



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 2010

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

On the Prayer of St. Ephraim

<i>Sloth</i>	<i>Chastity</i>
<i>Faintheartedness</i>	<i>Humility</i>
<i>Lust of Power</i>	<i>Patience</i>
<i>Idle Talk</i>	<i>Love</i>

Chastity: If one does not reduce this term, as is so often and erroneously done, only to its sexual connotations, it is understood as the positive counterpart of sloth.

The exact and full translation of the Greek *sofrosini* and the Russian *tselomudryie* ought to be wholeness.

Sloth is, first of all, dissipation, the brokenness of our vision and energy, the inability to see the whole.

Its opposite then is precisely wholeness. If we usually mean by chastity the virtue opposed to sexual depravity, it is because the broken character of our existence is nowhere better manifested than in sexual lust - the alienation of the body from the life and control of the spirit:

Christ restores wholeness in us and He does so by restoring in us the true scale of values by leading us back to God.

--Fr. Alexander Schmemmann in *Great Lent*



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

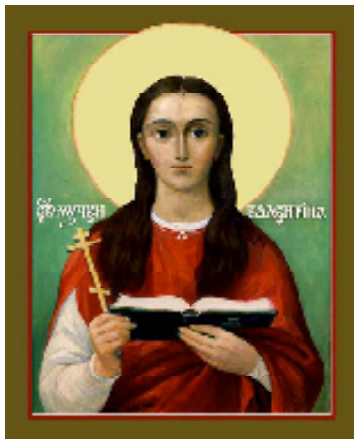
- ✦ **February 1** - St Bridget of Ireland
- ✦ **February 2** - Meeting of Christ in the Temple
- ✦ **February 3** - Righteous Godbearer Simeon & Anna the Prophetess
- ✦ **February 6** - St Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople
- ✦ **February 7** - Meatfare Sunday; Sunday of Last Judgment
- ✦ **February 10** - St Haralambos; St Valentina
- ✦ **February 11** - St Blaise; Righteous Theodora
- ✦ **February 14** - Cheesefare Sun.; Forgiveness Sun.; St Cyril, Teacher of the Slavs
- ✦ **February 15** - Beginning of Great Fast
- ✦ **February 18** - St Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
- ✦ **February 20** - St Theodore Saturday
- ✦ **February 21** - Sunday of Orthodoxy
- ✦ **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 Gregory Palamas; St Marana, Kyra & Domnina; St John Casian

~ Reading & Icon Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~

Virginmartyr Valentina of Palestine

(Commemorated February 10)

The Holy Virgin Martyrs Ennatha, Valentina and Paula suffered in the year 308 under the emperor Maximian II Galerius (305-311). St Ennatha came from the city of Gaza (in the south of Palestine), St Valentina was a native of Palestinian Caesarea, and St Paula was from the region of Caesarea.



St Ennatha was the first to be brought to trial before the governor Firmilian, bravely declaring herself a Christian. They beat her, and then they suspended her from a pillar and scourged her.

St Valentina, accused of not worshipping the gods, was led to a pagan temple to offer sacrifice, but she bravely hurled a stone at the sacrifice and turned her back on it. They beat her mercilessly and sentenced her to be beheaded along with St Ennatha.

Last of all, St Paula was brought, and they subjected her to many torments. With the help of God, however, she endured them with great patience and courage. Before her death Paula gave thanks to the Lord for strengthening her. Bowing to the Christians present, she bent her neck beneath the sword.

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - February 2010/March 2010

- + MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - **NO SERVICES**
- + BEGINNING OF GREAT FAST - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15
- + PRE-SANCTIFIEDS - WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 17, 24; MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24 - **7 PM**
- + SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY - FEBRUARY 21 - **Location & Time To Be Announced**
- + ANNUNCIATION - THURSDAY, MARCH 25 - **Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**
- + LAZARUS SATURDAY - MARCH 27 - **Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**
- + ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM - MARCH 28 - **Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Palms, 10 AM**
- + HOLY WEDNESDAY - HOLY UNCTION, MARCH 31 - **7 PM**

+ Schedule of Other Services

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY (LAST ONE ON FEBRUARY 10) - 7 PM - 8:30 PM
in the Church Hall - Led by *Fr. Dn. Gregory*

Church News & 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. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RETURNED YOUR ICONS, PLEASE BRING THEM FOR ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY ON JANUARY 31. THANK YOU!*

