



SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church
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Philadelphia, PA 19115
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Church Bulletin ~ February 2003

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Gathering and Storing Up — Why?

"What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? All their days their work is pain and grief, even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without Him, who can eat or find enjoyment? To those who please Him, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness, but to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

There is a time for everything and a season for everything under Heaven.

A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant and a time to uproot.

A time to kill and a time to heal.

A time to tear down and a time to build.

A time to weep and a time to laugh.

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them.

A time to embrace and a time to refrain.

A time to search and a time to give up.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear and a time to mend.

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on people. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in their hearts; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." *Ecclesiastes*



Events & Announcements

Church News & Reminders

ICON PLEDGES - If you have an outstanding Icon Pledge from 2002, please remember to fulfill your pledge by bringing in any amounts due on your pledge. See George Kendro

if you are unsure of how much you still owe. Also, if you still have any Icons in your home, please return them to George Kendro as soon as possible.

ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY 2003 was a big success! A huge **Thank you** to all those who participated! At the last tally, over \$12,000 was raised by Church members. Pledges can still be made by contacting George Kendro, the treasurer, or Stephen Murianka with the Saint's name and the amount. Also, anyone still wishing to make a Christmas donation can do so by seeing George.

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.

CHURCH ENVELOPES for Weekly Donations are now available for pick up in the office. Please pick yours up as soon as possible.

The Joy of Giving

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.

Events

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, February 22**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 3/2/03**. 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.

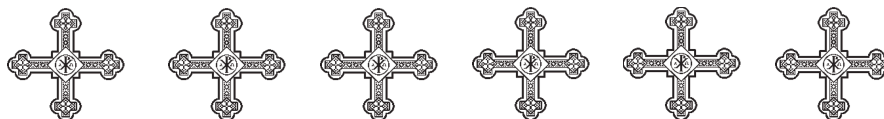
PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR BULLETIN ENVELOPES - In an effort to help conserve paper, please leave the envelope from your Bulletin in either of the two wire baskets. This way I can use them again and again. Thanks very much from Alicia.

Parishioner's Corner

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **February Birthdays: Edna Bachelor, Janet Bachelor, Joe Bacon, Margot Craig, Amelia Daka, Virginia Daka, Ralph John, Marge Kenny, Andrew Quirias, Lilli Shallapi, Andi Steffa, Gregory Vreto, Sr.**

May God grant them all many, many years!

HOLY WEEK - EASTER (*compiled by Fr. George L. Papadeas*) This Prayerbook of Lent and Easter Services is being ordered by **Debbie Krimetz**. The cost is \$25 (plus shipping charges). If you would like to order a copy for yourself, please see Debbie or call her at **215-295-4448**. The **deadline** to let her know is Sunday, **February 16**.



Memory Eternal

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of +Anthony Vesho, Sr., who fell asleep in the Lord in January, 2003.

May his memory be eternal.



OCMC Is Recruiting Mission Team Members

January 29, 2003

St. Augustine, FL (OCMC) - Orthodox Christians are needed to come together and form OCMC Mission Teams to help make a difference in the world. Applications are still being accepted, but time is running out. All those willing to follow in the footsteps of saints, who are ready and willing to share their faith, their time and their talents are being called to serve for 1 to 4 weeks this summer. Several Orthodox communities in need will benefit from the team members' efforts and witness.

In Ghana, where the Orthodox Church is steadily growing under harsh economic conditions, 2 mission teams will be going to serve. The first team of 10 people will go in July for three weeks to help the local Orthodox with building a church and assist in evangelistic efforts. Those with construction experience and those who know how to use a hammer are encouraged to apply.

A second team will be going to Ghana in August for three weeks on an evangelism mission. This team will visit villages where there is an Orthodox presence and where there is not. The Orthodox Church in Ghana has over 4,000 people, but there remains a great shortage of priests. Clergy, seminarians, presbyteras, students and anyone ready to share the Orthodox Christian faith are encouraged to apply.

People are also needed to serve infants and children in two very different parts of the world. One team will be going to Romania in August for two weeks to assist at a home for abandoned infants and women at risk of abandoning their children. At the newly established Protection of the Theotokos Infant and Maternal Center team members will help with infant care. Those with experience in child-care and pro-life counseling are encouraged to apply.

Another team will be in July for three weeks to help out at the Hogar Rafael Ayau Orthodox orphanage in Guatemala City. Team members will assist in classroom activities, play sports, do arts and crafts, go on field trips and show love to over 150 children as well as witness their Orthodox faith. Although it is not required, Spanish-speaking applicants are encouraged to apply, as well as all those with child-care and any other kind of teaching experience.

For more information on teams and for a downloadable application, please go to www.ocmc.org/teams

Apply today!!!



A Thanksgiving Message Worth Sharing



Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.

If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes.

They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you are tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for good things.

A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive.

Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings.

— Author Unknown

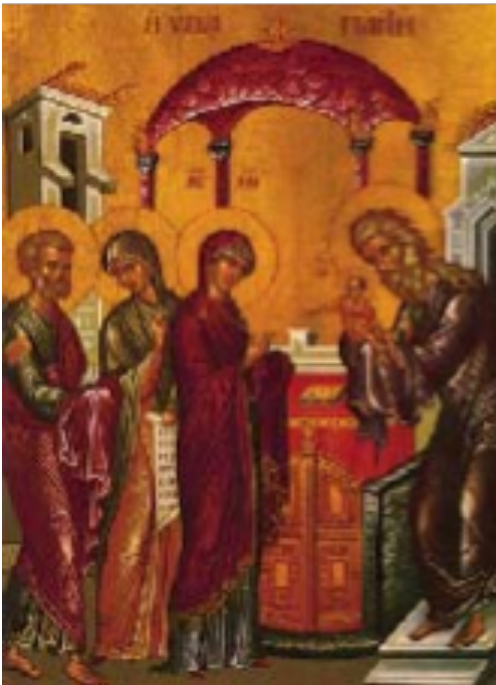
(contributed by Paulette Steffa)

Holy Days and Name Days in February

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| February 1 | - St Bridget of Ireland |
| February 2 | - Meeting of Christ in the Temple |
| February 3 | - Righteous Godbearer Simeon & Anna the Prophetess |
| February 6 | - St Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople |
| February 9 | - Sunday of Zacchaeus |
| February 10 | - St Haralambos; St Valentina of Palestine |
| February 11 | - St Blaise |
| February 14 | - St Cyril, Teacher of the Slavs |

- February 16 - Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee
- February 18 - St Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
- February 23 - Sunday of the Prodigal Son
- February 26 - St Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza; St Sebastian
- February 27 - St Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn
- February 28 - SS Marina, Kira & Domnina

Meeting of Christ in the Temple



When the most pure Mother and Ever-virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which preaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2.22-24; Exod. 13:2; Lev. 12.6-8). On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now lettest Thou

Thy servant depart in peace, O Master..." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.

~ Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA ~
 from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America web page



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**

