



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 ~ May 2005

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful Real True Life... Does Not End in Death

In the Lord's Resurrection, as in a lens,
the greatest proof of Christian Truth is concentrated.

Gospel Preachers,
let the Resurrection of the Lord
be the center of your teaching, refer to it constantly.

--Bishop Augustinos of Florina in Greece

True life on earth indeed begins from the Resurrection of the Savior,
for it does not end in death.

Without the Resurrection of Christ human life is nothing else
but a gradual dying which finally inevitably ends in death.

Real true life is that life which does not end in death.
And such a life became possible on earth only with the Resurrection
of the Lord Christ the God-man.

Life is real life only in God, for it is a holy life and by virtue of this,
an immortal life.

--Father Justin Popovich

Were there not the Resurrection,
then how could the truth of God have been preserved...
when so many evil people flourish...
and so many good ones suffer
and end their lives in suffering?
Where do all of these people
receive their just reward
if there is no Resurrection?

--Saint John Chrysostom

CHRIST IS RISEN!

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

Events & Announcements

Liturgical Schedule - April/May/June 2005

SATURDAY EVENING VESPERS - 6 PM

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 - Vespereal 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

HOLY ASCENSION THURSDAY - JUNE 9 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

SS PETER & PAUL FEAST DAY - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29 - Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

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.

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, May 9, 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

DONATIONS FOR PASCHA FLOWERS - Donations are being accepted by Belinda Mentzer and James Schaeffer to help defray the cost of the flowers. *Thank you for your generous contributions!*

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - *In April, 22 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.

Sunday School News

REMINDER - Oral presentations of the saints selected in connection with the sock monkey project are being held on St. Thomas Sunday, May 8. Please make certain that your child/children has/have selected and researched a saint and are ready to present. Any questions, please contact Priftesha Margot.

Ladies' Society News

MEMORIAL SERVICES - If you are planning to have a Memorial Service, please inform the Ladies' Society as soon as possible so that efforts and tangibles are not duplicated.

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

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Saturday, May 14th, 9 AM - 1 PM. Adults, \$6; Children, \$3. *Come spend a Saturday morning with your kids, grandkids, and your Church Family!*

MEATBALL & HOT DOG SUNDAY - June 5, after Divine Liturgy

Events

PASCHAL SERVICES (For additional information, please telephone the host pastors or the Brotherhood secretary at 610-237-6985)

Bright Saturday, 5/7 - *Vespers* - 7 PM, St. Thomas Church, Cherry Hill, NJ

Mid-Pentecost Liturgy, 5/25 - *To Be Announced*

ORDINATION OF GREGORY VRETO, JR. to the ***Diaconate*** by His Grace Bishop Nikon is scheduled to take place on **Sunday, July 10**, the celebration of SS Peter & Paul Feast Day with His Grace Bishop Nikon.

Miscellaneous

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, May 22**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 5/29/05**. 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 **May** Birthdays: **Pat Bergey, Letitia Desloges, Olga Gorskaya, Haralambos Halkedis, Nina Iakimenko, George Kendro, Aleksandra Liberman**

May God grant them all many, many years!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to **Mary Jaxheimer** for continuing her tradition of coming back to SS Peter & Paul to help us with the palm crosses last Wednesday evening. And a most special **Thank You** to all who helped with the crosses.

ANDI STEFFA HAS MOVED! Her new address and phone are: 15108 Ann's Choice Way, Warminster, PA 18974. Phone: 215-674-1527

PHOTOGRAPHS OF AWARD RECIPIENTS: If you have any photographs of yourself or other Parishioners receiving the *Herald of St. Constantine & St. Helen Award* or the *Knight of St. George Award*, please lend your photos to **John Palmerick**. John will copy your photo and return it to you. He is trying to set up an **Awards Wall** in the Hall. Also, if you or anyone you know has received either of these awards, please give your name to Alicia, as we are trying to generate a list of recipients. Thank you!

Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers

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

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

Pray for Future Missionaries

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center is inviting all Orthodox Christians to join in praying for future missionaries.