◇ **MEMBERSHIP DUES 2010** - Membership Dues for 2010 are \$125. *Dues* can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

◇ **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, February 1, 7 PM. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

The Joy of Giving

◇ **HAITI RELIEF DONATIONS** - The *International Orthodox Christian Charities* website is: <http://iocc.org>. Or mail a check to: **IOCC, PO Box 630225, Baltimore, MD 21263-0225**. 92% of resources go towards emergency relief and development programs. *Please pray for the people of Haiti.*

◇ **EASTER FLOWERS DONATION** - Please donate generously to defray the cost of Pascha flowers. **You may give your donation directly to Belinda Mentzer or to our Treasurer, Jim Schaeffer (please inform Jim that your donation is for Pascha flowers).** Thank you!

◇ **CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS** - 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. *Disposable razors and individual/small tubes of hand lotion are still needed. Thank you!* **PLEASE BRING IN AND GIVE TO HARRY HALKEDIS THE \$2 STOUFFERS LASAGNE COUPON IN THE BJ'S MARCH COUPON BOOK.**

◇ **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*

◇ **OTHER DONATIONS: Church Library; Pop Tab Collections for Ronald McDonald House; Wine & Oil:** Altar wine (**Mavrodaphne of Patras** - available at most PA State Stores); Virgin Olive Oil

Ladies Society News

◇ **LADIES SOCIETY ANNUAL LENTEN LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 14** - 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 or monetary donations gratefully welcomed!

◇ **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!*

Sunday School News

◇ **HUSH! PLEASE!** - Please, if you are upstairs in the Church Hall when Sunday School is in session, make an effort to speak softly so as not to disturb the teaching! Thank you!

Future Events at SS Peter and Paul



◇ **ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY - January 31, 2010 (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.*

◇ **"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY - February 7** - Immediately following the Divine Liturgy there will be a soup sale, \$1 a cup. There will also be soups available for sale to take home. *Volunteers are still needed to bring in pots of soup. Please see Linda Biando for details.* All proceeds will be donated to Covenant House.

◇ **POT LUCK LENTEN DINNERS & DISCUSSIONS - WEDNESDAYS, AFTER PRE-SANCTIFIEDS** (February 17, 24 / March 3, 10, 17, 24) - Please join us for Pre-Sanctifieds on **Wednesdays at 7 PM**, followed by our wonderful Pot Luck Lenten Dinners and spiritual discussions. Bring your favorite Lenten entree for all to share!



◇ **SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP/FIX UP DAY** - Scheduled for **Saturday, March 13th, 9 AM**. Rain Date: Saturday, March 20th. *If you are at all able, please reserve this time to come and help beautify our Church for Pascha. Thank you!*

◇ **2010 LITURGICAL SCHEDULE** - The 2010 Liturgical Schedule can be found on the outside back cover of this Bulletin. ***This is the last time the schedule will be included in the Bulletin. Please save it.***

General Interest

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

<http://ancientfaithradio.com>

◇ **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**

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.

◇ **"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**

◇ **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.

◇ **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); Censers; Unique and different wearing apparel; CDs and cassettes; Religious Books. Also available: **IN THEIR OWN TONGUE**, a documentary chronicling the Albanian Archdiocese in America.

◇ **SS PETER & PAUL'S NEW WEBSITE** - **www.sspeterpaulalbanianorthodox.org**. We are working on combining both websites. If you have anything you would like to see up on the new website, please e-mail David Biando at **davidbiando@verizon.net** or call him at **215-725-3797** and he will post it ASAP. Suggestions are always welcomed.

◇ **WEB PAGE/E-MAILS** - SS Peter & Paul Webpage: <http://homepage.mac.com/alicaj17/sspeterpaulhome1.html>. New Bulletins 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: alicaj17@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 email: alicaj17@mac.com. *The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, February 21.* Thank you! *Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday 2/28/10.* 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.

◇ **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 Craig, Virginia Daka, Theodore Dementri, Ralph John, Thomas Kenny, Christine Nass, Andrew Quirias, Lilly Shallapi, Andi Steffa, Gregory Vrato, Sr.

May God grant them all many, many years!

◇ **A MONTHLY CHURCH CALENDAR** will now be included with every Bulletin for your information. There will also be a link online at the top of each webpage.

◇ **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!*

◇ **DONATE AN ITEM A MONTH CAMPAIGN** - In our effort to never run out of goods, we are continuing with the same item, **Paper Towels, for the month of February**. Please bring a roll of paper towels (or more) on any Sunday this month. Each month a different item will be requested, based on the priorities of the Ladies' Society. *Your continued help in this new project will be truly appreciated!*

◇ **A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED TO DIRECT THE CASSEROLE PROGRAM** - Harry Halkedis is retiring in January 2010! *Thank you, Harry, for all your incredibly hard work.* We desperately need someone to take over this most worthwhile program.

◇ **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO WORK IN THE CANDLE/BOOKSTORE ROOM** - Please speak with Joe Bacon or Harry Halkedis if you are interested.

◇ **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 8:00 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 Vrato, Sr., Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, Mary Palmerick, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, James Vesho, Margot Craig, Eteri Okropiridze, Katherine Halkedis, Mary Ann Clark, Paulette Steffa, Alexandra Pana, Nicholas Desloges, Steven Yarrow**
God knows the names and ages of all who need His love and mercy...

+ Memory Eternal +

+Kosti "Gus" Bojazi fell asleep in the Lord on January 23, 2010. He was the beloved brother of Sophie Bacon, +Angie Kozlowski, and other siblings. Respected, loved, and cherished by all his nieces and nephews. He is lovingly remembered and sadly missed by all his family and friends. The Memorial Service for Gus is on Sunday, January 31, at noon at SS Peter & Paul.

May his memory be eternal!

SS Cosmas and Damian Retirement Home in Need of Chairs

The OCA sponsored *SS Cosmas and Damian Retirement Home* in Staten Island, NY, is very much in need of refurbishment and has requested groups or individuals to donate \$200 for the purchase of a single chair. Our Parish Council voted to donate one chair. Anyone interested in donating any amount towards the purchase of more chairs, please contact Jim Schaeffer.

The home has been in operation for over 30 years and provides quality health and personal care services to the elderly at affordable costs. Not a skilled nursing facility, it provides a reasonably-priced alternative to assisted living residences. The on-site St. Ireneus Chapel offers Orthodox Christian liturgical services.

Liturgical Schedule January 2010 - January 2011

- JAN 1 - (Friday) **CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST. BASIL THE GREAT**
Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JAN 6 - (Wednesday) **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING**
OF WATER Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- JAN 10 - (Sunday) **LESSER BLESSING OF WATER** Divine Liturgy 10 AM
- FEB 2 - (Tuesday) **MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE** **No Services**
- FEB 17, 24 / MAR 3, 10, 17 - (Wednesdays) **PRE-SANCTIFIEDS, 7 PM**
- MAR 25 - (Thursday) **ANNUNCIATION** Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- MAR 27 - **LAZARUS SATURDAY** Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- MAR 28 - (Sunday) **ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM,**
Divine Liturgy & **BLESSING OF PALMS** 10 AM
- MAR 31 - **HOLY WEDNESDAY** (Holy Unction) 7 PM
- APR 1 - **HOLY THURSDAY** (Twelve Passion Gospels) 7 PM
- APR 2 - **HOLY FRIDAY** (Vespers, Taking Down From Cross) 3 PM
Lamentations at Tomb 7 PM
- APR 3 - **HOLY SATURDAY** (Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil) 9 AM
ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY 11 PM
- APR 4 - **PASCHA SUNDAY** (Agape Vespers; Gospel in many languages) NOON
- MAY 13 - **HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY** Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- MAY 23 - **HOLY PENTECOST SUNDAY** Divine Liturgy 10 AM

- JUN 26 - 27** - (Saturday/Sunday) **CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY**
with His Grace Bishop Nikon; Divine Liturgy **9 AM** *Parish Meal after*
Divine Liturgy
- JUN 29** - (Tuesday) **SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY** Divine Liturgy **9 AM**
- AUG 6** - (Friday) **HOLY TRANSFIGURATION** Divine Liturgy **9 AM**
- AUG 15** - (Sunday) **DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS** Divine Liturgy **10 AM**
- SEP 14** - (Tuesday) **EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**, Divine Liturgy **9 AM**
- NOV ?** - (Saturday/Sunday - *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** - (Friday) **NATIVITY**, Divine Liturgy **10 AM**

JANUARY 2011

- JAN 1** - (Saturday) **CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST. BASIL THE GREAT**
Divine Liturgy **9 AM**
- JAN 6** - (Thursday) **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING**
OF WATER Divine Liturgy **9 AM**