

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

Albanian Archdiocese - OCA

9230 Old Bustleton Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19115

215-676-3311

Rev. Nicholas Dellermann – Rector (860-861-7468)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

32nd Sunday after Pentecost

Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia

TONE 7

***Tone 7
Troparion
(Resurrection)***

*By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into
joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen, //
granting the world great mercy.*

***Tone 4
Troparion
(New Martyrs)***

*Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy,
praising her new martyrs and confessors;
hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-
believing princes and princesses,
venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians.
Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the
days of godless persecution,
they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. //
By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our
land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.*

***Tone 7
Kontakion
(Resurrection)***

*The dominion of death can no longer
hold men captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and
destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets
rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in
faith; //
enter, you faithful, into the
Resurrection!”*

***Tone 3
Kontakion
(New Martyrs)(Today the Virgin)***

*Today the new martyrs of Rus’ stand
in white robes before the Lamb of
God,
and with the angels they sing to God
the hymn of victory:
“Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and
praise, and honor,
and power, and strength be to our
God //
unto the ages of ages. Amen.”*

***Tone 4
Troparion
(Ss. Peter & Paul)***

*O leaders of the Apostles,
and evangelists to the world,
intercede with the Christ our God
to grant peace to the world, //
and to our souls great mercy.*

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

*The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps. 28:11)
V. Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord! (Ps. 28:1a)*

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (New Martyrs)

God is our refuge and strength, / a help in afflictions that severely befall us. (Ps. 45:1)

✠ The Epistle Reading ✠

1 Timothy 1:15-17

(Epistle)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 8:28-39

(Epistle, New Martyrs)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I Timotheut 1:15-17

E besueshme është fjala edhe e denjë për t'u pranuar, se Krishti Jisu erdhi në botë që të shpëtojë mëkatarë, prej të cilëve i pari jam unë. Po prandaj u përdëlleva, që të tregojë Jisu Krishti më përpara tek unë gjithë zemërgjerësinë, si shembull në ata që kanë për t'i besuar atij për jetë të përjetshme. Edhe mbretit të jetëve, të pavdekshmit, të padukshmit, të vetmit Perëndi që është i ditur, i qoftë nder edhe lavdi në jetë të jetëve. Amin.

Romanëve 8:28-39

Edhe e dimë se të gjitha u ndihmojnë për mirë atyre që duan Perëndinë, atyre që janë thirrur sipas vullnetit të tij. Sepse sa njohu që përpara, këta edhe i ndau që përpara që të jenë të njëjtë nga forma me fytyrën e Birit të tij, që të jetë ai i parëlindur ndër shumë vëllezër. Edhe sa ndau që përpara, këta edhe i thirri; edhe sa thirri, këta edhe i drejtësoi; edhe sa drejtësoi, këta edhe i lavdëroi. Ç'të themi pra për këto? Nëse është Perëndia bashkë me ne, kush do të jetë kundër nesh? Sepse ai që nuk kurseu Birin e tij, po e dorëzoi për të gjithë ne, si nuk do të na i falë ne të gjitha bashkë me atë? Cili do të padisë të zgjedhurit e Perëndisë? Perëndia është ai që drejtëson. Cili do të jetë ai që dënon? Krishti është ai që vdiq, po edhe më tepër ai që u ngjall, i cili edhe është në të djathtë të Perëndisë, i cili edhe ndërmjeton për ne. Cili do të na ndajë nga dashuria e Krishtit? Shtrëngim, apo vështirësi, apo vdekje, apo zi, apo lakuriqësi, apo rrezik, apo thikë? Siç është shkruar: "Se për ty vritemi gjithë ditën; u numëruam porsidhen për t'u therur". Po në gjithë këto ne dalim më tepër se fitimtarë me anë të atij që na deshi. Sepse më është mbushur mendja se as vdekje, as jetë, as engjëj, as pushtete, as fuqira, as ato që janë tani, as ato që do të vijnë, as lartësi, as thellësi, as ndonjë gjë tjetër e krijuar nuk do të mund të na ndajë nga dashuria e Perëndisë që është në Jisu Krishtin, Zotin tonë.

1-е Тимофею 1:15-17

Верно и всякого принятия достойно слово, что Христос Иисус пришел в мир спасти грешников, из которых я первый. Но для того я и помилован, чтобы Иисус Христос во мне первом показал все долготерпение, в пример тем, которые будут веровать в Него к жизни вечной. Царю же веков нетленному, невидимому, единому премудрому Богу честь и слава во веки веков. Аминь.

К Римлянам 8:28-39

Притом знаем, что любящим Бога, призванным по [Его] изволению, все содействует ко благу. Ибо кого Он предузнал, тем и предопределил быть подобными образу Сына Своего, дабы Он был первородным между многими братьями. А кого Он предопределил, тех и призвал, а кого призвал, тех и оправдал; а кого оправдал, тех и прославил. Что же сказать на это? Если Бог за нас, кто против нас? Тот, Который Сына Своего не пощадил, но предал Его за всех нас, как с Ним не дарует нам и всего? Кто будет обвинять избранных Божиих? Бог оправдывает [их]. Кто осуждает? Христос Иисус умер, но и воскрес: Он и одесную Бога, Он и ходатайствует за нас. Кто отлучит нас от любви Божией: скорбь, или теснота, или гонение, или голод, или нагота, или опасность, или меч? как написано: за Тебя умерщвляют нас всякий день, считают нас за овец, [обреченных] на заклание. Но все сие преодолеваем силою Возлюбившего нас. Ибо я уверен, что ни смерть, ни жизнь, ни Ангелы, ни Начала, ни Силы, ни настоящее, ни будущее, ни высота, ни глубина, ни другая какая тварь не может отлучить нас от любви Божией во Христе Иисусе, Господе нашем.

Tone 7

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High. *(Ps. 91:1)*

V. To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night. *(Ps. 91:2a)*

Tone 4

V. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles. *(Ps. 33:17)*



The Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia



✠ The Gospel Reading ✠

Luke 18:35-43

(Gospel)

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Luke 21:8-19

(Gospel, New Martyrs)

And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately." Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls.

Llukait 18:35-43

Edhe ndodhi që kur ai po afrohej në Jeriko, një i verbër po rrinte pranë udhës duke lypur, edhe kur dëgjoi turmën që po kalonte, pyeste se ç'po ndodhte. Edhe i treguan se po shkon Jisu Nazaretasi. Edhe ai thirri duke thënë: Jisu, bir i Davidit, përdëllemë. Edhe ata që shkonin përpara e qortonin që të pushojë; po ai shumë më tepër thërriste: Bir i Davidit, përdëllemë. Edhe Jisui qëndroi, edhe urdhëroi ta sjellin tek ai; edhe ai, si u afrua, e pyeti, duke thënë: Ç'do që të të bëj? Edhe ai tha: Zot, të shoh përsëri. Edhe Jisui i tha: Shih përsëri; besimi yt të shpëtoi. Edhe menjëherë pa përsëri, edhe e ndiqte pas duke lavdëruar Perëndinë; edhe gjithë populli kur pa, i dha lavdi Perëndisë.

Llukait 21:8-19

Edhe ai tha: Shikoni të mos gënjeheni; sepse shumë veta do të vijnë në emrin tim, duke thënë se unë jam; edhe se koha u afrua. Mos shkoni, pra, prapa atyre. Edhe kur të dëgjoni luftra e trazira, mos u frikësoni; sepse këto duhet të bëhen më parë; po nuk do të jetë menjëherë fundi. Atëherë u thoshte atyre: Do të ngrihet komb kundër kombi, edhe mbretëri kundër mbretërie, edhe do të bëhen tërmete të mëdha në vende të ndryshme, edhe zi buke e murtaja, edhe do të ketë gjëra të frikshme e shenja të mëdha prej qiellit. Po para gjithë këtyre do të vënë duart e tyre mbi ju, edhe do t'ju përndjekin e do t'ju dorëzojnë nëpër sinagoga e nëpër burgje, duke ju prurë përpara mbretërve e qeveritarëve për shkak të emrit tim. Edhe kjo do t'ju kthehet juve për dëshmi. Vini pra në zemrat tuaja këtë, të mos mendoheni më parë si do të mbroheni, sepse unë do t'ju jap juve gojë e urtësi, së cilës nuk do të mund t'i

kundërshtojnë, as t'i rrinë kundër gjithë armiqtë tuaj. Dhe do të dorëzoheni edhe nga prindër e vëllezër, dhe farefis e miq; dhe do të vrasin disa prej jush. Edhe do të jeni të urryer nga të gjithë për emrin tim. Po asnjë fije floku prej kokës suaj s'do të humbë. Me durimin tuaj do të fitoni shpirtrat tuaj.

От Луки 18:35-43

Когда же подходил Он к Иерихону, один слепой сидел у дороги, прося милостыни, и, услышав, что мимо него проходит народ, спросил: что это такое? Ему сказали, что Иисус Назорей идет. Тогда он закричал: Иисус, Сын Давидов! помилуй меня. Шедшие впереди заставляли его молчать; но он еще громче кричал: Сын Давидов! помилуй меня. Иисус, остановившись, велел привести его к Себе: и, когда тот подошел к Нему, спросил его: чего ты хочешь от Меня? Он сказал: Господи! чтобы мне прозреть. Иисус сказал ему: прозри! вера твоя спасла тебя. И он тотчас прозрел и пошел за Ним, славя Бога; и весь народ, видя это, воздал хвалу Богу.

От Луки 21:8-19

Он сказал: берегитесь, чтобы вас не ввели в заблуждение, ибо многие придут под именем Моим, говоря, что это Я; и это время близко: не ходите вслед их. Когда же услышите о войнах и смятениях, не ужасайтесь, ибо этому надлежит быть прежде; но не тотчас конец. Тогда сказал им: восстанет народ на народ, и царство на царство; будут большие землетрясения по местам, и глады, и моры, и ужасные явления, и великие знамения с неба. Прежде же всего того возложат на вас руки и будут гнать [вас], предавая в синагоги и в темницы, и поведут пред царей и правителей за имя Мое; будет же это вам для свидетельства. Итак положите себе на сердце не обдумывать заранее, что отвечать, ибо Я дам вам уста и премудрость, которой не возмогут противоречить ни противостоять все, противящиеся вам. Преданы также будете и родителями, и братьями, и родственниками, и друзьями, и некоторых из вас умертвят; и будете ненавидимы всеми за имя Мое, но и волос с головы вашей не пропадет, – терпением вашим спасайте души ваши.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*)
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (*Ps. 32:1*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia - Commemorated on January 22

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

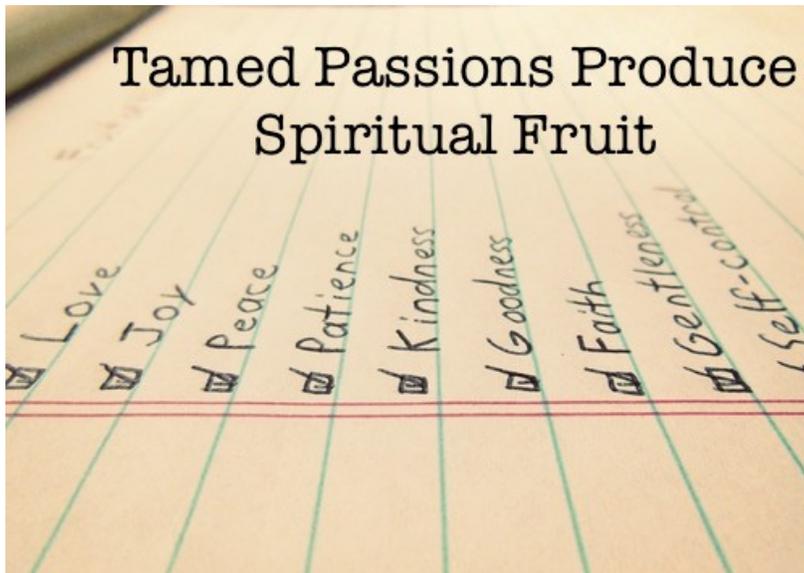
It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only "crime" was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

PRAYERS	Birthdays, Names-days, & Anniversaries	SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK
<i>For Those Who Have Fallen Asleep</i>		
<p>Newly-Departed Paul Andrew Costa Newly-Departed Anastas Suli Newly-Departed Andrew</p> <p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the departed]</i> Again we pray for those who have lost their lives because of the war in Ukraine: that the Lord our God may look upon them with mercy, and give them rest where there is neither sickness, or sorrow, but life everlasting.</p>	<p><i>January 22-28</i> Anthony Mogilevich (B) Connie Douris (B) Dn. Gregory (N)</p> <p><u>Seven-Day Vigil Candles</u></p> <p>Seven-Day Vigil Candles are used for the Eternal Light that hangs above the Royal Doors and are often placed in front of the icons of Christ or the Birth-giver of God. Often, people will donate these candles in honor of a loved one or along with special prayers. If you would like to donate a Seven-Day Vigil Candle, Please include the name or names of those for whom the candle is donated, and we will place them in this section for special prayers.</p>	<p><u>Church Lectionary</u></p> <p><u>Today</u> 1 Timothy 1:15-17 Romans 8:28-39 Luke 18:35-43 Luke 21:8-19</p> <p><u>Monday</u> James 2:14-26 Mark 10:46-52</p>
<i>For Those Who Are Sick And Home-bound</i>		
<p>Virginia, Denise, Olvian, Marie, James, Alexandra, Andrew, Christina, Louise, Porter, Alvin, Tracy, Kathy, Andrew, Maria, Helen, John, Tom, Nick, Nina, Sophia, Spresha, Kristin, Niko, Spiro, Angjeliki, Melod, Olgay, Jim, Ruth, Fr. Milorad, Shane</p>		<p><u>Tuesday</u> James 3:1-10 Mark 11:11-23</p>
<i>Prayers In General</i>		
<p>Fr. Dennis and his family, Fr. Ioan, Christian, Michael, Erica, Kaida, DuDash family, Michael, Robert, Ally, Steve, Jake and Amanda and their children, Katherine, Ron, Anthony, Venus, Volodymyr, Niko, Nick, Sophia, Michael, Rafael, Bob, Barbara, Juliya and the child to be born of her, Isaac, Jemima and the child to be born of her, Ansley and the child to be born of her, Sandra, Anthony, Connie, Dn. Gregory, the Cropley family</p> <p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the living]</i> Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, for those who are suffering, wounded, grieving, or displaced because of the war in Ukraine.</p> <p><i>[Petitions at Augmented Litany]</i> Again we pray for a cessation of the hostilities against Ukraine, and that reconciliation and peace will flourish there, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.</p> <p>We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, Who in Your mercy and providential care, has called forth Archimandrite NIKODHIM to become a shepherd of wisdom and strength for our Albanian Archdiocese. We ask that You Bless Father NIKODHIM as he readies himself to become our future archpastor so he may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • care for our spiritual well-being, • unite us in a zealous confession of our holy faith, • commit us in loving service to one another in bright witness to the glory of Your holy Name. <p>Hear us and have mercy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COFFEE HOUR</p> <p><u>January</u> 22 Donna Bacon 29</p> <p><u>February</u> 05 12 Souper Bowl Sunday 19 Stephen Murianka 26 Ladies Lenten Lucheon</p> <p>Coffee Hour is a wonderful chance for us to get together to break bread and spend time with each other, to celebrate those whom we have held memorials for, and to come together as the family of God outside of worship. To sign up, to host a coffee hour, contact Fr. Nicholas or Donna Bacon.</p>	<p><u>Wednesday</u> 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 John 10:9-16 James 3:11-4:6 Mark 11:22-26</p> <p><u>Thursday</u> James 4:7-5:9 Mark 11:27-33</p> <p><u>Friday</u> Hebrews 7:26-8:2 John 10:9-16 1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10 Mark 12:1-12</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23 Luke 17:3-10</p> <p><u>Reading the Bible in a Year</u></p> <p>Jan 22: Exodus 33-36 Jan 23: Exodus 37-40 Jan 24: Leviticus 1-4 Jan 25: Leviticus 5-8 Jan 26: Leviticus 9-12 Jan 27: Leviticus 13-16 Jan 28: Leviticus 17-20</p>

Tamed Passions Produce Spiritual Fruit

January 19, 2023 · Fr. Barnabas Powell



There ought to be a law! Isn't it fascinating that the first thing most people think about when there is some conflict or disagreement or some unwanted actions in our society is that there should be some governmental control issued to make people "behave" the way they "should?" Why is "passing a law" or getting the government to exercise its power in some way our default answer to conflicts in society? How do you think this is working out for us?

A great example is our current psychological delusion that if we just pass a law then "everything" would be OK. And this delusion is common no matter

what side of the political spectrum you happen to be on. And yet, over and over again, we humans have proven that no matter how many laws we enact (and we have enacted thousands of laws) people still do wrong. So, should we abandon making laws? No. But we do need to stop deluding ourselves that external controls are going to solve all our problems!

There is another way!

Look at our lesson today in Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2:

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

It is significant that St. Paul tells these Galatian Christians to "Look to yourself, lest you be tempted." It is no mistake because avoiding temptation requires me to be attentive to my brokenness and my tendency to be asleep, until it's too late, in giving in to temptation.

St. Paul's wisdom to the Galatian Church, a church made up of a lot of Gentiles who were not raised with the Laws of the Jews, is that there is an internal formation that matters more! In fact, he insists that the formation of the "Fruit of the Spirit" internally is superior to any lawmaking or external control. He even says after having listed that internal "fruit" of a vibrant relationship with Christ that "there is no law" necessary to those who have embraced this internal character.

But, how does one develop such an internal character? Brace yourselves!

You have to "crucify" yourself! WHAT? Who would do such a thing TO THEMSELVES? Those who humbly accept the reality of a life lived free from the addictions of the passions and desires. Look at all the lawbreakers in our society. They seem to believe what they want is more important than peace or their neighbor's desires. They are so undisciplined in their inner life they allow their desires to master them. They are a slave to their wants. They are not free. They need external disciplines from society to

control them because they refuse or can't control themselves. What a horrible and infantile life! But those who willingly "crucify" (that means actively kill) their desires and passions because they are following Jesus, need no external controls to govern their lives. They are the masters of their desires, not slaves.

AND those who have these desires and passions controlled and disciplined are able to help those around them and even restore their brethren who have "lost control" of their desires. A person who has "crucified" their desires and learned, through the wisdom of the lifestyle of the Faith, to master their passions is a source of strength, peace, harmony, and joy to the whole world. Conversely, those who remain slaves to their passions are the source of dissension, fighting, and childish addiction in society.

A story about the saint we remember today will help illustrate the freedom of tamed passions and the spiritual fruit it produces in our lives. St. Macarius was a monk in the desert of Egypt and once he came back to his cell to find a thief taking his things and loading them on a camel. Macarius' non-possessiveness was so great that he helped the thief load the camel. When the camel refused to rise, Macarius returned to his cell and brought a small hoe, said that the camel wanted the hoe also, loaded it on, and kicked the camel telling it to get up. The camel obeyed Macarius' command, but soon lay down again, and would not move until everything had been returned to Macarius. He was so free from the passions of his possessions that he could help the thief carry them away!

Today, are you crucifying your passions and desires, or are you indulging them? Are you able to live your life free from necessary external controls because you still are addicted to your passions? Know that the fruit of the Spirit grows in the lives of those who willingly and humbly and purposefully embrace the disciplines of the Normal Orthodox Faith to see the character of Jesus created in them. Tame your passions by the wisdom of the Faith and watch as the fruit of the Spirit grows in your life!

P.S. The Lord God established you, O great ascetic, in the house of abstinence, like an unerring star that lit the farthest regions with guiding light, Father of Fathers, O righteous Macarius. Pray to God for us.

<u>SOUPER-BOWL SUNDAY</u>	<u>ICON PLEDGE</u>
<p>Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb. 12th!</p> <p>Plan to bring a pot of your best soup and a hearty appetite and take part in our annual Souper Bowl Charity fund raiser.</p>  <p>Try a plethora of delicious soups here at coffee hour!</p> <p>Buy some more of your favorites to take home!</p> <p>Donate to a worthy cause!</p>	<p>The Icon Pledge will be held on February 12th during our Souper-Bowl Sunday Event!</p> <p>Let Father Nicholas or Jim Schaeffer know if there is an icon that you would like added to the list to bid on.</p> <p>Please make sure that all pledged icons from last year have been returned!</p>

Memory Eternal!

Paul Andrew Costa, son of Margie Shuttie Costa (Natick Massachusetts) passed away Saturday January 14. Memorial contributions in Paul's name to "the Andrew Pa Stevens endowment fund at UMass memorial office philanthropy, one Biotech Park , suite 365 Plantation street, Worcester, Mass.

Today's Memorial

Today we are having the 40th day memorial for Anastas Suli. He is related to Fr. George Suli, who had ties with Ss. Peter and Paul in the 1920's. May his Memory be Eternal! I përjetshëm kujtimi!

Eternity is a Very Long Time



God reveals Himself to us if we seek Him out, and only remains invisible to us if we refuse, out of pride and self absorption, to let Him enter our lives. If you desire the knowledge that is yours for the asking, simply make it known, and God will open the way for you. Do not let the distractions of this world, and the material pleasures that are of a transitory nature, keep you from casting your eyes towards God.

It is sad how many people spend their lives in pursuit of material pleasures, job success, and entertainment, but give little thought to those things that are of eternal importance. What we do in this life does have an impact on what we will face when we stand before the Lord. When we are called to give an account for ourselves, it will not be enough to explain to God that we lived in a great house, raised good children, gave time to the charity of our choice, but did nothing to further our relationship with Him.

Eternity is a very long time, whereas, this life we have been given is a very short time. Lest we waste it, we must bring our focus back to what really matters. Dinner and a movie with friends is a tragic waste of time, if we have not given equal time to God. If you are feeling spiritually dry, you can only look to yourself to find the reason. God has done His part, you must do yours.

Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

January/February Events

January

22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 25 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets
 29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Education Sunday

February

01 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets
 05 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 08 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets
 10 – 6:00pm Fun Night
 12 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Souper-Bowl Sunday
Icon Pledge
 15 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets
 19 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 22 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets
 26 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 Forgiveness Vespers
Ladies Lenten Luncheon
 27 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew
 28 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew

Can't join us in person?

We stream our services on our YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@sspeterpaulorthodoxchurch01810>

TREASURER REPORT

October

Income	\$26,667.42
Total Funds Received	
Expenses / Total Funds Paid	\$13,669.66
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$14,997.76

November

Income /Total Funds Received	\$9,574.52
Expenses/ Total Funds Paid	\$9,728.12
Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$153.60



Metropolitan Tikhon participates in the 2023 March for Life along with bishops, clergy, and faithful from around the country

WASHINGTON, DC [OCA]

On Friday, January 20, 2023, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel, His Eminence Archbishop Michael, and His Grace Bishop Andrei joined the annual March for Life in Washington, DC, along with other Orthodox bishops, clergy, monastics, seminarians, and faithful from around the country. Orthodox Christians gathered together to condemn abortion and proclaim the sanctity of life. While the Supreme Court has undone the injustice wrought by its decision in the case of Roe v. Wade, as His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon affirmed in his annual statement made available early this month, “our work in defense and promotion of life is only just beginning. (...) Life, for Christians, means far more than biological life. And yet this deeper and broader conception of life should only increase our reverence for biological life. For, in Christ, we understand that every human being is created in the image of God, and that every human life is a free gift of the Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift (Gen. 1:27, Jam. 1:17).” Once again, Orthodox Christians for Life took the lead in organizing the Orthodox participation at the March,

promoting the event, and coordinating various aspects of its planning. On Thursday, January 19, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel, and His Grace Bishop Andrei, along with other bishops of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, represented the Orthodox Church during an evening Mass at the Roman Catholic Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. On Friday, January 20, Metropolitan Tikhon hosted Orthodox bishops, clergy and faithful at the Saint Nicholas Primatial Cathedral, where Archpriest Valery Shemchuk and Deacon Peter Ilchuk served the Divine Liturgy. At the end of the service, His Beatitude welcomed all those gathered there to participate in the annual March for Life and proclaim the sacred gift of life. Following the breakfast hosted by Orthodox Christians for Life at the Cathedral’s hall, all those in attendance moved to the Mall for the beginning of the March. Following the initial prayer, Metropolitan Tikhon served the Molieben for all the victims of abortion.