



***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 2006*

## Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

### Death, the Last Enemy

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you -- unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was with me*.

Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty.

Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up -- if in fact the dead do not rise.

For if the *dead* do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!

Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who* are Christ's at His coming.

Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when he puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.

-- 1 Corinthians 15:1-26

## **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.

## **Events & Announcements**

### **Liturgical Schedule - April/May 2006**

**PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY - WEDNESDAYS, 7 PM - 4/5, 4/12**

**LAZARUS SATURDAY - APR 15 - Divine Liturgy 9 AM**

**ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM & BLESSING OF PALMS - APR 16 (SUN) - Divine Liturgy 10 AM**

**HOLY WEDNESDAY - APR 19 (HOLY UNCTION) - 7 PM**

**HOLY THURSDAY - APR 20 (TWELVE PASSION GOSPELS) - 7 PM**

**HOLY FRIDAY - APR 21 (VESPERS, TAKING DOWN FROM CROSS) - 3 PM;  
LAMENTATIONS AT TOMB - 7 PM**

**HOLY SATURDAY - APR 22 (VESPERAL LITURGY OF ST. BASIL) - 9 AM**

**ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY - APR 22 (SAT) - 11 PM**

**PASCHA SUNDAY - APR 23 (AGAPE VESPERS; GOSPEL IN MANY LANGUAGES)  
- Noon; EASTER EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN AFTER VESPERS**

### **Schedule of Other Services/Events**

**MATINS - 3/13 THROUGH 4/14 (MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY) - 9 AM**

**MISSION VESPERS - 4/2 (SUN) - 5 PM (ST GEORGE CATHEDRAL, PHILA)**

**GREAT COMPLINE - 4/4 (TUES) - 7 PM\***

**MATINS & CANON OF ST ANDREW - 4/6 (THURS) - 7 PM\***

**THE PARACLESIS SERVICE OF THE LITTLE SUPPLICATORY CANON TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS - 4/7 (FRI) - 7 PM\***

**MISSION VESPERS - 4/9 (SUN) - 5 PM (ST MARK CHURCH, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA)**

**GREAT COMPLINE - 4/11 (TUES) - 7 PM\***

GREAT COMPLINE - 4/13 (THURS) - 7 PM\*

MATINS FOR LAZARUS SATURDAY - 4/14 (FRI) - 7 PM\*

GREAT VESPERS - 4/15 (SAT) - 5 PM - (ST STEPHEN CATHEDRAL); 6 PM AT SS PETER & PAUL

BRIDEGROOM MATINS - 4/16 (SUN) - 6 PM

TYPICAL PSALMS - 4/17 (HOLY MONDAY) - 10 AM

BRIDEGROOM MATINS - 4/17 (HOLY MONDAY) - 7 PM

TYPICAL PSALMS - 4/18 (HOLY TUESDAY) - 10 AM

BRIDEGROOM MATINS - 4/18 (HOLY TUESDAY) - 7 PM

TYPICAL PSALMS - 4/19 (HOLY WEDNESDAY) - 10 AM

ROYAL HOURS - 4/21 (GOOD FRIDAY) - 10 AM

*\*Please check with Fr Dn Jason's weekly Bulletin to make sure these services are still being held. You can also call Fr Dn Jason at: 267-760-4561*

## Church News & Reminders

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2006** - *Please note: effective Oct 1st, 2005, dues were increased to \$115.* If you have already paid the \$100 2006 Dues, please understand that you are still obligated to pay the extra \$15 per person. Dues can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

**ICON PLEDGES** - Can be paid at any time to our treasurer, James Schaeffer. *Please note: when returning your Icons, please return them to the treasurer, James Schaeffer.*

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** - Monday, 4/3, 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. *Please note: if the services of the Church Choir are required, please notify the Choir Director, Christina Murianka, as soon as possible.*

**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, 21 casseroles were delivered; also 30 blankets arranged by Pat Bergey and transported by Joe Bacon.* **PLEASE NOTE: the Hospice can only use men's clothing.** *All other clothing should be placed into collection bins located in shopping areas.* 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!*

**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.

## **Church School/Adult Education**

**EVERY SUNDAY** - Following Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall

## **Ladies' Society News**

**MEMORIAL SERVICES** - If you are planning to have a Memorial Service, please inform the Ladies' Society as soon as possible, preferably 1 week in advance, so that efforts and tangibles are not duplicated. There is a \$25 donation to the Ladies Society for each Memorial. The Society will take care of the paper goods and coffee; the individual scheduling the Memorial is responsible for all food, for setup, and for clean up. Thank you!

