



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 ~ November 2004

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Morning Prayer of the Last Elders of Optina Monastery

O Lord, grant that I may meet all that this coming day brings to me with spiritual tranquility. Grant that I may fully surrender myself to Thy Holy Will.

At every hour of this day, direct and support me in all things. Whatsoever news may reach me in the course of the day, teach me to accept it with a calm soul and the firm conviction that all is subject to Thy Holy Will.

Direct my thoughts and feelings in all my words and actions. In all unexpected occurrences, do not let me forget that all is sent down from Thee.

Grant that I may deal straightforwardly and wisely with every member of my family, those with whom I work, and everyone I meet in the course of the day, neither embarrassing nor saddening anyone.

O Lord, grant me the strength to endure the fatigue of the coming day and all the events that take place during it.

Direct my will and teach me to pray, pray Thou, Thyself in me. Teach me to believe, to hope, to be patient, to forgive, and to love. Amen

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FATHER STEPHEN:

As of January 1, 2005, all confessions and consultations on Sunday mornings shall take place from 9 AM to 10 AM before the Divine Liturgy. Thank you.

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - November/December 2004

BEGINNING OF THE NATIVITY FAST - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

NATIVITY - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Church News & Reminders

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE 2005 - You will find the full year's schedule at the end of this Bulletin. Please keep it for future reference throughout 2005.

ICON PLEDGES - A reminder that Icon Pledges need to be paid in full by the end of December. Please see the treasurer, George Kendro. *Also, please remember to return your Icons to George or place them in the Church and tell George. Thank you!*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Normally held the 1st Monday of every month, 7 PM. 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

NEW CHALICE SET DONATIONS - The Chalice Set has now been paid in full. A sincere *Thank you* to everyone whose most generous contributions made it possible to pay off the Set.

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!*

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.

Ladies' Society News

MEETING - Sunday, **November 14**, after Divine Liturgy

Events

LADIES' SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR is scheduled for Sunday, December 5. Donations of new, unused items for the raffle are welcomed. Monetary donations are also welcomed. *Please help with your time, donations, or special talents,*

Of General Interest

SS PETER & PAUL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD - If you wish to have your name included in the Community Christmas Card, please see Jim Bachelor ASAP. The donation is \$10 and the deadline is Sunday, December 5.

A QUESTION BOX has been set up in the Church Hall upstairs. If you have a question for Fr. Stephen, please fill out a question form (they are in the box) and leave it in the box. Father will answer a few of the questions each month in the Bulletin.

SS PETER & PAUL BULLETINS - NOV '02 TO THE PRESENT are now available for viewing at any time. They are in a white binder on the top shelf of the bookcase in the office.

ALBANIAN LANGUAGE TUTOR REQUESTED - I received an e-mail from a charming lady who is married to an Albanian and wishes to learn the Albanian language. She had been attending a class taught for children, but would prefer a one-on-one tutor, perhaps during/after our coffee hour. If you are interested and can help, please e-mail Barbara at: HAVAHALIL@aol.com. Or you can simply talk to me and I will make the contact. Thank you!
Alicia

Miscellaneous

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: alicaj17@mac.com. The deadline for the next Bulletin is **Sunday, December 5**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 12/12/04**. 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 **November** Birthdays: **Yelena Alekseyeva, Marie Antony, Jim Bachelor, Cathy Cappel, Spiro Costas, Alicia Jaroni, Joanne Johns, Al Rifkin, Gregory Vrato, Jr., Nick Zeo**

May God grant them all many, many years!

SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO GREGORY VRATO, JR. on his upcoming Ordination as Deacon. Date to be announced. *May God grant him many years!*

2 YEAR MEMORIAL FOR SOPHIE HONDROS is Sunday, November 14. *May her memory be eternal!*

Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

*** Please pray for the full and speedy recovery of **Nina Horowitz**, who continues to be in tremendous pain.

*** Please pray for the full and speedy recovery of **Spiro Costas**. Spiro had fallen and was in Moss Rehab for 2 to 3 weeks, but is home now. Cards or phone calls are appreciated.

*** Please pray for the full and speedy recovery of **Joe Speero**, who had a knee replacement in September.

November is Charity Appeal Month

Help Make a Difference in the Lives of Those Less Fortunate

"If you have something above your daily needs, give it to the poor, and then go with boldness to offer your prayers, that is, to converse with God as a son with his Father. Nothing can bring the heart so near to God as almsgiving, and nothing brings such serenity to the mind as voluntary poverty. It is better for you to be called an ignoramus by the many because of the generosity of your hands and your measureless liberality because of your fear of God, than to be called wise and sound of mind by reason of your stinginess." -- St. Isaac the Syrian

Your support of the OCA's Charity Appeal continues to impact many individuals and families, especially those with *no where else to turn!*

DID YOU KNOW?

* For many years, those whom we have helped as a result of the Orthodox Church in America's Charity Appeal have written or called to express their gratitude for the assistance ***your gifts have made possible.***

* Individuals in need of financial assistance to offset medical expenses, loss of medical benefits, ongoing unemployment, and numerous other crises great and small have been touched, not only by the tangible assistance your donations provide, but by the simple fact that someone remembered them - and ***cared enough to reach out with the love of Christ in their time of need.***

* With an increase in the number of requests that are received by the Orthodox Church in America every week, reaching the goals mandated by the All-American Councils ***makes your participation through a free-will offering crucial.***

* Your commitment to the work and efforts of the Orthodox Church in America is visible through ***your participation in the OCA's annual Charity appeal.***

* Take a moment and reflect upon what God has given you, and to discern how ***you might be able to return to God a portion of the blessings you have received.***

With your **generous contribution to the 2004 Charity Appeal**, we can - and will! - make a difference in the lives of those who need our prayers, our love, and our financial support. Thanks to your generous response to the 2003 Appeal, \$189,972.52 was raised to help the OCA's ongoing commitment to help those in need.

Mail to: 2004 Charity Appeal, Orthodox Church in America, P.O. Box 675, Syosset, NY 1179-0675 **Online:** <https://secure.oca.org/fos/fos.html>

Student Fund Update

Bryan Bodien of Milwaukee and Boston continues studies toward his Master of Divinity at Holy Cross Theological School in Brookline. He also completed studies at St Herman's Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska and Hellenic College with honors.

Gregory Vreto, Jr of Philadelphia, a young attorney, has successfully completed the St Stephen's Course of study. His ordination to the diaconate has been approved by the OCA's Commission on Vocations in Syosset and is expected to take place in the coming year.

Professor Dennis Nagi of Albany is completing his final semester in the Late Vocation Program with superlative grades and is expected to be ordained to the diaconate in June.

Anthony Gjonej of Detroit (and Shkoder) is now enrolled at the Seminary in Durres, Albania. He continues to keep in communication with Bishop on his progress.

Fr David Fox, who completed studies last June at St Vladimir's Seminary in Crestwood, NY. He was ordained last July and assigned to St. Nicholas Church in NY.

Andrew Rubis of Philadelphia serves in the sanctuary and parish education programs, as well as a valuable catechetical resource with newcomer immigrants.

In addition, His Grace is considering the applications of three other young men who have expressed interest in pursuing seminary studies.

They represent a cross-section of our communities at large and are promising individuals in preparation for continued and future service to our diocese and the Church. Gratitude to all who have helped our diocesan Theological Student Fund in the support of these fine men as they pursue theological studies toward eventual ordination.



Theological Student Fund
Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese
523 East Broadway
South Boston, MA 02127-4415

Bishop Nikon and one of our diocesan Seminarians **John Brunnett** of Worcester, now enrolled at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA.

