

# Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

Albanian Archdiocese - OCA

9230 Old Bustleton Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19115

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Rev. Nicholas Dellermann – Rector (860-861-7468)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**  
**32nd Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Leavetaking of the Theophany**

**Tone 7**  
**Troparion**  
**(Resurrection)**

*By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.  
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping  
into joy,  
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ  
God,  
to proclaim that Thou art risen,  
granting the world great mercy.*

**Tone 1**  
**Troparion**  
**(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,  
and called 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 hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.*

**Tone 7**  
**Kontakion**  
**(Resurrection)**

*The dominion of death can no longer hold men  
captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying  
its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:  
“The Savior has come to those in faith;  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”*

**Tone 3**  
**Kontakion**  
**(Feast)**

*Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord,  
and the light of Thy countenance has been  
marked on us.  
Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises:  
“Thou hast come and revealed Thyself,  
O unapproachable Light.”*

**Prokeimenon**

**Tone 7 (Resurrection)**

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps. 28:11)  
V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (Ps. 28:1a)

**Tone 4 (Feast)**

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.  
(Ps. 117:26b, 27b)

## The Epistle Reading

### **Ephesians 4:7-13**

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### **Efesianeve 4:7-13**

Edhe gjithësecilit prej nesh iu dha hiri sipas masës së dhuratës së Krishtit. Prandaj thotë: "Si u ngjit lart, skllavëroi skllavëri, edhe u dha dhurata njerëzve". Edhe se "ai u ngjit", ç'është tjetër, veçse edhe zbriti më parë në pjesët më të poshtme të dheut? Ai që zbriti, është ai që edhe u ngjit sipër gjithë qiejve, që t'i plotësojë të gjitha. Edhe ai dha që disa të jenë apostuj, e disa profetë, e disa ungjilltarë, edhe disa barinj e mësues, për përgatitjen e shenjtëve, për veprën e shërbesës, për ndërtimin e trupit të Krishtit, deri sa të arrijmë të gjithë në bashkimin e besimit, edhe të njohjes së Birit të Perëndisë, në

### **К Ефесянам 4:7-13**

Каждому же из нас дана благодать по мере дара Христова. Посему и сказано: восшел на высоту, пленил плен и дал дары человекам. А 'восшел' что означает, как не то, что Он и нисходил прежде в преисподние места земли? Нисшедший, Он же есть и восшедший превыше всех небес, дабы наполнить все. И Он поставил одних Апостолами, других пророками, иных Евангелистами, иных пастырями и учителями, к совершению святых, на дело служения, для созидания Тела Христова, доколе все придем в единство веры и познания Сына Божия, в мужа совершенного, в меру полного возраста Христова;

### **Tone 7**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High. *(Ps. 91:1)*

V. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. *(Ps. 91:2a)*

### **Tone 4**

V. Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord young rams. *(Ps. 28:1a)*

## **Saint Nino (Nina), Equal of the Apostles, Enlightener of Georgia**

The virgin Nino of Cappadocia was a relative of Great-martyr George and the only daughter of a widely respected and honorable couple. Her father was a Roman army chief by the name of Zabulon, and her mother, Sosana, was the sister of Patriarch Juvenal of Jerusalem. When Nino reached the age of twelve, her parents sold all their possessions and moved to Jerusalem. Soon after, Nino's father was tonsured a monk. He bid farewell to his family and went to labor in the wilderness of the Jordan.

After Sosana had been separated from her husband, Patriarch Juvenal ordained her a deaconess. She left her daughter Nino in the care of an old woman, Sara Niaphor, who raised her in the Christian Faith and related to her the stories of Christ's life and His suffering on earth. It was from Sara that Nino learned how Christ's Robe had arrived in Georgia, a country of pagans.

