



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 2008

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

The "fences" (3:1-6)

The Teaching of the Lord to the Gentiles by the Twelve Apostles (The Didache)

My child, flee from every evil thing and from everything that is like it:

Be not prone to anger,
for the path of anger leads to murder;

Neither be excitable nor quarrelsome nor hot-tempered,
for from all these are born murders.

My child, be not lustful,
for the path of lust leads to sexual promiscuity;
neither be obscene in speech nor have roving eyes,
for from all of these are born adulteries.

My child, be not a diviner of omens since its path leads to idolatry;
neither be an enchanter, nor astrologer, nor magician --
nor even wish to see or to hear such things --
for from all these is born idolatry.

My child, be not a liar, since the path of lying leads to theft;
neither be fond of money, nor vainglorious,
for from these are born all thefts.

My child, be not one who complains, since its path leads to blasphemy;
neither be stubborn nor evil-minded,
for from all these are born blasphemies.

But be meek, since "the meek will inherit the earth" [Ps. 37:11; Matt. 5:5].

Be patient and merciful and without guile and quiet and good and always fearing the words which you have heard [Isa. 66:2].

Exalt not yourself nor allow your soul to become arrogant. Let not your soul be yoked with the haughty [Rom. 12:16; James 2:2,3], but associate with the righteous and lowly.

Whatever befalls you, receive these experiences as good, knowing that nothing happens without God.

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 2008

PRE-SANCTIFIED - WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 9, 16 (LAST ONE) - 7 PM

LAZARUS SATURDAY - APRIL 19 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM - SUNDAY, APRIL 20 - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Palms, 10 AM

HOLY WEDNESDAY (*Holy Unction*) APRIL 23 - 7 PM

HOLY THURSDAY - (*Twelve Passion Gospels*) APRIL 24 - 7 PM

HOLY FRIDAY - (*Vespers, Taking Down from Cross*) APRIL 25 - 3 PM;
(*Lamentations at Tomb*) - 7 PM

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 26 - Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil, 10 AM; Or
thros/Pashkal Canon/Liturgy, 11 PM

PASCHA SUNDAY - APRIL 27 - Agape Vespers: Gospel in Many Lan-
guages, Noon

Schedule of Other Services

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM - 8:30 PM in the Church Hall - A Bible Study led by *Fr. Dn. Gregory* will begin on *Wednesday, April 30*, the first Wednesday after Pascha. The title for the Bible Study is "*Seeking the Treasure of Christ Throughout Scripture*." The study will use the new Orthodox Study Bible of the Old and New Testament as a base. The first topic of discussion will be the meaning of the story of Adam and Eve and the discussions will proceed with a journey through the Hebrew Bible.

Church News & Reminders

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2008 - Dues are \$115 per person and 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 Church Store. You will be given a receipt for all Icons returned. **All icons are to be returned by the end of September.**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - 1st Monday of each 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. *Please note:* if the services of the Church Choir are required, please notify the Choir Director, Christina Murianka, as soon as possible.

Memorials: Any help in setting up and cleaning up from the families involved is truly appreciated and welcomed by the Ladies Society.

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

EASTER FLOWERS DONATION - Please donate generously to defray the cost of Easter flowers. **You may give your donation directly to *Belinda Mentzer* or to our Treasurer, *James Schaeffer*** (please inform Jim that your donation is for Easter flowers). Thank you!

CHURCH LIBRARY DONATIONS - We are greatly in need of monetary donations for buying books to establish our Church Library to help all of us continue to learn about the Orthodox Faith. Any amount is truly appreciated and can be given to our Treasurer, James Schaeffer, at any time. *May God bless you for your generosity!*

PASTORAL FUND/POOR BOX - Please note: There are now 2 collection boxes in the back of the church, **the Poor Box AND a Pastoral Fund Box**. *Please donate generously!*

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - *In February: 27 casseroles a small bag of clothing were delivered. In March: 11 casseroles and one small bag of toiletries were delivered. Disposable razors and individual/small tubes of hand lotion are still needed.* 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.

ORTHODOX HERALD COLLECTION - Collections for the *Orthodox Herald* will take place every 2nd Sunday of the month. Please donate generously.

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.

POP TAB COLLECTION PROGRAM FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE - RJ (and his parents, Debbie & Bob Krimetz) is collecting flip tabs from any aluminum cans to donate to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. *Help by bringing in your tabs! Thank you!*

Other Events at SS Peter & Paul

POT LUCK LENTEN DINNERS & DISCUSSIONS - WEDNESDAYS, AFTER PRE-SANCTIFIEDS (April 9, 16) - Please join us for Pre-Sanctifieds on **Wednesdays at 7 PM**, followed by our wonderful Pot Luck Lenten Dinners and spiritual discussions. Bring your favorite Lenten entree for all to share!

COMMUNAL KINSHIP COFFEE HOUR - A huge *Thank You!* to all who have made our Communal Kinship Coffee Hour a success!

Sunday School News

SUNDAY SCHOOL takes place each Sunday after the children receive Holy Communion. Please bring your children each week so that they may take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to be educated in our faith and to build friendships with other Orthodox children.

General Interest

ANCIENT FAITH RADIO - 24 hour a day *Orthodox radio station* providing high quality internet-based Orthodox programming, music, teaching, interviews, features, convert testimonies, conference recordings, and much more! The URL is: **<http://ancientfaithradio.com>**

ALBANIAN FORUM ON THE INTERNET (FORUMI SHQIPTAR) - has a section on: Komuniteti Orthodhoks. It has extensive offerings on Orthodoxy in the Albanian language. They are divided into many themes, i.e. "The Birth of Christ," "The Church is One," a catechism and includes Fr. Thomas Hopko's entire Rainbow series.

Ne gjuhen shqipe: per te dhena informative mbi Kishen Orthodhokse, klikoni "Komuniteti Orthodhoks" ne uebsajten Forumi Shqiptar me poshte:

Theurlis: **www.forumishqiptar.com/forumdisplay.php?f=186**

Miscellaneous

SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH STORE - Open every Sunday at 9:30 AM (one half hour before Divine Liturgy) and after Divine Liturgy until 1:30 PM

Items available: Icons; Crosses (Baptismal, lapel pins, Georgian style, orthodox); Prayerbooks (Georgian and English); Censors; Unique and different wearing apparel; CDs and cassettes; Religious Books

Divine Liturgy Books are available at the Book Store.

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 8 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 27**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **5/4/08**. 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, Terri Drobish, Belinda Mentzer, Sally O'Brien, Rose Shaloka, Sharon Spause, Margaret Vesho



May God grant them all many, many years!

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.

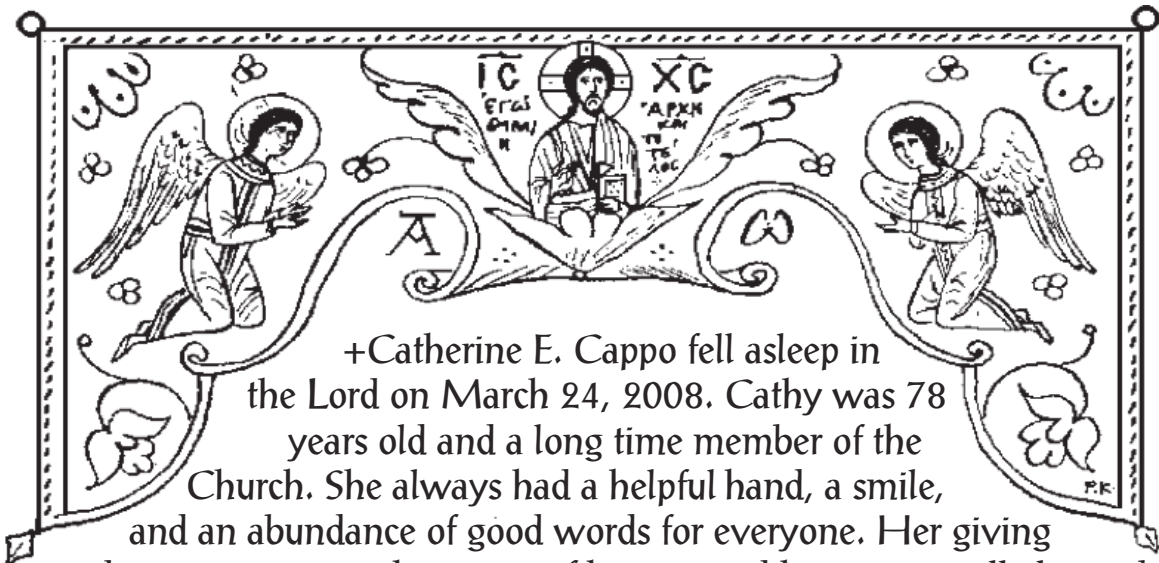
Please continue to keep Gregory in your prayers. May God grant him good health!

Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Gregory Vreto, Sr., Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, Angie Kozlowski, James Vesho, Margot Craig, Hope Vrato, Pat Bergey, Eteri Okropiridze**

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

Memory Eternal



+Catherine E. Cappo fell asleep in the Lord on March 24, 2008. Cathy was 78 years old and a long time member of the Church. She always had a helpful hand, a smile, and an abundance of good words for everyone. Her giving and generous nature, her sense of humor, and her caring will always be remembered and cherished. Cathy is lovingly remembered and greatly missed by family, friends and parishioners of SS Peter & Paul. May her memory be eternal!

In Memoriam: Archbishop Eugene Vansuch

EASTON, PA [OCA Communications] -- On Sunday, March 23, 2008, †Archbishop Eugene Vansuch, 66, of Easton, PA, fell asleep in the Lord at his residence.

Fr. Eugene was born in Campbell, Ohio, received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Youngstown University and later graduated from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in 1967 with a Masters of Divinity Degree. He was also a member of the St. Vladimir's Octet that traveled the country. He was ordained to the priesthood March 12, 1967. He celebrated 41 years of priestly service this year.

Fr. Eugene's pastoral assignments included parishes in New York, Illinois, Florida, Connecticut, as well as three parishes in Pennsylvania, including St. John Chrysostom in Philadelphia and St. Nicholas in Bethlehem. It was at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church where Fr. Eugene was instrumental in facilitating a major renovation project which saw new iconography throughout the church, the expansion of the temple, and the building of a new fellowship hall with a seating capacity of 300 people. Fr. Eugene's current pastoral assignment was St. Vladimir Orthodox Church in Trenton, NJ.

Fr. Eugene served the Orthodox Church in America in many capacities, including the Executive Director of the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (FOS). For many years he was the national spiritual advisor for the Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs, which later became Fellowship of Orthodox Christians. He was also a long-time member of St. Herman Seminary Board of Trustees and taught at St. Tikhon Orthodox Seminary in South Canaan, PA. He also served on the Local Brotherhood of Clergy as well as the Lehigh Valley Council of Churches.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Vansuch family in care of **Connell Funeral Home, Inc 245 E. Broad St. Bethlehem PA 18018** for future distribution to the churches that Fr. Eugene loved and served.

May his memory be eternal!

Sophia: Secret Wisdom

Sophia: Secret Wisdom is an HD feature documentary in production, not yet complete. Its goal is to explore and provide concrete ways to promote peace, understanding and tolerance.

The project illuminates significant mysteries of existence and ways of peace, through insight and wisdom from ancient and living spiritual masters. The film focuses on stories of monks, hermits and sages for the 4th - 12th centuries in the Christian east who lived in caves and the first monasteries of Egypt, Israel (Roman Palestine), Syria, Greece, Romania, Armenia, and Russia/former Soviet Union, and on those who still live there today.

This is going to be an unbelievable film about Orthodox spirituality around the world. However, they need more funds to finish the "Russian/Ukrainian" part of the monastic visits. Please encourage anyone you know to contribute to its completion. Actual footage of the movie, more information and a way to contribute can be found at:

<http://sophiasecretwisdom.com> or you can send a check (with "SOPHIA: SECRET WIS- DOM" written on the lower left corner) to: **Sarah Masters, The Hartley Film Foundation, 49 Richmondville Avenue, Suite 204, Westport, CT 06880**

You can listen to Fr John McGuckin on "Come Receive the Light" for the interview regarding this project at: <http://www.myocn.net/index.php/CRTL/Show-Descriptions/CRTL-Archives>

Scroll down to the Archives, 03/28/08 - Sophia: Wisdom From Today's Christian Ascetics - Rev. Dr. John McGuckin

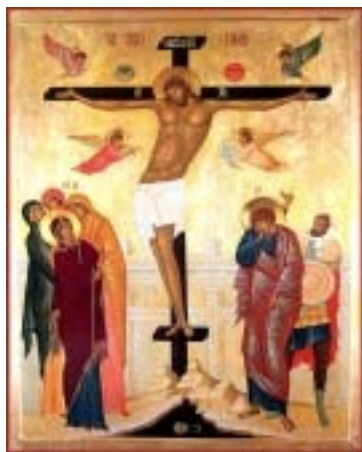
Holy Days and Name Days in April

- April 6 - St John Climacus (of the Ladder); St Methodius, Enlightener of the Slavs
- April 7 - Repose of St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow
- April 9 - St Vadim, Monk Martyr of Persia
- April 13 - St Mary of Egypt
- April 14 - St Martin, Confessor, Pope of Rome
- April 16 - Virgin Martyrs Agape, Irene & Chionia
- April 19 - Lazarus Saturday
- April 20 - Entrance into Jerusalem; Palm Sunday
- April 23 - Holy Wednesday; Holygreat Martyr, Victorybearer & Wonderworker George
- April 24 - Holy Thursday
- April 25 - Holy Friday; Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark
- April 26 - Holy Saturday
- April 27 - Holy 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 Friday

(Excerpted from the writings of Fr. Paul Lazor)

On Great and Holy Friday, Christ died on the Cross. He gave up His spirit with the words: "It is finished" (John 19:30). These words are better understood when rendered: "It is consummated." He had accomplished the work for which His heavenly Father had sent Him into the world. He became a man in the fullest sense of the word. He accepted the baptism of repentance from John in the Jordan River. He assumed the whole human condition, experiencing all its alienation, agony, and suffering, concluding with the lowly death on the Cross. He perfectly fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:



"Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he has poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Isaiah 53:12)

The Man of Sorrows

On the Cross Jesus thus became "the man of sorrows; acquainted with grief" whom the prophet Isaiah had foretold. He was "despised and forsaken by men" and "smitten by God, and afflicted" (Isaiah 53:3-4). He became the one with "no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2). His ap-

pearance was "marred beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men" (Isaiah 52:14). All these Messianic prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus as he hung from the Cross.

As the end approached, He cried: "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). This cry indicated His complete identification with the human condition. He had totally embraced the despised, forsaken and smitten condition of suffering and death - alienation from God. He was truly the man of sorrows.

Yet, it is important to note that Jesus' cry of anguish from the Cross was not a sign of His loss of faith in His Father. The words which He exclaimed are the first verse of Psalm 22, a messianic Psalm. The first part of the Psalm foretells the anguish, suffering and death of the Messiah. The second part is a song of praise to God. It predicts the final victory of the Messiah.

Crucifixion - The Triumph of Evil

Before succumbing to this cruel Roman method of executing political criminals, Jesus suffered still other injustices. He was stripped, mocked and beaten. He wore a "kingly" crown of thorns on His head. He carried His own cross. He was finally nailed to the cross between two thieves at a place called Golgotha (the place of the skull) outside Jerusalem. An inscription was placed above His head on the Cross to indicate the nature of His crime: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." He yielded up His spirit at about the ninth hour (3 p.m.), after hanging on the Cross for about six hours.

On Holy Friday evil triumphed. "It was night" (John 13:30) when Judas departed from the Last Supper to complete his act of betrayal, and "there was darkness over all the land" (Matthew 27:45) when Jesus was hanging on the Cross. The evil forces of this world had been massed against Christ. Unjust trials convicted Him. A criminal was released to the people instead of Him. Nails and a spear pierced His body. Bitter vinegar was given to Him to quench His thirst. Only one disciple remained faithful to Him. Finally, the tomb of another man became His place of repose after death.

The innocent Jesus was put to death on the basis of both religious and political charges. Both Jews and Gentile Romans participated in His death sentence.

"The rulers of the people have assembled against the Lord and His Christ." (Psalm 2 - the Prokeimenon of the Holy Thursday Vespers Liturgy)

We, also, in many ways continue to participate in the death sentence given to Christ. The formal charges outlined above do not exhaust the reasons for the crucifixion. Behind the formal charges lay a host of injustices brought, on by hidden and personal motivations. Jesus openly spoke the truth about God and man. He thereby exposed the false character of the righteousness and smug security, both religious and material, claimed by many especially those in high places. The constantly occurring expositions of such smugness in our own day teach us the truly illusory nature of much so-called righteousness and security. In the deepest sense, the death of Christ was brought about by hardened, personal sin - the refusal of people to change themselves in the light of reality, which is Christ.

"He came to His very own, and His own received Him not" (John 1:11).

Especially we, the Christian people, are Christ's very own. He continues to come to us in His Church. Each time we attempt to make the Church into something other than the eternal coming of Christ into our midst, each time we refuse to repent for our wrongs; we, too, reject Christ and participate in His death sentence.

~ Reading and Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~