Holy Days and Name Days in November

November 1	- SS Cosmas & Damian; St Theodota; Martyrs John & James
November 8	- Synaxis of Archangels Michael, Gabriel & All Heavenly Hosts
November 11	- Great Martyr Mennas
November 13	- St John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople
November 14	- Holy Apostle Philip (of 12); Emperor Junstinian & his Wife Theodora
November 15	- Beginning of Nativity Fast
November 16	- Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew
November 17	- St Gregory the Wonderworker; St Lazarus, Iconographer
November 21	- Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple
November 24	- Great Martyr Catherine; Great Martyr Mercurius; Martyr Philothea
November 25	- Leavetaking of the Entry of the Theotokos; St Clement of Ochrid
November 30	- Holy Apostle Andrew, the First-Called

The Synaxis of Archangels Michael, Gabriel & All Heavenly Hosts

The Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel was established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, which condemned and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods and rulers of the world, but affirmed their proper veneration.

A Feastday was established in November, the ninth month after March (with which the year began in ancient times) since there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The eighth day of the month was



chosen for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven since the Day of the Dread Last Judgement is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers. After the end of this age (characterized by its seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then "the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him" (Mt 25:31).

The Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies: highest, middle, and lowest.

The Highest Hierarchy includes: the Seraphim (who stand closest of all to the Most Holy Trinity), the Cherubim (who stand before the Lord after the Seraphim) and the Thrones (who stand after the Cherubim).

The Middle Angelic Hierarchy consists of three Ranks: Dominions (who hold dominion over the angels subject to them), Powers (who fulfill the will of God without hesitation), and Authorities (who have authority over the devil).

The Lowest Hierarchy includes the three Ranks: Principalities (who have command over the lower angels, instructing them in the fulfilling of God's commands), Archangels (who are messengers of great and wondrous tidings), and Angels (who are in the lowest rank of the heavenly hierarchy, and closest to people).

All the Ranks of the Heavenly Powers are called angels, although each has its own name and position by virtue of their service. The Lord reveals His will to the highest ranks of the angels, and they in turn inform the others. Over all the Nine Ranks, the Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means "who is like unto God"), the faithful servitor of God, as Chief Commander.

~ Reading & Icon Courtesy of the OCA Webpage ~

Liturgical Schedule: January - December 2005

- JAN 1** - (Saturday) **CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST; ST. BASIL THE GREAT**
****No Services at SS Peter & Paul****
- JAN 6** - (Thursday) **THEOPHANY OF CHRIST**
****No Services at SS Peter & Paul****
- JAN 9** - (Sunday) **THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATER**, Divine Liturgy, **10 AM**
- FEB 2** - (Wednesday) **PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD**, Divine Liturgy, **9 AM**
- MAR 23, 30 / APR 6, 13** - - Wednesday **PRE-SANCTIFIEDS 7 PM**
- MAR 25** - (Friday) **ANNUNCIATION**, Divine Liturgy, **9 AM**
- APR 20** - (Wednesday) **PRE-SANCTIFIED 7 PM** (*last one*)
- APR 23** - **LAZARUS SATURDAY**, Divine Liturgy, **9 AM**
- APR 24** - (Sunday) **ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM**, Divine Liturgy &
BLESSING OF PALMS 10 AM
- APR 27** - **HOLY WEDNESDAY** (Holy Unction) **7 PM**
- APR 28** - **HOLY THURSDAY** (Twelve Passion Gospels) **7 PM**
- APR 29** - **HOLY FRIDAY** (Vespers, Taking Down From Cross) **3 PM**
Lamentations at Tomb **7 PM**
- APR 30** - **HOLY SATURDAY** (Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil) **9 AM**
ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY 11 PM
- MAY 1** - **PASCHA SUNDAY** (Agape Vespers; Gospel in many languages) **NOON**;
Easter Egg Hunt for Children after Vespers

- JUN 9** - **HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY**, Divine Liturgy, **9 AM**
- JUN 29** - (Wednesday) **SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY**, Divine Liturgy, **9 AM**
- JUL 10** - (Sunday) **CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY**
with His Grace Bishop Nikon; Divine Liturgy, **9 AM**; Parish Meal after the
Divine Liturgy
- AUG 6** - (Saturday) **HOLY TRANSFIGURATION**, Divine Liturgy **9 AM**
- SEP 14** - (Wednesday) **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
****No Services at SS Peter & Paul****
- DEC 25** - (Sunday) **NATIVITY**, Divine Liturgy, **10 AM**