



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 ~ January 2007

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Theophany

"The sixth of January is the Feast of the Epiphany. Originally it was the one Christian Feast of the Shining Forth of God to the World in the human form of Jesus of Nazareth. It included the celebration of: Christ's Birth, The Adoration of the Wisemen, and All of the Childhood Events of Christ, such as His Circumcision and Presentation in the Temple as well as His Baptism by John in the Jordan.

There seems little doubt that this Feast, like Pascha and Pentecost, was understood as the fulfillment of previous Jewish festivals, in this case, the Feast of Lights.

Epiphany means shining forth or manifestation. The feast is often called, as it is in the Orthodox service books, Theophany, which means the shining forth and manifestation of God.

The emphasis in the present day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the Divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Thus, in the baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus identifies Himself with sinners as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29), the "Beloved" of the Father whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins. (Luke 3:21/Mark 1:35) And He is revealed as well as one of the Divine Trinity, testified to by the voice of the Father and by the Spirit in the form of a dove.

This is the central Epiphany glorified in the main hymns of the Feast:

When Thou O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan
The worship of the Trinity was made manifest
For the Voice of the Father bore witness to Thee
Calling Thee His Beloved son
And the Spirit in the form of a dove
Confirmed the truthfulness of His Word
O Christ our God who hast
revealed Thyself and enlightened the world
Glory to Thee"

-- *Father Thomas Hopko: Orthodox Faith Vol II*

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - January/February 2007

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING OF WATER - SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

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 - 7 PM

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 PLEDGES - If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge obligation, please do so as soon as possible. **Please note:** *The Icons are due back to the Church ASAP. When returning your Icons, please return them to the treasurer, James Schaeffer.*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - To be announced. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

SUNDAY DONATION ENVELOPES - Please pick up your envelopes in the office upstairs.

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 December:** *11 casseroles and 1 bag 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

A MOST 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.

Other Events at SS Peter & Paul

ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY - January 14, 2007 - Immediately following the Divine Liturgy. *This is SS Peter & Paul's single largest fund-raiser of the year* and is integral in funding our operating expenses. *Please make every effort to attend and please bid generously.* **Absentee bids are gratefully accepted.**

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 see Alicia or call her at **215-742-0492** or e-mail: **alicaj17@mac.com**. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **January 28**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **2/4/07**. 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 **January** Birthdays: **Lyudmila Chervinchik, Connie Douris, Kakhaber Okropiridze, Alexandra Pana, Liliya Skuratovskiy, Paulette Steffa, Vicki Steffa**

May God grant them all many, many years!

A **BELETED HAPPY BIRTHDAY** is wished to Pat Bergey who celebrated her birthday in **December**.

ILIA RUBIS, son of Andrew and Ekaterina Rubis, was baptized at SS Peter and Paul on Saturday, January 6th.

May God grant Ilia many, many years!

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES to **Janet Bachelor** and her new husband, **Paul Caparros**. Janet and Paul were married at SS Peter and Paul on November 18, 2006

May God grant Janet and Paul many, many years!

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES to **Stuart Barenbaum** and his new wife, **Yolanda**. Yolanda and Stuart were married at SS Peter and Paul on November 12, 2006

May God grant Yolanda and Stuart many, many years!

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 Cappel, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, Martha Murianka, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka**

*** *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 January

- January 1 - Circumcision of Christ; St Basil the Great
- January 2 - St Seraphim of Sarov
- January 6 - Theophany of Christ
- January 7 - Synaxis of St John the Baptist
- January 10 - St Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa; St Theophan the Recluse
- January 11 - St Theodosius the Great
- January 12 - St Sava, Archbishop of Serbia; Martyr Tatiana of Rome
- January 14 - St Nina of Georgia, Equal-to-the-Apostles
- January 17 - St Anthony the Great, Founder of Monasticism
- January 18 - St Athanasius the Great; St Cyril of Alexandria
- January 19 - St Macarius the Great; St Mark, Archbishop of Ephesus
- January 20 - St Euthymios the Great
- January 21 - Zaccheus Sunday; St Maximus the Confessor
- January 23 - Martyr Clement of Ancyra; Martyr Agathangelus
- January 24 - St Xenia of Rome; Blessed Xenia of St Petersburg
- January 25 - St Gregory the Theologian
- January 26 - St David of Georgia
- January 28 - Sunday of Publican & Pharisee; St Ephraim, Syrian; St Isaac, Syrian
- January 30 - 3 Hierarchs: St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian, St John Chrysostom

Venerable Euthymius the Great

This Saint, who was from Melitene in Armenia, was the son of pious parents named Paul and Dionysia. He was born about 377. Since his mother had been barren, he was named Euthymius- which means "good cheer" or "joy"-for this is what his parents experienced at his birth. He studied under Eutroius, the Bishop of Melitene, by whom he was ordained and entrusted with the care of the monasteries of Melitene. Then, after he had come to Palestine about the year 406, he became the leader of a multitude of monks.



Through him, a great tribe of Arabs was turned to piety, when he healed the ailing son of their leader Aspebetos. Aspebetos was baptized with all his people; he took the Christian name of Peter, and was later consecrated Bishop for his tribe, being called "Bishop of the Tents." Saint Euthymius also fought against the Nestorians, Eutychians, and Manichaeans. When Eudocia, the widow of Saint Theodosius the Younger, had made her dwelling in Palestine, and had fallen into the heresy of the Monophysites which was championed in Palestine by a certain Theodosius, she sent envoys to Saint Symeon the Stylite in Syria (see Sept. 1), asking him his opinion of Eutyches and the Council of Chalcedon which had condemned him; Saint Symeon, praising the holiness and Orthodoxy of Saint Euthymius near whom she dwelt, sent her to him to be delivered from her error (the holy Empress Eudocia is commemorated Aug. 13). He became the divine oracle of the

Church, or rather, "the vessel of divine utterance," as a certain historian writes. He was the instructor and elder of Saint Sabbas the Sanctified. Having lived for ninety-six years, he reposed in 473, on January 20.

~ Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery ~
Icon Courtesy of Theologic Systems

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 after 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**



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**

