



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 2009

✠✠✠ Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful ✠✠✠

The Question of Spiritual Age: In Marriage and in General

What is most important

- and it is here that the Orthodox spirit is most decisive
- is the question of spiritual age.

The couple passes through a maturation that finds an appropriate solution at each "age" of the nuptial life, one that is intolerant of any general formula, of all submission to the concept of the "common good."

Nuptial asceticism, nourished by the full life of the Church, draws from itself the necessary mastery to choose and to judge a situation in agreement with the spiritual age of the couple and the spouses' harmonious growth in charisms.

At the most, the Church offers only elements for a basis of judgment. She exerts no constraint; her task is to free man from all forms of enslavement in order to make him a free citizen of the Kingdom.

As soon as the sociological and finalistic notion of procreation is set aside, a solution arises from the inventive art of the magnus amor and from its protecting grace.

Father Paul Evdokimov, The Sacrament of Love

✠✠✠ 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.**

✠✠✠ 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 6** - St Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople
- ✠ **February 8** - Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee
- ✠ **February 10** - St Haralambos; St Valentina
- ✠ **February 11** - St Blaise; Righteous Theodora
- ✠ **February 14** - St Cyril, Teacher of the Slavs
- ✠ **February 15** - Sunday of the Prodigal Son
- ✠ **February 18** - St Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
- ✠ **February 22** - Meatfare Sunday; Sunday of Last Judgment
- ✠ **February 24** - 1st & 2nd Finding: 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 Marana, St Kyra & St Domnina (of Syria); St John Cassian

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee Beginning of the Lenten Triodion

(Commemorated February 8)

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.



Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (*Luke 18:14*).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

~ Reading & Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

✠✠✠ Events & Announcements ✠✠✠

Liturgical Schedule - February/March 2009

- ✠ PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - **Divine Liturgy 9 AM**
- ✠ PRE-SANCTIFIEDS - WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25 - **7 PM**
- ✠ ANNUNCIATION - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 - **Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

Schedule of Other Services

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

✠ **SATURDAY VESPERS - 6 PM - *Please note:*** these are Reader's Vespers chanted in the Byzantine style. Also, there is no "entrance" into the sanctuary as is the practice during a Great Vesper service (which precedes a Divine Liturgy).

Church News & Reminders

ICON PLEDGES - *Please note:* *The Icons are due back to the Church ASAP. Icon Pledge Sunday is scheduled for February 8, 2009. When returning your Icons, please return them to the Church Store or to the treasurer, James Schaeffer.*

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2009 - *Please note:* Membership Dues for 2009 have been raised to **\$125**. Dues can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

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

MEMORIAL DONATIONS FOR OUR NEW SS PETER & PAUL ICON - Over the past 90 years, since the dedication of SS Peter & Paul on January 12, 1919, many of the Church's beloved patriarchs and matriarchs have fallen asleep in the Lord. To honor their faith, their spirituality, their vision for our Church, and their dedicated service, a SS Peter & Paul Icon was commissioned to be placed over the Church's entrance, dedicated to the eternal memory of our loved ones. Donations are requested in memory of all those departed this life to offset the cost of the Icon, and to support our community in the perpetuation of the Orthodox Faith and its charitable works. *May their memory be eternal!*

✠✠✠ Events & Announcements ✠✠✠

The Joy of Giving *(continued)*

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.

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - *In January: 17 casseroles were given to the Hospice driver. Thanks to all!* Disposable razors and individual/small tubes of hand lotion are still needed. Please continue to help feed the hungry. Frozen casseroles are collected by Harry Halkedis. A \$10 donation for casseroles can be given at any time. *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 BOX/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!*

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.

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 your tabs! Thank you!*

Ladies Society News

FEBRUARY 15 ~ HOT DOG, MEATBALL SANDWICH & PIZZA SUNDAY, following Divine Liturgy

MARCH 1 ~ LADIES SOCIETY ANNUAL LENTEN LUNCHEON - Please join us once again for this annual event, following Divine Liturgy. *Donation: Adults, \$10, Young People Ages 10-18, \$5, Children under 10 Free! Food donations gratefully welcomed!*

Other Events at SS Peter & Paul

ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY - February 8, 2009 (***Inclement weather date: To Be Announced***) - Immediately following the Divine Liturgy. **This is SS Peter & Paul's single largest fund-raiser of the year** and is integral in funding our operating expenses. *Please make every effort to attend and please bid generously.* **Absentee bids are gratefully accepted.**



✠✠✠ Events & Announcements ✠✠✠

General Interest

ALBANIAN FORUM ON THE INTERNET (FORUMI SHQIPTAR) - Ne gjuhen shqipe: per te dhena informative mbi Kishen Orthodhokse, klikoni "Komuniteti Orthodhoks" ne uebsajten Forumi Shqiptar me poshte: www.forumishqiptar.com/forumdisplay.php?f=186

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>. There are a whole series of podcasts (audio files). Especially wonderful are those from Fr Thomas Hopko. Listen through your computer or download them into an mp3 player or Ipod: <http://ancientfaith.com/podcasts/hopko>

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.

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 (Georgian and English); Censors; Unique and different wearing apparel; CDs and cassettes; Religious Books

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 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: 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: aliciaj17@mac.com. *The deadline for the next Bulletin will be Sunday, **March 1**.* Thank you! *Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **3/8/09**.* 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, Joe Bacon, Janet Caparros (Bachelor), Margot Craiq, Virginia Daka, Theodore Dementri, Ralph John, Thomas Kenny, Christine Nass, Andrew Quirias, Lilly Shallapi, Andi Steffa, Gregory Urato, Sr.* May God grant them all many, many years!

SS PETER & PAUL GOES GREEN - To help with conservation efforts, SS Peter & Paul will no longer be buying styrofoam cups in 2009. We will, however, use up whatever cups we have and there will always be paper cups available. **You can help in this effort by bringing in your own cups for coffee or tea!** If you choose to use a cup that is by the coffee maker, please take it home with you and bring it back for your personal use. Please do not leave it to be washed at the Church. Thank you.

GREGORY VRATO, SR., is at the **John Neumann Nursing Home**, Room 729, 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, Eteri Okropiridze, Katherine Halkedis, Martha Murianka, Christina Murianka**

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

††† Christmas at SS Peter and Paul - 2008 †††



(More pictures on the next page)



Photos Courtesy of Donna Bacon

