



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 ~ January 2006

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Make Love your Aim

Though I command languages both human and angelic -- if I speak without love, I am no more than a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. And though I have the power of prophecy, to penetrate all mysteries and knowledge, and though I have all the faith necessary to move mountains -- if I am without love, I am nothing. Though I should give away to the poor all that I possess, and even give up my body to be burned -- if I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited, it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offense or store up grievances. Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but finds its joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes.

Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophecies, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will fall silent; and if knowledge, it will be done away with. For we know only imperfectly, and we prophesy imperfectly; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will be done away with. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and see things as a child does, and think like a child; but now that I have become an adult, I have finished with all childish ways. Now we see only reflections in a mirror, mere riddles, but then we shall be seeing face to face. Now, I can know only imperfectly; but then I shall know just as fully as I am myself known.

As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love, the three of them; and the greatest of them is love.

Make love your aim.

- - 1 Corinthians Chapter 13

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 - January/February 2006

GREAT BLESSING OF WATERS - SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND - *No Services at SS Peter & Paul*

Schedule of Other Services/Events

VESPERS - EVERY SATURDAY EVENING - 6 PM

AKATHIST TO ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA - JAN 10 (TUES) - 7 PM

AKATHIST TO OUR LORD - JAN 17 (TUES) - 7 PM

AKATHIST TO ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA - JAN 24 (TUES) - 7 PM

LITTLE COMPLINE FOLLOWED BY ADULT EDUCATION/BIBLE STUDY - JAN 25 (WED) - 7 PM

**EVE OF THE SYNAXIS OF THE ECUMENICAL TEACHERS & HIERARCHS:
BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
- JAN 29 (SUN) GREAT VESPERS WITH LITYA - 1 PM - *at St. Stephen's Cathedral***

**THE SYNAXIS OF THE ECUMENICAL TEACHERS & HIERARCHS: BASIL THE
GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM - JAN 30
(MON) - DIVINE LITURGY, 9 AM - *at St. Stephen's Cathedral***

AKATHIST TO OUR LORD - JAN 31 (TUES) - 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 PLEDGES - A reminder that Icon Pledges should have been paid in full by the end of December. Please see James Schaeffer, our Treasurer, if you have not yet fulfilled your Icon Pledge for 2005. *Also, please remember to return your Icons by Sunday, January 15th at the very latest, as this date is Icon Pledge Sunday. Thank you!*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Date & time to be announced. 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 - *In December, 19 casseroles were delivered.* 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

ICON PLEDGE SUNDAY - January 15, 2006 - Immediately following the Divine Liturgy. *This is SS Peter & Paul's single largest fund-raiser of the year.* It is integral in funding our operating expenses. *Please make every effort to attend and please bid generously.* Absentee bids are also accepted.

ADULT EDUCATION & BIBLE STUDY CLASS - Wednesdays, 7 PM - The class will meet under the guidance of Fr. Dn. Jason every Wednesday evening in the Church Hall

YOUTH SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of every month

Other Events of General Interest

SACRED ARTS & CITY LIFE: THE GLORY OF MEDIEVAL NOVGOROD - Saturday, January 21 - The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore MD. *Sponsored by: St. Stephens Cathedral, 8598 Verree Rd., Phila., PA 19111. COST: \$35/PERSON, which includes admission and a guided tour of the exhibit. Contact: Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk at 215-745- 3232.*

The bus will leave the parking lot of St. Stephen's at 8 AM and will return at 6:30 PM; Great Vespers will follow the trip at 7 PM.

Exhibit will feature a collection of Ancient Novgorod Icons as well as the arts and culture of Veliky Novgorod, Russia's oldest medieval city. Approximately 290 objects will be exhibited, including 35 icons that trace the material & artistic culture of Novgorod from the 9th Century through its golden age in the 14th Century to its eclipse by Moscow in the 16th Century.

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, **January 29**, after Divine Liturgy

Miscellaneous

A SINCERE THANK YOU to Fr. Sergius Willis for coming to serve Liturgy during the Nativity Season. SS Peter & Paul always enjoys having Fr. Willis with us.

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/alicaj17/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: 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 e-mail: alicaj17@mac.com. The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, **January 29**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **2/5/06**. 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 **January** Birthdays: **Lyudmila Chervinchik, Connie Douris, Kakhaber Okropiridze, Liliya Skuratovskiy, Victoria Steffa**

May God grant them all many, many years!

SCHEDULE FOR MAKING "MESHE" - We are trying to devise a rotating schedule of people to bake the "Meshe" for Sundays, so it does not always end up being made by the same parishioners. If you can help with this and can volunteer to bake the "Meshe" once every 4 or 5 weeks, please see Fr. Dn. Jason as soon as possible.

