



SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church
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Church Bulletin ~ April 2003

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Holy Week † The End

"These three days, which the Church calls Great and Holy have within the liturgical development of the Holy Week a very definite purpose. They call all its celebrations in the perspective of "End"; they remind us of the eschatological meaning of Pascha.

So often the Holy Week is considered one of the "Beautiful Traditions," or "Customs," a self-evident "part" of our calendar. We take it for granted and enjoy it as a cherished annual even which we have "observed" since childhood, we admire the beauty of its services, the pageantry of its rites, and last but not least, we like the fuss about the Paschal table...

And then, when all this is done, we resume our normal life. But do we understand that when the world rejected its Savior, when "Jesus began to be sorrowful even unto death," when He died on the Cross, "normal life" came to its end and is no longer possible.

For there were "normal" men who shouted, "Crucify Him!", who spat at Him and nailed Him to the Cross. And they hated and killed Him precisely because He was troubling their normal life.

It was indeed a perfectly "normal" world which preferred darkness and death to light and life... By the death of Jesus, "normal" world, "normal" life were irrevocably condemned.

Or rather they revealed their true and "abnormal" nature, their inability to receive the Light, the terrible power of evil over them.

"Now is the judgment of this world." (John 12:31) The Pascha of Jesus signified its end to "this world" and it has been at its end ever since then.

This end can last for hundreds of centuries, this does not alter the nature of time in which we live as the "last time." "The fashion of this world passeth away..." (Corinthians 7:31)"

— Father Alexander Schmemmann

"Behold the Bridegrooms at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching."



Events & Announcements

Great Lent and Holy Week Schedule

GREAT LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Presanctified Liturgy - Continues on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM through April 16. The Service is followed by a Lenten meal.

Lazarus Saturday, April 19 - Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9 AM

Holy Week:

Sunday, April 20 - Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Palms, 10 AM

Holy Wednesday, April 23 - Holy Unction, 7 PM

Holy Thursday, April 24 - Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, 9 AM; Orthros of Holy Friday by Anticipation, Twelve Passion Gospels, 7 PM

Holy Friday, April 25 - Vespers, Taking Down from the Cross, 3 PM; Lamentations at the Tomb, 7 PM

Holy Saturday, April 26 - Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, 9 AM; Orthros/Pashkal Canon, Reception of Catechumens, 11 PM

Pascha Sunday, April 27 - Agape Vespers with Gospel in Many Languages; Easter Egg Hunt for Children, Noon

Church News & Reminders

HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON is scheduled to come visit SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church on **Sunday, June 29**, the Feast Day of our Church.

ICON PLEDGES - Your Icon Pledges for 2003 are being accepted by George Kendro every Sunday. Please begin fulfilling your pledges as soon as possible.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2003 - Dues have been raised to \$100 per person and they can be paid starting now.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 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.

The Joy of Giving

DONATIONS FOR PASCHA FLOWERS - Please donate generously to beautify our Church for Pascha. You may give your donations to **Belinda** or **George**.

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - Let us continue our tradition of giving. Please bring in your casseroles on any Sunday and give them to **Debbie Krimetz**. Recipes and pans are available in the hall. Debbie is also accepting \$10 donations and she will buy the casseroles herself. Thank you, **Debbie and Bob**, for your time and effort! A sincere **thank you** to everyone who donated casseroles.

POOR BOX DONATIONS - Please continue to remember those who are less fortunate than we are.

COLLECTION FOR THE POOR - On the 1st Sunday of every month SS. Peter & Paul will hold a special collection for the poor. Please plan to give generously every month to those whose lives are less fortunate than ours.

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.

Ladies' Society News

LENTEN LUNCHEON - The Ladies Society extends a tremendous **Thank You!** to all of the Church parishioners for their help and donations to make the Luncheon a success and a memorable event for us all.

Sunday School News

PYSANKY - The Sunday School Pysanky Project is well on schedule. There were 23 children the first week and 5 new ones the second week. There are about 15 regular attenders who are progressing through the process on time.

Events

GREAT LENT SERVICES IN THE DELAWARE VALLEY

MARCH 30 - Sunday of Veneration of the Cross, 5 pm; St George's Church, Media; Homilist: To be announced

APRIL 1 - Tuesday, 7 PM; Sacrament of Holy Unction; St Michael's Church, Philadelphia

APRIL 6 - Sunday of St John of the Ladder, 5 pm; St Nicholas Church, Bethlehem; Homilist: Fr John Udics (Assumption of the Virgin Church, Philadelphia)

APRIL 13 - Sunday of St Mary of Egypt, 5 PM; St George's Church, Upper Darby; Homilist: To be announced

** For additional information, please telephone the host pastors or the Brotherhood Secretary at **610-237-6985** **

CLEAN UP/FIX UP DAY is scheduled for **Saturday, April 5, 9 AM**. If you are at all able, please reserve this time to come and help out!

DECORATING FOR GREAT LENT AND PASCHA - Come and help if you can! See **Belinda** and/or **Jim Bachelor** for details. The schedule is:

Wednesday 4/16 - after Presanctified Liturgy - Preparation of palms for Palm Sunday

Holy Thursday 4/24 - 9 AM - Preparation of flowers for Evening Service

Holy Friday 4/25 - Noon - Decoration of Tomb of Christ; After Evening Service - Taking apart the Tomb of Christ

Holy Saturday 4/26 - After Vespersal Liturgy - Decorating for Pascha

PHILADELPHIA ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS (POYA) meets every 3rd Saturday of every month at St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church in Center City at 6:30 PM for vespers, followed by dinner and discussion. For more information or to suggest topics of discussion, please contact **Katia** at **215-776-1162** or e-mail her at: **ekatarina2000@msn.com**

Miscellaneous

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, April 20**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 4/27/03**. 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 an effort to help conserve paper, please leave the envelope from your Bulletin in either of the two wire baskets. This way I can use them again and again. Thanks very much from Alicia.

Parishioner's Corner

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **April** Birthdays: **Belinda Mentzer, Sharon Spause, Margaret Vesho and Jim Zallie**

May God grant them all many, many years!

A SINCERE WELCOME HOME to **Helen Arndt!** Helen has moved back to Philadelphia and has reunited with our Church Family! We're glad to have her back!

Let Us Keep Them in Our Prayers

*** Please continue your prayers for the full recovery of **Matushka Katherine Toroney**.

*** Please continue your prayers for the full recovery of **Presbytera Cleopatra Gregory**.

A Prayer for the Sick

**O holy Father, heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies,
Who has sent Thine Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ
to heal all our ailments and deliver us from death:
do Thou visit and heal Thy servant (name),
granting him/her release from pain
and restoration to health and vigor,
that he/she may give thanks unto Thee and bless Thy holy name,
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

IOCC Mobilizes Humanitarian Response for Iraq Crisis

Baltimore (IOCC) - With diplomatic efforts to peacefully disarm Iraq coming to an end, staff members of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) are being dispatched to the Middle East to coordinate an Orthodox Christian response to assist the victims of a war in Iraq.

IOCC, the official humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians, is planning a three-pronged response to the current crisis: distribution of "survival packs" to migrant workers fleeing Iraq; provision of medical assistance to ill or disabled refugees in Jordan; and distribution of humanitarian relief supplies within Iraq with IOCC's local church partners.

"The situation is fluid and will certainly evolve -- as will IOCC's response to the needs that emerge," said IOCC Chief Operating Officer David Holdridge.

IOCC's goal is to raise \$1 million for relief supplies as well as for life-saving medicines and medical supplies needed now in Iraq and Jordan. The aid will assist vulnerable children and their families. Half of Iraq's 24.5 million citizens are children, according to UNICEF.

An IOCC emergency response team is departing for Amman, Jordan, to establish relief operations and to provide technical assistance to church partners to deliver and manage an effective humanitarian relief distribution within Iraq.

"IOCC's priority is to support the Orthodox churches in the region at this time of crisis, and to support them in a way that will allow them to serve their own community as well as deliver assistance to all those in need within their reach," Holdridge said. "A visible commitment to the provision of this assistance by the Orthodox Church will be important as Iraq seeks to rebuild a more equitable society."

The response to the Iraq crisis is part of IOCC's continuing commitment to help refugees and other victims of war. For 10 years, in places like the former Yugoslavia, the Republic of Georgia and the West Bank, IOCC has been offering food, clothing and shelter to people displaced by

war and civil unrest. Once the violence stops, IOCC has been there with self-help programs that bring new hope and opportunity.

In addition to helping vulnerable families in Iraq, the IOCC operations will provide medical assistance to ill or disabled refugees and displaced persons expected to flee Iraq through Jordan. The survival packs contain items such as food staples and a first-aid kit.

IOCC has worked in the Middle East since 1997 and currently has programs in the Holy Land and Lebanon. Since 1992, IOCC has distributed more than \$160 million in relief and development assistance in 21 countries.

To help in providing relief, call IOCC's donation hotline toll-free at 1-877-803-4622, make a gift on-line at www.iocc.org, or mail a check or money order to IOCC, "Middle East Crisis," P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, MD 21263-0225.

Help for an Innocent Russian Teenager

In a small Russian town, in December of 1999, Andrey Borzenko had both arms burned when they contacted a live wire beneath the snow on the hill where he was sledding. Believing that he was trying to steal the wires, the medical staff of the hospital would not accept him and nothing was done for 24 hours. When the hospital finally accepted Andrey, the staff had to amputate both arms, all the while taunting him by showing him his amputated arms, by showing him pain killers and not giving him any, and by constantly asking, "You're not dead yet?" Mother and son were in the depths of despair. Anna Honikman of Philadelphia saw his plight on a Russian television broadcast and immediately sent money to help him. Mrs. Honikman also arranged for Andrey and his mother to come to Philadelphia, where he is receiving much needed help. But much more is still needed. If you can find it in your hearts to help this young man, please bring or send your donation to: Willow Grove Bank, 11730 Bustleton Ave., Phila., PA 19116 (Account #1400151138) or to: New World Association, 2218 Glendale Ave., Phila., PA 19152 (Andrey Borzenko's Fund).

Holy Days and Name Days in April

- April 2 - Martyr Polycarp
- April 6 - St Methodius, Apostle to the Slavs
- April 7 - Repose of St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow
- April 9 - Monk Martyr Vadim of Persia
- April 14 - St Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome
- April 16 - Virgin Martyrs Agape, Irene & Chionia
- April 19 - Lazarus Saturday
- April 20 - Palm Sunday; Entry into Jerusalem
- April 22 - Apostles Nathaniel, Luke & Clement

- April 23 - Holy Wednesday; Holy Great Martyr, Victorybearer & Wonderworker George
- April 24 - Holy Thursday
- April 25 - Holy Friday; Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark
- April 26 - Holy Saturday
- April 27 - Pascha - Feast of Feasts
- April 28 - St Jason & St Sosipater
- April 30 - Holy Apostle James, Brother of St John; St Ignatius Brianchaninov

Great and Holy Pascha: Reading from John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



Troparion for Saints Peter and Paul

**O Leaders of the Apostles
And Evangelizers of the World
Intercede with Christ our God
To grant Peace to the World
And Salvation to our Souls**