“We are asking God to inspire more Orthodox Christians to serve Him as long-term missionaries around the world,” said Maria Gallos, OCMC Missionary Director. “Today, there are 21 OCMC Missionaries faithfully serving our Lord abroad, but at least 30 more requests from hierarchs for missionaries remain unanswered.”

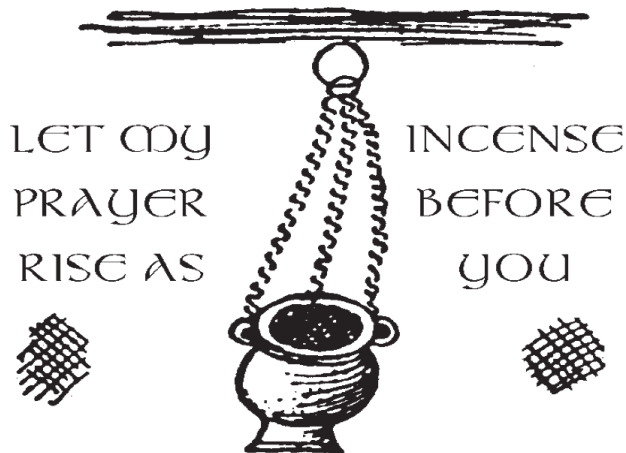
The Mission Center seeks priests, theologians, teachers, medical personnel, building professionals, youth leaders and others willing to commit to long-term missionary service. If you feel called to be a missionary or would like more information, please contact Maria Gallos at missionaries@ocmc.org or 1-877-GO-FORTH (463-6784).

Missionaries, inspired by God, have been sent by the Church throughout the history of Orthodoxy. That need for missionaries still exists today. Especially during this season of Great Lent, please join us in praying for future missionaries with the following prayer:

Christ our God, the source of wisdom and Bridegroom of the Church, You called the Apostles to follow You and to become fishers of men, giving them authority to cast out unclean spirits and heal every disease and infirmity. You commissioned them to make disciples of all nations and to feed Your sheep.

On the day of Pentecost, You sent the Holy Spirit to fortify them, enabling them to fill people’s lives with Your saving love. Continue to act today, loving Savior, for the good of Your Holy Church. Send Your Holy Spirit upon dedicated men and women; inspire them to respond to the Great Commission and to serve You as missionaries for building up the body of Christ.

Through the prayers of the holy missionary saints strengthen all who are preparing to serve Your Holy Church in humility and love. For You are a merciful and loving God and to You we give glory together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.



Information about OCMC Missionaries and the long-term program, as well as the prayer for future missionaries are all available at www.ocmc.org

Holy Days and Name Days in May

- May 1 - Pascha: Feast of Feasts; Prophet Jeremiah; St Tamara of Georgia
- May 2 - Bright Monday; St Athanasius the Great, Patriarch of Alexandria
- May 3 - Bright Tuesday; St Theodosius of the Kiev Caves
- May 4 - Bright Wednesday
- May 5 - Bright Thursday; Martyr Irene of Thessalonica
- May 6 - Bright Friday; Righteous Job the Longsuffering
- May 7 - Bright Saturday; Repose of St Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre
- May 8 - St Thomas Sunday; Holy Apostle John the Theologian
- May 9 - Prophet Isaiah
- May 10 - Apostle Simeon the Zealot
- May 11 - SS Cyril & Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs
- May 14 - Martyr Isidore of Chios; St Isidore of Rostov, Fool-for-Christ
- May 15 - Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women; St Pachomius the Great
- May 20 - Relics of St Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow
- May 21 - SS Constantine & Helen, Equal-to-the-Apostles
- May 22 - Sunday of the Paralytic
- May 25 - 3rd Finding of the Head of St John the Baptist
- May 28 - St Germaine of Paris
- May 29 - Sunday of the Samaritan Women; Blessed John of Ustiug

St Thomas Sunday

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "*The Doubting Thomas*." This is incorrect.



In Greek, the inscription reads, "*The Touching of Thomas*."

The Slavonic inscription is, "*The Belief of Thomas*." When St. Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as "*Antipascha*." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "instead of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection.

Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek.

~ Reading & Icon Courtesy of the OCA Webpage ~



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**

