



SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

9230 Old Bustleton Avenue ~ Philadelphia, PA 19115 - Church Phone: 215-676-3311

Pastor: Father Stephen Siniari - Phone: 609-385-3757 - Email: frsiniari@gmail.com

FATHER STEPHEN'S MESSAGE TO THE FAITHFUL

Are You with Lord Jesus, or against Him? (Mt. 12:30)

Want A Christmas Headache? Read This:

"...because we know the mode of existence which the Incarnation of the Logos revealed, namely, the kenosis of Christ...

We call *kenosis* the dynamic *self-concealment* of the deity of the Logos in a relation of communion with human nature, a relation which reveals to us the *emptying* of every element of existential self-containedness. This is a new mode of existence in terms of human experience and human categories of thought. It is the hypostatic mode of existence of the Logos who is enfleshed by the energy of the Holy Spirit in order to disclose the Father, the mode of existence of the triadic perichoresis which reveals to us the mystery of the One Triadic God in the kenotic mode of the Logos' assumption of human nature."

-- C. Yannaras

Want Christmas Peace? Read This:

God came to us in the Person of Jesus Christ and put on our human nature through the Virgin Mary because:

"...The one nature (human) has been divided into a myriad fragments. And we who belong to this one

nature are victims of one another like vicious serpents...

The self-love of each person's will... has made the mildest nature savage. And has cut up the one essence into many opposing parts which, not to put it more strongly, are destructive of one another...

The self-love and cleverness of men, alienating them from each other and perverting the law, have cut our single human nature into many fragments.

They have so extended the insensibility which they introduced into our nature and which now dominates it, that our nature, divided in will and purpose, fights against itself.

In his love for man God became man so that He might unite human nature to Himself and stop it from acting evilly towards itself, or rather from being at strife and divided against itself, and from having no rest because of the instability of its will and purpose."

-- St. Maximos the Confessor

...So, in His birth, Lord Jesus unites us in Holy Communion... Are you working with Him, or against Him in your interaction and relation to Him and to others?

Events and Announcements

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011

- + **NATIVITY - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**
 - + **CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST BASIL THE GREAT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**
 - + **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING OF WATER - THURSDAY, JANUARY 6 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**
 - + **LESSER BLESSING OF WATER - SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**
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SCHEDULE OF OTHER SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM - 8:30 PM in the Church Hall - Led by **Fr. Dn. Gregory** .

CHURCH NEWS AND REMINDERS

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.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Monday, **December 6, 7 PM.** All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

THE JOY OF GIVING

COLLECTION SUNDAYS - May God bless you for your generosity!

1st Sunday of each month - Collection for the Poor

2nd Sunday - Orthodox Herald

3rd Sunday - Pastoral Fund

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - Please continue to help feed the hungry. Frozen casseroles are collected by **Harry Halkedis**. A **\$10 donation** for

casseroles accepted at any time. Disposable razors and individual/small tubes of hand lotion are needed. Thank you!

OTHER DONATIONS:

Church Library

Pop Tab Collections for Ronald McDonald House

Wine: Altar wine: **Manischewitz Concord Grape** (please do not donate any other brand of concord grape)

Oil: **Virgin Olive Oil**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We invite all children to attend our Sunday School, led by Rdr. Gregory Shaloka and Mrs. Rose Shaloka. Sunday School begins immediately after Holy Communion and takes place upstairs in the Church Hall.

Events and Announcements *(Continued)*

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

A REQUEST... if you have borrowed any containers, trays, bowls, coffee carafes, etc. from the kitchen, *please return them as soon as possible.* These items are used for many of the functions held in the Church Hall and they are needed. *Thank you!*

FUTURE EVENTS AT SS PETER & PAUL

LADIES' SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER - **Sunday, December 5**

Please consider donating **NEW** toys, gift cards, wine, any **NEW** items.
Cash donations are gratefully accepted.

Anyone wishing to help, please see any member of the Ladies' Society.

Please help the Ladies' Society make this year another great success!

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY CHORAL PROGRAM - **Sunday, December 19**

Immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE HOUR - Due to the increasing cost of the Coffee Hour and lack of donations, the charge for coffee and/or anything on the table is \$1. There will also be a charge of \$1 per bottle of water or can of soda at all times. Children are free. *Please place money in the basket next to the coffee pot.*

SS PETER & PAUL 90TH YEAR CELEBRATION DVD - Copies are available at the Church Store. Cost: \$15

SS PETER & PAUL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD - If you wish to have your name included on

our annual Community Christmas Card, please see **Jim Bachelor** ASAP. *This is a great opportunity to support your parish.* The donation is **\$10. Deadline:** Sunday, **December 5.**

NATIVITY GREETING CARDS FOR SALE - Once again, SS Peter & Paul is selling beautiful Nativity greeting cards. *All proceeds benefit the Pastoral Care Fund.* Each box of 16 cards is **\$24**; individual cards are **\$1.50**. See **Donna Bacon** to place your order or purchase cards.

GENERAL INTEREST

ANCIENT FAITH RADIO 24 hour a day *internet Orthodox radio station:*

<http://ancientfaithradio.com>

PEROGIES FOR SALE - St Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral at 8598 Verree Rd, Phila, PA 19111, is selling perogies for **\$7** a dozen. The perogies are available Saturday evenings after Vespers and Sundays following Divine Liturgy.

Events and Announcements *(Continued)*

MISCELLANEOUS

NEW WEB PAGE/E-MAILS

<http://sspeterpaulphila.org>

New Bulletins are available online by Saturday 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 Alicia an e-mail at: aliciaj17@mac.com

SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH STORE - Open Sundays at 9:30 AM (1/2 hour before Divine Liturgy) **Items available:** Divine Liturgy Books, Icons; Crosses (Baptismal, lapel pins, Georgian style, orthodox); Prayerbooks (English); Censers; CDs and cassettes; Religious Books. Also available: **IN THEIR OWN TONGUE**, a documentary chronicling the Albanian Archdiocese in America

"DAILY BREAD" - The Church distributes a daily email entitled "Daily Bread" containing scripture readings for the day and the commemorated saints. To add your name (or the name of anyone who would enjoy getting it) please forward the email address to the Church email address:

sspeterpaul2@verizon.net

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.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL LIGHTS - Envelopes are available at the Church Store counter for special prayers to be said during the week in conjunction with the burning of the Seven-Day Votive Light hanging above the Royal Doors. Suggested offering: \$10, which will go towards building up our Pastoral Fund with the ultimate goal of supporting a full time priest.

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 email: aliciaj17@mac.com. *The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, December 19.* Thank you! *Parishioners will be able to pick up the December Bulletin at the Church on Sunday 12/26/10.* 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.

Parishioner's Corner



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **December Birthdays**: *Fr Dn Perry Angelos, Donna Bacon, Marge Costa, Christina Murianka, Jeanette Napier, Tatyana Nilova, John Palmerick, Edna Quirias, Eurania Quirias, Hope Vrato*

May God grant them all many, many years!

DONATE AN ITEM A MONTH CAMPAIGN - We are still in need of the following items: **Paper Towels, Ziplock Bags, Napkins, Handi-Wipes.** *Your continued help is truly appreciated! A sincere "Thank You" to all parishioners who so kindly donated any requested items.*

GOOD COMPANY & GOOD FOOD: HELP BUILD UP OUR PASTORAL FUND - A new tradition has started -- serving a hot meal on most Sundays to build up our Pastoral Fund. If you have any ideas or are interested in participating or sponsoring a particular Sunday, please talk to **Jim Schaeffer** or **Letitia Desloges.** *Your help and support is needed to get this project up and running!*

A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED TO DIRECT THE CASSEROLE PROGRAM - **Harry Halkedis** would like to retire from the casserole program in 2010! *Thank you, Harry, for all your incredibly hard work.* We desperately need someone to take over this most worthwhile program.

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 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 Vrato, Sr., Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, Mary Palmerick, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, Margot Craig, Eteri Okropiridze, Katherine Halkedis, Mary Ann Clark, Paulette Steffa, Alexandra Pana, Nicholas Desloges, Steven Yarrow, Martha Murianka, Connie Douris, Anthony Sarris, Jeanie Rifkin, Nick Zeo, His Grace Bishop Nikon, Debbie Krimetz**

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

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 _____, 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.