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.

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

Message from Fr Dn Jason

VISITATION AND BLESSING OF HOMES DURING THE THEOPHANY SEASON

On Friday January 6th, the Orthodox Church will celebrate the Holy Theophany of Our Lord. As it is custom in the Orthodox Church to bless Water on this Feast and then to take that Holy Water home to your families, we will be blessing water on Sunday, January 8 following the Divine Liturgy by celebrating the Great Blessing of Waters. Fr. Sergius Willis will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy and the Service for Blessing of Waters. It is customary in the Orthodox Church that, during the Theophany Season, the priest makes visitations to the homes of the parishioners and blesses them and their homes with the Holy Water that was blessed on the Day of the Feast. If you would like to have Fr. Stephen or one of the Deacons come to your home for a visit and to have your home blessed, please sign the sheet that is posted at the candle desk. Please leave your name, date and time of day that would be best for us to come. Fr. Dn. Jason will contact you to make arrangements before he or Fr. Stephen or Fr. Dn. Gregory visits. Visitations will begin on Friday January 6 following the Divine Liturgy.

If you forget to sign the sheet, please call **Fr Dn Jason** at **267-760-4561** to make arrangements.

May the Blessing of the Lord be with each of you!

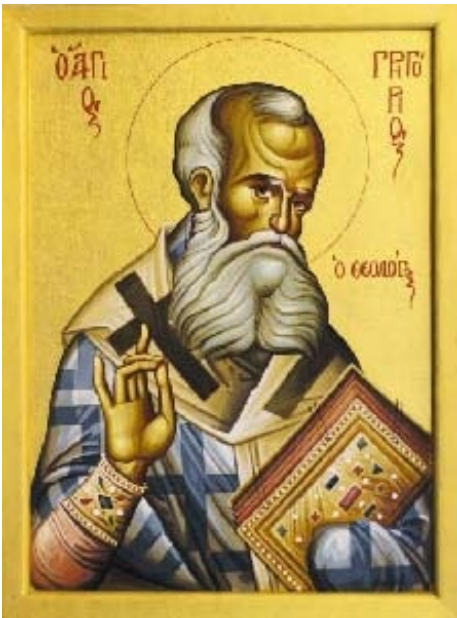
Holy Days and Name Days in January

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| January 1 | - Circumcision of Christ; St Basil the Great |
| January 2 | - St Seraphim of Sarov |
| January 6 | - Theophany of Christ |
| January 7 | - Synaxis of St John the Baptist |
| January 10 | - St Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa; St Theophan the Recluse |
| January 11 | - St Theodosius the Great |
| January 12 | - St Sava, Archbishop of Serbia; Martyr Tatiana of Rome |
| January 14 | - St Nina of Georgia, Equal-to-the-Apostles |
| January 17 | - St Anthony the Great, Founder of Monasticism |
| January 18 | - St Athanasius the Great; St Cyril of Alexandria |
| January 19 | - St Macarius the Great; St Mark, Archbishop of Ephesus |
| January 20 | - St Euthymios the Great |
| January 21 | - St Maximus the Confessor |
| January 23 | - Martyr Clement of Ancyra; Martyr Agathangel |
| January 24 | - St Xenia of Rome; Blessed Xenia of St Petersburg |
| January 25 | - St Gregory the Theologian |

- January 26 - St David of Georgia
- January 28 - St Ephraim the Syrian; St Isaac the Syrian
- January 30 - 3 Hierarchs: St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian, St John Chrysostom

Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople

This great Father and Teacher of the Church was born in 329 in Arianzus, not far from Nazianzus. His father, who later became Bishop of Nazianzus, was named Gregory (commemorated Jan. 1), and his mother was named Norma (Aug. 5); both are among the Saints, and so are his brother Caesarius (Mar. 9) and his sister Gorgona (Feb. 23). At first he studied in Caesarea of Palestine, then in Alexandria, and finally in Athens. As he was sailing from Alexandria to Athens, a violent sea storm put in peril not only his life but also his salvation, since he had not yet been baptized. With tears and fervour he besought God to spare him, vowing to dedicate his whole self to Him, and the tempest gave way to calm. At Athens Saint Gregory was later joined by Saint Basil the Great, whom he already knew; but now their acquaintanceship grew into a lifelong brotherly love.



After their studies at Athens, Gregory became Basil's fellow ascetic, living the monastic life together with him for a time in the hermitages of Pontus. His father ordained him presbyter of the Church of Nazianzus, and Saint Basil consecrated him Bishop of Sasima (or Zansima), which was in the archdiocese of Caesarea. This consecration was a source of great sorrow to Gregory, and a cause of misunderstanding between him and Basil; but his love for Basil remained unchanged.

About the Year 379, Saint Gregory came to the assistance of the Church of Constantinople, which had already been troubled for forty years by the Arians; by his supremely wise words and many labours he freed it from the corruption of heresy, and was elected Archbishop of that city by the Second Ecumenical Council, which assembled there in 381, and condemned Macedonius, Archbishop of Constantinople, the enemy of the Holy Spirit. When Saint Gregory came to Constantinople, the Arians had taken all the churches and he was forced to serve in a house chapel dedicated to Saint Anastasia the Martyr. From there he began to preach his famous five sermons on the Trinity, called the Triadica. When he left Constantinople two years later, the Arians did not have one church left to them in the city. Saint Meletius of Antioch, who was presiding over the Second Ecumenical Council, died in the course of it, and Saint Gregory was chosen in his stead; there he distinguished himself in his expositions of dogmatic theology.

Having governed the Church until 382, he delivered his farewell speech - the Syntacterion, in which he demonstrated the Divinity of the Son - before 150 bishops and the Em-

peror Theodosius the Great; in this speech he requested, and received from all, permission to retire from the see of Constantinople. He returned to Nazianzus, where he lived to the end of his life, and reposed in the Lord in 391, having lived some sixty-two years.

His extant writings, both prose and poems in every type of metre, demonstrate his lofty eloquence and his wondrous breadth of learning. In the beauty of his writings, he is considered to have surpassed the Greek writers of antiquity, and because of his God-inspired theological thought, he received the surname "Theologian." Although he is sometimes called Gregory of Nazianzus, this title belongs properly to his father; he himself is known by the Church only as Gregory the Theologian. He is especially called "Trinitarian Theologian," since in virtually every homily he refers to the Trinity and the one essence and nature of the Godhead.

~ Icon Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Webpage ~
~ Reading Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA ~

Liturgical Schedule: January - December 2006

- JAN 1** - (Sunday) **CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST. BASIL THE GREAT** - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM
- JAN 6** - (Friday) **THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**
**** No Services at SS Peter & Paul ****
- JAN 8** - (Sunday) **THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATER** - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM
- FEB 2** - (Thursday) **PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD**
**** No Services at SS Peter & Paul ****
- MAR 8, 15, 22, 29 / APR 5** - Wednesday **PRE-SANCTIFIEDS** - 7 PM
- MAR 25** - (Saturday) **ANNUNCIATION** - Divine Liturgy 9 AM
- APR 12** - (Wednesday) **PRE-SANCTIFIED** - 7 PM (*last one*)
- APR 15** - **LAZARUS SATURDAY** - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM
- APR 16** - (Sunday) **ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM** - Divine Liturgy & **BLESSING OF PALMS** - 10 AM
- APR 19** - **HOLY WEDNESDAY** (Holy Unction) - 7 PM
- APR 20** - **HOLY THURSDAY** (Twelve Passion Gospels) - 7 PM
- APR 21** - **HOLY FRIDAY** (Vespers, Taking Down From Cross) - 3 PM
Lamentations at Tomb - 7 PM
- APR 22** - **HOLY SATURDAY** (Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil) - 9 AM
ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY - 11 PM
- APR 23** - **PASCHA SUNDAY** (Agape Vespers; Gospel in many languages) - **NOON**;
Easter Egg Hunt for Children after Vespers
- JUN 1** - **HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY** - Divine Liturgy - 9 AM

- JUN 17** - (Saturday) **ORDINATION OF FR. DN. JASON VANSUCH TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD** - at St. Stephen's Cathedral (*details to follow*)
- JUN 18** - (Sunday) **NEWLY ORDAINED FR. JASON'S FIRST LITURGY - 10 AM**
- JUN 24-25** - (Saturday/Sunday) **CELEBRATION OF SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY** with His Grace Bishop Nikon - Divine Liturgy - **9 AM**; Parish Meal after the Divine Liturgy
- JUN 29** - (Thursday) **SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY** - Divine Liturgy - **9 AM**
- AUG 6** - (Sunday) **HOLY TRANSFIGURATION** - Divine Liturgy - **10 AM**
- AUG 15** - (Tuesday) **DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS** - Divine Liturgy - **9 AM**
- SEP 14** - (Thursday) **HOLY CROSS** - **** No Services at SS Peter & Paul ****
- NOV** - (Date to Be Announced) **ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM'S FEAST DAY** & His Grace Bishop Nikon's visit to our Sister Parish
****No Services at SS Peter & Paul****
- DEC 25** - (Monday) **NATIVITY** - Divine Liturgy - **10 AM**