



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 ~ February 2006

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

There Is No Other Way by Mother Maria of Paris

"The bodies of our fellow human beings must be treated with more care than our own. Christian love teaches us to give our brethren not only spiritual gifts, but material gifts as well.

Even our last shirt, our last piece of bread must be given to them.

Personal almsgiving and the most wide-ranging social work are equally justifiable and necessary.

The way to God lies through love of other people and there is no other way.

At the Last Judgment I shall not be asked if I was successful in my ascetic exercises or how many prostrations I made in the course of my prayers.

I shall be asked,

did I feed the hungry,

clothe the naked,

visit the sick, and the prisoner; that is all I shall be asked."

Mother Maria of Paris, after the 1940 German occupation of Paris, while under Gestapo surveillance, would smuggle Jewish children to safety, hiding them in garbage bins, to save them from the Nazis. She died in Ravensbruck concentration camp, Good Friday, 1945, having offered to take the place of a Jewish woman in the gas chamber.

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 - February/March 2006

GREAT LENT - begins **MONDAY**, March 6

PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY - **WEDNESDAYS, 7 PM** - 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY - MAR 12 (VESPERS) - 5 PM - AT **ST. VLADIMIR'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, 5TH ST & CHELTENHAM AVE, PHILA., PA**

ANNUNCIATION - MAR 25 (SAT) - Divine Liturgy 9 AM

Schedule of Other Services/Events

VESPERS - EVERY SATURDAY EVENING - 6 PM

YOUTH SUNDAY - FEB 5

AKATHIST TO OUR LORD - FEB 7 (TUES) - 7 PM

ADULT EDUCATION/BIBLE STUDY - FEB 8 (WED) - 7 PM

AKATHIST TO THE THEOTOKOS - FEB 14 (TUES) - 7 PM

ADULT EDUCATION/BIBLE STUDY - FEB 15 (WED) - 7 PM

AKATHIST: "GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS" - FEB 21 (TUES) - 7 PM

ADULT EDUCATION/BIBLE STUDY - FEB 22 (WED) - 7 PM

AKATHIST TO ST. RAPHAEL, BISHOP OF BROOKLYN - FEB 27 (MON) - 7 PM

AKATHIST TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS - FEB 28 (TUES) - 7 PM

ADULT EDUCATION/BIBLE STUDY - MAR 1 (WED) - 7 PM

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 PLEDGE SUNDAY - A sincere Thank You to everyone who participated in our most successful ***Icon Pledge Sunday***, either in person or through absentee pledges. Pledges can still be made by contacting the treasurer, James Schaeffer or Stephen Murianka with the Saint's name and the amount. ***Please note:*** *when returning your Icons, please return them to the treasurer, James Schaeffer.*

SUNDAY DONATION ENVELOPES - If you have not yet picked up your Sunday Donation Envelopes, please do so as soon as possible in the office. *Thank you!*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Monday, February 6, 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 January, 7 casseroles were delivered. Special kudos & thanks to RJ who made a casserole with the help of his Mom, Debbie Krimetz! 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!*

NEW CENSER & NEW ICON DONATIONS - Donations are needed for a new censer and for the purchase of new Icons. *We thank you for your support in this project. Please donate generously.*

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.

Events at SS Peter & Paul

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE GREAT LENTEN SEASON - In the weekly bulletin of Sunday, February 26th, there will be a special schedule of services included which will have ALL of the services that will be celebrated at SS Peter and Paul throughout the Great Lenten Season and Holy Week. Once a schedule of services is received from Fr. Victor with regards to the services being held at St. Stephen Cathedral, Fr. Dn. Jason will have those available.

Other Events of General Interest

ORDINATION OF DN. DENIS NAGI TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD - Saturday, February 4th, 2006 - by His Grace Bishop Nikon at Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church in Worcester, MA. *May God continue to bless Fr. Denis and Prifteresha Kandy with many more blessed years of good health and happiness as they continue their service in the Vineyard of Our Lord.*

ALTAR SERVERS RETREAT - Saturday, February 11th, 1 PM, at St. Stephen Cathedral - The Retreat leaders are Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, Dean of St. Stephen Cathedral and Fr. Dn. Jason Vansuch, Deacon at SS Peter & Paul. For those young men who serve in our Altar and are interested in attending the Retreat, please see or contact Fr. Dn. Jason as soon as possible. This way he will be able to let Fr. Victor know how many will be attending from our parish. The topic of the Retreat will cover: The Divine Liturgy, The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, and Vespers. There is **NO FEE** for the

Retreat. *May God continue to bless you and guide you as you continue to serve at the Holy Altar of Our Lord.*

LECTURE ON ICONOGRAPHY - Thursday, February 23rd, 7 PM, at St. Stephen Cathedral - The lecture will be given by Nikita Andrejev, well-known Iconographer. For details, please see or contact **Fr. Dn. Jason** at **267-760-4561** or e-mail: **jvansuch@hotmail.com**

MEMORIAL SATURDAY DIVINE LITURGY - February 25th, 9 AM - at St. Stephen Cathedral

HIS GRACE BISHOP TIKHON OF THE DIOCESE OF EPA - will be at *St. Stephen Cathedral* on **Sunday, February 26th**, for Divine Liturgy. Also, **St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir** will be singing the responses for Great Vespers on Saturday evening as well as for the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. For more information, please see or contact **Fr. Dn. Jason** at **267- 760-4561** or e-mail: **jvansuch@hotmail.com**

