



***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 ~ March 2003*

## **Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful**

### **Kreshma e Madhe † Great Lent 2003**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here are some things for us to contemplate together as a family in Jesus Christ:

1. Saint Seraphim of Sarov said very plainly: "He who does not observe Lent is not a Christian, regardless of who he considers himself to be, or whatever he calls himself."

2. Great Lent is about to begin. So, let's start at the end with some thoughts from the Diary of a Russian Priest: by *Father Alexander Elchaninov*

I bid a sad farewell to the end of Lent.

In Lent:

How much good is accomplished with greater ease

How much evil looses its power and fades away

What joy there is in observing those who pray, fast,  
approach the Holy Chalice with devotion.

However frequent the disappointments and vexations during Confession,

However great the number of lazy, indifferent souls

blinded by sins and passions...

There are yet many who possess a keenly sensitive conscience,

who are merciless towards themselves,

who love God and thirst for purification.

Every Confession is also a lesson and spiritual gain

for the Priest who hears it.

3. Why struggle and for what?

"But the body is glorious, the body is holy, so holy that God Himself became flesh. Salvation and repentance then are not contempt for the body or neglect of it, but restoration of the body to its real function as the expression and the life of the spirit, as the temple of the priceless human soul. Christian asceticism is a fight, not against the body, but for the body."

— *Fr. Alexander Schmemmann/Great Lent*

4. Final thought to begin our Lenten journey together as a community in Christ: "If you want your sins to be 'covered' (Psalm 32:1) by the Lord, do not display your virtues to others. For whatever we do with our virtues, God will also do with our sins."

— *St. Mark the Ascetic in the Philokalia*

## **Events & Announcements**

### **Great Lent and Holy Week Schedule**

**GREAT LENT** - A reminder that **Great Lent** begins on Monday, **March 10**

**Divine Liturgy** - 9 AM on Saturday, **March 15**, St. Theodore Saturday

**Divine Liturgy** - 9 AM on Tuesday, **March 25**, Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

## **Church News & Reminders**

**ICON PLEDGES** - Your Icon Pledges for 2003 are being accepted by George Kendro every Sunday. Please begin fulfilling your pledges as soon as possible.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2003** - Dues have been raised to \$100 per person and they can be paid starting now.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS** - Held the 1st Monday of every month, 7 PM. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

**CHURCH ENVELOPES** for Weekly Donations are now available for pick up in the office. Please pick yours up as soon as possible.

**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.

## **The Joy of Giving**

**CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS** - Let us continue our tradition of giving. Please bring in your casseroles on any Sunday and give them to **Debbie Krimetz**. Recipes and pans are available in the hall. Debbie is also accepting \$10 donations and she will buy the casseroles herself. Thank you, **Debbie and Bob**, for your time and effort! A sincere **thank you** to everyone who donated casseroles.

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

**COLLECTION FOR THE POOR** - On the 1st Sunday of every month SS. Peter & Paul will hold a special collection for the poor. Please plan to give generously every month to those whose lives are less fortunate than ours.

**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.

## **Ladies' Society News**

**LENTEN LUNCHEON** - The Ladies Society is sponsoring a **Lenten Luncheon** on Sunday, **March 9**. Please plan to attend. Donations of all kinds for the luncheon are gladly accepted. If you are unsure of what to donate or want more information, please contact **Chris Schaeffer** at **856-489-9897** or e-mail her at: **JSchaef159@aol.com**

## **Sunday School News**

**PYSANKY** - The Sunday School will begin the **Pysanky** making project on Sunday, **March 9**. Eggs will be completed for Pascha. The bread baking project has been

postponed until after Pascha because all of the materials were not received in time to have the bread completed before the Pysanky needed to be started.

## Events

### GREAT LENT SERVICES IN THE DELAWARE VALLEY

**MARCH 10** - Monday, 10 am - Retreat: Matins, Lunch; Assumption of the Virgin Church, Philadelphia

**MARCH 11** - Tuesday, 10 am - Retreat: Matins, Lunch; St Michael's Church, Philadelphia

**MARCH 12** - Wednesday, 10 am - Retreat: Matins, Lunch; St George's Church, Philadelphia

**MARCH 13** - Thursday, 10 am - Retreat: Matins, Lunch; St Mary's Church, Chester

**MARCH 14** - Friday, 10 am - Retreat: Matins, Lunch; SS Peter & Paul Church, Wilmington

**MARCH 16** - Sunday of Orthodoxy, 5 pm; Assumption of the Virgin Church, Philadelphia; Homilist: Fr Sergius Willis (Assumption of the Virgin Church, Philadelphia)

**MARCH 23** - Sunday of St Gregory Palamas, 5 pm; Holy Trinity Church, Pottstown; Homilist: To be announced

**MARCH 30** - Sunday of Veneration of the Cross, 5 pm; St George's Church, Media; Homilist: To be announced

**PHILADELPHIA ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS (POYA)** meets every 3rd Saturday of every month at St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church in Center City at 6:30 PM for vespers, followed by dinner and discussion. For more information or to suggest topics of discussion, please contact **Katia** at **215-776-1162** or e-mail her at: **ekatarina2000@msn.com**

## Miscellaneous

**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, March 23**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 3/30/03**. 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 an effort to help conserve paper, please leave the envelope from your Bulletin in either of the two wire baskets. This way I can use them again and again. Thanks very much from Alicia.