**A MOST SINCERE THANK YOU** to all who volunteered their time, efforts and services and to those who participated in the Lenten Luncheon

**MEETING** - Sunday, April 9th, after Divine Liturgy

## **Miscellaneous**

**WEB PAGE/E-MAILS** - SS Peter & Paul Webpage: <http://homepage.mac.com/aliciaj17/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: [aliciaj17@mac.com](mailto: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 e-mail: [alicia17@mac.com](mailto:alicia17@mac.com). The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **April 23**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **4/30/06**. 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, Sally O'Brien, Rose Shaloka, Sharon Spause, Margaret Vesho**

*May God grant them all many, many years!*

SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO JANET BACHELOR on her engagement to Paul Caparros.

*May God grant Janet & Paul many, many years!*

NEW UPDATED PARISH DIRECTORY - more copies are available in the Church Hall.

WEBSITE WITH RECIPE SOURCES FOR ORTHODOX FASTING  
<http://aggreen.net/food/recipes.html>

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FR DN JASON VANSUCH - Home: **215-639-1242**; Cell: **267-760-4561**; E-mail: [jvansuch@hotmail.com](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com)

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: **Metropolitan Philip, Elaine Quirias, Gregory Vreto, Sr., Debbie Krimetz, Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Helen Arndt, Harry Cappo, Matthew Murianka, Amelia Daka, Joyce Dorsey, Steven Yarrow, Andi Steffa, Marie Antony, Child George, Eurania Gjorgo, Martha Murianka, Ivan M., Catherine P., Martin, Mary V., John Palmerick, Margaret Vansuch**

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

### Prayers for the Departed Servants of God

†VRev Peter Krochta, †George Steffa, †Margaret Kenny, †Angeline Gundlach

Newly-Departed †Archpriest Victor Sokolov, †Yelena, †Tamara, †Jane Scollard (Step-mother of Fr John Scollard)

### Church School Lenten Retreat 2006

On Saturday March 25, 2006 – The Feast of the Annunciation of the Most- Holy Theotokos, the children gathered at our church for a Lenten Retreat. The day began with Divine Liturgy for the Feast at 9:00 a.m. Following the Liturgy, the children were joined by all in attendance for the Liturgy upstairs in the Church Hall for Breakfast. Archpriest Gregory Dudash, attached priest at SS Peter and Paul's, led the children in singing the Our Father. Following breakfast, the children were divided into 3 Age Groups (Oldest

Group for ages 11 and up; Middle Group for ages 7-10; and the Youngest Group for ages under 7).

The Oldest Group and the Middle Group had sessions in the morning and the afternoon, which were led by Archpriest Stephen Siniari, Rector of SS Peter and Paul's and Archpriest Gregory Dudash, attached priest at SS Peter and Paul's. The Youngest Group had a fun-filled day as they learned how to make MESHE. This was taught by Rose Shaloka and Christina Reeves with the help of Matushka Linda Dudash. Following the morning sessions, the children enjoyed pizza, chips and other goodies for lunch.

The afternoon sessions began following some 'down time' where the children played games and watched a Biblical Cartoon called: "Veggie Tales". Fr. Dn. Jason and Reader Gregory Shaloka met with the Middle and Youngest Groups to explain and discuss more about the MESHE and what it represents as well as the Order and Meaning of The Service of Proskomedia (Preparation) before Divine Liturgy. The children then continued making their Meshe and then worked on another project to coincide with the Sunday of the Cross. They made and decorated crosses, which were then brought to the church and blessed by Fr. Stephen on Sunday following the Divine Liturgy. To follow-up on the way the children learned, they gathered around the Memorial Table in the Church to see how Proskomedia is served. During Proskomedia, Fr. Stephen used the Meshe that were made by the children during their Retreat.

