



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 ~ April 2005

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful Real True Life... Does Not End in Death

Let us consider, beloved,
how the Master continually calls our attention to the future resurrection,
the first fruits of which He has made the Lord Jesus Christ
by raising Him from the dead.

Let us consider, beloved,
the kind of resurrection that occurs at regular intervals...
Day and night give us examples of resurrection.
The night sleeps, the day rises
The day departs, the night comes on.

Let us take the crops:
The sowing - how and in what manner does it take place?
The sower goes out and puts each of the seeds into the soil...
When they fall on the soil, they are dry and bare, and decay...
But once they have decayed,
the Master's wondrous Providence makes them rise,
and each one increases and brings forth multiple fruit.

--Saint Clement of Rome, Epistle to the Corinthians

If God has the power to create out of nothingness whatever He wishes, then He can as well renew an already existent body which has returned to the earth.

--Venerable Isidore of Pelusium

Are we only dying with the Master and are we only sharing in His sadness?
Most of all, let me say, that sharing the Master's death is no sadness.
Only wait a little, and you shall see yourself sharing in His benefits.

'For if we have died with Him,' says Saint Paul,
'We believe that we shall also live together with Him.'

For in Baptism there are both burial and resurrection together at the same time. He who is Baptized puts off the old person, takes the new, and rises up, 'Just as Christ has arisen through the glory of the Father.'

Do you see how, again, Saint Paul calls Baptism a resurrection?

--Saint John Chrysostom

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS 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.

Father Stephen may be reached at **267-973-9775**, Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM; e-mail: ssiniari@covenanthousepa.org

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - March/April/May 2005

SATURDAY EVENING VESPERS - 6 PM

GREAT LENT - begins MONDAY, MARCH 14

PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY - WEDNESDAYS, 7 PM - 4/6, 4/13, 4/20 (4/20 is the last one)

LAZARUS SATURDAY - APRIL 23 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM & BLESSING OF PALMS - SUNDAY, APRIL 24 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

HOLY WEDNESDAY - APRIL 27 - Holy Unction, 7 PM

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 28 - Twelve Passion Gospels, 7 PM

HOLY FRIDAY - APRIL 29 - Vespers, Taking Down from Cross, 3 PM; Lamentations at Tomb, 7 PM

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 30 - Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, 9 AM

ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY - APRIL 30 - 11 PM

PASCHA SUNDAY - MAY 1 - Agape Vespers; Gospel in Many Languages, Noon; Easter Egg Hunt for Children after Vespers

Church News & Reminders

ICON PLEDGES - Pledges can still be made by contacting George Kendro, Jim Schaeffer or Stephen Murianka with the Saint's name and the amount.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2005 - Dues are \$100 per person and can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Monday, April 4, 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

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - *In March*, 9 casseroles were delivered. 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!*

NEW CENSER & NEW ICON DONATIONS - Donations are needed for a new censer and for the purchase of new Icons. *We thank you for your support in this project. Please donate generously.*

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

A SINCERE THANK YOU! - to all who helped in any way and participated in the Lenten Luncheon

MEETING - Sunday, **April 10**, after Divine Liturgy

PANCAKE BREAKFAST - On a Saturday; date to be announced

MEATBALL & HOT DOG SUNDAY - Scheduled for May; date to be announced

Events

SCHEDULE OF READER SERVICES AT SS PETER & PAUL

4th Week of Great Lent (April 4 - 9)

Tuesday, April 5	7 PM <i>Reader's Service</i>
Friday, April 8	7 PM <i>Akathist to the Cross</i>
Saturday, April 9	6 PM <i>Reader's Vespers</i>

5th Week of Great Lent (April 11 - 16)

Tuesday, April 12	7 PM <i>Reader's Service</i>
Thursday, April 14	7 PM <i>Matins and Canon of St. Andrew</i>
Friday, April 15	7 PM <i>Akathist to the Holy Theotokos</i>
Saturday, April 16	6 PM <i>Reader's Vespers</i>

6th Week of Great Lent (April 18 - 21)

Tuesday, April 19	7 PM <i>Reader's Service</i>
Thursday, April 21	7 PM <i>Compline</i>

LENTEN MISSION VESPERS (For additional information, please telephone the host pastors or the Brotherhood secretary at 610-237-6985)

