- December 27 - St Stephen Protomartyr
- December 30 - Virgin Martyr Anysia
- December 31 - Leavetaking Nativity; Ven Melania of Rome

***Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia***

This Saint lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330, As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him,



however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos

appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travelers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

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

