

Ss. Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

First-enthroned of the apostles, teachers of the universe: Entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy!

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April 3, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT ST. JOHN CLIMACUS (OF THE LADDER)

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	4:00pm	Lenten Vespers
Wed. 06	7:00pm	Presanctified
Fri. 08	6:00pm	Fun Night
Sat. 09	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 10	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	4:00pm	Lenten Vespers

One must be baptized and chrismated an Orthodox Christian to receive Holy Communion. Guests are invited to receive a blessing at the chalice and partake of the post-Communion bread (Antidoron).

Fast Days: Every day (fasting from meat, fish, and eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

Troparion – Tone 8 (Resurrection)

*Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!*

Troparion – Tone 1 (St. John Climacus)

*O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,
thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.
Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!
Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown!
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!*

Prayers for those in our Sts. Peter and Paul community (parishioners, family, friends) can be listed for remembrance in our litanies during the Liturgy. Feel free to give names to Fr. Nicholas - please indicate how each person listed is connected to us (parishioner, family, friend, etc.), as well as why we are praying for them (health, memory, travel, etc.).

Confessions can be heard by appointment. If you need, I will come to you during the week. Please do not hesitate to call for a time to drop by the church or to have me visit you.

Remembrances for both the living and the dead during the prayers of preparation of the Eucharistic Lamb and during the Augmented Litany should be given the week before the desired remembrance so that the names can be put into the bulletin and given to the Deacons for the prayers. Any names of the living that are not marked as sick or traveling will be listed under general prayers.

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

Church Lectionary

Today

Ephesians 5:9-19
Matthew 4:25-5:12
Hebrews 6:13-20
Mark 9:17-31

Monday

Isaiah 37:33-38:6
Genesis 13:12-18
Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday

Isaiah 40:18-31
Genesis 15:1-15
Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday

Isaiah 41:4-14
Genesis 17:1-9
Proverbs 15:20-16:9

Thursday

Isaiah 42:5-16
Genesis 18:20-33
Proverbs 16:17-17:17
Hebrews 7:26-8:2
John 10:9-16

Friday

Isaiah 45:11-17
Genesis 22:1-18
Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Saturday

Hebrews 9:1-7
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 8:27-31

Reading the Bible in a Year

Apr 03: 4 Kings 5-8
Apr 04: 4 Kings 9-12
Apr 05: 4 Kings 13-16
Apr 06: 4 Kings 17-20
Apr 07: 4 Kings 21-24
Apr 08: 4 Kings 25-28
Apr 09: 4 Kings 29-32

APRIL EVENTS

April

03 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
4:00pm Lenten Vespers (away)
06 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot Luck & Lenten Study
08 – 6:00pm *Fun Night*
09 – 6:00pm Vespers
10 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
4:00pm Lenten Vespers (away)
13 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot Luck & Lenten Study

16 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Lazarus Saturday
6:00pm Vespers
17 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Palm Sunday
19 – 7:00pm Bridegroom Matins
20 – 7:00pm Holy Unction
21 – 7:00pm Matins and Passion
Gospels
22 – 3:00pm Vespers
7:00pm Matins and
Lamentations

Coffee Hour

Tina Murianka

Flower Donation

Ss. Peter & Paul



"Ascend, my brothers, ascend eagerly. Let your hearts' resolve be to climb. Listen to the voice of the one who says: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of our God' (Isa. 2:3), Who makes our feet to be like the feet of the deer, 'Who sets us on the high places, that we may be triumphant on His road' (Hab. 3:19)."

-St. John Climacus



A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, Your faithfulness in protecting Your humanity is so very encouraging and faith-building. When we see You intervene to save us from our short-sighted ideology. May we always assume Your kindness even when we don't think our plans through. Help us to trust You, even when our plans fail. Amen.

Don't react, be at peace

Each day brings on new challenges regarding the health of your soul. Those moments when a family member or coworker makes a remark that are meant to anger you, are those times you need to guard your heart. When those around you are gossiping about someone, that is an opportunity for you to keep silent. The driver who's just cut you off on the freeway; the woman who pushes her way in front of you in the check out line; the rude neighbor; all are moments in time when you can take control and grow stronger spiritually. Trials and temptations, when confronted with a peaceful heart, bring forth healing and make the soul that much stronger and healthier. Reacting does nothing but bring forth paralysis of the soul, binding us to our fallen nature. Receiving all these temptations with a peaceful heart and not reacting to outside negative stimulus, helps strengthen you for the next round of trial and temptation. Little by little, you will find that the Peace of Christ fills your every waking moment, bringing on a joyful spirit and a peaceful heart.

Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

April 3 – Sunday of St. John Climacus Descent of the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church
1323 Ashbourne Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027
April 10 – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church
2101 S 28th St, Philadelphia, PA 19145

Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Mark 9:17-31

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

Children's Word

God's promises

Have you ever promised something to a friend? Did your friend believe you? Did you keep your promise?

In today's epistle reading, we hear about a promise God made. He promised Abraham that he would have a son. Abraham was an old man by then, so at first he didn't believe God! But God kept His promise, and Abraham and his wife Sarah really did have a baby son, Isaac.

God has promised so many things to us, too! Can you think of one of His promises? We can find them in the Bible. If you live close to God, He says, "Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full." Another time, we hear, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." And another, "Everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have life forever, and I will raise him up on the last day."

We have so many promises from our Lord! He says if we love Him, He will take care of us. He says if we love Him, He will reward us. Do you believe His promises? God always keeps His promises. Now, can you make a promise to God? Can you promise to love Him, and to try to grow closer to Him? Then, of course, we have to keep that promise!

SAINT JOHN WRITER OF "THE LADDER"

Now, we're more than halfway finished with Great Lent! Today is the 4th Sunday, when we remember St. John Climacus. St. John was a monk who wrote an important (but very hard to read!) book. He was a very thoughtful and prayerful man.

In this book, St. John gave advice about how we can go up the ladder—to heaven! (That's what Climacus means—"of the ladder.") He wrote how we Christians must always be trying harder and harder to grow closer to Christ. That's our goal.

Maybe one day, when you're older, you'll have a chance to read and study his book. But for today, let's remember one thing he wrote: "Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And truly, your guardian angel will honor your patience."

So remember, as YOU are trying every day to climb the ladder to grow closer to our Lord— you're going to make mistakes! But as St. John encourages us, don't give up! Be brave and try harder next time! We celebrate St. John today, the fourth Sunday of Great Lent.

The End From The Beginning

March 31, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

It is said that the greatest chess players “see” at least 4 moves ahead at all times. This is why they can anticipate their opponents’ moves and be ready for them.

But most of us simply don’t think that far ahead in our lives. We clutter our moments with as much noise as possible in an attempt to drown out the silence that makes us uncomfortable. This need for constant stimulation, for constant input, for constant noise, speaks more to addiction than it does to real attempts at productivity. What are we afraid of in the silence and stillness of a moment? Why do we struggle with the feelings of disease when there is a lag in a conversation? What drives us to fill every moment with “something” so we won’t be “bored?”

No wonder we question God’s timing, His motives, His wisdom when life throws us the curves it always seems to throw, and always at the most inopportune times! We seem to never take the time to think long term, to see the real “end game” ahead of us, and to be wise in planning how to counter the distractions, the detours, and the temptations to leave the proper path for our lives. We constantly miss the signals of both danger and opportunity, but God never does. He sees the end from the beginning.

Look at Genesis 10:32-11:9:

These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations; and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood. Now the whole earth had one language and few words. And as men migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the sons of men had built. And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Here we read the story of the Tower of Babel. The Flood is passed. The generations of Noah’s family are obeying God’s command and multiplying on the earth. And they are ingenious people. They learn skills, crafts, engineering, and ambition. And they gather together to pool their resources to build a city with a tower that reaches the heavens! God sees that humanity still retains the spark of divinity built into the image of God in every person. He sees they are instinctively desiring to be like their Creator and build, create, and achieve. But they are still enfeebled by their broken relationship with God and this poisons even their best intentions with the danger of self-centeredness and lack of love for their neighbor. But their abilities are God-given, so they will achieve their ambitions; that is unless Someone intervenes to protect them from themselves.

So God does. He confuses their common language and they no longer have the ability to communicate. This stops them in their tracks and they are forced to abandon the project. So the tower is called “Babel” because they stopped being able to understand one another. Of course, this sad necessity will be reversed at the Day of Pentecost after God had accomplished all that was necessary to heal mankind’s deepest wound by Christ’s death and resurrection. When God gives humanity His Spirit, the effects of the Tower of Babel are reversed!

Today, God sees the End from the Beginning of your life and all our lives. He has countered every move made against your ultimate well being and He is now asking you to trust Him as He guides your life through the wisdom of the Faith. Each day you are confronted with the choice to keep saying “yes” to His insights and plans for you or you react with short-sighted fear and take control of yourself. Today, make the choice to trust Him. And then build your faith so that saying “yes” not only becomes easier, but automatic! That’s the path to being Orthodox on Purpose!

К Евреям 6:13-20

Бог, давая обетование Аврааму, как не мог никем высшим клясться, клялся Самим Собою, говоря: истинно благословляя благословлю тебя и размножая размножу тебя. И так Авраам, долготерпев, получил обещанное. Люди клянутся высшим, и клятва во удостоверение оканчивает всякий спор их. Посему и Бог, желая преимущественнее показать наследникам обетования непреложность Своей воли, употребил в посредство клятву, дабы в двух непреложных вещах, в которых невозможно Богу солгать, твердое утешение имели мы, прибегшие взяться за предлежащую надежду, которая для души есть как бы якорь безопасный и крепкий, и входит во внутреннейшее за завесу, куда предтечею за нас вошел Иисус, сделавшись Первосвященником навек по чину Мелхиседека.

От Марка 9:17-31

Один из народа сказал в ответ: Учитель! я привел к Тебе сына моего, одержимого духом немым: где ни схватывает его, повергает его на землю, и он испускает пену, и скрежещет зубами своими, и цепенеет. Говорил я ученикам Твоим, чтобы изгнали его, и они не могли. Отвечая ему, Иисус сказал: о, род неверный! доколе буду с вами? доколе буду терпеть вас? Приведите его ко Мне. И привели его к Нему. Как скоро [бесноватый] увидел Его, дух сотряс его; он упал на землю и валялся, испуская пену. И спросил [Иисус] отца его: как давно это сделалось с ним? Он сказал: с детства; и многократно [дух] бросал его и в огонь и в воду, чтобы погубить его; но, если что можешь, сжался над нами и помоги нам. Иисус сказал ему: если сколько-нибудь можешь веровать, всё возможно верующему. И тотчас отец отрока воскликнул со слезами: верую, Господи! помоги моему неверию. Иисус, видя, что сбегается народ, запретил духу нечистому, сказав ему: дух немой и глухой! Я повелеваю тебе, выйди из него и впредь не входи в него. И, вскрикнув и сильно сотрясши его, вышел; и он сделался, как мертвый, так что многие говорили, что он умер. Но Иисус, взяв его за руку, поднял его; и он встал. И как вошел [Иисус] в дом, ученики Его спрашивали Его наедине: почему мы не могли изгнать его? И сказал им: сей род не может выйти иначе, как от молитвы и поста. Выйдя оттуда, проходили через Галилею; и Он не хотел, чтобы кто узнал. Ибо учил Своих учеников и говорил им, что Сын Человеческий предан будет в руки человеческие и убьют Его, и, по убиении,

Hebrenjve 6:13-20

Sepse Perëndia, kur i premtoi Abrahamit pasi s'kishte asnjë më të madh, mbi të cilin të betohej, u betua mbi veten e tij, duke thënë: "Vërtet duke bekuar do të të bekoj, edhe duke shumuar do të të shumoj". Edhe kështu Abrahami, duke pritur me durim, fitoi premtimin. Sepse njerëzit betohen mbi më të madhin, edhe për ata betimi për të vërtetuar është fundi i çdo kundërshtimi. Kështu Perëndia, duke dashur t'u tregojë më tepër trashëgimtarëve të premtimit pakthyeshmërinë e vullnetit të tij, vuri ndërmjetës betimin, që me anë dy gjërash të pakthyeshme, në të cilat është e pamundur të gënjejë Perëndia, të mund të cilën e kemi si spirancë të shpirtit të sigurt e të vërtetë, edhe që hyn në të brendshmen e kurtinës; atje ku një pararendës hyri për ne, Jisui, duke u bërë kryepriфт në përjetësi sipas urdhërit të Melkisedekut.

Markut 9:17-31

Edhe një prej turmës u përgjigj, e tha: Mësues, prura tek ti tim bir që ka frymë të pagojë. Edhe kudo ta zërë, e hedh poshtë dhe shkumëzon, e kërcëllin dhëmbët e tij, dhe thahet. Edhe u thashë nxënësve të tu ta nxjerrin, por nuk mundën. Edhe ai iu përgjigj e tha: O brez i pabesë, deri kur do të jem bashkë me ju? Deri kur do t'ju duroj ju? Silleni atë tek unë. Edhe e prunë tek ai; edhe kur fryma e pa atë, përnjëherë e shkundi fort; edhe ai ra përdhe, edhe rrokullisej duke shkumëzuar. Edhe Jisui pyeti të atin e atij: Sa kohë ka qëkurse i ngjau kjo? Edhe ai tha: Qëkurse ishte fëmijë i vogël. Edhe shumë herë e hodhi edhe në zjarr dhe në ujëra, që ta humbasë; po nëse mund të bësh gjë, le të të dhimbset për ne dhe ndihmona. Edhe Jisui i tha këtë: Nëse mund të besosh, të gjitha janë të mundura për atë që beson. Edhe përnjëherë i ati i fëmijës së vogël thirri me lot, duke thënë: Besoj, Zot. Ndhimoi pabesisë sime. Edhe Jisui kur pa se shumë njerëz po mblidheshin duke vrapuar së bashku, qortoi frymën e ndyrë, duke i thënë: Frymë e pagojë dhe e shurdhër, unë të urdhëroj, dil nga ai, edhe të mos hysh më tek ai. Edhe fryma duke bërtitur e duke e shkundur atë shumë fort, doli; edhe djali u bë si i vdekur, aq sa shumë veta thoshin se vdiq. Edhe Jisui e kapi për dore dhe e ngriti; edhe u çua. Edhe kur hyri në një shtëpi, nxënësit e tij e pyesnin veçan se pse ne nuk mundëm ta nxjerrim. Edhe ai u tha atyre: Ky lloj s'mund të dalë, veçse me lutje e me agjërime. Edhe si dolën andej, shkonin nëpër Galile, edhe s'donte ta marrë vesh njeri. Sepse mësonte nxënësit e tij, e u thoshte atyre se Biri i njeriut u dorëzohet njerëzve, edhe do ta vrasin, dhe si të vritet, të tretën ditë do të ngjallet.