Sunday, 4/3 - *Sunday of Veneration of the Cross* - 5 PM, St. Nicholas Church, Phila., *Homilist: Fr. Stephen Evanina* of Holy Trinity Church, Pottstown

Sunday, 4/10 - *Sunday of St. John of the Ladder* - 5 PM, SS Peter & Paul Church, Wilmington, DE, *Homilist: Fr. Frank Estocin* of St. Vladimir's Cathedral, Philadelphia

Sunday, 4/17 - *Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt* - 5 PM, Holy Trinity Church, Pottstown, *Homilist: Fr. Athanasy (Mastalsky)* of the Church of Our Lady, Joy of All Who Sorrow, Philadelphia

ORDINATION OF JASON VANSUCH - His Grace Bishop Nikon will ordain Jason Vansuch as a **Deacon** on **Lazarus Saturday, April 23, 2005**, at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, PA.

PASCHAL SERVICES (For additional information, please telephone the host pastors or the Brotherhood secretary at 610-237-6985)

Bright Saturday, 5/7 - *Vespers* - 7 PM, St. Thomas Church, Cherry Hill, NJ

Mid-Pentecost Liturgy, 5/25 - *To Be Announced*

ORDINATION OF GREGORY VRETO, JR. to the **Diaconate** by His Grace Bishop Nikon is scheduled to take place on **Sunday, July 10**, the celebration of SS Peter & Paul Feast Day with His Grace Bishop Nikon.

Of General Interest

HIS GRACE BISHOP NIKON'S HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST TWO YEARS - Extra copies are available in the Church Hall.

HISTORIC FAMILY PHOTOS - If you have photos that might be included in a book of Albanian-American social and community history, please bring them to St. George Cathedral (523 East Broadway, South Boston) on: **Saturday, April 2 between 10 AM - 3 PM or Sunday, April 3 between 10 AM - 3 PM**

Mr. Vehbi Bajrami, an author and two experts shall scan your own original photo and put them on computer. They will be working on this project in the Athanas Auditorium at the Cathedral. Your photos will be processed & copied while you wait.

Preferred photos are those that depict notable community leaders, or significant ethnic, cultural, religious, family or social occasions that reflect the life and times of our community over the decades. Please indicate, as much information as possible on a separate piece of paper appended to each photo. For example:

- a.) The people in the photos
- b.) Date and place when photo was taken
- c.) Event depicted
- d.) Your name, address, telephone number & e-mail address

Many thanks for your assistance with this important community project.

If you live too far to come with your photos, please contact Vehbi Bajrami for appropriate and safe mailing arrangements.

For further information and clarification, you may contact:

Fr Arthur Liolin: albboschurch@juno.com
Vehbi Bajrami: vebaj@aol.com

Neka Doko: neka_doko@hotmail.com
Bryan Bodien: bryan_bodien@yahoo.com

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. 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, April 17**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 4/24/05**. 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 **April** Birthdays: **Stuart Barenbaum, Taissa Drobish, Belinda Mentzer, Rose Shaloka, Sharon Spause, Margaret Vesho**

May God grant them all many, many years!

SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLEAN UP/FIX UP DAY - Scheduled for **Saturday, April 9, 9 AM**. Rain Date: Saturday, April 16. *If you are at all able, please reserve this time to come and help beautify our Church for Pascha. Thank you!*

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!*

Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Gregory Vreto, Sr., Debbie Krimetz, Presbyteria Cleopatra Gregory, Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Harry Cappel, Matthew Murianka**

**** God knows the names and ages of all who need His love and mercy...*

A Special Message for Sunday School Moms

Dear Sunday School Moms,

As you know, we are making sock monkeys in the Sunday School program. We would like each child to select one of the Saints to name their monkey after, and to research the saint for an oral presentation on St. Thomas Sunday, May 8th. The presentation doesn't

have to be lengthy, just enough for them to learn what distinguishes the Saint they have selected.

