



***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 ~ March 2005*

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

### **Judge Not, Lest Ye Be Judged**

#### **The Commemoration Of An Uncondemning Monk On March 30**

This monk died joyfully because he had never in his life condemned anyone.

He was lazy...

Careless...

Disinclined to pray...

But, throughout his entire life he had never judged anyone. And when he lay dying he was full of joy.

The brethren asked him how he could die so joyfully with all his sins and he replied...

"I have just seen the angels and they showed me a page with all my many sins. I said, The Lord said, 'Judge not that ye be not judged.' I have never judged anyone and I hope in the mercy of God, that He will not judge me...

And the angels tore up the sheet of paper."

Hearing this, the monks wondered at it and learned from it.

-- Prologue from *Orchrid* Page 348 - Volume I

#### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FATHER STEPHEN:**

As of January 1, 2005, all confessions and consultations on Sunday mornings shall take place from 9 AM to 10 AM before the Divine Liturgy. Thank you.

**Father Stephen** may be reached at **267-973-9775**, Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM; e-mail: [ssiniari@covenanthousepa.org](mailto:ssiniari@covenanthousepa.org)

### **Events & Announcements**

#### **Liturgical Schedule - March/April/May 2005**

**SATURDAY EVENING VESPERS - 5 PM**

**GREAT LENT - begins MONDAY, MARCH 14**

**PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY - WEDNESDAYS, 7 PM - 4/6, 4/13, 4/20 (4/20 is the last one)**

**LAZARUS SATURDAY - APRIL 23 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**

**ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM & BLESSING OF PALMS - SUNDAY, APRIL 24 - Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**

**HOLY WEDNESDAY - APRIL 27 - Holy Unction, 7 PM**

**HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 28 - Twelve Passion Gospels, 7 PM**

**HOLY FRIDAY - APRIL 29** - Vespers, Taking Down from Cross, **3 PM**; Lamentations at Tomb, **7 PM**

**HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 30** - Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, **9 AM**

**ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY - APRIL 30 - 11 PM**

**PASCHA SUNDAY - MAY 1** - Agape Vespers; Gospel in Many Languages, **Noon**; *Easter Egg Hunt* for Children after Vespers

## **Church News & Reminders**

**ICON PLEDGES** - Pledges can still be made by contacting George Kendro, Jim Schaeffer or Stephen Murianka with the Saint's name and the amount.

**SUNDAY DONATION ENVELOPES** - If you have not yet picked up your Sunday donation envelopes, please do so ASAP. They are in the office on the window sill behind the desk. *Thank you!*

**2005 WALL CALENDARS** - have finally arrived. They can be picked up in the Church Hall.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2005** - Dues are \$100 per person and can be paid at any time to James Schaeffer, our Treasurer. *Thank you!*

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** - Monday, April 4, 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 February, 12 casseroles and 15 assorted fruit and vegetable cans 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.

### **Ladies' Society News**

**LENTEN LUNCHEON** - is scheduled for Cheesefare Sunday, **March 13**. *Anyone wishing to donate goods or volunteer to help out for the Luncheon, please see Helen Arndt for what is needed. Monetary donations are also most welcome. Thank you!*

**MEETING** - Sunday, **March 20**, after Divine Liturgy

### **Events**

**LENTEN MISSION VESPERS** (For additional information, please telephone the host pastors or the Brotherhood secretary at 610-237-6985)

**Monday, 3/14** - Retreat: Matins, Lunch: 10 AM, Assumption of the Virgin Church, Philadelphia

**Tuesday, 3/15** - Retreat: Matins, Lunch: 10 AM, St. Michael's Church, Philadelphia

**Thursday, 3/17** - Retreat: Matins, Lunch: 10 AM, SS Peter & Paul Church, Wilmington

**Sunday, 3/27** - *Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas* - 5 PM, St. Athanasius Church, Claymont, DE. *Homilist: Fr. Sergius Willis* of Assumption of the Virgin Church, Philadelphia

**Sunday, 4/3** - *Sunday of Veneration of the Cross* - 5 PM, St. Nicholas Church, Phila., *Homilist: Fr. Stephen Evanina* of Holy Trinity Church, Pottstown

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY (COMMEMORATES THE RESTORATION OF ICONS)** - The Pan-Orthodox Vesper Service will be held on **March 20th** at **5 PM** at St. Michael the Archangel Russian Orthodox Church, 335 Fairmount Ave., Philadelphia. *Homilist: Fr. Stephen Hutnick* of SS Peter & Paul Church, Wilmington, DE.

