



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 ~ March 2004

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

**When one blames others, there is contention;
When one finds one's own faults, there is peace.**

The Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian which is read repeatedly during Great Lent expresses this truth: "Grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother."

Abba Dorotheus relates an incident from his monastery to show what perpetual agitation arises when we set about blaming others. It is not difficult to see ourselves in the two brothers.

"There came to me once two brothers who were always arguing and the elder was saying about the younger, "I arrange for him to do something and he gets distressed and so I get distressed, thinking that if he had faith and love towards me he would accept what I tell him with complete confidence."

And the younger was saying, "Excuse me, reverend father, but he does not speak to me with the fear of God, but rather as someone who wants to give orders. I reckon that this is why my heart has not full confidence."

Impress on your minds that each blames the other and neither blames himself, but both of them are getting upset with one another, and although they are begging each other's pardon, they both remain unconvinced.

One says, "He does not show me deference and therefore I am not convinced."

And the other says, "Since he will not have complete confidence in my love until I show him deference, I, for my part, do not have complete confidence in him."

My God, do you see how ridiculous it is? Do you see their perverse way of thinking? God knows how sorry I am about this... Each of them had to throw the blame on the other, but what they really ought to do is just the opposite.

The first ought to say: I speak with presumption and therefore God does not give my brother confidence in me.

And the other ought to be thinking: My brother gives me commands with humility and love but I am unruly and have not the fear of God.

Neither of them found that way and blamed himself, but each of them vexed the other.

Don't you see that this is why we make no progress, why we find we have not been helped towards it? We remain all the time against one another, grinding one another down. But each considers himself right and excuses himself, as I was saying, all the while keeping none of the commandments yet expecting his neighbor to keep the whole lot!"

— From **Christ the Eternal** by Hieromonk Damascene

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - March/April 2004

PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY - Wednesdays, 7 PM - 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31
(3/31 is the last one)

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY - FEBRUARY 29 - Vespers at 5 PM at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 7th & Brown Streets, Philadelphia, PA; Homilist: Fr Stephen Hutnick, SS Peter and Paul Church, Wilmington

ANNUNCIATION - THURSDAY, MARCH 25 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

LAZARUS SATURDAY - APRIL 3 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM - SUNDAY, APRIL 4 - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Palms, 10 AM

HOLY WEDNESDAY - HOLY UNCTION - APRIL 7 - 7 PM

HOLY THURSDAY - 12 PASSION GOSPELS - APRIL 8 - 7 PM

HOLY FRIDAY VESPERS - TAKING DOWN FROM CROSS - APRIL 9 - 3 PM;
LAMENTATIONS AT TOMB - 7 PM

HOLY SATURDAY - VESPERAL LITURGY OF ST. BASIL - APRIL 10 - 9 AM;
ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY - 11 PM

PASCHA SUNDAY AGAPE VESPERS - GOSPEL IN MANY LANGUAGES - APRIL 11 - Noon; Easter Egg Hunt for children following Vespers

Church News & Reminders

ICON PLEDGES - Pledges can still be made by contacting George Kendro or Stephen Murianka with the Saint's name and amount. You may begin paying off the Pledges at any time by seeing George Kendro.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2004 - Dues are \$100 per person and can be paid at any time to George Kendro, treasurer.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS - Are usually held the 1st Monday of each month, 7 PM. This month it will be on March 1. 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

A SINCERE THANK YOU to **Andi & Paulette Steffa** who generously donated \$200 to the Pastoral Fund from a Fundraiser Jewelry Sale at their home on November 29, 2003.

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! Please go to page 5 for a current update.*

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.

Sunday School News

PYSANKY - Children will begin the art of making pysanky on Sunday, February 29.

Ladies' Society News

MEETING - Sunday, **March 7**, after Divine Liturgy

Events

ORDINATION OF SEMINARIAN DAVID FOX - His Grace Bishop Nikon will be coming to SS Peter & Paul on Sunday, March 14th, for the Ordination of Seminarian David Fox. Please make an effort to arrive at the Church earlier, as it is a longer service and Fr. Stephen will probably be starting the Divine Liturgy earlier. A Lenten Luncheon sponsored by the Ladies Society will be served upstairs after the Divine Liturgy.

LENTEN MISSION VESPERS

Sunday, 3/7 - St. Nicholas (Russian Church), Bethlehem; 5 PM; Homilist: Fr. Kosta Petrogeorge, St Nicholas (Greek) Church, Allentown

Sunday, 3/14 - St. Mary's Church, Chester; 5 PM; Homilist: Fr. Peter Delvizi, St George Church, Media

Sunday, 3/21 - St. Michael's Church, Philadelphia; 5 PM; Homilist: Fr. Athanassy (Mastalsky), Church of Our Lady, Joy of All Who Sorrow, Philadelphia

Sunday, 3/28 - St. Herman of Alaska Church, Gradyville; 5 PM; Homilist: To Be Announced

BUS TRIP TO ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY - *After Pascha 2004* - The bus will be leaving St. John Chrysostom's at 9 AM. Lunch, tour of Museum and Monastery, spiritual talk by Monk Nickodemos, Vespers, etc. Reservations are \$20. Please contact Nick Naum at 856-429-2099 for information and/or reservations.

Miscellaneous

SUNDAY & HOLY DAYS DONATION ENVELOPES - Can be picked up in the office at any time. Please see George Kendro if you do not remember your number. Thank you!

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION - Please call the Church at **215-676-3311** to find out if Divine Liturgy is scheduled for a particular Sunday. Steve 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 (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: **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: **alicia17@mac.com**. The deadline for the next Bulletin is **Sunday, March 28**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 4/4/04**. Bulletins will be mailed to any Parishioners unable to attend.

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.

PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR BULLETIN ENVELOPES in either of the two wire baskets. Thank you!

Parishioner's Corner

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **March** Birthdays: **Mary Dimitri, Kristin Johns, Debbie Krimetz, Martha Murianka, Stephen Murianka, Mary Palmerick, Priftesha Margot Siniari, Diana Vesho, Kathryn Vreto.**

May God grant them all many, many years!

PRE-SANCTIFIED WEDNESDAY EVENINGS LENTEN SUPPER - Please try and bring a Lenten Covered Dish on any Wednesday Pre-Sanctified. Also, please set out your own dish(es) on the table (warmed up, if need be) and please make certain to pick up and clean your own dish(es) after the Lenten supper. Thank you!

KUDOS TO KATHERINE HALKEDIS - for providing a most interesting series of lectures on video for our Wednesday Pre-Sanctified suppers. Thank you for your effort!

St Luke's 2004 Adult Lenten Retreat

- Featuring:** Frederica Mathewes-Green
Date: Saturday, March 6, 2004
Where: St Luke's Greek Orthodox Church, 35 N. Malin Rd., Broomall, PA 19008
Cost: \$10 per person
Schedule:
- 9-10:00 AM** - Service in Church
 - 10-10:30 AM** - Registration - Coffee and Donuts
 - 10:30-11:30 AM** - 1st Presentation "*The Illumined Heart*"
 - 11:30-12 Noon** - Questions to Frederica
 - 12-1:00 PM** - Lunch
 - 1-2:00 PM** - 2nd Presentation "*Repentance*"
 - 2:00 PM** - Questions to Frederica & Closing Prayer

Registration: Contact the Church office at **610-353-1592** or email the Office Manager, Jo Ann at **joannoffice@juno.com**

Few people are welcome in as many different settings as Frederica Mathewes-Green. You might find her giving a speech at Harvard, then appearing at a pregnancy center banquet. She may speak about prayer at the Smithsonian Institution, keynote a national conference, and then lead a women's retreat. Colleges have made Frederica a regular at "Art and Writing" conferences.

She's at home in many media. You've probably heard her commentaries on National Public Radio, talking about the pro-life issue, talking about her faith. She's been interviewed on TV from "PrimeTime Live" to PBS, CNN, Fox, and most major news shows; by the New York Times, the Washington Post, and most major newspapers; and by Diane Rehm, Janet Parshall, and many national radio shows.

Her work as a writer is just as diverse. Frederica reviews several films each month, and also replies to readers' questions in a "theological advice column" for the Christian Reader. A regular contributor to Christianity Today, First Things and other magazines, she has been repeatedly selected for the annual "Best Christian Writing." The multi-faith web magazine Beliefnet.com regularly invites her to present the classic Christian perspective, and her opinion pieces are featured at National Review Online.

Frederica was Episcopalian before she and her husband converted to Orthodoxy in the early 90s. Her husband became an Orthodox priest (Fr. Gregory Mathewes-Green) and is serving as Pastor of pastor of Holy Cross Antiochian Orthodox Church in Linthicum, MD.

Liturgical Schedule ~ March - December 2004

MAR 3, 10, 17, 24 - Wednesday **Pre-Sanctifieds** 7 PM

MAR 25 - (*Thursday*) Annunciation, Divine Liturgy 9 AM

- MAR 31 - Wednesday **Pre-Sanctified** 7 PM (*last one*)
- APR 3 - **Lazarus Saturday**, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- APR 4 - (*Sunday*) **Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem**, Divine Liturgy & **Blessing of Palms** 10 AM
- APR 7 - **Holy Wednesday** (Holy Unction) 7 PM
- APR 8 - **Holy Thursday** (Twelve Passion Gospels) 7 PM
- APR 9 - **Holy Friday (Vespers, Taking Down From Cross)** 3 PM; **Lamentations at Tomb** 7 PM
- APR 10 - **Holy Saturday (Vespereal Liturgy of St Basil)** 9 AM; **Orthros/Pashkal Canon/Liturgy** 11 PM
- APR 11 - **Pascha Sunday (Agape Vespers;** Gospel in many languages) Noon; Easter Egg Hunt for Children after Vespers
- MAY 20 - **Holy Ascension Thursday**, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JUN 29 - (*Tuesday*) **SS Peter & Paul**, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JULY 11 - (*Sunday*) Parish Meal & **Celebration of SS Peter & Paul Feast Day** with His Grace Bishop Nikon
- AUG 6 - (*Friday*) **Holy Transfiguration**, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- SEP 14 - (*Tuesday*) **Holy Cross**, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- NOV - (*Date To Be Announced*) **St John Chrysostom's Feast Day** & His Grace Bishop Nikon's visit to our Sister Parish
- DEC 25 - (*Saturday*) **Nativity**, Divine Liturgy 10 AM

SS Peter & Paul Parish Directory

A reminder that the deadline to be included in the Directory is Sunday, **March 7**. Please use this as a tear-off and place in my wicker basket in the office. Or, you can call **(215-742-0492)** or e-mail (**aliciaj17@mac.com**) or use one of the information forms that is in the basket.

Name(s) _____

I **DO NOT** wish to be included in the Parish Directory.

I **DO** wish to be included in the Parish Directory.

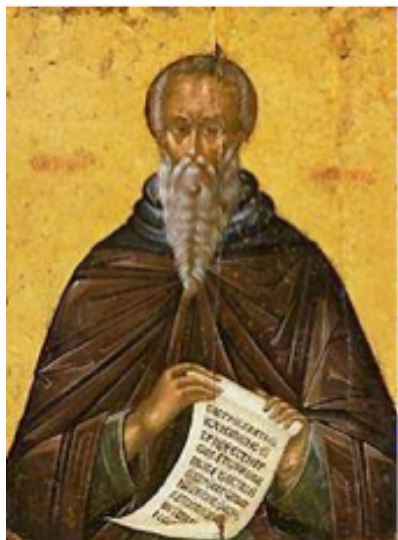
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Holy Days and Name Days in March

- March 7 - St Gregory Palamas
- March 11 - St Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem
- March 14 - Veneration of the Precious Cross; St Benedict of Nursia
- March 17 - Ven Aleksy, Man of God
- March 18 - Repose St Nikolai of Zhicha
- March 19 - Martyrs Chrysanthus & Daria & Those with Them at Rome
- March 20 - Martyr Photina
- March 21 - St John Climacus (of The Ladder); St James the Confessor
- March 22 - Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra
- March 23 - Martyr Nikon & 199 Disciples with Him
- March 25 - Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos
- March 26 - Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel
- March 31 - Repose of St Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow & Apostle to the Americas

John Climacus the Righteous, author of The Divine Ladder of Ascent



This Saint gave himself over to the ascetical life from his early youth. Experienced both in the solitary life of the hermit and in the communal life of cenobitic monasticism, he was appointed Abbot of the Monastery at Mount Sinai and wrote a book containing thirty homilies on virtue. Each homily deals with one virtue, and progressing from those that deal with holy and righteous activity (praxis) unto those that deal with divine vision (theoria), they raise a man up as though by means of steps unto the height of Heaven. For this cause his work is called "The Ladder of Divine Ascent." The day he was made Abbot of Sinai, the Prophet Moses was seen giving commands to those who served at table. Saint John reposed in 603, at eighty years of age.

~ From the Greek Orthodox Church of America Webpage ~

Icon courtesy of St Isaac Skete; Reading courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA