

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 9, 2020

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: AFTERFEAST OF TRANSFIGURATION
GLORIFICATION OF VEN. HERMAN OF ALASKA
TONE 8

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 12 7:15pm Presanctified Liturgy
Sun. 16 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Celebration of the
Feast of the Dormition

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: Strict fast Sunday to Saturday.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.) Fish, wine and oil allowed on Saturday and Thursday.

**Troparion – Tone 7
(St. Herman)**

*O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ,
guiding all men to the Heavenly Kingdom,
teacher and apostle of the True Faith,
intercessor and defender of the oppressed,
adornment of the Orthodox Church in America:
Blessed Father Herman of Alaska,
pray to our Lord Jesus Christ
for the salvation of our souls!*

**Kontakion – Tone 7
(Feast)**

*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

Galatians 5:22-6:2
Luke 6:17-23
1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Matthew 14:22-34

Monday

1 Corinthians 15:12-19
Matthew 21:18-22

Tuesday

1 Corinthians 15:29-38
Matthew 21:23-27

Wednesday

1 Corinthians 16:4-12
Matthew 21:28-32

Thursday

2 Corinthians 1:1-7
Matthew 21:43-46

Friday

2 Corinthians 1:12-20
Matthew 22:23-33

Saturday

Romans 15:30-33
Matthew 17:24-18:4
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Reading the Bible in a Year

Aug 09: Obadiah & Jonah
Aug 10: Micah 1-4
Aug 11: Micah 5-7
Aug 12: Nahum
Aug 13: Habakkuk
Aug 14: Zephaniah
Aug 15: Haggai

As a help to those who wish to worship, but cannot gather in the church, we stream the Divine Liturgy on our YouTube channel. You can look up the channel at YouTube.com.

We are

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church of Philadelphia

or you can follow the link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpqQHigwM5deWD2Se8_MVhw

Liturgy is at 10:00am every Sunday. If the livestream has not begun, you will have to refresh your browser until it gives you a notice that we are live.

If you would like to attend services on feast days when we cannot hold services, I recommend watching the streamed services from Transfiguration Monastery located at <http://www.orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org/> They have a calendar that has their service schedule on it and the services can be viewed via their online chapel.

August

09- 10:00am Divine Liturgy
12 - 7:15pm Bible Study
15 - **Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos**
16 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Celebration of the **Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos** with the blessing of Fragrant Herbs
19 - 7:15pm Bible Study

August/September Events

23 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
26 - 7:15pm Bible Study
30 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy

September

02 - 7:15pm Bible Study
06 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Celebration of the **Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**
08 - **Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**

09 - 7:15pm Bible Study
13 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Celebration of the **Feast of the Exultation of the Precious Cross**
14 - **Feast of the Exultation of the Precious Cross**
16 - 7:15pm Bible Study
20 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
23 - 7:15pm Bible Study
27 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
30 - 7:15pm Bible Study



“And I, a sinner, have been trying to love God for more than forty years, and cannot say that I perfectly love Him. If we love someone we always remember him and try to please him; day and night our heart is occupied with that object.

Is that how you, gentlemen, love God? Do you often turn to Him, do you always remember Him, do you always pray to Him and fulfill His holy commandments? ‘For our good, for our happiness at least let us make a vow that from this day, from this hour, from this minute we shall strive to love God above all else and to fulfill His holy will.’”

- St. Herman of Alaska



Memory Eternal to Thimi Daka who fell asleep in the Lord on the Feast of the Transfiguration. His funeral will be held at Ss. Peter and Paul at 10:00am on Monday, August 10. If you are unable to attend due to health risks, we will stream it live on our channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpqQHigwM5deWD2Se8_MVhw

1 Corinthians 3:9-17 (Epistle)

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Matthew 14:22-34 (Gospel)

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

Children's Word

Building the foundation

Have you ever tried to build something together with a friend or with a brother or sister? A sand castle? A Lego construction? A fort out in the woods? When you build something, you know you have to start off the right way, or else it might not work!

In today's epistle reading, Saint Paul tells us the same thing. Saint Paul wanted to help build something really great, the Church of Christ! He writes, "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it...No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

As Christians, we want to start off the right way. And thank God, we have lots of people to help us build the foundation the right way. Your parents teach you about God and His love. Your godparents baptized you so you could follow Christ. Your priest teaches you and gives you the sacraments. Your church school teachers teach you things about His Church. Camp counselors and other friends in your church help lead you to Christ too.

All of these people are builders too, and they are helping you build the right foundation inside you, "which is Jesus Christ." Thank God for your builders!

PASCHA IN AUGUST? THE GREAT FEAST OF DORMITION

We celebrate the feast of the Dormition on Aug. 15th (OC: Aug. 28th). In springtime, we celebrate the great feast of Christ's Resurrection. You might call that special day Easter, or you might call it Pascha. Pascha means "passing over." We remember how our Lord, Jesus Christ, "passed over" death to life again. We know that our Lord is living, watching over us still.

We celebrate another Pascha too, and we celebrate it this week! This feastday is called the Dormition, and some people call it another Pascha, because God's mother, the Theotokos, "passed over" death into life. We know that the Theotokos is living too, and she is watching over us too!

Orthodox Christians celebrate this day in a big way! Pascha in April is a celebration, but this is a celebration too. God gave us life when He rose from the dead, but Mary gave us life too when she gave baby Jesus life. So, we have to celebrate!

All through the first half of August we have been praying to the Theotokos, and we ask her to "save us." We can always ask her for help, especially in getting close to her son, Jesus Christ. After all, she was the closest person to Him! This week, let's celebrate this other Pascha, and thank the Theotokos for her help.

We celebrate the feast of the Dormition on Aug. 15th

God Heals Chaos. He Doesn't Cause It!

August 7, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Isaac Newton once said “Truth is ever to be found in simplicity, and not in the multiplicity and confusion of things.” How I resonate with that. Simplicity is the enemy of confusion and chaos. I’ll never forget the story of a Third world visitor to the US being overwhelmed by her first trip to an American grocery store. This precious woman broke down in tears, not at the abundance, but at the awesome struggle of sorting out this assault on her senses of color, diversity, and choice. She responded to her hostess that “this was too much freedom!”

However, we do live in a complex world, a nuanced world, and a very confusing world. That is our reality and there is no good to come from some escape or pretending this isn't reality. At the same time, we Orthodox Christians are called away from chaos, confusion, and a divided life. We are called to peace, simplicity, and joy.

Our current chaos, civil strife, and fear of death makes this wisdom all the more important today! How do we get from one place to the other?

Look at our lesson today in 1 Corinthians 14:26-40:

BRETHREN, when you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn; and let one interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each one of them keep silence in church and speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another by sitting by, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged; and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. But God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silence in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate, as even the law says. If there is anything they desire to know, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church. What! Did the word of God originate with you, or are you the only one it has reached? If any one thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord. If any one does not recognize this, he is not recognized. So, my brethren, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues; but all things should be done decently and in order.

St. Paul deals with both practical and spiritual concerns here with our dear Corinthians, and reading this you may be confused at some of his language. I can already see the comments coming in about “women should keep silence in the churches” and “let there be only two or three, at the most” speak in tongues or prophecy.

So, what enemies does Paul reveal here? First, the enemy of simplicity and the friend of confusion is self centeredness. I want my gift seen. I want my question answered right now. That spirit feeds confusion in a community and brings chaos, as it did in the Corinthian Church. This spirit that says “it has to be my way right now” is antithetical to the Orthodox Christian faith. But the opposite isn't “well, I'll just be some doormat and never say anything.” The temptation to fall off the narrow road on the other side is just as chaos causing as self centeredness. In fact, it's really just another form of self centeredness! the key is loving submission to one another and a willingness to do the hard work of communion together.

Another enemy of simplicity and peace is the “us vs. them” mentality. It's the men against the women. It's the prophets against the priests. It's the extroverts against the introverts. All these false dichotomies war against peace and simplicity! We aren't at war with one another. Only the enemy of confusion makes it seem so!

Today, what are the enemies of peace and simplicity in your life? Where is confusion and chaos feeding fear and isolation in your heart? Start today to ask the God of peace to reveal those places in your life and press deeper into being Orthodox on Purpose!

1-е Коринфянам 3:9-17

Ибо мы соработники у Бога, [а] вы Божия нива, Божие строение. Я, по данной мне от Бога благодати, как мудрый строитель, положил основание, а другой строит на [нем]; но каждый смотри, как строит. Ибо никто не может положить другого основания, кроме положенного, которое есть Иисус Христос. Строит ли кто на этом основании из золота, серебра, драгоценных камней, дерева, сена, соломы, – каждого дело обнаружится; ибо день покажет, потому что в огне открывается, и огонь испытает дело каждого, каково оно есть. У кого дело, которое он строил, устоит, тот получит награду. А у кого дело сгорит, тот потерпит урон; впрочем сам спасется, но так, как бы из огня. Разве не знаете, что вы храм Божий, и Дух Божий живет в вас? Если кто разорит храм Божий, того покарает Бог: ибо храм Божий свят; а этот [храм] --вы.

От Матфея 14:22-34

И тотчас понудил Иисус учеников Своих войти в лодку и отправиться прежде Его на другую сторону, пока Он отпустит народ. И, отпустив народ, Он взошел на гору помолиться наедине; и вечером оставался там один. А лодка была уже на середине моря, и ее било волнами, потому что ветер был противный. В четвертую же стражу ночи пошел к ним Иисус, идя по морю. И ученики, увидев Его идущего по морю, встревожились и говорили: это призрак; и от страха вскричали. Но Иисус тотчас заговорил с ними и сказал: ободритесь; это Я, не бойтесь. Петр сказал Ему в ответ: Господи! если это Ты, повели мне придти к Тебе по воде. Он же сказал: иди. И, выйдя из лодки, Петр пошел по воде, чтобы подойти к Иисусу, но, видя сильный ветер, испугался и, начав утонать, закричал: Господи! спаси меня. Иисус тотчас простер руку, поддержал его и говорит ему: маловерный! зачем ты усомнился? И, когда вошли они в лодку, ветер утих. Бывшие же в лодке подошли, поклонились Ему и сказали: истинно Ты Сын Божий. И, переправившись, прибыли в землю Геннисаретскую.

1 e Korintasve 3:9-17

Ne, pra, jemi bashkëpunëtorë të Perëndisë; ju jeni ara e Perëndisë, ndërtesa e Perëndisë. Sipas hirit të Perëndisë që më është dhënë, si arkitekt i ditur, unë kam hedhur themelin dhe një tjetër ndërton mbi të; por secili të ketë kujdes se si ndërton mbi të, sepse askush nuk mund të hedhë themel tjetër përveç atij që është hedhur, i cili është Jezus Krishti. Dhe, në qoftë se dikush ndërton mbi këtë themel ar, argjend, gurë të çmuar, dru, sanë, kashtë, vepra e secilit do të shfaqet, sepse dita do ta tregojë; sepse do të zbulohet me anë të zjarrit, dhe zjarri do të provojë veprën e secilit e ç'loji është. Në qoftë se vepra që dikush ka ndërtuar mbi themelin qëndron, ai do të marrë një shpërblim, në qoftë se vepra e tij digjet, ai do të pësojë humbje, por ai vetë do të shpëtohet, si përmes zjarrit. A nuk e dini ju se jeni tempulli i Perëndisë dhe se Fryma e Perëndisë banon në ju? Në qoftë se dikush e prish tempullin e Perëndisë, Perëndia do ta prishë atë, sepse tempulli i Perëndisë, i cili jeni ju, është i shenjtë.

Mateu 14 1:22-34

Fill pas kësaj Jezusi i detyroi dishepujt e vet të hyjnë në barkë dhe t'i prijnë në bregun tjetër, deri sa ai t'i lëshojë turmat. Mbasi i nisi ato, u ngjit vetëm mbi mal për t'u lutur. Dhe kur u ngrys ai gjëndeje aty, i vetëm fare. Ndërkaq barka ndodhej në mes të detit; dhe përplasej nga valët sepse era i ishte kundërt. Në rojën e katërt të natës, Jezusi shkoi drejt tyre, duke ecur mbi det. Dishepujt duke parë atë që po ecte mbi det, u trembën dhe thanë: “Është një fantazmë!” Dhe filluan të bërtasin nga frika; por menjëherë Jezusi u foli atyre duke thënë: “Qetësohuni; jam unë, mos kini frikë!” Dhe Pjetri, duke u përgjigjur tha: “Zot, nëse je ti, më urdhëro të vij te ti mbi ujëra.” Ai tha: “Eja!” Dhe Pjetri zbriti nga barka dhe eci mbi ujëra, për të shkuar te Jezusi. Por, duke parë erën e fortë, kishte frikë, dhe duke filluar të fundosej, bërtiti duke thënë: “O Zot, shpëtomë!” Dhe Jezusi ia zgjati menjëherë dorën, e zuri dhe i tha: “O njeri besimpak, pse dyshove?” Pastaj, kur hynë në barkë, era pushoi. Atëherë ata që ishin në barkë erdhën dhe e adhuruan, duke thënë: “Me të vërtetë ti je Biri i Perëndisë!” Pastaj, mbasi dolën në bregun tjetër, erdhën në krahinën e Gjenezaretit.