



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 ~ February 2007

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Then the disciples of John came to Him saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?"

And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast." (Matthew 9:14-15)

The Pastoral Care Fund

Brothers and Sisters,

As you know, Margot and I have served the community of Saints Peter & Paul for nine years.

In the hopes that money might be set aside so that eventually our home parish might have full-time pastoral care, we have never asked for or received an increase in our salary.

We have given financially to the community and have tried not to burden the members of our parish by speaking specifically about money.

We have tried to teach by example. But time is passing quickly.

Now God has sent us a good Bishop... Bishop Nikon, and he has said that it would be the fulfillment of a dream, the fulfillment of the vision of our founders, our grandmothers and grandfathers, if our parish could have a full-time priest.

God knows the truth.

Our people are need and deserve full-time Pastoral Care; widows, widowers, shut-ins, the elderly, people suffering from depression, those who are sick, at home and in the hospital or nursing home, new arrivals, immigrants from many countries, young families, children... all in need of hope, all desiring to find meaning in life...

When we pay our dentist we do not say, "Here is money for your salary." We say, "This is for my dental care, for me and for my family."

To the person who advises us financially and does our taxes, we do not say, "I am giving this money to you for your livelihood." We acknowledge that we are concerned with our monetary well-being and that we are investing money to obtain sound financial guidance and advice to secure our future on this earth, in this life, in this world.

If we need medical care or surgery, we are willing to invest our time, talent, and treasure to find the best care we can possibly afford, again, realizing, our concern is not so much for the salary of the surgeon, but the medical care that he or she can provide so that we can be as healthy as we can to enjoy life here and now.

It is the same with the education of our children, our housing, our food, automobiles, entertainment, legal advice, and on and on...

But what about preparing our souls "for the life of the world to come...?" The wise among us will admit that it makes sense to invest, not so much in a "priests salary," but in our own Pastoral Care...

After all, who else do we know in this life, aside from our priest, who will speak to us of what Jesus calls, "the one thing that is necessary...?" (*Luke 10:42*)

Why should we neglect to care for our most precious gift from God, our eternal soul? Why shouldn't it be first among our priorities?

Bishop Nikon has encouraged us to begin preparing so our people can have the Pastoral Care they deserve.

He has asked us to begin to put the finances in place so that one day soon Saints Peter and Paul can have a full-time priest, and our Parish Board has responded.

Once a month we take a special collection called the "Pastoral Care Collection". We are slowly building this fund hoping that within 5 years we can offer a livable salary to a priest our Bishop will assign.

So, Margot and I are asking you, "Please help us."

It is our prayer, along with our Bishop, that the good people of Saints Peter and Paul may begin receiving the degree of Pastoral Care God desires for all those whom He loves, and for whom He has sent His Only Begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - February/March 2007

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - *No Services*

MEATFARE SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 11 - **Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**

CHEESEFARE (FORGIVENESS SUNDAY) - FEBRUARY 18 - **Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**

BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

PRE-SANCTIFIEDS - WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 21, 28/MARCH 7, 14, 21
- **7 PM**

ANNUNCIATION - SUNDAY, MARCH 25 - **Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**

PRE-SANCTIFIED - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28 (*Last one*) - **7 PM**

LAZARUS SATURDAY - MARCH 31 - **Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

Church News & Reminders

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2007 - Dues are **\$115** per person and can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY - A sincere *Thank You* to everyone who participated in our most successful **Icon Pledge Sunday**, either in person or through absentee pledges. Pledges can still be made by contacting the treasurer, James Schaeffer or

Stephen Murianka with the Saint's name and the amount. **Please note:** when returning your Icons, please return them to the treasurer, James Schaeffer.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - To be announced. 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 January: 15 casseroles and 4 bags of food were delivered. Disposable razors and individual/small tubes of hand lotion are still needed. 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!*

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.

Ladies' Society News

FEB 4 ~ HOT ROAST BEEF SANDWICH SUNDAY - includes potato salad, pickles, coffee, cakes and pizza for the children. **Please join us!**

FEB 18 ~ LADIES SOCIETY ANNUAL LENTEN LUNCHEON - Donation is \$10

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW OFFICERS OF THE LADIES SOCIETY:
President, Letitia Desloges; **Vice-President,** Helen Arndt; **Secretary,** Hope Vreto; **Treasurer,** Jennie Speero

General Interest

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

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION - Please call the Church at **215-676-3311** to find out if Divine Liturgy is scheduled for a particular Sunday. Stephen Murianka is most diligent about putting that information on the answering machine.

WEB PAGE/E-MAILS - SS Peter & Paul Webpage: <http://homepage.mac.com/alicaj17/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: alicaj17@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: alicaj17@mac.com. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **February 25**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **3/4/07**. 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 **February** Birthdays: Edna Bachelor, Joe Bacon, Janet Caparros (Bachelor), Margot Craig, Virginia Daka, Theodore Dementri, Ralph John, Maria Pavucek, Andrew Quirias, Lilly Shallapi, Andi Steffa, Gregory Vreto, Sr.

May God grant them all many, many years!

ANGIE KOZLOWSKI has a new address: c/o Residence @ Tom's River, 2145 Whiteville Road, #501, Tom's River, NJ 08755. Phone: 1-732-905-1779

May God grant Angie many, many years in her new home!

MINNIE DROBONICK has a new address: 4877 Charlotte Highway, #247, Lake Wylie, SC 29710. Phone: 1-803-831-0032

May God grant Minnie many, many years in her new home!