Special Announcements from Fr. Stephen

Father Stephen may be reached at **609-385-3757**, Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM or by email: **frsiniari@gmail.com**

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.

HOLY DAYS AND NAME DAYS IN DECEMBER

- December 4** - Greatmartyr Barbara; New Hieromartyr Alexander
- December 5** - Ven. Sabbas the Sanctified
- December 6** - St Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra
- December 9** - Conception of the Holy Theotokos by Righteous Anna
- December 12** - Sunday of the Holy Forefathers; St Spyridon the Wonderworker
- December 13** - Ven. Herman of Alaska
- December 15** - Holy Martyr Eleutherius
- December 17** - Prophet Daniel & 3 Holy Youths
- December 22** - Greatmartyr Anastasia
- December 24** - Eve of the Nativity; Nun Martyr Eugenia
- December 25** - Nativity of Christ
- December 26** - Synaxis of the Most-Holy Theotokos
- December 27** - Protomartyr Stephen
- December 30** - Virgin Martyr Anysia

CHRIST IS BORN!

GLORIFY HIM!

GREATMARTYR BARBARA AT HELIOPOLIS, IN SYRIA

(Commemorated on December 4)

The Holy Great Martyr Barbara lived and suffered during the reign of the emperor Maximian (305-311). Her father, the pagan Dioscorus, was a rich and illustrious man in the Syrian city of Heliopolis. After the death of his wife, he devoted himself to his only daughter.

Seeing Barbara's extraordinary beauty, Dioscorus decided to hide her from the eyes of strangers. Therefore, he built a tower for Barbara, where only her pagan teachers were allowed to see her. From the tower there was a view of hills stretching into the distance. By day she was able to



gaze upon the wooded hills, the swiftly flowing rivers, and the meadows covered with a mottled blanket of flowers; by night the harmonious and majestic vault of the heavens twinkled and provided a spectacle of inexpressible beauty. Soon the virgin began to ask herself questions about the First Cause and Creator of so harmonious and splendid a world.

Gradually, she became convinced that the soulless idols were merely the work of human hands. Although her father and teachers offered them worship, she realized that the idols could not have made the surrounding world. The desire to know the true God so consumed her soul that Barbara decided to devote all her life to this goal, and to spend her life in virginity.

The fame of her beauty spread throughout the city, and many sought her hand in marriage. But despite the entreaties of her father, she refused all of them. Barbara warned her father that his persistence might end tragically and separate them forever. Dioscorus decided that the temperament of his daughter had been affected by her life of seclusion. He therefore permitted her to leave the tower and gave her full freedom in her choice of friends and acquaintances. Thus Barbara met young Christian maidens in the city, and they taught her about the Creator of the world, about the Trinity, and about the Divine Logos. Through the Providence of God, a priest arrived in Heliopolis from Alexandria disguised as a merchant. After instructing her in the mysteries of the Christian Faith, he baptized Barbara, then returned to his own country.

During this time a luxurious bathhouse was being built at the house of Dioscorus. By his orders the workers prepared to put two windows on the south side. But Barbara, taking advantage of her father's absence, asked them to make a third window, thereby forming a Trinity of light. On one of the walls of the bath-house Barbara traced a cross with her finger. The cross was deeply etched into the marble, as if by an iron instrument. Later, her footprints were imprinted on the stone steps of the bathhouse. The water of the bathhouse had great healing power. St Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9) compared the bathhouse to the stream of Jordan and the Pool of Siloam, because by God's power, many miracles took place there.

When Dioscorus returned and expressed dissatisfaction about the change in his building plans, his daughter told him about how she had come to know the Triune God, about the saving power of the Son of God, and about the futility of worshipping idols. Dioscorus went into a rage, grabbed a sword and was on the point of striking her with it. The holy virgin fled from her father, and he rushed after her in pursuit. His way became blocked by a hill, which opened up and concealed the saint in a crevice. On the other side of the crevice was an entrance leading upwards. St Barbara managed then to conceal herself in a cave on the opposite slope of the hill.

After a long and fruitless search for his daughter, Dioscorus saw two shepherds on

the hill. One of them showed him the cave where the saint had hidden. Dioscorus beat his daughter terribly, and then placed her under guard and tried to wear her down with hunger. Finally he handed her over to the prefect of the city, named Martianus. They beat St Barbara fiercely: they struck her with rawhide, and rubbed her wounds with a hair cloth to increase her pain. By night St Barbara prayed fervently to her Heavenly Bridegroom, and the Savior Himself appeared and healed her wounds. Then they subjected the saint to new, and even more frightful torments.

In the crowd where the martyr was tortured was the virtuous Christian woman Juliana, an inhabitant of Heliopolis. Her heart was filled with sympathy for the voluntary martyrdom of the beautiful and illustrious maiden. Juliana also wanted to suffer for Christ. She began to denounce the torturers in a loud voice, and they seized her.

Both martyrs were tortured for a long time. Their bodies were raked and wounded with hooks, and then they were led naked through the city amidst derision and jeers. Through the prayers of St Barbara the Lord sent an angel who covered the nakedness of the holy martyrs with a splendid robe. Then the steadfast confessors of Christ, Sts Barbara and Juliana, were beheaded. Dioscorus himself executed St Barbara. The wrath of God was not slow to punish both torturers, Martianus and Dioscorus. They were killed after being struck by lightning.

In the sixth century the relics of the holy Great Martyr Barbara were transferred to Constantinople. Six hundred years later, they were transferred to Kiev (July 11) by Barbara, the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenos, who married the Russian prince Michael Izyaslavich. They rest even now at Kiev's St Vladimir cathedral, where an Akathist to the saint is served each Tuesday.

Many pious Orthodox Christians are in the habit of chanting the Troparion of St Barbara each day, recalling the Savior's promise to her that those who remembered her and her sufferings would be preserved from a sudden, unexpected death, and would not depart this life without benefit of the Holy Mysteries of Christ.

Icon & Reading Courtesy of OCA Website

TENTATIVE LITURGICAL SCHEDULE
JANUARY 2011 - JANUARY 2012

- JAN 1 - (Sat) CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST. BASIL THE GREAT, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JAN 6 - (Thurs) THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING OF WATER, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JAN 9 - (Sun) LESSER BLESSING OF WATER, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- FEB 2 - (Wed) MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- MAR 9 - (Wed) PRE-SANCTIFIED, 7 PM
- MAR 13 - (Sun) SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- MAR 16, 23 - (Weds) PRE-SANCTIFIEDS, 7 PM
- MAR 25 - (Fri) ANNUNCIATION, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- MAR 30/APR 6, 13 - (Weds) PRE-SANCTIFIEDS, 7 PM
- APR 16 - LAZARUS SATURDAY, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- APR 17 - (Sun) ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM, Divine Liturgy & BLESSING OF PALMS, 10 AM
- APR 20 - HOLY WEDNESDAY (Holy Unction) 7 PM
- APR 21 - HOLY THURSDAY (Twelve Passion Gospels) 7 PM
- APR 22 - HOLY FRIDAY (Vespers, Taking Down From Cross) 3 PM; Lamentations at Tomb 7 PM
- APR 23 - HOLY SATURDAY (Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil) 9 AM; ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY 11 PM
- APR 24 - PASCHA SUNDAY (Agape Vespers; Gospel in many languages) NOON
- JUN 2 - HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JUN 12 - HOLY PENTECOST SUNDAY, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- JUN ? - (Sat/Sun - *To Be Announced*) CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY with His Grace Bishop Nikon; Divine Liturgy 9 AM; *Parish Meal after the Divine Liturgy*
- JUN 29 - (Wed) SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- AUG 6 - (Sat) HOLY TRANSFIGURATION, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- AUG 15 - (Mon) DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- SEP 14 - (Wed) EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- NOV ? - (Sat/Sun - *To Be Announced*) ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM FEAST DAY & His Grace Bishop Nikon's visit to our Sister Parish (****No Services at SS Peter & Paul****)
- DEC 25 - (Sun) NATIVITY, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- JANUARY 2012**
- JAN 1 - (Sun) CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST BASIL THE GREAT, Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- JAN 6 - (Fri) THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING OF WATER, Divine Liturgy 9 AM