## **Parishioner's Corner**

A **VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **March** Birthdays: **Mary Dimitri, Debbie Krimetz, Martha Murianka, Stephen Murianka, Mary Palmerick, Pristesha Margot Siniari, Diana Vesho, Kathryn Vreto**

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

**ANDI STEFFA** thanks everyone for their prayers, cards, and calls during her recent hospital stay. She looks forward to seeing everyone soon.

### **Let Us Keep Them in Our Prayers**

\*\*\* Please continue your prayers for the full recovery of **Matushka Katherine Toroney**, as she is scheduled to undergo surgery on March 3.

\*\*\* Please continue your prayers for the full recovery of **Presbyteria Cleopatra Gregory**.

### **A Prayer for the Sick**

**O holy Father, heavenly Physician of our souls and bodies,  
Who has sent Thine Only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to heal all our ailments and deliver us from death:  
do Thou visit and heal Thy servant (name),  
granting him/her release from pain  
and restoration to health and vigor,  
that he/she may give thanks unto Thee and bless Thy holy name,  
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

### **OCA News**

CRESTWOOD, NY (St. Vladimir Seminary) - His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America and President of St. Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary presented the degree of Doctor of Divinity honoris causa to His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durres and All Albania on Thursday, February 27, 2003.

Archbishop Anastasios, a lifelong missiologist presented the keynote lecture: "Rediscovering our Apostolic Identity in the 21st Century" for the St. Vladimir's Symposium on Orthodox Mission.

Prior to the lecture, Metropolitan Herman met with Archbishop Anastasios and discussed life in the two countries, specifically the ongoing work for the monumental task of rebuilding the Albanian Orthodox Church after the decades of destruction at the hands of the communists.



Archbishop Anastasios presented his lecture, reflecting on the Apostolic nature of the Church, “The Church was founded by Christ, and given to the Apostles. The faith has been preserved unchanged through the Apostolic Tradition, and has been founded on the unbroken chain of Apostolic Succession.”

“Christ did not find a static community withdrawn from the world. Instead, He charged the Apostles with going out and encountering those in the world. That same responsibility has been given to each of us, as recipients of the Apostolic Faith.”

“Mission is a fixed part of the ‘DNA’ of the Church. The Church is constantly renewed by Mission and Apostolic Charge. An awareness of this charge is necessary for the health of the Church. Each of us as part of the organic Church bear the Apostolic responsibility to witness and teach.”



### **Holy Days and Name Days in March**

- March 2 - Meatfare Sunday; Sunday of Last Judgment
- March 9 - Cheesefare Sunday
- March 10 - Beginning of Great Lent
- March 11 - St Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem
- March 14 - St Benedict of Nursia
- March 15 - St Theodore Saturday
- March 16 - Sunday of Orthodoxy
- March 17 - Ven Aleksy, Man of God
- March 18 - Repose St Nikolai of Zhicha

- March 19 - Martyrs Chrysanthus & Daria & Those with Them at Rome
- March 20 - Martyr Photina
- March 21 - St James the Confessor, Bishop of Catania
- March 22 - Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra
- March 23 - St Gregory Palamas; Martyr Nikon & 199 Disciples with Him
- March 25 - Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos
- March 30 - Veneration of the Precious Cross; St John Climacus “The Ladder”
- March 31 - Repose of St Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow & Apostle to the Americas

### ***Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos***

On this day we celebrate the Annunciation of our most holy Lady Theotokos and ever Virgin Mary. Our benevolent and charitable God, Who always takes care of the human race as an affectionate father, saw that the creature which his hands had made was being tyrannized by the

devil. Man was being carried away by the passions of vice and was subject to idolatry. So, God decided to send His only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in order to redeem us from the devil’s hands. However, He wanted this mystery to remain hidden both from Satan and from the Heavenly Powers. This is why he sent Gabriel and with the provision of His oeconomia the holy Virgin Mary was born and kept pure, who was worthy of such a great mystery and universal good. So, the Angel came to the town of Nazareth and told her: “Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee.” Some other words followed and finally the Virgen said to the Angel: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to they word.” Immediately after these words she supernaturally conceived in her immaculate womb the Son and Word of God, His wisdom and power which has substance, with the over-



shadowing of the Word of God Himself and with the coming of the Holy Spirit upon her. Since then all the mysteries of the Word of God for our salvation and redemption were accomplished according to His oeconomia.

~ Courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA ~  
from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America web page



## **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**