*All Church singers are welcome to attend the 2 remaining Choir rehearsals on 3/6 and 3/13 for Sunday of Orthodoxy at St. Michael's Church, Phila., 6 PM.*

**ORDINATION OF JASON VANSUCH** - His Grace Bishop Nikon will ordain Jason Vansuch as a **Deacon** on **Lazarus Saturday, April 23, 2005**, at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, PA.

**ORDINATION OF GREGORY VRETO, JR.** to the **Diaconate** by His Grace Bishop Nikon is tentatively scheduled to take place on **July 17**, the celebration of SS Peter & Paul Feast Day with His Grace Bishop Nikon.

## Of General Interest

**FREE SERVICES BY UNIVERSITY OF PA LAW SCHOOL** - The Penn Law School student-run clinics, which are supervised by faculty members and local practitioners, offer assistance in the following areas to indigent members of the community:

The **Unemployment Compensation Project (UCP)** in conjunction with the **Philadelphia Unemployment Project (PUP)** offers representation and advice to those who have been denied unemployment benefits. Call (215) 573-9667 to speak with a UCP advocate. Those who need help finding a new job, preventing foreclosure, obtaining low-cost health insurance, or making an initial application for employment should call PUP at (215) 557-0848.

The **Custody and Support Assistance Clinic (CASAC)** offers in-depth assistance to low income clients in the area of support and custody. To speak with a CASAC advocate, call (215) 981-3878.

The **Guild Food Stamp Clinic (GFSC)** provides services to individuals having problems with their status as food stamp recipients. To receive assistance with food stamp cases call (215) 523-9502.

## Miscellaneous

**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](mailto: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](mailto:alicia17@mac.com). The deadline for the next Bulletin is **Sunday, March 27**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 4/3/05**. 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 **March** Birthdays: **Debbie Krimetz, Martha Murianka, Stephen Murianka, Mary Palmerick, Priftesha Margot Siniari, Diana Vesho, Kathryn Vreto, Steven Yarrow**

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

**A VERY SINCERE & HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO GEORGE KENDRO** for almost 18 years of faithful and diligent service as Treasurer. George has now officially retired from the position which started on May 7, 1987 and was to have lasted for a trial period of

30 days! *Thank you, George, for extending that “trial period” by so many years! May God grant George many years!*

**A VERY WARM WELCOME TO JIM SCHAEFFER** who was unanimously elected our new Treasurer last Sunday. In the words of retired Treasurer George Kendro: “Jim is a Godsend. He’s putting us on the computer!” *May God grant Jim many years!*

**PRE-SANCTIFIED WEDNESDAY EVENINGS LENTEN SUPPER** - Please try and bring a Lenten Covered Dish on any Wednesday Pre-Sanctified. Also, please set out your own dish(es) on the table (warmed up, if need be) and please make certain to pick up and clean your own dish(es) after the Lenten supper. *Thank you!*

**HELP IN PREPARATION OF SIMPLE WILLS** is being provided to any parishioners who wish to take advantage of this service. This is a free service to the Church and anyone using this service can make a donation to the Church if they wish. For details see Helen Banushi, call 267-978-2126, or contact Fr. Stephen.

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

Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of: **Gregory Vreto, Sr., Debbie Krimetz, Presbytera Cleopatra Gregory, Martha Murianka, Nina Horowitz, Spiro Costas, Matthew Murianka**

\*\*\* *Please continue to pray for the full and speedy recovery of Lynette Hoppe*, an OCMC Missionary in Albania, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in December.

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

### **The 40th Year of the Repose of Archbishop THEOFAN (Noli)**

will be commemorated on Sunday, March 13, 2005. His Grace, Bishop Nikon shall preside at the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy and Memorial Trisagion at Saint George Cathedral, beginning at 10 A.M. It is the Sunday of Forgiveness (Ndjesat) and the last day before the beginning of Great Lent in the Orthodox Church.

Fan S. Noli (1882-1965) remains even today an outstanding figure in the Albanian world: as Churchman, Scholar, Poet, Author and Statesman. A founder of the first Albanian Orthodox Church in the U.S. in 1908, he translated and authored over 42 liturgical, historical and literary books, both in Albanian and English and is considered one of the bright stars of the Albanian Renaissance of the 20th Century.

