



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 2006

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful
Elder, Saint Amvrosy of Optina Monastery,
Pray For The People of Saints Peter & Paul

For Our Sinful Thoughts:

"Sinful thoughts continually disturb a man.

But if he does not cooperate with them, then he is not guilty of them."

"One ascetic woman was besieged for a long time with unclean thoughts. When the Lord came and cast them away from her, she called to Him, "Where were you before now, my sweet Jesus?"

The Lord answered, "I was in your heart."

She said then, "How could that be? For my heart was full of unclean thoughts." The Lord said to her, "Know that I was in your heart, for you were not disposed to the unclean thoughts, but strove rather to be free of them, and when you were not able to be free of them, you struggled and grieved..."

...By this you prepared a place for me in your heart."

For Our Depression & Laziness:

About laziness and depression, the Elder said, "Boredom is the grandson of depression, and laziness is the daughter.

To send her away, labor actively, do not be lazy in prayer, then boredom will pass and zeal will come.

And if you add to this patience and humility, then you will escape much evil."

For Our Need To Give:

On Almsgiving the Elder said, "St. Dimitry of Rostov wrote, "Even if a man comes to you on a horse and asks alms, give it to him.

You will not have to answer for how he uses it."

Also, St. John Chrysostom says, "Begin by giving away what you do not need, what is lying around unused, to those in need.

Then you will begin to give what you can according to your means, and finally you will be ready to give away all that you have."

For Strength To Pray:

The Elder said, "If you do not feel like praying, you have to force yourself. The Holy Fathers say that prayer with force is higher than prayer unforced. You do not want to, but force yourself."

Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew, "The Kingdom of Heaven is taken by force." (Matthew 11:12)

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 - March/April 2006

GREAT LENT - begins **MONDAY, March 6**

PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY - **WEDNESDAYS, 7 PM** - 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY - **MAR 12 (VESPERS) - 5 PM** - AT ST. VLADIMIR'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, 5TH ST & CHELTENHAM AVE, PHILA., PA

ANNUNCIATION - **MAR 25 (SAT) - Divine Liturgy 9 AM**

LAZARUS SATURDAY - **APR 15 - Divine Liturgy 9 AM**

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM & BLESSING OF PALMS - **APR 16 (SUN) - Divine Liturgy 10 AM**

HOLY WEDNESDAY - **APR 19 (HOLY UNCTION) - 7 PM**

HOLY THURSDAY - **APR 20 (TWELVE PASSION GOSPELS) - 7 PM**

HOLY FRIDAY - **APR 21 (VESPERS, TAKING DOWN FROM CROSS) - 3 PM; LAMENTATIONS AT TOMB - 7 PM**

HOLY SATURDAY - **APR 22 (VESPERAL LITURGY OF ST. BASIL) - 9 AM**

ORTHROS/PASHKAL CANON/LITURGY - **APR 22 (SAT) - 11 PM**

PASCHA SUNDAY - **APR 23 (AGAPE VESPERS; GOSPEL IN MANY LANGUAGES) - Noon; EASTER EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN AFTER VESPERS**

Schedule of Other Services/Events

VESPERS - EVERY SATURDAY EVENING - **6 PM** (*no Vespers on 4/22*)

MATINS - **3/6 (MON) - 10 AM** (HOLY ASSUMPTION CHURCH)

COMPLINE & CANON OF ST ANDREW - **3/6 (MON) - 7 PM**

MATINS - **3/7 (TUES) - 10 AM** (ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH)

COMPLINE & CANON OF ST ANDREW - **3/7 (TUES) - 7 PM**

MATINS - **3/8 (WED) - 10 AM** (ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHESTER, PA)

MATINS - **3/9 (THURS) - 10 AM** (ST STEPHEN CATHEDRAL)

