January 16th

Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Apostle Peter

Stichera at the Aposticha at Vespers

Byzantine Chant Tone/Mode 4
Special Melody: Unto them that fear thee
Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) Come ye, let us worship now the precious chains whereby all the bonds of the passions have been destroyed; for through the ineffable gifts of all-wise Peter have his chains been solemnly sanctified in very truth and have received from him everflowing grace. They cut a sunder all the binding cords of sorrows and trespasses, granting loosing from every ill through the grace God hath given him.

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2) O all lauded Peter, Chief of the Apostles, thy chain doth shine like a line reaching to the heights, by which we are led from earth to the gates of Heaven; and in faith we come to thee, O thou wondrous and most wise, as the illustrious keeper of the keys. Entrusted with the keys, then, of the Kingdom, open thou unto us in thy mercy the entry way to salvation and blessedness.
3) On this day the ranks of ___ Angels join with mortals and joyously sing thy praises with one accord. For when the Lord's Angel came, smote thy side, and woke thee, thou didst flee the guard and the chain of thy captivity, leaving thy bonds unto them that bound thee up. And now, O all-wise Peter, as thou dost bestow this great joy on us, thou dost break the unbreakable bond of sin that condemned us once.