Soon Nino began to pray fervently to the Theotokos, asking for her blessing to travel to Georgia and be made worthy to venerate the Sacred Robe that she had woven for her beloved Son. The Most Holy Virgin heard her prayers and appeared

## The Gospel Reading

### **Matthew 4:12-17**

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### **Mattheut 4:12-17**

Edhe Jisui kur dëgjoi se Joani u dorëzua, iku në Galile. Edhe si la Nazaretin, erdhi e ndenji në Kapernaum që është pranë detit, në kufijtë e Zabulonit edhe të Neftalimit, që të përmbushet ç'është thënë nga profeti Isaia, që thotë: "Dheu Zabulon edhe dheu Neftalim, në udhën e detit përtej Jordanit, Galilea e kombeve, populli që rrinte në errësirë pa dritë të madhe, edhe atyre që rrinin në vend e në hije vdekjeje u lindi dritë". Që atëherë Jisui filloi të predikojë e të thotë: Pendohuni, sepse u afrua mbretëria e qiejve.

### **От Матфея 4:12-17**

Услышав же Иисус, что Иоанн отдан [под стражу], удалился в Галилею и, оставив Назарет, пришел и поселился в Капернауме приморском, в пределах Завулоновых и Неффалимовых, да сбудется реченное через пророка Исаию, который говорит: земля Завулонова и земля Неффалимова, на пути приморском, за Иорданом, Галилея языческая, народ, сидящий во тьме, увидел свет великий, и сидящим в стране и тени смертной воссиял свет. С того времени Иисус начал проповедывать и говорить: покайтесь, ибо приблизилось Царство Небесное.

*(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)*

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,  
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts.

No tongue knows how to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos;  
even angels are overcome with awe praising thee.

But since thou art good, accept our faith;  
for thou knowest our love inspired by God!  
Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee.

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men. *(Titus 2:11)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Continued from page 3*

to Nino in a dream, saying, "Go to the country that was assigned to me by lot and preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will send down His grace upon you and I will be your protector."

But the blessed Nino was overwhelmed at the thought of such a great responsibility and answered, "How can I, a fragile woman, perform such a momentous task, and how can I believe that this vision is real?" In response, the Most Holy Theotokos presented her with a cross of grapevines and proclaimed, "Receive this cross as a shield against visible and invisible enemies!"

*Continued on page*

PRAYERS	Birthdays, Names-days, & Anniversaries	SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK
<i>For Those Who Have Fallen Asleep</i>		
<p>Newly Departed William Newly Departed Gregory Newly Departed Alexander Newly Departed Stephen, Newly Departed Theodore, Paul</p> <p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the departed]</i> Again we pray for those who have lost their lives because of conflicts in Ukraine, Armenia, and the Middle East: that the Lord our God may look upon them with mercy, and give them rest where there is neither sickness, or sorrow, but life everlasting.</p>	<p>January 14 – 20 Boris Mogilevich (B) Sophia Shaloka (B) Jennifer Dani (B)</p> <p><b><u>Seven-Day Vigil Candles</u></b> Llukan Dylgjeri – health</p> <p>Seven-Day Vigil Candles are used for the Eternal Light that hangs above the Royal Doors and are often placed in front of the icons of Christ or the Birth-giver of God. If you would like to donate a Seven-Day Vigil Candle, Please include the name or names of those for whom the candle is donated, and we will place them in this section for special prayers.</p>	<p><b><u>Church Lectionary</u></b> <i>Today</i> Ephesians 4:7-13 Matthew 4:12-17</p> <p><i>Monday</i> Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2 Luk.e 12:32-40</p> <p><i>Tuesday</i> Acts 12:1-11 John 21:14-25</p> <p><i>Wednesday</i> Hebrews 13:17-21 Luke 6:17-23</p> <p><i>Thursday</i> Hebrews 13:7-16 Matthew 5:14-19</p> <p><i>Friday</i> Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2 Matthew 19:16-26</p>
<i>For Those Who Are Sick And Home-bound</i>		
<p>Virginia, Denise, Olvian, Marie, James, Alexandra, Andrew, Christina, Louise, Porter, Alvin, Tracy, Kathy, Andrew, Maria, Helen, John, Nina, Sophia, Spresha, Kristin, Niko, Spiro, Angjeliki, Melod, Olgay, Ruth, Terry, Naomi, Annette, Tatiana, Lester Jr., Natalia, Otari, Lasha, Fr. Nikolas, Llukan, Marina, Sophia, Fr. Maxwell, Donna, Christina, Anastasia, Mary, Martin, Elena, Tatiana, Lauren, Tracy, Anita,</p>		
<i>Prayers In General</i>		
<p>The community of Ss. Peter &amp; Paul Miami, Fr. Dennis and his family, Fr. Ioan, Christian, Michael, Erica, Kaida, DuDash family, Michael, Robert, Ally, Steve, Jake and Amanda and their children, Katherine, Ron, Anthony, Volodymyr, Nick, Sophia, Michael, Rafael, Bob, Barbara, Sandra, Enoch, John, Victoria, Melenie, Grace, Michael, Barbara, Giorgi, Molly, Jim, Chloe, Marsha, Ann, Lilly, Stephen, Gela, Gabriel Joseph, Lombrino, Kondakciu,</p> <p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the living]</i> Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, for those who are suffering, wounded, grieving, or displaced because of the conflicts in Ukraine, Armenia, and the Middle East.</p> <p><i>[Petitions at Augmented Litany]</i> Again we pray for a cessation of the hostilities in Ukraine, Armenia, and the Middle East, and that reconciliation and peace will flourish in these places, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COFFEE HOUR</b></p> <p><b><u>January</u></b> 07 14 21 28</p> <p>Coffee Hour is a wonderful chance for us to get together to break bread and spend time with each other, to celebrate those whom we have held memorials for, and to come together as the family of God outside of worship. To sign up, to host a coffee hour, contact Fr. Nicholas or Donna Bacon.</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i> 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 Luke 6:17-23</p> <p><b><u>Reading the Bible in a Year</u></b> Jan 14: Exodus 1-4 Jan 15: Exodus 5-8 Jan 16: Exodus 9-12 Jan 17: Exodus 13-16 Jan 18: Exodus 17-20 Jan 19: Exodus 21-24 Jan 20: Exodus 25-28</p>