COMPLINE & CANON OF ST ANDREW - **3/9 (THURS) - 7 PM**

MATINS - 3/10 (FRI) - 10 AM (ST NICHOLAS CHURCH)
MOLEBEN TO ST THEODORE - 3/10 (FRI) - 7 PM
MOLEBEN TO ST THEODORE - 3/11 (SAT) - 9 AM *(if no service at St Stephen)*
MATINS - FROM 3/13 TO 4/14 (DAILY) - 9 AM - AT SS PETER & PAUL
GREAT COMPLINE - 3/14 (TUES) - 7 PM
AKATHIST FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP - 3/17 (FRI) - 7 PM
MEMORIAL SERVICE - 3/18 (SAT) - 9 AM *(if no service at St Stephen)*
MISSION VESPERS - 3/19 (SUN) - 5 PM (EVANGELISMOS CHURCH, BUSTLE TON AVE)
GREAT COMPLINE - 3/21 (TUES) - 7 PM
LITTLE COMPLINE WITH AKATHIST TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS - 3/24 (FRI) - 5 PM
GREAT COMPLINE - 3/24 (FRI) - 7 PM
MISSION VESPERS - 3/26 (SUN) - 5 PM (ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM CHURCH, PHILA)
GREAT COMPLINE - 3/28 (TUES) - 7 PM
AKATHIST TO ST INNOCENT - 3/30 (THURS) - 7 PM
AKATHIST TO THE CROSS - 3/31 (FRI) - 7 PM
MEMORIAL SERVICE - 4/1 (SAT) - 9 AM *(if no service at St Stephen)*
MISSION VESPERS - 4/2 (SUN) - 5 PM (ST GEORGE CATHEDRAL, PHILA)
GREAT COMPLINE - 4/4 (TUES) - 7 PM
MATINS & CANON OF ST ANDREW - 4/6 (THURS) - 7 PM
THE PARACLESIS SERVICE OF THE LITTLE SUPPLICATORY CANON TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS - 4/7 (FRI) - 7 PM
THE PARACLESIS SERVICE OF THE LITTLE SUPPLICATORY CANON TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS - 4/8 (SAT) - 9 AM *(only if no service at St Stephen)*
MISSION VESPERS - 4/9 (SUN) - 5 PM (ST MARK CHURCH, WRIGHTSTOWN, PA)
GREAT COMPLINE - 4/11 (TUES) - 7 PM
GREAT COMPLINE - 4/13 (THURS) - 7 PM
MATINS FOR LAZARUS SATURDAY - 4/14 (FRI) - 7 PM
GREAT VESPERS - 4/15 (SAT) - 5 PM - (ST STEPHEN CATHEDRAL); 6 PM AT SS PETER & PAUL
BRIDEGROOM MATINS - 4/16 (SUN) - 6 PM
TYPICAL HOLY PSALMS - 4/17 (HOLY MONDAY) - 10 AM
BRIDEGROOM MATINS - 4/17 (HOLY MONDAY) - 7 PM

TYPICAL PSALMS - 4/18 (HOLY TUESDAY) - 10 AM

BRIDEGROOM MATINS - 4/18 (HOLY TUESDAY) - 7 PM

TYPICAL PSALMS - 4/19 (HOLY WEDNESDAY) - 10 AM

ROYAL HOURS - 4/21 (GOOD FRIDAY) - 10 AM

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 - Can be paid at any time to our treasurer, James Schaeffer. ***Please note:*** *when returning your Icons, please return them to the treasurer, James Schaeffer.*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - 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. ***Please note:*** *if the services of the Church Choir are required, please notify the Choir Director, Christina Murianka, as soon as possible.*

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, 10 casseroles and 5 bags of food were delivered.* *All other clothing should be placed into collection bins located in shopping areas.* 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!*

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

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!

LENTEN LUNCHEON - Cheesefare Sunday, **March 5**, after Divine Liturgy. **Cost: \$10**

MEETING - Sunday, **March 12**, after Divine Liturgy

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.

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, **March 26**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on Sunday **4/2/06**. 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 **March** Birthdays: **Mary Dimitri, Fr Gregory Dudash, Kristin Johns, Debbie Krimetz, Claire Kutzler, Martha Murianka, Stephen Murianka, Mary Palmerick, Priftesha Margot Siniari, Diana Vesho, Kathryn Vreto, Steven Yarrow**

May God grant them all many, many years!

ANDI STEFFA thanks all of you for your prayers, cards, calls and visits. She is getting stronger each day!

Please continue to keep Andi in your prayers. May God grant her good health!

JOHN PALMERICK is still in the hospital and will most likely come home the week of March 13th.

Please continue to keep John in your prayers. May God grant him good health!

SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO SALLIE & TED MUZEKARI on the birth of their baby girl, **Marina Olga**, born January 20th, 2006 weighing in at 6 lbs. 1 oz.

May God grant Marina Olga many, many years!

A NEW UPDATED PARISH DIRECTORY is included with this month's copy of the Bulletin. There will be more copies available in the Church Hall.

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: **Metropolitan Philip, Archpriest Victor, 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., Catherine P., Martin, Mary V., John Palmerick**

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

Prayers for the Departed Servants of God

†VRev **Peter Krochta**, †**George Steffa**, †**Margaret Kenny**, †**Angeline Gundlach**
Newly-Departed †**Jane Scollard** (*Step-mother of Fr John Scollard*)

2006 Mission Appeal

THE WORK THAT BEGAN WITH ST. HERMAN IN 1794 CONTINUES TODAY!

