

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, FEBRUARY 5

34th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Afterfeast of the Meeting

TONE 1

**Tone 1
Troparion
(Resurrection)**

*When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of
Life:
“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!//
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest
mankind!”*

**Tone 1
Troparion
(Feast)**

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ
our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
thou didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer of
our souls,//
Who grants us the Resurrection!*

**Tone 4
Kontakion
(from the Lenten Triodion)**

*Let us flee from the pride of the
Pharisee!
Let us learn humility from the
Publican's tears!
Let us cry to our Savior:
“Have mercy on us,//
O only merciful One!”*

**Tone 1
Kontakion
(Feast)**

*By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify
the Virgin's womb
and didst bless Simeon's hands, ^O
Christ God.
Now Thou hast come and saved us
through love.
Grant peace to all Orthodox
Christians,//
O only Lover of Man!*

**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.*

↻ **Prokeimenon** ↻

Tone 1 (Resurrection)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee! (Ps. 32:22)

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

Tone 3 (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

✧ The Epistle Reading ✧

2 Timothy 3:10-15

(Epistle)

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

II Timotheut 3:10-15

Po ti i re prapa mësimin tim, sjelljet, qëllimin, besimin, zemërgjerësinë, dashurinë, durimin, përndjekjet, pësimet, që më ndodhën në Antioki, në Ikoni, në Listër. Çfarë përndjekjesh pësova! Dhe Zoti më shpëtoi nga të gjitha. Po edhe gjithë sa duan të rrojnë me shprestari në Krishtin Jisu do të përndiqen. Po njerëzit e ligj e gënjeshtarë do të shkojnë mbarë në më të ligën, duke gënjyer dhe duke u gënjyer. Po ti qëndro në ato që mësove e u vërtetove, duke ditur prej cilit i ke mësuar; edhe se që nga foshnjëria i di shkronjat e shenjta, të cilat mund të të bëjnë të ditur për shpëtim me anë të besimit që është në Krishtin Jisu. Gjithë Shkrimi është i perëndifrymëzuar, edhe i dobishëm për mësim, për qortim, për ndreqje, për arsim që është me drejtësi; që të jetë i përsosur njeriu i Perëndisë, i përgatitur për çdo punë të mirë.

2-е Тимофею 3:10-15

А ты последовал мне в учении, житии, расположении, вере, великодушии, любви, терпении, в гонениях, страданиях, постигших меня в Антиохии, Икони, Листрах; каковыя гонения я перенес, и от всех избавил меня Господь. Да и все, желающие жить благочестиво во Христе Иисусе, будут гонимы. Злые же люди и обманщики будут преуспевать во зле, вводя в заблуждение и заблуждаясь. А ты пребывай в том, чему научен и что тебе вверено, зная, кем ты научен. Притом же ты из детства знаешь священные писания, которые могут умудрить тебя во спасение верою во Христа Иисуса.

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

V. God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. *(Ps. 17:48)*

V. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. *(Ps. 17:51)*

Tone 8

V. Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation! *(Luke 2:29)*



✠ The Gospel Reading ✠

Luke 18:10-14

(Gospel)

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Llukait 18:10-14

Edhe Jisui hyri e shkante nëpër Jeriko. Edhe ja një njeri i quajtur me emrin Zakhe, i cili ishte kryetagrambledhës. Dhe ky ishte i pasur. Edhe kërkonte të shihte Jisuin se cili është; po nuk mundej nga turma, sepse ishte i vogël në shtat. Edhe u sul përpara e hipi mbi një man që ta shihte, sepse nga ajo udhë do të shkante. Edhe Jisui, si erdhi në atë vend, ngriti sytë dhe e pa atë, edhe i tha: Zakhe, zbrit shpejt; sepse sot unë duhet të qëndroj në shtëpinë tënde. Edhe zbriti shpejt dhe e priti me gëzim. Edhe të gjithë, kur panë, murmurisnin, duke thënë se hyri të rrijë te një njeri mëkatar. Edhe Zakheu qëndroi e i tha Zotit: Ja, o Zot, gjysmën e pasurisë sime tek po ua jap të varfërve, edhe në i kam marrë gjë njeriu me mashtrim, ia kthej katërfish. Edhe Jisui i tha se sot u bë shpëtim në këtë shtëpi, sepse edhe ky është bir i Abrahamit. Sepse Biri i njeriut erdhi të kërkojë e të shpëtojë të humburën.

От Луки 18:10-14

два человека вошли в храм помолиться: один фарисей, а другой мытарь. Фарисей, став, молился сам в себе так: Боже! благодарю Тебя, что я не таков, как прочие люди, грабители, обидчики, прелюбодеи, или как этот мытарь: пощусь два раза в неделю, даю десятую часть из всего, что приобретаю. Мытарь же, стоя вдали, не смел даже поднять глаз на небо; но, ударяя себя в грудь, говорил: Боже! будь милостив ко мне грешнику! Сказываю вам, что сей пошел оправданным в дом свой более, нежели тот: ибо всякий, возвышающий сам себя, унижен будет, а унижающий себя возвысится.

(Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing:)

Tone 3

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians,
protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee!

In the shadow and letter of the Law,
let us the faithful discern a figure:
every male [child] that opens the womb
is holy to God.

Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of the Father Who has no beginning, //
the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

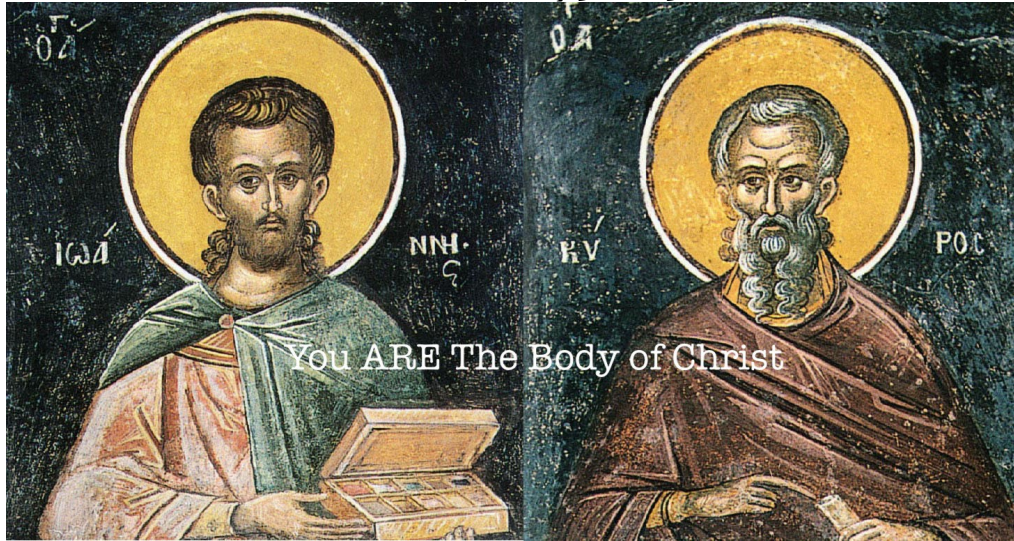
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps. 115:4)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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, Newly-Departed Shane, Leyla, Ila, Zina</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>February 5 – 11</i> Ralph John (B&A) Bronya Dellermann (B)</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> 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Luke 18:10-14</p> <p><u>Monday</u> 2 Peter 1:20-2:9 Mark 13:9-13</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, Nina, Sophia, Jim, Spresha, Kristin, Niko, Spiro, Angjeliki, Melod, Olgay, Ruth, Fr. Milorad, Naomi, Teri</p>		<p><u>Tuesday</u> 2 Peter 2:9-22 Mark 13:14-23</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> 1 Peter 4:1-11 Mark 12:28-37</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, Volodymyr, 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, the Cropley family, David</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 style="text-align: center;">COFFEE HOUR</p> <p><u>February</u> 05 Hot Dog Sunday 12 Souper Bowl Sunday 19 Stephen Murianka 26 Ladies Lenten Luceon</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</p>	<p><u>Thursday</u> Hebrews 7:7-17 Luke 2:22-40 1 John 1:8-2:6 Mark 13:31-14:2</p> <p><u>Friday</u> 1 John 2:7-17 Mark 14:3-9</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> 2 Timothy 3:1-9 Luke 20:46-21:4</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>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>Reading the Bible in a Year</u></p> <p>Feb 05: Numbers 21-24 Feb 06: Numbers 25-28 Feb 07: Numbers 29-32 Feb 08: Numbers 33-36 Feb 09: Deuteronomy 1-4 Feb 10: Deuteronomy 4-8 Feb 11: Deuteronomy 9-12</p>

You Are the Body of Christ

January 31, 2023 · Fr. Barnabas Powell



“Your worldview has to have the same shape that reality does.” This quote by American philosopher J. Budziszewski seems to be common sense. But anyone looking at society today will have to conclude that common sense isn’t really all that common. It seems to make sense that how I see the world should include the reality of that world. Of course, humans, blinded by

selfish narcissism and short-sighted self-interest can’t embrace reality since they have already rejected reality because of their wounded “nous.” We are gripped by inner blindness and that slavery wars against reality.

So, you might ask. how do we discover what is really real? And there are literally whole ideologies and religions created to answer that question. Is it all about “power?” Doe the person who dies with the most toys win? Is it all about comfort or the elevation of suffering? Without a clear answer, we humans have tried it all.

But there is a clear answer, and it isn’t a philosophy or an ideology, but A Person! And by becoming like Him I am made part of that New Community, that New Man, called the Church, the Body of Christ. And this Body both heals me as a person and creates a new society that extends His healing to the whole world until we have a new creation!

Look at our lesson today in 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8:

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

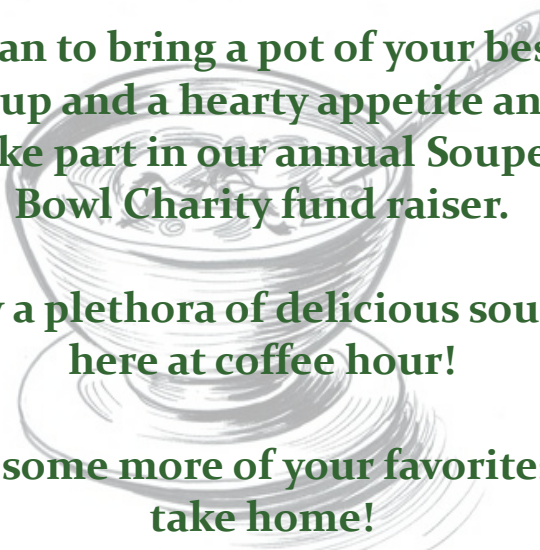
No wonder St. Paul calls this creation of the Body of Christ the “more excellent way.” No wonder St. Paul tells these Corinthians that this more excellent way has everything to do with love. And no wonder St. Paul defines this love by the character of Jesus Christ! And by making us the Body of Christ, the Lord continues His very visible and real Presence over the whole world!

First, this “more excellent way” of being the Body of Christ is a way that avoids the weakness of comparing ourselves to others. Not everyone has the same gifting, and that’s OK. A Body needs all kinds of “abilities” to function well. When we avoid comparing ourselves and our abilities to others, we are set free from both arrogance and despondency over our perceived strengths and weaknesses. We need each other to be complete and whole as the Body of Christ.

Next, St. Paul reveals why this “more excellent way” of being the Body of Christ is so “excellent.” He declares that love is the key to making all this unity and cooperation possible. But not some syrupy, sentimental view of Love. No, a love that is robust, serious, overwhelming to circumstances, and enduring. This love is “patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-8) This isn’t a love that pretends to be love by “affirming” people in their escape from reality. No. This is a love that loves people by taking them from illusion to the reality of a new life in Jesus Christ. And even when it’s uncomfortable or upsetting or even hated, we keep on loving people to reality! That’s what the Body of Christ does!

Today, as we see the epitome of being the Body of Christ in the lives of Sts. Cyril and John, The Unmercenarys, we experience these saints disregarding worldly comforts by using their medical gifts to heal without charging anything for their work. These great saints embody what it means to follow the more excellent Way of Christ by ministering to others and expecting nothing in return. What created such a change in these educated and gifted men? Nothing less than the reality of being the Body of Christ and embracing that Normal Orthodoxy that transforms the whole world through a love much bigger than affection and sentiment! When you know who you are as the Body of Christ, you are finally free to BE the very presence of Jesus in your world. Go BE that today!

P.S. Since You have given us the miracles of Your holy Martyrs as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strengthen the faith of Orthodox Christians, since You alone are good and the Friend of man.

<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>

A Note About Our Calendars...

You may be wondering why we haven't put out our usual offering of church calendars for the year. Steve Murianka diligently ordered them at the proper time, and when we did not receive them on time, followed up with St. Tikhon's Bookstore to find out what happened. St. Tikhon's didn't know why we hadn't received them and tracked it down to the printer who had mis-shipped them to St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington D.C. St. Nicholas had told St. Tikhon's that they would forward them to us. I tried to contact them, and got no reply. Steve once again reached out to St. Tikhon's and pointed out that as this was the printer's mistake, that they should rectify it. Long story short, We should have our calendars soon, and we are sorry for the delay.

The Candles Represent the Light of Christ

The Orthodox Church from its very inception has always used oil lamps (or lampadas) and candles during its worship and prayers. The burning of candles and oil lamps have always been the traditional source of lighting in God's churches, and we must forgo the artificial light that comes from electricity.



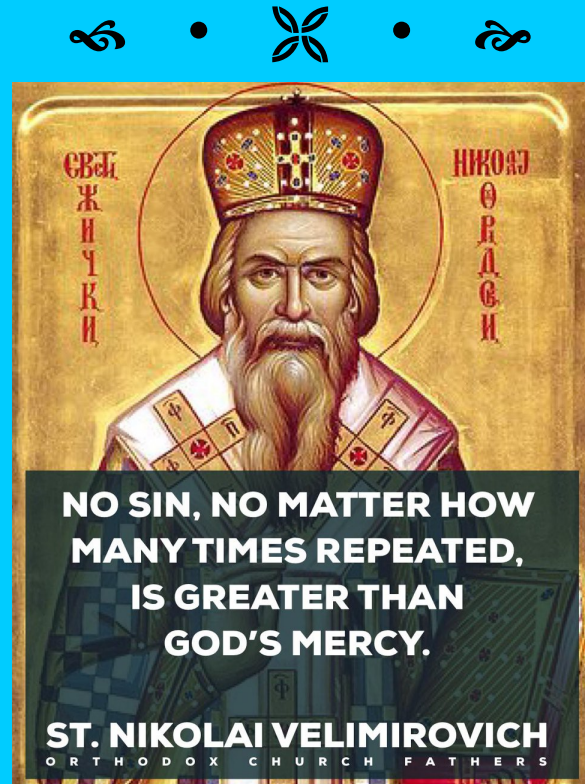
Candles and oil are offered to God from material goods that He has given us, as pure beeswax, because bees make the wax by collecting the pollen from various flowers. For this reason, some of the saints have taught that a candle reminds us of not only how hard-working the bee is but also the fact that it collects the good and rejects the polluted. Furthermore, the Church has taught that the use of pure beeswax candles produced by virgin bees represents the human nature of Christ which came from the Holy Virgin Mary. But first and foremost, the candle represents the Light of Christ in our midst, because, as it burns, it illuminates the darkness. Candles represent the deification of our souls because the candle is mixed with fire, representing the Light of Christ. They represent the love and peace which are attributes each Christian should have because the candle burns and comforts everyone with its light in the

darkness. Lighting a candle reminds us we must remember to live in the light we received with our baptism. This light is renewed every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy, every time we receive the Holy Mysteries, and every time we offer prayers. At the end of every celebration of the Divine Liturgy we sing: "We have seen the True Light! We have received the Heavenly Spirit! We have found the True Faith! Worshiping the Undivided Trinity, Who has saved us." The candle also reminds us of how Fire, that is, the Triune Deity Himself, unites with the malleable soul and then softens and illuminates both it, and all those who come into contact with it.

When we as Christians sacrifice ourselves for the love of God, we enlighten our fellow human beings and show them the way of salvation. And just as the candles we light at the baptism represent the spiritual light received by the newly baptized person, so too the candles we hold and light during funerals, at memorial services, and those placed on the tomb of the reposed represent the light of Christ, which we wish the deceased receive.

Just as we light candles for the living and the dead we should always accompany them by offering words of prayer. For the living we ask for God's mercy and protection. For the dead we ask for God's compassion and eternal rest.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



Hieromartyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste

Commemorated on February 11

The Hieromartyr Blaise (Blasius), Bishop of Sebaste, was known for his righteous and devout life. Unanimously chosen by the people, he was consecrated Bishop of Sebaste. This occurred during the reign of the Roman emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Licinius (307-324), fierce persecutors of Christians. Saint Blaise encouraged his flock, visited the imprisoned, and gave support to the martyrs.

Many hid themselves from the persecutors by going off to desolate and solitary places. Saint Blaise also hid himself away on Mount Argeos, where he lived in a cave. Wild beasts came up to him and meekly waited until the saint finished his prayer and blessed them. The saint also healed sick animals by laying his hands upon them.

The refuge of the saint was discovered by servants of the governor Agrilaus, who had come to capture wild beasts to loose on the Christian martyrs. The servants reported to their master that Christians were hiding on the mountain, and he gave orders to arrest them. But those sent out found there only the Bishop of Sebaste. Glorifying God Who had summoned him to this exploit, Saint Blaise followed the soldiers.

Along the way the saint healed the sick and worked other miracles. Thus, a destitute widow complained to him of her misfortune. A wolf had carried off a small pig, her only possession. The bishop smiled and said to her, "Do not weep, your pig will be returned to you..." To the astonishment of everyone, the wolf came running back and returned his prey unharmed. Agrilaus, greeting the bishop with words of deceit, called him a companion of the gods. The saint answered the greeting, but he called the gods devils. Then they beat him and led him off to prison.

On the next day, they subjected the saint to tortures again. When they led



him back to the prison, seven women followed behind and gathered up the drops of blood. They arrested them and tried to compel them to worship the idols. The women pretended to consent to this and said that first they needed to wash the idols in the waters of a lake. They took the idols and threw them in a very deep part of the lake, and after this the Christians were fiercely tortured. The saints stoically endured the torments, strengthened by the grace of God, their bodies were transformed and became white as snow. One of the women had two young sons, who implored their mother to help them attain the Kingdom of Heaven, and she entrusted them to the care of Saint Blaise. The seven holy women were beheaded.

Saint Blaise was again brought before Agrilaus, and again he unflinchingly confessed his faith in Christ. The governor ordered that the martyr be thrown into a lake. The saint, going down to the water, signed himself with the Sign of the Cross, and he walked on it as though on dry land.

Addressing the pagans standing about on shore, he challenged them to come to him while calling on the help of their gods. Sixty-eight men of the governor's retinue entered the water, and immediately drowned. The saint,

January/February Events

February

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>

however, heeding the angel who had appeared to him, returned to shore. Agrilaus was in a rage over losing his finest servants, and he gave orders to behead Saint Blaise, and the two sons of the woman martyr entrusted to him. Before his death, the martyr prayed for the whole world, and especially for those honoring his memory. This occurred in about the year 316.

The relics of the Hieromartyr Blaise were brought to the West during the time of the Crusades, and portions of the relics are preserved in many of the lands of Europe [and his memory traditionally honored there on February 3].

We pray to Saint Blaise for the health of domestic animals, and for protection from wild beasts.