



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 ~ May 2010

Holy Days and Name Days in May

May 1	- Prophet Jeremiah; St Tamara of Georgia
May 2	- Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
May 3	- Ven Theodosius of the Kiev caves
May 5	- Greatmartyr Irene of Thessalonica
May 6	- Righteous Job the Longsuffering
May 7	- Repose of St Alexis Toth, Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy
May 8	- Holy Apostle John the Theologian
May 9	- Sunday of the Blind Man; Prophet Isaiah; Ven Shio of Georgia
May 10	- Apostle Simeon the Zealot
May 11	- SS Cyril & Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs
May 13	- Ascension of Our Lord
May 14	- St Isidore of Chios; St Isidore, Fool-for-Christ of Rostov
May 15	- St Pachomius the Great
May 20	- Relics of St Aleksy, Metropolitan of Moscow
May 21	- Equals-to-the-Apostles St Constantine & his Mother, Helen
May 23	- Holy Pentecost
May 24	- Day of the Holy Spirit
May 25	- 3rd Finding of the Head of St John the Baptist
May 28	- St Germaine of Paris
May 29	- Blessed John of Ustiug

Sunday of the Blind Man (Commemorated May 9)

After the Midfeast (*John 7:14*), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (*John 8:2*). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man "who was blind from his birth" (*John 9:1*).



The miracle described in today's Gospel (*John 9:1-38*) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. St Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, "Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes...."

The Gospel says, "Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind" (*John 9:32*). There are examples in the Old (*Tobit 2:17*) and New (*Mark 8:22-26*) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man's empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

In his MENAION, St Demetrius of Rostov calls the blind man St Celidonius.

~ Reading & Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - May/June

- + HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY - MAY 13 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
- + HOLY PENTECOST SUNDAY - MAY 23 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM
- + CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 27 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM (with His Grace Bishop Nikon)
- + SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY - TUESDAY, JUNE 29 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

Schedule of Other Services

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM - 8:30 PM in the Church Hall - Led by *Fr. Dn. Gregory*

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.

◇ **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** - Sunday, April 25, after Divine Liturgy & Monday, May 3, 7 PM. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

The Joy of Giving

◇ **EASTER FLOWERS DONATION** - *Our sincerest thanks for the generous donations for Easter flowers.*

◇ **CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS** - *In April:* 12 casseroles, 12 washcloths and 1 bag of toiletries were delivered to the Hospice. *Thanks to all!* 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: **Manischewitz Concord Grape** - **please do not donate any other brand of concord grape**; Virgin Olive Oil

Sunday School News

◇ **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!

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!*

Future Events at SS Peter and Paul

◇ **90TH YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF SS PETER & PAUL - SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2010** - Our Bishop, the Right Reverend Nikon, will be visiting our Parish that weekend to join us in this most joyous event. A luncheon will follow Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 27. Anyone wishing to help, please contact Joanne Johns.

***** Everyone should have received his/her invitation to the 90th Year Celebration by now. If you have not,** please contact Joanne Johns at **joannejohns@aol.com** or by phone at **856-229-7563** or at Church. *Thank you!*

***** A "Memorabilia Table" will be set up at the 90th Year Celebration at the Sheraton. Please bring any memorable items, pictures, etc. of joyous occasions or events that took place at SS Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church**

***** Reminder:** The Reservation and Menu Selection Form, as well as payment for the Celebration Luncheon, **must be received by the Church by May 24, 2010.**

General Interest

◇ **WORK/STUDY OPPORTUNITY FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS (MUST BE U.S. CITIZENS) - Deadline: May 3, 2010.** The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia will staff positions for the Student Career Experience Program. Student must be pursuing an academic field of study such as accounting, contracting, law, business administration, economics, purchasing, industrial management marketing, qualitative methods, organization and management, professional biomedical engineering. The work experience is directly related to the student's academic field of study and provides periods of employment when the student is not attending classes. For more info, visit: **www.opm.gov/employ/students** (*Thank you to Fr. Dn. Andrew Rubis for this information*)

◇ **TEAM ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM & THE SUSAN G. KOLMEN RACE FOR THE CURE - SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2010** - If you would like to join St John's Team for this marvelous, fulfilling, life-saving journey, please contact Alicia at aliciaj17@mac.com for a forward of Donna Dimitri's email with all the information you need.

◇ **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**

Miscellaneous

◇ **"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.

◇ **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. *Due to the Memorial Day Holiday, the deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **May 16**.* Thank you! *Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **5/23/10**.* 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 **May** Birthdays: Letitia Desloges, Olga Gorskaya, Haralambos Halkedis, Nina Iakimentko, Aleksandra Liberman. *May God grant them all many, many years!*

◇ **A HEARTFELT THANK YOU** to all of our Parishioners who helped in any way with their time, efforts and/or donations during Great Lent and Pascha

~ *A very special thank you to* Fr Stephen Siniari, Fr Gregory Dudash, Dn Gregory Vrato, Dn Andrew Rubis and all the Readers for their participation in the Lenten and Pascha Services

~ *A very special thank you and commendation to* Christina Murianka and the entire SS Peter & Paul Choir for the beautiful singing at every service

~ *A very special thank you to* Belinda Mentzer *and her helpers*, Lester Speero, Joe Bacon and Harry Halkedis for arranging all the flowers

~ *A very special thank you to Parishioners and friends* who helped set up our beautiful Epitaphios: Edna & Jim Bachelor, Belinda Mentzer, Janet Caparros (Bachelor), Dianne Miller (Bachelor) and her family: Zayne, Kristen & Ian, Kathryn Jankowski, Alexandra Murianka, Lester Speero, Jeanette Napier, Caroline Antony

~ *A very special thank you to* Belinda Mentzer, Christina Murianka, Denise Gormley, Donna Bacon & Alicia Jaroni for decorating and setting up the Church Hall for Saturday night

~ *A very special thank you to* Christina Reeves for donating more than ten dozen eggs to be dyed for Pascha

~ *A very special thank you to* All the Ladies who dyed the eggs and added to the number

~ *A very special thank you to* Martha Murianka & Rose Shaloka for all their help with the linens

~ *A very special thank you to* all Parishioners who helped with the cleaning, especially on Friday evening with the taking apart of the Epitaphios

~ *A very special thank you to* Joe Bacon & Harry Halkedis for all their efforts with the Church Store and candles, especially during Holy Week and Pascha

~ *Truly special thanks and deep gratitude to* Katherine Halkedis, Stephen Murianka and James Schaeffer for all their hard work, help and service not only during the Pascha Season but all through the year

~ *And a sincere thank you to* all who attended and worshipped with us on the wonderful Day of the Resurrection of Our Lord

May God grant them all many, many years!

◇ **A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY** to all of our Mothers, Grandmothers, Great-Grandmothers, Aunts, and to all of the women in our lives who have been like Mothers to us. *May God grant them all many, many years!*

◇ **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** - We are continuing this month with the same items: **Forks & Napkins**. *Your continued help is truly appreciated!*

*** *A sincere "Thank You" to all parishioners who so kindly donated forks and napkins in April.*

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

Memory Eternal

† Brunilda Cepele fell asleep in the Lord on April 10, 2010, a shining bride of 27 years of age with origin in Fier. Remember in your prayers also her parents, Fadil and Pulie, her sisters, and all of her family in these most difficult days. Services were held at SS Peter & Paul Albanian Orthodox Church on Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

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.

Making Palm Crosses at SS Peter & Paul

