

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: 609-385-3757

Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful

Are We Ineffective, Nearsighted, or Blind?

Greeting

¹Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Make Your Calling and Election Sure

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an

entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹²Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

Christ's Glory and the Prophetic Word

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:1-21

Events and Announcements

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- + ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM FEAST DAY - NOVEMBER 14 - **PLEASE NOTE: SS Peter & Paul will be open for Divine Liturgy**
 - + NATIVITY - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 - **Divine Liturgy, 10 AM**
 - + CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST BASIL THE GREAT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 - **Divine Liturgy, 9 AM**
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SCHEDULE OF OTHER SERVICES

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY - 7 PM - 8:30 PM in the Church Hall - Led by **Fr. Dn. Gregory**.
PLEASE NOTE: NO Bible Study on Wednesday, November 24th.

CHURCH NEWS AND REMINDERS

ICON PLEDGES Can be paid at any time to our treasurer, James Schaeffer. **Please note:** when returning your Icons, please return them to the Church Store. You will be given a receipt for all Icons returned.

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.

Memorials: Any help in setting up and cleaning up from the families involved is truly appreciated and welcomed by the Ladies Society.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - Monday, **November 8, 7 PM. Mid-Month Council Meeting** - Sunday, **November 21**, after Divine Liturgy. *All Parishioners are welcome to attend.*

THE JOY OF GIVING

COLLECTION SUNDAYS - *May God bless you for your generosity!*

1st Sunday of each month - *Collection for the Poor*

2nd Sunday - *Orthodox Herald*

3rd Sunday - *Pastoral Fund*

CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS - Please continue to help feed the hungry. Frozen casseroles are collected by **Harry Halkedis**. A **\$10 donation** for

casseroles accepted at any time. Disposable razors and individual/small tubes of hand lotion are needed. *Thank you!*

OTHER DONATIONS:

Church Library

Pop Tab Collections for Ronald McDonald House

Wine: Altar wine: **Manischewitz Concord Grape** (*please do not donate any other brand of concord grape*)

Oil: **Virgin Olive Oil**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We invite all children to attend our Sunday School, led by Rdr. Gregory Shaloka and Mrs. Rose Shaloka. Sunday School begins immediately after Holy Communion and takes place upstairs in the Church Hall.

Events and Announcements *(Continued)*

LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

MEETING - November 21. All members, please try to attend. *Anyone who is interested in joining is more than welcome to attend.*

A REQUEST... if you have borrowed any containers, trays, bowls, coffee carafes, etc. from the kitchen, *please return them as soon as possible.* These items are used for many of the functions held in the Church Hall and they are needed. *Thank you!*

FUTURE EVENTS AT SS PETER & PAUL

LADIES' SOCIETY HOT DOG SALE - Sunday, October 31

LADIES' SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER - Sunday, December 5

Please consider donating **NEW** toys, gift cards, wine, any **NEW** items.
Cash donations are gratefully accepted.

Anyone wishing to help, please see any member of the Ladies' Society.

Please help the Ladies' Society make this year another great success!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SS PETER & PAUL 90TH YEAR CELEBRATION DVD - Copies are available at the Church Store. Cost: \$15

support your parish. The donation is **\$10. Deadline: Sunday, December 5.**

SS PETER & PAUL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD - If you wish to have your name included on our annual Community Christmas Card, please see **Jim Bachelor** ASAP. *This is a great opportunity to*

NATIVITY GREETING CARDS FOR SALE - Once again, SS Peter & Paul is selling beautiful Nativity greeting cards. *All proceeds benefit the Pastoral Care Fund.* Each box of 16 cards is **\$24**; individual cards are **\$1.50**. See **Donna Bacon** to place your order or purchase cards.

EVENTS OF INTEREST AT OTHER LOCATIONS

GREEK BAZAAR - Saturday & Sunday, November 6 (11 AM - 7:30 PM) & 7 (11 AM - 6 PM) - At Annunciation Orthodox Church, 64 Hershey Ave, Lancaster, PA 17603. Phone: 717-394-1735.

Please support those who have supported our people for so many years!

Father Alexander Veronis of this parish was most instrumental in beginning the OCMC that took on the task of resurrecting the Orthodox Church in Albania. His son, Father Luke, was a missionary and leader in the seminary in Albania for ten years. The Annunciation Parish has been probably the strongest supporter of the Orthodox Church in Albania in the world.

The dinner platter is \$10 at the door, \$9 in advance; Greek delicacies for takeout are available. The teens perform ethnic dances at 3 PM on Saturday.

There is also a wonderful Church tour, book and icon room, pastry room, attic room, and gourmet grocery room, as well as other rooms of interest.

(Continued on Page 4)

Events and Announcements *(Continued)*

GREEK BAZAAR *(Continued from Page 3)*

The people grow and pick over 25,000 grape leaves which they then stuff. To see people of all ages working together to make this preparation of over 10,000 meals is indeed something to behold.