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, Harry Cappo, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, Martha Murianka, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Helen Arndt**

*** *God knows the names and ages of all who need His love and mercy...*

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 February

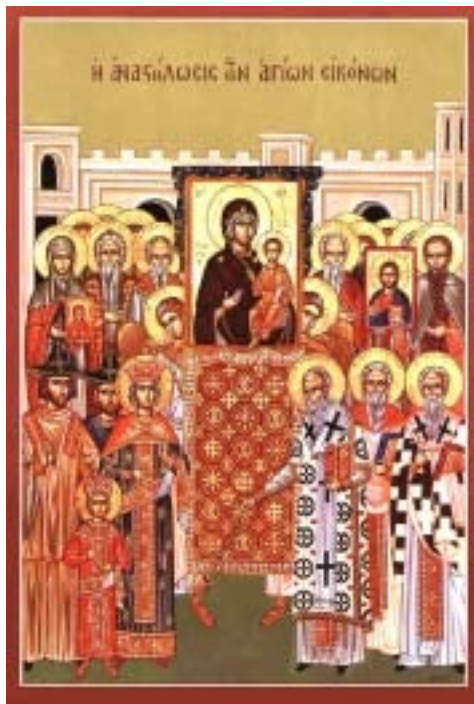
- February 1 - St Bridget of Ireland
- February 2 - Meeting of Christ in the Temple
- February 3 - Righteous Godbearer Simeon and Anna the Phrophetess
- February 4 - Sunday of the Prodigal Son
- February 6 - St Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople
- February 10 - St Haralambos; St Valentina
- February 11 - Meatfare Sunday; Sunday of Last Judgment; St Blaise; Righteous Theodora
- February 14 - St Cyril, Teacher of the Slavs
- February 18 - Cheesefare Sunday; Forgiveness Sunday; St Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
- February 24 - St Theodore Saturday
- February 25 - Sunday of Orthodoxy
- February 26 - St Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza; St Sebastian
- February 27 - St Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn
- February 28 - SS Marina, Kyra & Domnina; St John Cassian

1st Sunday of Great Lent ~ Sunday of Orthodoxy

Originally, the Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage. Today we commemorate the "Triumph of Orthodoxy," the restoration of the holy icons in the reign of the holy Empress Theodora.

Righteous Theodora, wife of the Emperor Theophilus, the Iconclast

Holy Empress Theodora was the wife of the Byzantine emperor Theophilus the Iconoclast (829-842), but she did not share in the heresy of her husband and secretly venerated the holy icons. After the death of her husband, St Theodora governed the realm because her son Michael was a minor.



She convened a Council, at which the Iconoclasts were anathematized, and the veneration of icons was reinstated. St Theodora established the annual celebration of this event, the Triumph of Orthodoxy, on the first Sunday of the Great Fast. St Theodora did much for Holy Church and fostered a firm devotion to Orthodoxy in her son Michael.

When Michael came of age, she was retired from governing and spent eight years in the monastery of St Euphrosyne, where she devoted herself to ascetic struggles, and reading books that nourished her soul.

A copy of the Gospels, copied in her own hand, is known to exist. She died peacefully around the year 867. In 1460, her relics were given by the Turks to the people of Kerkyra (Kefhalonia).

~ Reading and Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

Liturgical Schedule: January - December 2007

- JAN 1** - (Monday) **CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST. BASIL THE GREAT**
**** No Services at SS Peter & Paul ****
- JAN 6** - (Saturday) **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING OF WATER** - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM
- FEB 2** - (Friday) **PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD**
**** NO SERVICES AT SS PETER & PAUL ****
- FEB 21, 28 / MAR 7, 14, 21** - (Wednesdays) **PRE-SANCTIFIEDS - 7 PM**
- MAR 25** - (Sunday) **ANNUNCIATION** - Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- MAR 28** - (Wednesday) **PRE-SANCTIFIED - 7 PM (last one)**
- MAR 31** - **LAZARUS SATURDAY** - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM
- APR 1** - (Sunday) **ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM** - Divine Liturgy & **BLESSING OF PALMS - 10 AM**
- APR 4** - **HOLY WEDNESDAY (HOLY UNCTION)** - 7 PM
- APR 5** - **HOLY THURSDAY (TWELVE PASSION GOSPELS)** - 7 PM

- APR 6 - HOLY FRIDAY (VESPERS, TAKING DOWN FROM CROSS) - 3 PM
LAMENTATIONS AT TOMB - 7 PM
- APR 7 - HOLY SATURDAY (Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil) - 9 AM ORTHROS/
PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY - 11 PM
- APR 8 - PASCHA SUNDAY (AGAPE VESPERS; GOSPEL IN MANY LANGUAGES)
- NOON; EASTER EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN AFTER VESPERS
- MAY 17 - HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM
- JUN 29 - (Friday) SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM
- AUG 6 - (Monday) HOLY TRANSFIGURATION - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM
- AUG 15 - (Wednesday) DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM
- SEP 14 - (FRIDAY) HOLY CROSS - ** NO SERVICES AT SS PETER & PAUL **
- SEP 15-16 - (Saturday/Sunday) CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST
DAY with His Grace Bishop Nikon - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM; Parish Meal af-
ter the Divine Liturgy
- NOV 10-11 - (SATURDAY/SUNDAY) ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM'S FEAST DAY & His
Grace Bishop Nikon's visit to our Sister Parish
****No Services at SS Peter & Paul****
- DEC 25 - (TUESDAY) NATIVITY - DIVINE LITURGY - 10 AM