The Oldest Group met with Fr. Gregory Dudash along with Fr. Dn. Gregory Vrato and Stuart Barenbaum who were there throughout the entire day to assist with the Retreat. Following the sessions, the children had some down time where they played more games while anticipating the arrival of Ms. Tina Murianka who was coming to teach a class on Singing in the Orthodox Church.

Ms. Tina Murianka spent about half an hour to forty-five minutes with the children to discuss the symbols that are used in Liturgical Singing and their meaning. The children learned how to sing the following hymns with Ms. Murianka: "Lord Have Mercy; Receive the Body of Christ; and The Our Father." The Children were singing with their angelic voices – they sounded so beautiful. Our goal is to have the children sing during the Divine Liturgy one Sunday before the end of the Church School Year in June.

On behalf of Fr. Stephen Siniari, I would like to thank **ALL of the Church School Teachers and Matushka Linda Dudash** who have devoted their time, their love, and their efforts to the children of our church school and for making this Lenten Church School Retreat a Success!!!! A special thank you to all of the **children and their parents** who took time out of their busy schedules to come and be with us on this day. It indeed was a blessing to see so many of our children present and participating in the Retreat. *May GOD continue to bless you and guide you!*

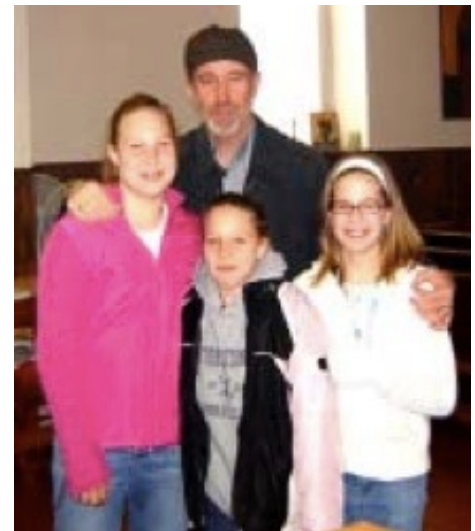
A sincere THANK YOU to **Archpriest Stephen Siniari** and **Archpriest Gregory Dudash** for taking time out of their busy schedules and leading our Retreat. It is through your love, dedication, support, guidance, and prayers that you have for our children and the Church School Program that made this possible. From all of your children in the Church School, The Teachers of the Church School and Fr. Dn. Jason and Fr. Dn. Gregory

- **THANK YOU!!!!** May GOD continue to bless and nurture our children as they continue to Grow in Faith and Love!!

-- Fr Dn Jason Vansuch



**SS Peter & Paul Church School Children's Retreat  
Saturday, March 26th, 2006**







## **His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman's Paschal Message**

### **The Beginning of Great Lent**

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America

*"Brethren, while fasting bodily, let us also fast spiritually. Let us loosen every bond of injustice. Let us destroy the strong fetters of violence. Let us tear up every unjust writing. Let us give bread to the hungry and let us welcome the homeless poor into our houses, that from Christ our God we may receive the great mercy"* (Wednesday of the First Week of Great Lent).

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

Central to living the Gospel of Jesus Christ are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. While these disciplines are to be practiced every day of our lives, it is during the season of Great Lent that they receive our special attention, not only as a sign of preparation for the celebration of the Feast of Feasts, but as a sign of our desire to change our lives, our focus, our vision, our direction – in short, our desire to repent.

All too often, we associate Great Lent with fasting from certain foods and activities, and little more. Fasting is sometimes seen as a formality, as a matter of "giving up" rather than as a means of "giving." How often we engage in "fasting bodily" while failing to "fast spiritually" by struggling to gain control of those things that we so easily and unwittingly allow to control us - our anger, our gossip, our grudges, our self-righteousness, our passions, and our desire to be seen and heard and recognized and justified. How easy it is to reduce the season of repentance to externals, with little concern for the interior changes bodily and spiritual fasting are designed to bring about.

