



***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: 856-616-0782***



*Church Bulletin ~ February 2004*

## Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

### The Lenten Spring

Finally comes the last day, usually called *Forgiveness Sunday*, but whose other liturgical name must also be remembered: *The Expulsion of Adam From The Paradise Of Bliss*. This name summarizes indeed the entire preparation for Lent.

By now we know that man was created for paradise, for knowledge of God and for communion with Him. Man's sin has deprived him of that blessed life and his existence on earth is exile.

Christ, the Savior of the world, opens the door of paradise to everyone who follows Him, and the Church, by revealing to us the beauty of the Kingdom, makes our life a pilgrimage toward our heavenly Fatherland.

Thus, at the beginning of Lent we are like Adam: Adam was expelled from paradise through food; sitting therefore in front of it he cried, "Woe is me... One commandment of God have I transgressed, depriving myself of all that is good; paradise holy! Planted for me. And now because of Eve, closed to me; pray to thy Creator and mine that I may be filled again by Thy blossom."

Then answered the Savior to him: "I wish not my creation to perish; I desire it to be saved and to know the Truth; for I will not turn away him who comes to Me."



### Events & Announcements

#### Liturgical Schedule - February/March 2004

**PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY** - Wednesdays, 7 PM - 2/25, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31 (*3/31 is the last one*)

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY - FEBRUARY 29** - Vespers at 5 PM at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 7th & Brown Streets, Philadelphia, PA

**ANNUNCIATION - THURSDAY, MARCH 25** - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

#### Church News & Reminders

**GREAT LENT** - A reminder that Great Lent begins on **Monday, February 23**

**ICON PLEDGES** - A **SINCERE THANK YOU** to everyone for participating in our successful Icon Pledge Sunday. Although the current total amount is not as high as in previ-

ous years, many different parishioners participated for the first time and made pledges. This is indeed a good sign for the health of our Church and our Parish community. Pledges can still be made by contacting George Kendro or Stephen Murianka with the Saint's name and amount.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2004** - Dues are \$100 per person and can be paid at any time to George Kendro, treasurer

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS** - Will be held on Monday, February 8, 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** - Please go to page 5 of the Bulletin for more details of how you can help and our "Giving History". Kudos to Harry Halkedis for coordinating this most worthwhile cause.

**POOR BOX DONATIONS** - Please continue to remember those who are less fortunate than we are.

**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.

## **Sunday School News**

**PYSANKY** - Children will begin the art of making pysanky on Sunday, February 29. The children will also be introduced to the making of prayer ropes after Pascha.

## **Ladies' Society News**

**MEETING** - Sunday, **February 8**, after Divine Liturgy

**LENTEN LUNCHEON** - Will be held on Sunday, **February 22**, Cheesefare Sunday

## Events

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY** - All Church singers are welcome to attend the Pan-Orthodox Choir rehearsals in preparation for Sunday of Orthodoxy, 2/29, 5 PM at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 7th & Brown Sts., Phila. The rehearsals begin on Sunday, 2/8, 6:30 PM at SS Peter & Paul. The location of the other 2 rehearsals (2/15, 2/22) is yet to be determined. For additional information, please contact Tina Murianka or Greg Staples (e-mail: gregent@aol.com). If you wish to contact either Tina or Greg by phone, please call Alicia (215-742-0492) or e-mail (aliciaj17@mac.com) for their phone numbers.

### **LENTEN MISSION VESPERS** (*Tentative*)

**Sunday, 3/7** - St. Mary's Church, Chester

**Sunday, 3/14** - Church of Our Lady, Joy of All Who Sorrow, Philadelphia

**Sunday, 3/21** - St. Michael's Church, Philadelphia

**Sunday, 3/28** - St. Herman of Alaska Church, Gradyville

**BUS TRIP TO ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY - After Pascha 2004** - The bus will be leaving St. John Chrysostom's at 9 AM. Lunch, tour of Museum and Monastery, spiritual talk by Monk Nickodemos, Vespers, etc. Reservations are \$20. Please contact Nick Naum at 856-429-2099 for information and/or reservations.

## Miscellaneous

**SUNDAY & HOLY DAYS DONATION ENVELOPES** - Can be picked up in the office at any time. Please see George Kendro if you do not remember your number. Thank you!

**INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION** - Please call the Church at **215-676-3311** to find out if Divine Liturgy is scheduled for a particular Sunday. Steve Murianka is most diligent about putting that information on the answering machine.

**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 (just click on the tip link "**Church Bulletin**"). 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**

**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 2/29/04**. 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 either of the two wire baskets. Thank you!

## **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, Maria Pavucek, Andrew Quirias, Lilli Shallapi, Andi Steffa, Greg Vreto, Sr.**

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

### **Help Us Feed the Poor and Homeless St John's Hospice in Center City Philadelphia Needs You!**

**CAN YOU MAKE A CASSEROLE? GREAT!**

**TOO BUSY TO COOK? \$10 BUYS A FROZEN CASSEROLE!**

We provide the pans and lids... Do you have a favorite dish? Please make it... Need recipes? We have them... Please bring casseroles to Church frozen.

**Also...** Extra sheets or towels? Extra non-perishable food? Bring them to Church and we will deliver!

**St. John's Hospice provides a hot meal daily to over 350 men in need. They also provide 25 beds for the homeless.**

#### **SS PETER & PAUL GIVING HISTORY**

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|----------------------|---|
| <b>NOVEMBER 2003</b> | - 13 Casseroles + Non-perishable foods                                  |
| <b>DECEMBER 2003</b> | - 17 Casseroles + Non-perishable foods, sheets, socks, t-shirts, shorts |
| <b>JANUARY 2004</b>  | - 20 Casseroles + Non-perishable foods, sheets, towels                  |

**PLEASE SEE HARRY HALKEDIS OR ANY BOARD MEMBER FOR DETAILS**

“But do not forget to do good and to share,  
for with such sacrifice God is well pleased.”

(Hebrews 13:16)

### **Archbishop Demetrios Appeals for Help for Victims of California Mudslides**

**December 30, 2003 - New York** – Responding to the tragedy that occurred on Christmas Day at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Camp in San Bernardino, CA, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, has issued an urgent appeal to be read in all parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. In this appeal he requests that a special offering be made on Sunday, January 4, 2004, to benefit the families of the victims who perished during the mudslides that ravaged the area of San Bernardino.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, expressing his deepest sorrow for the tragic loss of this large number of people said, “We were deeply saddened by the tragedy in San Bernardino. The

unexpected and harsh death of so many people, on Christmas Day, is a shocking reality that is not easily confronted. The Orthodox Church, though, which has faced innumerable tragedies and sorrows throughout the centuries, has always immediately run to the disaster sites and human pain and has offered unreserved assistance.”

The Greek Orthodox camp is located in Waterman Canyon of San Bernardino, which had recently been ravaged by fires that destroyed all vegetation and woods in the area contributing to the latest tragedy, which caused the death of at least fourteen people at the Campsite.

A disaster relief fund has been established to assist those who have lost family members. The Mudslide Victims Fund will be administrated by St. Sophia Cathedral in L.A. All funds will be directed for the benefit of the families of the victims. Checks should be made payable to “Saint Sophia Cathedral” with the words “*Mudslide Victims Fund*” written on the memo line and sent to: Saint Sophia Cathedral, 1324 South Normandie Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90006.

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### **SS Peter & Paul Parish Directory**

At a recent Council meeting, the idea was brought up to have a Parish Directory with names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mails. Each parishioner would be able to have a copy and thus have immediate access to our members. Deadline for letting Alicia know is **Sunday, March 7**. Please use this as a tear-off and place in my wicker basket in the office. Or, you can call (**215-742-0492**) or e-mail (**aliciaj17@mac.com**) or use one of the information forms that is in the basket.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I **DO NOT** wish to be included in the Parish Directory.

I **DO** wish to be included in the Parish Directory.

Please exclude \_\_\_\_\_  
(example: phone number)

### **Holy Days and Name Days in February**

- February 1 - Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee; 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 10 - St Haralambos; St Valentina of Palestine



- February 11 - St Blaise
- February 14 - St Cyril, Teacher of the Slavs
- February 15 - Meatfare Sunday; Sunday of Last Judgment
- February 18 - St Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
- February 22 - Cheesefare Sunday; Forgiveness Sunday
- February 23 - Beginning of Great Lent
- February 24 - 1st & 2nd Finding of the Honorable Head of St John the Baptist
- February 26 - St Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza; St Sebastian
- February 27 - St Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn
- February 28 - St Theodore Saturday; St Marina, Kira & Domnina
- February 29 - Sunday of Orthodoxy; St John Cassian the Roman

***Remembrance of the Finding of the Precious Head of the Holy Prophet and Forerunner and Baptist John***



The first finding came to pass during the middle years of the fourth century, through a revelation of the holy Forerunner to two monks, who came to Jerusalem to worship our Saviour's Tomb. One of them took the venerable head in a clay jar to Emesa in Syria. After his death it went from the hands of one person to another, until it came into the possession of a certain priest-monk named Eustathius, an Arian. Because he ascribed to his own false belief the miracles wrought through the relic of the holy Baptist, he was driven from the cave in which he dwelt, and by dispensation forsook the holy head, which was again made known through a revelation of Saint John, and was found in a water-jar, about the year 430, in the days of the Emperor Theodosius the Younger, when Uranius was Bishop of Emesa.

~ From the OCA Webpage ~

Icon courtesy of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Webpage  
Reading courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA



## **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**