ONLINE CLASSES: BASIC TEACHINGS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH & ITS HISTORY - February 6 - March 19 - For anyone interested in learning more about their Holy Orthodox Faith. The sessions are ideal for students ages 12 and up. **Cost: \$79** per participant (needed to help defray technology costs and faculty participation/time). **Topics:** *Overview & Church Architecture; Church Art & the Orthodox Cross; The Divine Liturgy; Holy Scripture & Tradition; The Ecumenical Councils; Saints of the Church.* **Format:** Includes lecture notes, presentations, readings, quizzes, interactive activities and more! Available 24/7 at 7 days/week. **Contact: Rev. Dn. Joseph Kreta** at **610-782-0225** or e-mail: **jkreta@erols.com**

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!

MEETING - Sunday, **February 5**, after Divine Liturgy

MEATBALL/HOT DOG SUNDAY - February 12, after Divine Liturgy

LENTEN LUNCHEON - on Cheesefare Sunday, **March 5th**, after Divine Liturgy

Miscellaneous

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION - Please call the Church at 215-676-3311 to find out if Divine Liturgy is scheduled for a particular Sunday. Stephen 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. 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 26**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **3/5/06**. 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 **February** Birthdays: **Edna Bachelor, Janet Bachelor, Joe Bacon, Margot Craig, Amelia Daka, Virginia Daka, Theodore Dementri, Ralph John, Maria Pavucek, Andrew Quirias, Lilli Shallapi, Andi Steffa, Gregory Vreto, Sr.**

May God grant them all many, many years!

A NEW UPDATED PARISH DIRECTORY is in the works. With this Bulletin you are receiving a **BLUE update sheet** (parishioners who are internet only will receive e-mails). If your information is correct as it is on the blue sheet, **do nothing**. *If you wish to make changes, please contact Alicia by **Friday, March 3rd***. Detailed contact instructions are on the blue sheet. If you did not receive a blue sheet or have misplaced yours, extras will be available in the Church Hall. **Please note:** this is a paper only directory; no information is being put on the internet. All parishioners who are on the mailing list (including internet only parishioners) will receive a copy, regardless of whether they are listed or not.

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., Archpriest Victor, Catherine P., Martin, Mary V.**

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

Sunday School Participation in the Feast of Theophany January 8, 2006



Holy Days and Name Days in February

- February 1 - St Bridget of Ireland
- February 2 - Meeting of Christ in the Temple
- February 3 - Righteous Godbearer Simeon & Anna the Prophetess
- February 5 - Zacchaeus Sunday
- February 6 - St Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople
- February 10 - St Haralambos; St Valentina
- February 11 - St Blaise

- February 12 - Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee
- February 14 - St Cyril, Teacher of the Slavs
- February 18 - St Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
- February 19 - Sunday of the Prodigal Son
- February 24 - 1st & 2nd Finding of the Honorable Head of St John the Baptist
- February 25 - Sunday of Orthodoxy
- February 26 - Meatfare Sunday; Sunday of the Last Judgment; St Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza; St Sebastian
- February 27 - St Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn
- February 28 - SS Marana, Kyra & Domnina; St John Cassian

Rest of St St Cyril, Equal of the Apostles & Teacher of the Slavs

Saint Cyril Equal of the Apostles, Teacher of the Slavs, and his older brother Methodius (April 6), were Slavs, born in Macedonia in the city of Thessalonica.



St Cyril received the finest of educations, and from the age of fourteen he was raised with the son of the emperor. Later, he was ordained as a priest. Upon his return to Constantinople, he worked as a librarian of the cathedral church, and as a professor of philosophy. St Cyril successfully held debates with iconoclast heretics and with Moslems.

Yearning for solitude, he went to Mount Olympos to his older brother Methodius, but his solitude lasted only a short while. Both brothers were sent by the emperor Michael on a missionary journey to preach Christianity to the Khazars in the year 857. Along the way they stopped at Cherson and discovered the relics of the Hieromartyr Clement of Rome (November 25).

Arriving at the territory of the Khazars, the holy brothers spoke with them about the Christian Faith. Persuaded by the preaching of St Cyril, the Khazar prince together with all his people accepted Christianity. The grateful prince wanted to reward the preachers with rich presents, but they refused this and instead asked the prince to free and send home with them all the Greek captives. St Cyril returned to Constantinople together with 200 such captives set free.

In the year 862 began the chief exploit of the holy brothers. At the request of Prince Rostislav, the emperor sent them to Moravia to preach Christianity in the Slavic language. Sts Cyril and Methodius by a revelation from God compiled a Slavonic alphabet and translated the Gospel, Epistles, the Psalter and many Service books into the Slavonic language. They introduced divine services in Slavonic.

The holy brothers were then summoned to Rome at the invitation of the Roman Pope. Pope Adrian received them with great honor, since they brought with them the relics of

the Hieromartyr Clement. Sickly by nature and in poor health, St Cyril soon fell ill from his many labors, and after taking the schema, he died in the year 869 at the age of forty-two. Before his death, he expressed his wish for his brother to continue the Christian enlightenment of the Slavs. St Cyril was buried in the Roman church of St Clement, whose own relics also rest there, brought to Italy from Cherson by the Enlighteners of the Slavs.

~ Icon & Reading Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~