But, dearly Beloved, fasting bodily without fasting spiritually is of little significance. It places the emphasis on ourselves, rather than on our Savior or on honoring Him by serving "the least of the brethren" who remind us of His very presence. It is the fasting of the Pharisees, who as Christ Himself noted seek and receive their reward from men, rather than from God. Bodily fasting without intensified prayer, unconditional ministry to the hungry and the poor, and the desire to overcome our sins and passion - in short, without fasting spiritually – not only falls short of the "great mercy" so freely offered by our Savior through His passion, death, and resurrection, but fails to arm us with the spiritual weapons necessary to loosen every bond of injustice, destroy the strong fetters of violence, and tear up every unjust writing.

The times in which we live are indeed difficult, even dark. The promptings of the evil one, so often clothed in what appears to be "light," surround and deceive and distract us from accomplishing "the one thing needful." By entering into the "Lenten Spring," by enrolling in the "school of repentance," and by selflessly embracing the opportunity "to free ourselves from our passions," we equip ourselves to overcome "the wall of enmity" that would separate us from Our Lord and one another. Our fasting, then, must be infused with the comfort of prayer, the relief of repentance, and the joy of encountering Our Lord in those with whom we share the very hope that is in us. Only then will our joy in en-

counter- ing the empty tomb be whole, complete, and lacking in nothing. Only then will Our Lord's ultimate victory over sin and death be revealed in its fullness to - and within - us.

As we enter the bright sadness of Great Lent as individuals, as families, and ultimately as the Church, I invite you to join me in fasting spiritually, as well as bodily. May the seeds of faith planted by our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving bring forth an abundant harvest of virtue worthy of the "great mercy" that awaits us in the empty tomb. And may His mercy truly guide us as we continue our lives in this world, even as we anticipate the joy of life in the world to come.

With love in Christ,

+ HERMAN

Archbishop of Washington and New York  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

### **Holy Days and Name Days in April**

- April 1 - Memorial Saturday
- April 2 - St John Climacus "The Ladder"; Martyr Polycarp
- April 6 - St Methodius, Apostle to the Slavs
- April 7 - Repose of St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow
- April 9 - St Mary of Egypt; Monk Martyr Vadim of Persia
- April 14 - St Martin, Confessor, Pope of Rome
- April 15 - Lazarus Saturday
- April 16 - Palm Sunday; Entrance into Jerusalem; Martyrs Agape, Irene & Chionia
- April 19 - Holy Wednesday
- April 20 - Holy Thursday
- April 21 - Holy Friday
- April 22 - Holy Saturday; Apostles Nathaniel, Luke & Clement
- April 23 - Pascha - Feast of Feasts; Holy Great Martyr, Victorybearer George
- April 25 - Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark
- April 28 - St Jason & St Sosipater
- April 30 - St Thomas Sunday; Holy Apostle James, Brother of St John

### ***Holy Wednesday***

Two women - say the more discerning interpreters of the Gospel - anointed the Lord with myrrh; the one, a long time before His Passion; the other, a few days before. One was a harlot and sinner; the other, chaste and virtuous. The Church commemorates this reverent act today. While mentioning herein the person of the harlot, it also mentions Judas' betrayal; for, according to the account in Matthew, both of these deeds took place two days before the Passover, on Wednesday.



That woman, then, anointed Jesus' head and feet with very precious myrrh, and wiped them with the tresses of her hair. The disciples, especially the avaricious Judas, were scandalized, supposedly because of the waste of the myrrh, which could be sold for a great price and given to the poor. The Lord Jesus reproved them and told them not to trouble the woman. Indignant, Judas went to the high priests, who were gathered in the court of Caiaphas and were already taking counsel against Jesus. On agreeing with them to betray his Teacher for thirty pieces of silver, Judas sought from that time opportunity to betray Him (Matt. 26:14-16). Because the betrayal took place on Wednesday, we have received the tradition from Apostolic times to fast on Wednesday throughout the year.

~ Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

~ Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery ~