



***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 2010*

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

### **What Is the Pastoral Care Fund and Why Should I Give?**

When we go to the dentist, receive our dental care, and pay the dentist, we don't say to the dentist, here is money for your salary. Rather we understand our having provided for our dental care, for the care of our teeth... We provided for our Dental Care... It's the same with the person who does our taxes, fixes our plumbing, or takes away our trash, or provides us with cable TV...

So, why is it we understand that we must provide for our food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, entertainment, and retirement, but put the care of our soul, the only thing that will go on beyond food, clothing, shelter, health, and retirement...

Why is it we forget or neglect to provide for our Pastoral Care or put it way down on the list?

Let me tell you what I've seen lately... Many people in our parish suffering: from loneliness, sickness, depression, the debilitation of aging, not to mention legal, immigration, substance abuse, mental health issues, financial, job related, and marital and family and child related, and elderly parent related problems... And, believe it or not, many are interested in the inner life, spiritual things, reading the Bible, praying, learning about their Faith, participating in the Mysteries...

... And the number of calls from the parish are not decreasing, they're increasing... Pastoral Care is a full-time endeavor...

And how does that make your priest feel? Knowing that they are people he loves, people who knew him as a little boy, in his home parish, people who were at his Baptism... People he loves and cares about... And wakes up in the middle of the night thinking about... And he can't get to them... Cannot at this critical time in their lives, give them the Pastoral Care they need and deserve... Not to mention the new arrivals and inquirers... How many slip away or feel turned away because there is no one there to say, "God loves you and I'm here to care for you..."?

Past generations have done their best to provide the basics of Christian community, but we have come to accept a part-time, bare-bones, minimum situation... This is not the best we can do, This is not Christian community...

No provision was made — So, what do we do...? We ask other communities to send their young men to seminary — to send their priest to minister to our needs — to subsidize our oversight — to provide Pastoral Care for us — a kind of spiritual welfare — a help for us because we haven't planned for or made provisions for our time of Pastoral Need...

The other communities have the same needs and struggles as we... food, clothing, shelter, etc... but they've also made their church life a priority... And many of them have numerically smaller communities than we...

It's time for us to begin, those who are in the "earning years", so we may provide for our own Pastoral Care and that of the coming generations.

We have what we need to do it: A priest who is willing to serve sacrificially — not taking raises or benefits in 11 years, he and his wife, willing to work outside jobs, to provide housing, benefits, etc. (I'm typing this on my employer's computer, and on company time).

We have talented lay-leadership who love God and the Church, people with the financial expertise or the ability to seek it out. We have a willing community of people who care about each other and who, if asked, will give to a worthy project.

One of our elderly women said to me, "Do you know why I don't give more to the church?" "Why?" "Because you're like a bank, you don't do much with it, you just save it."

I asked our leadership, "In the history of our parish, has anyone ever left an estate or sizable gift to the parish? And what do we do with the funds we collect aside from "maintain and save for a rainy day?"

I'm sure there are explanations, good ones, and answers to these questions. Even so, now is the time for us, as a community in Christ, to take a new look at "the one thing that is needful..." for the people we love and serve in the name of Christ.

Let's agree to make provisions, let's put our money where our mouth is: To proclaim the Gospel, to give people hope beyond this life, to provide the Pastoral Care needed to

survive the relentless stress of modern life, to cultivate and strengthen hope in Jesus Christ.

We need to provide now for our Pastoral Care, for ourselves and the coming generations.

### **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](mailto: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**

- + **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 Euthymius the Great
- + **January 21** - St Maximus Confessor
- + **January 23** - Martyr Clement of Ancyra; Martyr Agathangel
- + **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** - St Ephraim the Syrian; St Isaac the Syrian
- + **January 30** - 3 Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom

### **Events & Announcements**

#### **Liturgical Schedule - January 2010/February 2010**

+ CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & ST BASIL THE GREAT - FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 - **Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

+ THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATER - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 - **Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

+ LESSER BLESSING OF WATER - SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 - **Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**

+ MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - **NO SERVICES**

+ BEGINNING OF GREAT FAST - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

+ PRE-SANCTIFIEDS - WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 17, 24 - **7 PM**

#### **Schedule of Other Services**

**BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM - 8:30 PM in the Church Hall** - Bible Study led by **Fr. Dn. Gregory**. The title for the Bible Study is "*Seeking the Treasure of Christ Throughout Scripture*." The study will use the new Orthodox Study Bible of the Old and New Testament as a base. The first topic of discussion will be the meaning of the story of Adam and Eve and the discussions will proceed with a journey through the Hebrew Bible.

## 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. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RETURNED YOUR ICONS, PLEASE DO SO ASAP, AS THEY NEED TO BE INVENTORIED FOR THE UPCOMING ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY ON JANUARY 31. ALSO, IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID YOUR 2009 ICON PLEDGE, PLEASE DO SO ASAP. THANK YOU!*

◇ **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** - Monday, January 11, 7 PM. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

## The Joy of Giving

◇ **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATIONS** - *Sincerest thanks for your generosity in beautifying our Church for the Nativity Season!*

◇ **CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS** - *For 2009: 71 casseroles and miscellaneous bags of groceries and toiletries were delivered to the Hospice. Thanks to all!* If anyone receives mailings from BJ's, please cut out the \$3 coupon for Stouffers Lasagne with meat sauce casserole and give to Harry or Joe. 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 (**Mavrodaphne of Patras** - available at most PA State Stores); Virgin Olive Oil

## 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!*

## Sunday School News

◇ **SINCEREST THANKS** - *to all Parishioners who purchased Christmas Cards!*

◇ **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!

## Future Events at SS Peter and Paul

◇ **HOAGIE SALE - January 10, after Divine Liturgy** - *Will include a variety of homemade hoagies, authentic Polish Kielbasa & sauerkraut sandwiches, and hot dogs for the children.* All proceeds go to the Pastoral Fund.



◇ **ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY - January 31, 2010 (Inclement weather date: To Be Announced)** - 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.*

◇ **CHURCH BOWLING FUNDRAISER - Postponed until further notice**

◇ **2010 LITURGICAL SCHEDULE** - The tentative 2010 Liturgical Schedule can be found on the outside back cover of this Bulletin. The Schedule will be included again in the February Bulletin with any final updates and/or revisions.

## 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](http://www.forumishqiptar.com/forumdisplay.php?f=186)

## 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.

◇ **"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.

◇ **SS PETER & PAUL'S NEW WEBSITE** - **www.sspeterpaulalbanianorthodox.org**. We are working on combining both websites. If you have anything you would like to see up on the new website, please e-mail David Biando at **davidbiando@verizon.net** or call him at **215-725-3797** and he will post it ASAP. Suggestions are always welcomed.

◇ **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**. *The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, January 24.* Thank you! *Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday 1/31/10.* 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.*

◇ **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, Aspasia Hondros Scheuring, Kakhaber Okropiridze, Alexandra Pana, Liliya Skuratovskiy, Paulette Steffa, Vicki Steffa

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

◇ **SINCEREST THANKS AND APPRECIATION** for all their hard work during the Nativity Season to beautify our Church: *Belinda Mentzer, Stephen Murianka, Joe Bacon, Sandy & Lester Speero, Christina Murianka, Martha Murianka, Rose Shaloka, Lydia Shaloka, Edna & Jim Bachelor*

◇ **SINCEREST THANKS AND APPRECIATION** to *Christina Murianka and all the Choir Members* for the beautiful singing during the Nativity Season and throughout the year

◇ **A MONTHLY CHURCH CALENDAR** will now be included with every Bulletin for your information. There will also be a link online at the top of each webpage.

◇ **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** - In an effort to never run out of goods, we are kicking this campaign off with **Paper Towels for the month of January**. Please bring a roll of paper towels (or more) on any Sunday this month. Each month a different item will be requested, based on the priorities of the Ladies' Society. *Your continued help in this new project will be truly appreciated!*

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

## Memory Eternal

✦Peter Linski fell asleep in the Lord on January 1, 2010. A true believer and a true gentleman, husband of Martha Linski, Peter was a welcomed friend of our Parish Family. He was a regular attendant at our Lenten and other services and also at many SS Peter & Paul functions. Always humble, always warm and caring, with a good word for everyone, Peter will always be loved and greatly missed by Parishioners and friends.

May his memory be eternal!

## Liturgical Schedule January 2010 - January 2011

- JAN 1 - (Friday) CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST. BASIL THE GREAT  
Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JAN 6 - (Wednesday) THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING  
OF WATER Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JAN 10 - (Sunday) LESSER BLESSING OF WATER Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- FEB 2 - (Tuesday) MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE **No Services**
- FEB 17, 24 / MAR 3, 10, 17 - (Wednesdays) PRE-SANCTIFIEDS, 7 PM
- MAR 25 - (Thursday) ANNUNCIATION Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- MAR 27 - LAZARUS SATURDAY Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- MAR 28 - (Sunday) ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM,  
Divine Liturgy & BLESSING OF PALMS 10 AM
- MAR 31 - HOLY WEDNESDAY (Holy Unction) 7 PM
- APR 1 - HOLY THURSDAY (Twelve Passion Gospels) 7 PM
- APR 2 - HOLY FRIDAY (Vespers, Taking Down From Cross) 3 PM  
Lamentations at Tomb 7 PM
- APR 3 - HOLY SATURDAY (Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil) 9 AM  
ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY 11 PM
- APR 4 - PASCHA SUNDAY (Agape Vespers; Gospel in many languages) NOON
- MAY 13 - HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- MAY 23 - HOLY PENTECOST SUNDAY Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- JUN 26 - 27 - (Saturday/Sunday) CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY  
with His Grace Bishop Nikon; Divine Liturgy 9 AM *Parish Meal after  
Divine Liturgy*
- JUN 29 - (Tuesday) SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- AUG 6 - (Friday) HOLY TRANSFIGURATION Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- AUG 15 - (Sunday) DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- SEP 14 - (Tuesday) EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- NOV ? - (Saturday/Sunday - *To Be Announced*) ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM FEAST  
DAY & His Grace Bishop Nikon's visit to our Sister Parish  
**(\*\*No Services at SS Peter & Paul\*\*)**
- DEC 25 - (Friday) NATIVITY, Divine Liturgy 10 AM

JANUARY 2011

JAN 1 - (Saturday) **CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST. BASIL THE GREAT**  
Divine Liturgy **9 AM**

JAN 6 - (Thursday) **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING**  
**OF WATER** Divine Liturgy **9 AM**

**Jan 1 - (Saturday) Circumcision of Our Lord; St. Basil the Great**  
Divine Liturgy **9 AM**

JAN 6 - (Thursday) **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING**  
**OF WATER** Divine Liturgy **9 AM**