In 1970, The Orthodox Church in America was granted the gift of autocephaly. Since that historic occasion, well over 300 new parishes and missions have been established throughout North America and Canada – many in regions in which there had been little or no Orthodox Christian presence.

While those who today help plant and build these new communities surely do not face the same difficulties encountered by Saint Herman of Alaska and his companions in 1794, they do face many challenges, not the least of which is financial. Whether it is the costs involved in renting space for worship and fellowship, advertising and mailings, or providing modest stipends to mission clergy, the faithful of our new parishes and missions have worked diligently in building up the body of Christ.

Your generous gift to the Orthodox Church in America's annual Mission Appeal is an investment in the future, in the ongoing growth of the Church in the tradition of Saint Herman, Saint Innocent, and the early missionaries. The majority of the funds collected are used for Church Planting Grants. Twenty missions, most of which have already de-

veloped into parishes, have benefited from your generosity in the past. And today, five missions are receiving grants, giving them a firm foundation for continued growth.

Please be generous as you make your gift to this year's Mission Appeal, knowing that you are joining countless others in sowing the seeds of faith that will continue to bring forth an abundant harvest in the years to come!

By Mail:

**The Orthodox Church in America
Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards
PO Box 675
Syosset, NY 11791**

Online:

<https://secure.oca.org/FOSSupport.asp?SID=10>

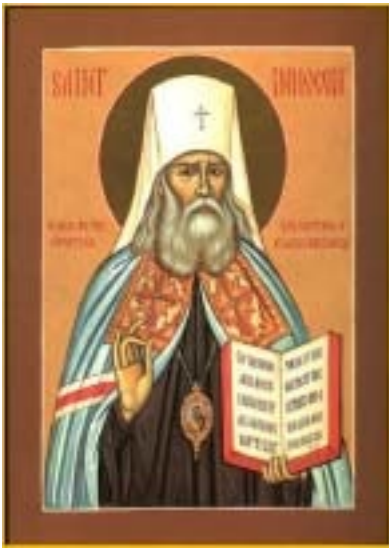
Thank you for your generous contribution!

Holy Days and Name Days in March

- March 5 - Cheesefare Sunday; Forgiveness Sunday
- March 6 - Beginning of Great Lent
- March 11 - St Theodore Saturday; St Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem
- March 12 - Sunday of Orthodoxy
- March 14 - St Benedict of Nursia
- March 17 - Ven Aleksy, Man of God; St Patrick, Bishop of Armagh
- March 18 - Memorial Saturday; Repose St Nikolai of Zhicha
- March 19 - St Gregory Palamas; Martyrs Chrysanthus & Daria & Those with Them at Rome
- March 20 - Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana)
- March 21 - St James the Confessor, Bishop of Catania
- March 22 - Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra
- March 23 - Martyr Nikon & 199 Disciples
- March 25 - Annunciation Most Holy Theotokos
- March 26 - Veneration of the Precious Cross; Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel
- March 30 - St John Climacus "The Ladder"
- March 31 - Repose of St Innocent, Metr of Moscow & Apostle to the Americas

Repose of St Innocent the Metropolitan of Moscow the Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to the Americas

St Innocent (Veniaminov), Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomensk (August 26, 1797 - March 31, 1879), was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church on October 6, 1977. He was born in the village of Anginsk in the Irkutsk diocese. The Apostle of America and Siberia proclaimed the Gospel "even to the ends of the earth": in the Aleutian islands (from 1823), in the six dialects of the local tribes on the island of Sitka (from 1834), among the Kolosh (Tlingit); in the remotest settlements of the extensive Kamchatka diocese (from 1853); among the Koryak, Chukchei, Tungus in the Yakutsk region (from 1853) and North America (in 1857); in the Amur and the Usuriisk region (from 1860).



Having spent a large part of his life in journeys, St Innocent translated a Catechism and the Gospel into the Aleut language. In 1833, he wrote in this language one of the finest works of Orthodox missionary activity INDICATION OF THE WAY TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

In 1859, the Yakut first heard the Word of God and divine services in their native language. Twice (in 1860 and 1861) St Innocent met with St Nicholas the Apostle to Japan (February 3), sharing with him his spiritual experience.

A remarkable preacher, St Innocent said, "Whoever abounds in faith and love, can have mouth and wisdom, and the heart cannot resist their serving it."

Having begun his apostolic work as a parish priest, St Innocent completed it as Metropolitan of Moscow (January 5, 1868 - March 31, 1879). He obeyed the will of God all his life, and he left behind a theme for the sermon to be preached at his funeral: "The steps of a man are rightly ordered by the Lord" (Ps 36/37:23).

~ Icon & Reading Courtesy of OCA Webpage ~