- His translation of the New Testament from Greek into modern English was heralded as one of the finest such works of his time, and followed upon his numerous translations of the liturgy and sacred music of the Orthodox Church - in both Albanian and English;

- Proficient in twelve languages, in numerous published albums of translated plays and original poetry, he presented the works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Henrik Ibsen, Miguel Cer-

vantes and Omar Khayyam among others in his native language and was honored by the White House for his translations of William Shakespeare into Albanian;

- In 1912, he served as founder of the Pan-Albanian Federation of America-VATRA, along with Faik Konica and other notables;

- In 1920, he represented his homeland in Geneva and secured Albania's admission to the League of Nations, the first such recognition of the modern Albanian state following its proclamation of independence. He served in 1924 as Premier of Albania;

- His critical work: **Beethoven and the French Revolution**, garnered praise from such notables as George Bernard Shaw, composer Jan Sibelius and author Thomas Mann.

- While studying at the New England Conservatory of Music in the 1930s, he composed **The Albanian Rhapsody** and the **Byzantine Overture**, and numerous tone poems, all of which have been performed in Albania.

- His two historical books on Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg are considered classic studies of Albania's National Hero.



Born in Ibrik-Tepe (Qyteza) an Albanian settlement in European Turkey, his life unfolds as an exemplary epic which spanned nearly a century of achievement in various disciplines and in a multifaceted service for his people. A graduate of Harvard in 1912, he later received doctorates in history from Boston University and in music from the New England Conservatory of Music. Modest in bearing and lifestyle, yet fiery and controversial in oratory, he was cerebral and self-disciplined, spiritual and urbane. His biography reveals a life of personal deprivation and intense struggle counterpoised by an egalitarian social outlook and extraordinary accomplishment. In ways enigmatic, he was at the same time both singularly patriotic, yet broadminded and international by conviction.

Displaying an infectious smile and sense of humor, his life resonates even today with the challenges faced by Albanians everywhere in their own lives and sentiments.

Being a vegetarian long before it became fashionable and a mendicant by nature, he embodied a charisma which drew the attention of diplomats and scholars to the needs of his homeland; while serving as shepherd and role model for the men and women of four generations in the

U.S. and abroad. His fascinating life and works have retained the interest of his own compatriots and of others of many backgrounds and nations to this day.

**May his memory ever be eternal. *I perjetshem qofte kujtimi i tij.***

--Very Rev Arthur E. Liolin

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

- March 6 - Meatfare Sunday; Sunday of Last Judgment
- March 11 - St Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem
- March 13 - Cheesefare Sunday; Forgiveness Sunday
- March 14 - Beginning of Great Lent; St Benedict of Nursia
- March 17 - Ven Aleksy, Man of God
- March 18 - Repose St Nikolai of Zhicha
- March 19 - St Theodore Saturday; Martyrs Chrysanthus & Daria
- March 20 - Sunday of Orthodoxy; Martyr Photina
- March 21 - St James the Confessor, Bishop of Catania
- March 22 - Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra
- March 23 - Martyr Nikon & 199 Disciples with Him
- March 25 - Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos
- March 26 - Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel
- March 27 - St Gregory Palamas
- March 30 - St John Climacus (of *The Ladder*)
- March 31 - Repose of St Innocent, Metr of Moscow & Apostle to the Americas

#### ***1st Saturday of Great Lent***

#### ***St Theodore the Recruit: Commemorated on March 19***

Today we remember the miracle of St. Theodore and the boiled wheat. Fifty years after the death of St. Theodore, the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363), wanting to commit an outrage upon the Christians, commanded the city-commander of Constantinople during the first week of Great Lent to sprinkle all the food provisions in the marketplaces with the blood offered to idols. St. Theodore appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius, ordering him to inform all the Christians that no one should buy anything at the marketplaces, but rather to eat cooked wheat with honey (kolyva).



In memory of this occurrence, the Orthodox Church annually celebrates the holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit on the first Saturday of Great Lent. On Friday evening, at the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts following the prayer at the ambo, the Canon to



the holy Great Martyr Theodore, composed by St. John of Damascus, is sung. After this, kolyva is blessed and distributed to the faithful. The celebration of the Great Martyr Theodore on the first Saturday of Great Lent was set by the Patriarch Nectarius of Constantinople (381-397).

The Troparion to St. Theodore is quite similar to the Troparion for the Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths (December 17, Sunday Before Nativity). The Kontakion to St. Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thesalonians 5:8).

~ Reading & Icon Courtesy of the OCA Webpage ~