## The Goal Isn't Happiness; It's Reality

BY FR. BARNABAS POWELL

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

All this week we are drawn to contemplate the implications of God becoming flesh for our salvation. And the Church has specific ways of jarring us out of the sentimentality of a Christmas celebration too small for the Event that has changed all of humanity and even the entire creation! Have I got your attention yet?

I know some may think “Wow, the Orthodox Faith really is trying to smash our happy time.” And you’d be right. The Faith isn’t trying to make you “happy” or “nostalgic” or even “sentimental.” The Faith is meant to transform you into a “new creation.” And that isn’t going to happen to people enslaved to sentimentality and nostalgia.

Case in point: Today the Church calls us to remember that Herod was intent on killing Jesus so much that he killed 14,000 infants among the Hebrews to try and get Jesus. Yesterday it was 20,000 martyrs in Nicomedia! Holy Moly! Talk about sober messaging! But we don’t grow up in our Faith without learning to deal with reality. And the reality is increasingly true that the message of the Orthodox Christian Faith is increasingly hated by a world that wants to escape reality into the fantasy world of feelings and false narratives. When you can insist on “my truth” we aren’t far away from excusing persecution of those “mean” and “bigoted” Christians!

Look at our lesson today in Matthew 2:13-23:

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.”

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.” But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

We know this passage so well. But let’s take a moment to contemplate some treasures from this passage. The horrors of Herod’s blind rage at the thought he would lose his crown (a fake crown after all since it was given to him by the occupying Romans and not because he was the true heir to David’s throne) graphically displays the depths of a soul so darkened by self-deceit that the destruction of children becomes an acceptable path to preserve one’s status! Herod shows us what is possible in a depraved heart and invites us to avoid that horrible darkness by exercising our will to continually choose Life!

And God warns our Lord’s foster father to take the Child and His mother to Egypt, not to preserve the life

of Jesus; God could accomplish that with a wave of His hand; but to guarantee that the Egyptians would have a part in the story of God leading humanity from slavery to freedom, just as they did in the First Testament. The Lord would then tell Joseph it was “safe” to return home after Herod’s death. But not back to Bethlehem. To Nazareth so that His story would include even outsiders and to fulfill the scriptures that told us He would be called a Nazarene. Can anything good come from Nazareth? Come and see!