This project should be done at home, under your supervision. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Margot, for Fr. Stephen and the Sunday School teachers

Diaconal Approvals ~ March 30th, 2005

The OCA's Theological Board recommended the following for Ordination to the Holy Diaconate and the Holy Synod has approved at yesterday's session:

Dennis Nagi, Victor Skuratovsky

Thus, in addition to the most recent approvals above, we may look forward to four ordinations to the Holy Diaconate for this coming year:

Jason Vansuch - will be ordained on Lazarus Saturday, April 23, at the parish where his father (VRev Eugene) serves: St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, PA. He is assigned to SS Peter & Paul Church in Philadelphia where he will be attached and shall also serve at St. John Chrysostom Church in that city.

Gregory Vrato, Jr. - will be ordained on July 10 at SS Peter & Paul Church, his home parish where he will continue his training and service under Fr Stephen Siniari. As with Jason, he has already completed the Late Vocation program offered through St. Tikhon's Seminary.

Professor Dennis Nagi - of Albany, NY is expected to complete the St. Stephen's Course of study of the Antiochian Archdiocese this Spring and continue the M. Divinity program offered in conjunction with the Balamand Seminary. His Diaconal ordination will soon be scheduled.

Victor Skuratovski - of SS Peter and Paul in Philadelphia is expected to complete the Late Vocation Program at St. Tikhon's Seminary next month. On a date yet to be determined, he will be ordained for continued service at his home parish.

All four deacons will assist the bishop when he travels to diocesan parishes for Archpastoral visitations, in addition to serving parishes where they live and be available to further assignments by the bishop in the future.

His Grace knows that you prayerfully join in this most welcome news on vocations in our diocese. As you are already informed, the Archdiocesan Student Fund also supports the following students currently undergoing studies: Bryan Bodien at Holy Cross Theological School in



Brookline, John Brunnett at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA and Anthony Gjonej at Resurrection Seminary in Durres, Albania.

Holy Days and Name Days in April

- April 2 - Martyr Polycarp
- April 3 - Veneration of the Precious Cross
- 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 10 - St John Climacus (of the Ladder)
- April 14 - St Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome
- April 16 - Virgin Martyrs Agape, Irene & Chionia
- April 17 - St Mary of Egypt
- April 22 - Apostles Nathaniel, Luke & Clement
- April 23 - Lazarus Saturday; Holy Great Martyr, Victorybearer George
- April 24 - Palm Sunday; Entry into Jerusalem
- April 25 - Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark
- April 27 - Holy Wednesday
- April 28 - Holy Thursday; St Jason & St Sosipater
- April 29 - Holy Friday
- April 30 - Holy Saturday; Holy Apostle James, Brother of St John; St Ignatius Brianchaninov

The Raising of Lazarus (Lazarus Saturday)

Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, the friends of the Lord Jesus, had given Him hospitality and served Him many times (Luke 10:38-42; John 12:2-3). They were from Bethany, a village of Judea. This village is situated in the eastern parts by the foothills of the Mount of Olives,



about two Roman miles from Jerusalem. When Lazarus - whose name is a Hellenized form of "Eleazar," which means "God has helped," became ill some days before the saving Passion, his sisters had this report taken to our Saviour, Who was then in Galilee. Nonetheless, He tarried yet two more days until Lazarus died; then He said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea that I might awake My friend who sleepeth." By this, of course, He meant the deep sleep of death. On arriving at Bethany, He consoled the sisters of Lazarus, who was already four days dead. Jesus groaned in spirit and was troubled at the death of His beloved friend. He asked, "Where have ye laid his body?" and He wept over him. When He drew nigh to the tomb, He commanded that they remove the stone, and He lifted up His eyes, and giving thanks to God

the Father, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And he that had been dead four days came forth immediately, bound hand and foot with the grave clothes, and Jesus said to those standing there, "Loose him, and let him go." This is the supernatural wonder wrought by the Saviour that we celebrate on this day.

According to an ancient tradition, it is said that Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus and there reposed in the Lord. It is furthermore related that after he was raised from the dead, he never laughed till the end of his life, but that once only, when he saw someone stealing a clay vessel, he smiled and said, "Clay stealing clay." His grave is situated in the city of Kition, having the inscription: "Lazarus the four days dead and friend of Christ." In 890 his sacred relics were transferred to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise, at which time undoubtedly the Emperor composed his stichera for Vespers, "Wishing to behold the tomb of Lazarus . . ."

~ Icon Courtesy of the OCA Webpage ~

~ Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA ~