

Sts. 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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August 8, 2021

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: AFTERFEAST OF TRANSFIGURATION, ST. EMILIAN THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF CYZICUS

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
Wed. 11	7:15pm	Bible Study with GoogleMeet
Sun. 15	10:00am	Divine Liturgy <i>Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos</i>

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, eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able. Wine and oil are allowed today, Monday, Friday and Friday. Fish is allowed on Monday and Friday)

Troparion – Tone 6 (*Ressurection*)

*The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin,
granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,
glory to Thee.*

Kontakion – Tone 7 (*Transfiguration*)

*On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O Christ God,
and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it;
so that when they would behold Thee crucified,
they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary,
and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.*

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

Romans 15:1-7

Matthew 9:27-35

Monday

1 Corinthians 9:13-18

Matthew 16:1-6

Tuesday

1 Corinthians 10:5-12

Matthew 16:6-12

Wednesday

1 Corinthians 10:12-22

Matthew 16:20-24

Thursday

1 Corinthians 10:28-11:7

Matthew 16:24-28

Friday

1 Corinthians 11:8-22

Matthew 17:10-18

Saturday

Romans 13:1-10

Matthew 12:30-37

Reading the Bible in a Year

Aug 08: Amos 5-9

Aug 09: Obadiah & Jonah

Aug 10: Micah 1-4

Aug 11: Micah 5-7

Aug 12: Nahum

Aug 13: Habakkuk

Aug 14: Zephaniah

Do We Think Ourselves Wiser Than the Church?

In an age of unbelief it can be a struggle to submit to the laws of the Church. When the society around us regards the Church's laws and traditions unfavorably, we can easily give in to thinking the same thing, and disregard the canons and statutes of the Church of Christ. If our work associates and friends, or even family members, think our adherence to the periods of fasting is extreme, we can find ourselves giving in to peer pressure, just as children are known to do. If our taking time out from work to attend special feast day services is criticized by co-workers as being excessive, do we decline to ask for the day off for the next feast day?

If we allow ourselves to choose the traditions and societal structures of those around us, in preference to the Church's traditions, canons and laws, we will soon find ourselves betraying our Christian faith. Christianity was not meant to be easy, but is by nature compared to doing battle. If we desire the easy comforts and pleasures of this world, we will eventually lose the battle, and we will perish. If we prefer the laws of this world over the laws of the Church, in the end we will have lost that which is most essential and eternal in value.

In times of turmoil and earthly hardship we will find we have not built up the spiritual strength and fortitude to stand strong against the winds of destruction that lay hold our lives, and we will have lost the battle. Submitting to mere human traditions and authority, we will find that a thief will have taken the very treasure that is the Kingdom of God, and we will be left by the wayside, the Gates of Heaven having been closed to us.

If we revile the laws of the Church we will have reviled Christ Himself, Who is the Head of the Church. This is true because the laws of the Church were given by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles, and are therefore not simply the traditions of man. Let us not think we are great teachers of our own souls, but let us humbly call out together with the wise thief, Remember me, O Lord, in Thy kingdom!

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

Coffee Hour

This Week: Frani Carmody Memorial



Next Week:

If anyone who is currently unable to attend our Sunday Liturgy and supply coffee hour would like to donate to host a coffee hour, please contact Fr. Nicholas 860-861-7468

A Prayer for the Week

You were transfigured on the Mount, Christ God revealing Your glory to Your disciples, insofar as they could comprehend. Illuminate us sinners also with Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. Giver of light, glory to You. Amen

If you are truly merciful, then when what is yours is unjustly taken, don't be sad inside, and do not tell of our loss to your neighbor. Let a better loss, inflicted by those who insult you, be absorbed by your mercy.

-*St. Isaac the Syrian*



Dormition & the Blessing of Flowers

Holy Tradition tells us that all the Apostles, with the exception of St. Thomas, were transported mystically to Jerusalem in order to be with the Mother of God – the Theotokos – as she reposed, and to be present at her burial. When the Apostle Thomas arrived the next day, the Apostles opened the tomb so that he could kiss her farewell. As the tomb was opened, the body of the Most Pure Virgin was missing, and the cave was filled with flowers and the sweet fragrance of Paradise. This was a sure sign of her great purity and holiness to the faithful.

Therefore as part of our celebration of Dormition we bless flowers and fragrant herbs – and the faithful traditionally keep them in their homes. The herbs, used as natural medicine, are blessed in commemoration of the numerous healings and the extraordinary grace bestowed on the pilgrims at the blessed tomb of the Mother of God. During times of family strife or illness, it is a pious custom to place the flower petals in the house censer, together with the incense, and cense the whole house with it. **We will be blessing flowers and herbs at the end of Liturgy next Sunday. Please feel free to bring a basket of flowers and/or herbs to be blessed for your home.**

Romans 15:1-7

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Matthew 9:27-35

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Children's Word

Can you keep a secret?

Has anybody ever told you a secret? "Don't tell anybody else," you might have heard. But maybe the story was just too hard to keep a secret, and you told somebody else. A surprise party. A present. A fun trip coming up. Secrets are hard to keep!

Jesus did so many miracles when He was living here on earth. In the Bible, we read a few stories of when Jesus healed blind people. In today's story, two blind men followed Christ and called to Him, "Have mercy on us!" When Christ touched their eyes, they both could see again.

After that, Jesus told the men, "See that no one knows it." He wanted these men to keep the miracle a secret. Maybe He didn't want to have lots of people following Him around yet. But how could they keep it a secret? Imagine. They were blind, and now they could see! They went around and told everybody what happened. Lots of people found out about Jesus Christ just from these two men. God does so many things for us every day. Now, we don't have to keep them a secret! When God answers one of your prayers, you can tell everybody! When you are happy to be a Christian, you can share your news too.

SAINT TRIANTAPHYLLOS A BRAVE YOUNG MAN

Have you ever had to be very brave about something? Maybe getting a shot, or even just a splinter out? Staying home alone? Going to school for the first time?

Today we celebrate the memory of a saint who was very brave about his Christian faith, braver than any of us have ever been!

Most of us live in places where we are free to be Orthodox Christians. We can go to church, and we can tell people we believe in our Lord, Jesus Christ! But young Triantaphyllos was born near the city of Volos in northern Greece, at a time when Orthodox Christians were not free to keep their faith. That's because the Ottoman Turks wanted them to join the Muslim faith instead.

Triantaphyllos worked on boats as a sailor. One day, the authorities arrested him. Why? Because he was a Christian. They wanted him to give up his Orthodox faith and convert to become Muslim. But Triantaphyllos refused! He told them he would never turn his back on Christ. He told them they could even kill him!

Well, sadly, that is just what the authorities did. They killed him for his faith. But Triantaphyllos was brave to the end, even though he was only 15 years old! Let's keep his story in our hearts, so we can have his strong faith too. We never want to turn our backs on Christ either.

We remember St. Triantaphyllos today, August 8th.

AUGUST EVENTS

August

- 08 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 11 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet
- 15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 18 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet
- 22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 25 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet
- 29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

The Feast That Tells You Who You Are Meant to Be!

August 6, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Here's a long quote from C.S. Lewis' book "The Weight of Glory"

"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations – these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit immortal horrors or everlasting splendors."

Wow, if this is true then all our interactions today will be with these so-called "immortals!"

Why is it we humans have such a hard time embracing this reality of the people around us? I'm convinced because we have such a hard time accepting this cosmic reality is true about our own selves. We just can't believe we are meant to be more than the sum total of our desires, so we treat others in that debased way as well.

The Lord's Disciples got a huge wake-up call today as the Lord took His "inner circle" with Him to the Mount of Transfiguration. Look at our Gospel Lesson today in Matthew 17:1-9:

At that time, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led him up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

They had lived with Him. They had listened to His teachings. They had seen His miracles, but, to this moment, they still weren't "sure" of just Who He was. And now, on this mountain, at this miraculous moment, there is no doubt. The Man, this Jesus, is no mere prophet, no mere guru or religious teacher. No, this Man was One Who conversed with Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the Prophets) and even God the Father's Voice revealed Him as "my beloved Son." And the Father's command still rings in our ears this very day: "Listen to Him!"

The Feast of the Transfiguration is a revelation not just of the identity of our Lord Jesus, but of our potential identity as well. You see, the whole of the Orthodox Faith is about shaping you and me to be "like Christ." All our liturgies, spiritual disciplines, prayers, actions, homilies, and worship are designed to so reshape you and me that we take on the likeness of Jesus Christ Himself. The ultimate work in the Eucharist is to have us take Christ within us so that we can be "fed" by Him and become "like" Him. After all, you are what you eat!

Today, are you satisfied with playing at the periphery of this awesome truth, or are you finally willing to press into this wondrous Faith with purpose and love? Are you willing to be made into His likeness by the collected wisdom of 20 centuries of Orthodox insight, or will you be satisfied merely standing in the "narthex" of the Faith? On this Feastday when He reveals Himself AND reveals what you could be, it's time to be Orthodox on Purpose!

К Римлянам 15:1-7

Мы, сильные, должны сносить немощи бессильных и не себе угождать. Каждый из нас должен угождать ближнему, во благо, к назиданию. Ибо и Христос не Себе угождал, но, как написано: злословия злословяющих Тебя пали на Меня. А все, что писано было прежде, написано нам в наставление, чтобы мы терпением и утешением из Писаний сохраняли надежду. Бог же терпения и утешения да дарует вам быть в единомыслии между собою, по [учению] Христа Иисуса, дабы вы единодушно, едиными устами славили Бога и Отца Господа нашего Иисуса Христа. Посему принимайте друг друга, как и Христос принял вас в славу Божию.

От Матфея 9:27-35

Когда Иисус шел оттуда, за Ним следовали двое слепых и кричали: помилуй нас, Иисус, сын Давидов! Когда же Он пришел в дом, слепые приступили к Нему. И говорит им Иисус: веруете ли, что Я могу это сделать? Они говорят Ему: ей, Господи! Тогда Он коснулся глаз их и сказал: по вере вашей да будет вам. И открылись глаза их; и Иисус строго сказал им: смотрите, чтобы никто не узнал. А они, выйдя, разгласили о Нем по всей земле той. Когда же те выходили, то привели к Нему человека немого бесноватого. И когда бес был изгнан, немой стал говорить. И народ, удивляясь, говорил: никогда не бывало такого явления в Израиле. А фарисеи говорили: Он изгоняет бесов силою князя бесовского. И ходил Иисус по всем городам и селениям, уча в синагогах их, проповедуя Евангелие Царствия и исцеляя всякую болезнь и всякую немощь в людях.

Romakëve 15:1-7

Edhe ne, që jemi të fortë, duhet të mbajmë dobësitë e atyre që janë të dobët dhe jo t'i pëlqejmë vetes. Secili nga ne le t'i pëlqeje të afërmit për të mirë, për ndërtim, sepse edhe Krishti nuk i pëlqeu vetes së tij, por sikurse është shkruar: "Sharjet e atyre që të shanin ty, ranë mbi mua." Sepse të gjitha gjërat që u shkruan në të kaluarën u shkruan për mësimin tonë, që me anë të këmbënguljes dhe të ngushëllimit të Shkrimeve, të kemi shpresë. Dhe Perëndia i durimit dhe i ngushëllimit ju dhëntë juve të keni po ato mendime njeri me tjetrin, sipas Jezu Krishtit, që me një mendje të vetme dhe një gojë të vetme ta përlëvdoni Perëndinë, Atin e Perëndisë tonë Jezu Krisht. Prandaj pranoni njëri-tjetrin, sikurse edhe Krishti na pranoi për lavdinë e Perëndisë.

Mateu 9:27-35

Dhe ndërsa Jezusi po largohej prej andej, dy të verbër e ndiqnin duke bërtitur dhe duke thënë: "Ki mëshirë për ne, Bir i Davidit!" Kur arriti në shtëpi, të verbërit iu afruan dhe Jezusi u tha atyre: "A besoni ju se unë mund ta bëj këtë gjë?.." Ata iu përgjigjën: "Po, o Zot." Atëherë ai ua preku sytë, duke thënë: "U bëftë sipas besimit tuaj." Dhe atyre iu hapën sytë. Pastaj Jezusi i urdhëroi rreptësisht duke thënë: "Ruhuni se mos e merr vesh njeri." Por ata, sapo dolën, e përhapën famën e tij në mbarë atë vend. Dhe, kur ata po dilnin, i paraqitën një burrë memec dhe të demonizuar. Dhe, mbasi e dëboi demonin, memeci foli dhe turmat u çuditën dhe thanë: "Nuk është parë kurrë një gjë e tillë në Izrael." Por farisenjtë thonin: "Ai i dëbon demonët me ndihmën e princit të demonëve!" Dhe Jezusi kalonte nëpër të gjitha qytetet dhe fshatrat, duke i mësuar në sinagogat e tyre, duke predikuar ungjillin e mbretërisë dhe duke shëruar çdo sëmundje e çdo lëngatë në popull.