Several members of SS Peter & Paul have attended this event in past years. **Please join us again in this inspiring and delicious opportunity!**

OPEN HOUSE AT ST VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS - November 10 - 12 - The open house will provide those contemplating ministry or a deeper study of the Orthodox faith with first-hand experience of seminary life. For more information, visit: www.svots.edu or contact **Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak**, Director of Alumni and Recruitment at **914-961-8313** or email: jmatusiak@svots.edu

MISSION AWARENESS BANQUET - Tuesday, November 16 - At Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 7004 Ridge Ave, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. Hors d'oeuvres at 6 PM, Banquet at 7 PM. The cost is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door; cost for children (to 12 years old) is \$10. Please **RSVP by November 1** to Richard & Linda Haviland at 609-652-7817. *All proceeds benefit the Orthodox Christian Mission Center.* Checks payable to: OCMC, mail to: Holy Trinity GOC, 7004 Ridge Ave, E.H.T., NJ 08234

GENERAL INTEREST

ANCIENT FAITH RADIO 24 hour a day *internet Orthodox radio station:*
<http://ancientfaithradio.com>

PEROGIES FOR SALE - St Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral at 8598 Verree Rd, Phila, PA 19111, is selling perogies for **\$7** a dozen. The perogies are available Saturday evenings after Vespers and Sundays following Divine Liturgy.

MISCELLANEOUS

"DAILY BREAD" - The Church distributes a daily email entitled "Daily Bread" containing scripture readings for the day and the commemorated saints. To add your name (or the name of anyone who would enjoy getting it) please forward the email address to the Church email address:

sspeterpaul2@verizon.net

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL LIGHTS - Envelopes are available at the Church Store counter for special prayers to be said during the week in conjunction with the burning of the Seven-Day Votive Light hanging above the Royal Doors. Suggested offering: \$10, which will go towards building up our Pastoral Fund with the ultimate goal of supporting a full time priest.

SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH STORE - Open Sundays at 9:30 AM (1/2 hour before Divine Liturgy) **Items available:** Divine Liturgy Books, Icons; Crosses (Baptismal, lapel pins, Georgian style, orthodox); Prayerbooks (English); Censors; CDs and cassettes; Religious Books. Also available: **IN THEIR OWN TONGUE**, a documentary chronicling the Albanian Archdiocese in America

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.

NEW WEB PAGE/E-MAILS

<http://sspeterpaulphila.org>

New Bulletins are available online by Saturday 8 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 Alicia an e-mail at: 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 email: aliciaj17@mac.com. *The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, November 21.* Thank you! *Parishioners will be able to pick up the December Bulletin at the Church on Sunday 11/28/10.* 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.

Parishioner's Corner



A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **November Birthdays**: *Yelena Alekseyeva, Marie Antony, Jim Bachelor, Alicia Jaroni, Joanne Johns, Sallie Muzekari, Al Rifkin, Fr Dn Gregory Vrato, Nick Zeo, Zpiro Zoi*

May God grant them all many, many years!

OUR MOST SINCERE THANKS - to **Fr O'Leary** for serving and visiting at SS Peter & Paul. *May God grant Fr O'Leary many, many years!*

DONATE AN ITEM A MONTH CAMPAIGN - We are still in need of the following items: **Paper Towels, Ziplock Bags, Napkins, Handi-Wipes**. *Your continued help is truly appreciated! A sincere "Thank You" to all parishioners who so kindly donated any requested items.*

OUR SINCEREST THANKS

...to **all Parishioners** who attended the General Membership Meeting and participated in the discussions

...to **Jim Schaeffer & all the helpers** who once again succeeded in making this year's Clam Bake a delicious and fun-filled fundraising event

...to **Jim Schaeffer** (with a little help from **Harry Halkedis**) for putting down the sod in front of the Church

...to the **Ladies' Society** who so generously donated time, effort and goods to run the Roast Beef Fundraiser for the benefit of our Sunday School

GOOD COMPANY & GOOD FOOD: HELP BUILD UP OUR PASTORAL FUND - A new tradition has started -- serving a hot meal on most Sundays to build up our Pastoral Fund. If you have any ideas or are interested in participating or sponsoring a particular Sunday, please talk to **Jim Schaeffer** or **Letitia Desloges**. *Your help and support is needed to get this project up and running!*

A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED TO DIRECT THE CASSEROLE PROGRAM - **Harry Halkedis** would like to retire from the casserole program in 2010! *Thank you, Harry, for all your incredibly hard work.* We desperately need someone to take over this most worthwhile program.

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 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: **Gregory Vrato, Sr., Matthew Murianka, Joyce Dorsey, Andi Steffa, Mary Palmerick, John Palmerick, Thimi Daka, Al Rifkin, Sophie Bacon, Margot Craig, Eteri Okropiridze, Katherine Halkedis, Mary Ann Clark, Paulette Steffa, Alexandra Pana, Nicholas Desloges, Steven Yarrow, Martha Murianka, Connie Douris, Anthony Sarris, Jeanie Rifkin, Nick Zeo, His Grace Bishop Nikon**

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

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 _____, 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.

Special Announcements from Fr. Stephen

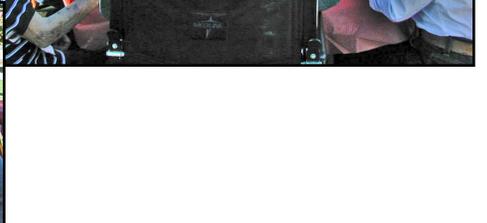
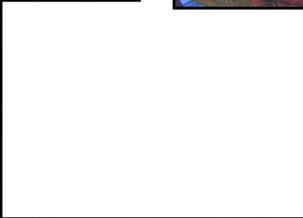
Father Stephen may be reached at 609-385-3757, Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM or by email: ssiniari@covenanthouse.org

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.

CLAM BAKE - OCTOBER 9, 2010



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... A great time of fine food and fellowship



was enjoyed by all!



SWEARING IN OF ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS - OCTOBER 17, 2010

Congratulations to our newly elected and re-elected Church Council Members!

President: Katherine Halkedis

Vice-President: Stephen Murianka

Treasurer: James Schaeffer; Secretary: Christina Murianka

Members: Joanne Johns, Belinda Mentzer

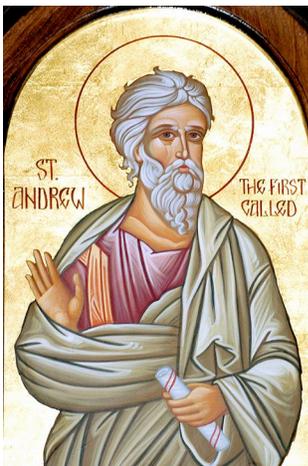


HOLY DAYS AND NAME DAYS IN NOVEMBER

- November 1** - **SS Cosmas & Damian; St Theodota; Martyrs John & James**
- November 8** - **Synaxis of Archangels Michael, Gabriel & All Heavenly Hosts**
- November 11** - **Martyr Menas of Egypt**
- November 13** - **St John Chrysostom**
- November 14** - **Apostle Philip; Emperor Justinian & Wife Theodora; St Gregory Palamas**
- November 15** - **Beginning of Nativity Fast**
- November 16** - **Apostle & Evangelist Matthew**
- November 17** - **St Gregory Wonderworker; St Lazarus, Iconographer; Ven Nikon of Radonezh**
- November 21** - **Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple**
- November 24** - **Greatmrt. Catherine; Greatmrt. Mercurius; Martyr Philotheus the Romanian**
- November 25** - **Leavetaking of the Entry of the Theotokos; St Clement of Ochrid**
- November 30** - **Apostle Andrew, the First-Called**

APOSTLE ANDREW, THE HOLY AND ALL-PRAISED FIRST-CALLED
(Commemorated on November 30)

The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ, and he later brought his own brother, the holy Apostle Peter, to Christ



(John 1:35-42). The future apostle was from Bethsaida, and from his youth he turned with all his soul to God. He did not enter into marriage, and he worked with his brother as a fisherman. When the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John began to preach, St Andrew became his closest disciple. St John the Baptist himself sent to Christ his own two disciples, the future Apostles Andrew and John the Theologian.

After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, St Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, he reached the River Danube, went along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the Black Sea region and

along the River Dniepr he climbed to the place where the city of Kiev now stands.

He stopped overnight on the hills of Kiev. Rising in the morning, he said to those disciples that were with him: "See these hills? Upon these hills shall shine forth the beneficence of God, and there will be a great city here, and God shall raise up many churches." He went up even further along the Dniepr and reached a settlement of the Slavs, where Novgorod was built. From here the apostle went towards Rome for preaching, and in the small village of Byzantium, the future Constantinople, he founded the Church of Christ. The name of the holy Apostle Andrew links the mother, the Church of Constantinople, with her daughter, the Russian Church.

On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans, but he continued to preach to people about the Savior. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the Lord worked miracles. By the labors of the holy Apostle Andrew, Christian Churches were established, for which he provided bishops and clergy. The final city to which the Apostle came was the city of Patra, where he was destined to suffer martyrdom.

The Lord worked many miracles through His disciple in Patra: the infirm were made whole, the blind received their sight, the illustrious citizen Sosios recovered from serious illness, and the wife of the governor, Maximilla, and his brother, Stratokles, were both healed. The miracles accomplished by the Apostle and his fiery speech enlightened almost all the citizens of the city of Patra with the true Faith.

Few pagans remained at Patra, but among them was the prefect of the city, Aegeatos.

The holy Apostle with love and humility appealed to his soul, striving to reveal to him the Christian mystery of life eternal, through the wonderworking power of the Holy Cross of the Lord. The angry Aegeatos gave orders to crucify the apostle.

St Andrew the First-Called accepted the decision with joy. Aegeatos gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to tie them to the cross. For two days the apostle taught the citizens who gathered about. The people tried to take St Andrew down from the cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeatos gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands. The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, said: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." Then a blazing ray of divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it. When the light faded, the holy Apostle Andrew had already given up his holy soul to the Lord. Maximilla, the wife of the prefect, had the body of the saint taken down from the cross, and buried him with honor.

A few centuries later, under the emperor Constantine the Great, the relics of the holy Apostle Andrew were solemnly transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles beside the relics of the holy Evangelist Luke and St Paul's disciple St Timothy.

Icon & Reading Courtesy of OCA Website