Today, as we continue our celebration of the Feast, let us embrace this Way of the Nazarene that reorients us back to the freedom of a will made strong by the discipline of prayer, fasting, and generosity, and the grace that God always offers everyone as we embrace being Orthodox on Purpose!

<https://faithencouraged.org/the-goal-isnt-happiness-its-reality/>



# KICK-OFF MEETING

**FOOD PANTRY & FEEDING MINISTRY**

**JANUARY 30, 2024 @ 6:30PM**

Annunciation Church  
7921 Old York Road  
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Help us address the needs of our neighbors.  
Join us as we develop a food pantry & feeding ministry.  
We'll (i) review the plan, (ii) build our team, and (iii) get  
to work!

**Dinner will be served. All are invited.**

**RSVP BY JANUARY 23: [SCHRISTOFOROU@FOCUSNA.ORG](mailto:SCHRISTOFOROU@FOCUSNA.ORG)**

## December Events

### January

14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

17 – **NO 6<sup>TH</sup> HOUR**

7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets

19 – 6:00pm Fun Night

21 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

24 – 12:00pm 6<sup>th</sup> Hour

7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets

28 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

*Education Sunday*

31 – 12:00pm 6<sup>th</sup> Hour

7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets

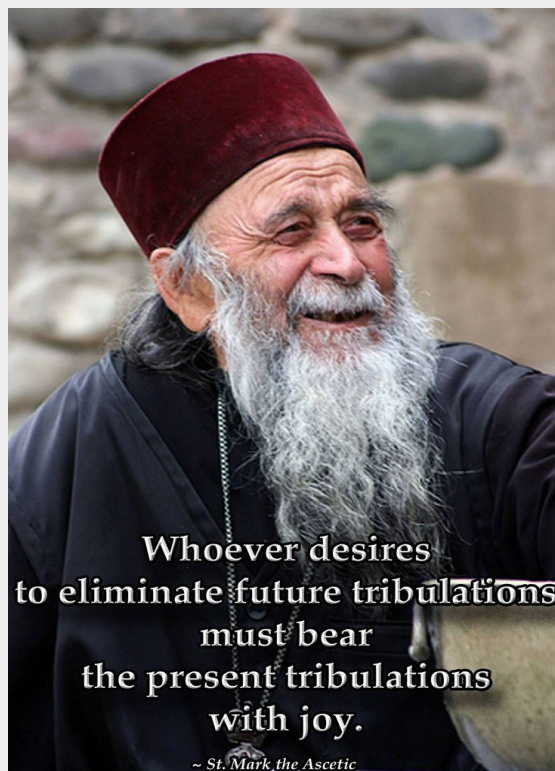
#### Can't join us in person?

We stream our services on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sspeterpaulorthodoxchurch01810>

#### Want to donate by Venmo?

St Peter St Paul Alb Orth Ch James Schaeffer



*Continued from page 3*

When she awoke, Nino was holding the cross in her hands. She dampened it with tears of rejoicing and tied it securely with strands of her own hair. (According to another source, the Theotokos bound the grapevine cross with strands of her own hair.)

Nino related the vision to her uncle, Patriarch Juvenal, and revealed to him her desire to preach the Gospel in Georgia. Juvenal led her in front of the Royal Doors, laid his hands on her, and prayed, "O Lord, God of Eternity, I beseech Thee on behalf of my orphaned niece: Grant that, according to Thy will, she may go to preach and proclaim Thy Holy Resurrection. O Christ God, be Thou to her a guide, a refuge, and a spiritual father. And as Thou didst enlighten the Apostles and all those who feared Thy name, do Thou also enlighten her with the wisdom to proclaim Thy glad tidings." When Nino arrived in Rome, she met and baptized the princess Rhipsimia and her nurse, Gaiana. At that time the Roman emperor was Diocletian, a ruler infamous for persecuting Christians. Diocletian (284-305) fell in love with Rhipsimia and resolved to marry her, but Saint Nino, Rhipsimia, Gaiana, and fifty other virgins escaped to Armenia. The furious Diocletian ordered his soldiers to follow them and sent a messenger to Tiridates, the Armenian king (286-344), to put him on guard.

King Tiridates located the women and, following Diocletian's example, was charmed by Rhipsimia's beauty and resolved to marry her. But Saint Rhipsimia would not consent to wed him, and in his rage the king had her tortured to death with Gaiana and the fifty other virgins. Saint Nino, however, was being prepared for a different, greater task, and she succeeded in escaping King Tiridates' persecutions by hiding among some rose bushes.

When she finally arrived in Georgia, Saint Nino was greeted by a group of Mtskhetan shepherds near Lake Paravani, and she received a blessing from God to preach to the pagans of this region.

With the help of her acquaintances Saint Nino soon reached the city of Urbnisi. She remained there a month, then traveled to Mtskheta with a group of Georgians who were making a pilgrimage to venerate the pagan idol Armazi. There she watched with great sadness as the Georgian people trembled before the idols. She was exceedingly sorrowful and prayed to the Lord, "O Lord, send down Thy mercy upon this nation...that all nations may glorify Thee alone, the One

True God, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ.”

Suddenly a violent wind began to blow and hail fell from the sky, shattering the pagan statues. The terrified worshippers fled, scattering across the city.

Saint Nino made her home beneath a bramble bush in the garden of the king, with the family of the royal gardener. The gardener and his wife were childless, but through Saint Nino’s prayers God granted them a child. The couple rejoiced exceedingly, declared Christ to be the True God, and became disciples of Saint Nino. Wherever Saint Nino went, those who heard her preach converted to the Christian Faith in great numbers. Saint Nino even healed the terminally ill Queen Nana after she declared Christ to be the True God.

King Mirian, a pagan, was not at all pleased with the great impression Saint Nino’s preaching had made on the Georgian nation. One day while he was out hunting, he resolved to kill all those who followed Christ.

According to his wicked scheme, even his wife, Queen Nana, would face death for failing to renounce the Christian Faith. But in the midst of the hunt, it suddenly became very dark. All alone, King Mirian became greatly afraid and prayed in vain for the help of the pagan gods. When his prayers went unanswered, he finally lost hope and, miraculously, he turned to Christ: “God of Nino, illumine this night for me and guide my footsteps, and I will declare Thy Holy Name. I will erect a cross and venerate it and I will construct for Thee a temple. I vow to be obedient to Nino and to the Faith of the Roman people!”

Suddenly the night was transfigured, the sun shone radiantly, and King Mirian gave great thanks to the Creator. When he returned to the city, he immediately informed Saint Nino of his decision. As a result of the unceasing labors of Equal-to-the-Apostles Nino, Georgia was established as a nation solidly rooted in the Christian Faith.

Saint Nino reposed in the village of Bodbe in eastern Georgia and, according to her will, she was buried in the place where she took her last breath. King Mirian later erected a church in honor of Saint George over her grave.

## When Guilt Destroys Us

**“If we simply surrender to guilt, we will find nothing but destruction...”**

The conscience is that gift God has bestowed upon us that tells us when we have sinned against Him, and against our neighbor. The conscience calls us to turn from our sin, and seek to change the patterns of behavior that have caused us to sin in the beginning.

This tug by our conscience can be counterproductive if we make no effort at changing our behavior. It can also be counterproductive if we simply give in to despair, and resign ourselves to our sinful behavior, as though there is no cure for our illness. That sense of guilt is meant to aid in the fight to turn around our bad behavior.

When we have sinned, and our sins are tormenting us, it is at that moment that we must seek out Christ, for only His sacrifice for our sins is eternal and living. When we lay our sins before the face of that sacrifice, we have nothing to fear, for we recognize that we can not be saved by your own efforts.

If we simply surrender to guilt, we will find nothing but destruction, and our conscience will have been of no benefit whatsoever, and victory will not be ours.

With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon



## *The Service of Great Blessing of Waters at Palmyra Cove*

*Sunday 21 January 2024*

*Fellowship @ 2:00 PM*

*Service @ 3:00 PM*

*1335 NJ-73, Palmyra, NJ 08065*

*sponsored by Greater Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood*