

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

Albanian Archdiocese - OCA

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SUNDAY, JULY 23

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and 13 others in Lycia

**Tone 6
Troparion
(Resurrection)**

*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.*

**Tone 4
Troparion
(Martyrs)**

*Thy holy martyr Trophimus and his companions,
O Lord,
through their sufferings have received
incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God.
For having Thy strength, they laid low their
adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.
Through their intercession, save our souls!*

**Tone 6
Kontakion
(Resurrection)**

*When Christ God, the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery
with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race.
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and
the God of all.*

**Tone 2
Kontakion
(Martyrs)**

*You have appeared as bright lamps, O holy
martyrs!
Illumine the whole creation with the brightness of
your miracles.
Deliver it from infirmity and drive away the deep
darkness,
always interceding before Christ God for us all.*

Prokeimenon

Tone 6 (Resurrection)

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)



✠ The Epistle Reading ✠

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.

Romanëve 15:1-7

Edhe ne të fortët kemi detyrë të mbajmë dobësitë e të dobtëve, e jo t'i pëlqejmë vetes. Gjithsecili prej nesh le t'i pëlqejë të afërmit për të mirën që çon në ndërtim. Sepse edhe Krishti nuk pëlqeu vetveten, po siç është shkruar: "Sharjet e atyre që të shajnë ty ranë mbi mua". Sepse sa u shkruan më përpara, u shkruan për mësimin tonë, që të kemi shpresë me anë të durimit e të ngushëllimit të shkrimeve. Edhe Perëndia i durimit e i ngushëllimit ju dhëntë juve të keni të njëjtën mendje ndërmjet jush sipas Jisu Krishtit; që të lavdëroni njëzëri me një gojë Perëndinë dhe Atin e Zotit tonë Jisu Krisht. Prandaj pranoni njëri-tjetrin, siç ju pranoi edhe Krishti për lavdi të Perëndisë.

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 злословящих 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 единомысленно, едиными устами славили Бога и Отца Господа нашего Иисуса Христа. Посему принимайте друг друга, как и Христос принял вас в славу Божию.

Tone 6

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. He who dwelleth in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God. (Ps. 90:1)

V. He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust." (Ps. 90:2)



✠ The Gospel Reading ✠

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.

Mattheut 9:27-35

Edhe duke ikur Jisui andej, i shkuan prapa dy të verbër, duke klithur e duke thënë: Përdëllena, o bir i Davidit. Edhe kur erdhi ai në shtëpi, erdhën pranë tij të verbërit, edhe Jisui u thotë atyre: Besoni se mund ta bëj këtë? Ata i thonë atij: Po, Zot. Atëherë preku sytë e tyre duke thënë: Sipas besimit tuaj u bëftë në ju. Edhe u hapën sytë e tyre. Edhe Jisui i porositi ata rreptësisht, duke thënë: Shikoni të mos e marrë vesh njeri. Po ata sa dolën e përhapën famën e tij nëpër gjithë atë dhe. Edhe kur po dilnin ata, ja tek i prunë atij një njeri shurdh të demonizuar. Edhe si u nxor demoni, foli i shurdhëri. Edhe turmat u çuditën, duke thënë se kurrë ndonjëherë nuk është parë kështu në Izrael. Por Farisenjtë thoshin: Me anë të të parit të demonëve i nxjerr demonët. Edhe Jisui shkante përqark nëpër gjithë qytetet e fshatrat, duke mësuar nëpër sinagogat e tyre dhe duke predikuar ungjillin e mbretërisë duke shëruar çdo sëmundje e çdo lëngatë në popull.

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 немомого 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.

Communion Hymn

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

The Holy Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and thirteen martyrs with them, suffered during the persecution against Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305). Brought to trial, they bravely confessed themselves Christians and refused to offer sacrifice to idols. After fierce tortures, they broke the legs of the holy martyrs and threw them into a fire. Strengthened by the Lord, they came out of the fire completely unharmed, and they glorified Christ all the more. Unable to break the will of the holy confessors, the torturers beheaded them.

PRAYERS	Birthdays, Names-days, & Anniversaries	SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK
<i>For Those Who Have Fallen Asleep</i>		Church Lectionary
<p>Newly Departed Thomas, Newly Departed Nikoli, Newly Departed Sergei,</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>July 23 – July 29 Boris Mogelevich (N) Christina Schaeffer (B) Pref. Katie (N)</p> <p><u>Seven-Day Vigil Candles</u></p> <p>Llukan Dylgjeri - health</p>	<p><u>Today</u> Romans 15:1-7 Matthew 9:27-35</p> <p><u>Monday</u> Romans 8:28-39 John 15:17-16:2 1 Corinthians 9:13-18 Matthew 16:1-6</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, Nina, Sophia, Jim, Spresha, Kristin, Niko, Spiro, Angeliki, Melod, Olgay, Ruth, Fr. Jerry, Naomi, Terry, Naomi, Annette, Tatiana, Aleena, Lester Jr., Natalia, Otari, Lasha, Fr. Nikolas, Imani, Gabriel, Aaron, Jordany, Nassan, Alqiviadhi</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. 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>Tuesday</u> Galatians 4:22-31 Luke 8:16-21 1 Corinthians 10:5-12 Matthew 16:6-12</p>
<i>Prayers In General</i>		
<p>The community of Ss. Peter & Paul Miami, 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, Sandra, Enoch, John, Victoria, Melenie, Grace, Michael, Barbara, Giorgi, Molly, Jim, Chloe, Alma-Anastasia, Marianthi</p>		<p><u>Wednesday</u> Philippians 3:7-14 Mark 10:29-31, 42-45 1 Corinthians 10:12-22 Matthew 16:20-24</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>	COFFEE HOUR	<p><u>Thursday</u> 2 Timothy 2:1-10 John 15:17-16:2 1 Corinthians 10:28-11:7 Matthew 16:24-28</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>July 16 Mary Jaxheimer 23 30</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>Friday</u> 1 Corinthians 11:8-22 Matthew 17:10-18</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><u>Saturday</u> Romans 13:1-10 Matthew 12:30-37</p> <p><u>Reading the Bible in a Year</u></p> <p>July 23: Ezekiel 17-20 July 24: Ezekiel 21-24 July 25: Ezekiel 25-28 July 26: Ezekiel 29-32 July 27: Ezekiel 33-36 July 28: Ezekiel 37-40 July 29: Ezekiel 41-44</p>

The Poison of Doing Right with a Wrong Heart

July 19, 2023 · Fr. Barnabas Powell



“Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders?” You can almost hear the sneer in this question to Jesus in the passage for today! And, frankly, it’s a good question. You see, as a Church, we Orthodox place a great deal of confidence in the consistent witness of the Faithful through the centuries. And we get that honesty, as my grandmother use to say. We inherited that attitude from the Jewish world that shaped the Christian faith. The witness of the lives of the Saints matters to us because we insist that the Holy Spirit preserves His wisdom in the lives of the Faithful as much as in written form.

But what happens when there is a slavish adherence to behaviors that have lost their

connection to the wisdom under the Scriptures? What happens to the Faith when what we think is faithful obedience creates just the opposite of what the Faith was intended to produce? Well, there is a big problem!

Look at our Lesson today in Matthew 14:35-36;15:1-11:

At that time, when the men of Gennesaret recognized Jesus, they sent round to all that region and brought to him all that were sick, and besought him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment; and as many touched it were made well.

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” He answered them, “And why do you transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him surely die.’ But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, What you would have gained from me is given to God, he need not honor his father.’ So, for the sake of your tradition, you have made void the word of God. You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’

” And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.”

Jesus answers the meticulously religious of His day by redirecting their piety toward deeper truths rather than the sad reduction of the Faith that had come to be all too normal in the Lord’s day (and maybe our day as well).

The Lord is going about healing and preaching. His disciples are helping Him with the throng of hurting people all pressing in just to touch the hem of His garment, and they are being healed. Their suffering is being relieved. They are being given hope where only despair existed before. And what do the religious folks focus on? “Hey, Jesus, we didn’t see Your disciples wash their hands before dinner!” Are you serious? Did you just see that man who was dying get up and go back to his family so that they could have their father back with them so that they wouldn’t starve in the streets?

Of course, Jesus isn't saying it doesn't matter about washing hands before we eat. He's saying He is amazed that this is what the leader who was supposed to be bringing hope and ministry to hurting people is dismissing these mighty signs of God's mercy and focusing on washing hands! You see, this focus reveals the hearts of these leaders. They don't see the people they were supposed to serve. They were obsessed with the "rule book" instead of the healing relationships that the Faith was supposed to produce! And that's so easy to do when our rituals are emptied of the deep beauty and meaning behind them. The rituals become ends in themselves, and when that happens, we see people neglected and love replaced with rule-keeping.

This doesn't mean the rules are meaningless. Not at all. In fact, we have to work hard (the real point of the rules and rituals in the first place) to hold the "Why" behind the wisdom. We have to remain wedded to our love for God and others so that the rituals and rules of our wise and beautiful faith keep producing humble hearts that remain soft and tender toward those who are suffering. You see, what motivates your practice is key to knowing if your practice is healthy or not. You can do all the "right" things for all the wrong reasons and even these "correct" behavior become a hindrance to your actual spiritual maturity. Our obedience must always be motivated by love, and that only comes when we place our daily intimacy with Christ at the top of our priorities! WHY you do what you do determines if WHAT you do really produces true faith.

There is a story about our saint we remember today and her saintly brother. St. Macrina the Righteous was the older sister to the great Orthodox theologians and Church Fathers, St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory of Nyssa. She was a beautiful, educated, pious, and wise woman of such reputation that she was sought as a bride by many of the great families of her day. She was betrothed to a nobleman, but before they could wed, he died, and she refused all other suitors for a life of devotion to the church as a nun. What is so amazing about this woman was that she served her brothers well. It was said that St. Basil, on returning from his educational triumphs was filled with ego about his amazing accomplishments. It was his sister who gently corrected her brother and taught him true humility that protected St. Basil from destructive pride and arrogance. He did great things but was tempted by corrupted motivations. St. Macrina pulled him back from the precipice and thereby served us as well as we still enjoy the fruits of the theological labors of her saintly brothers. St. Macrina died in the year 379 AD at a monastery she had founded and was eulogized by that same brother with a moving account of this godly woman's life.

Today, are you proud of how well you "keep the rules" of Orthodoxy? Be careful. You may just be slipping into a place where the "rules" become more valuable to you than the reason why the rules were given to us in the first place. Living a Normal Orthodox life is more than just being good rule-keepers. It means always holding to the WHY behind the wisdom!

Prayer for the Week

The image of God, was faithfully preserved in you, O Mother. For you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By Your actions you taught us to look beyond the flesh for it passes, rather to be concerned about the soul which is immortal. Wherefore, O Holy Macrina, your soul rejoices with the angels.

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/faiithencouraged/2023/07/the-poison-of-doing-right-with-a-wrong-heart/>

June/July Events

July

23 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
26 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets
30 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

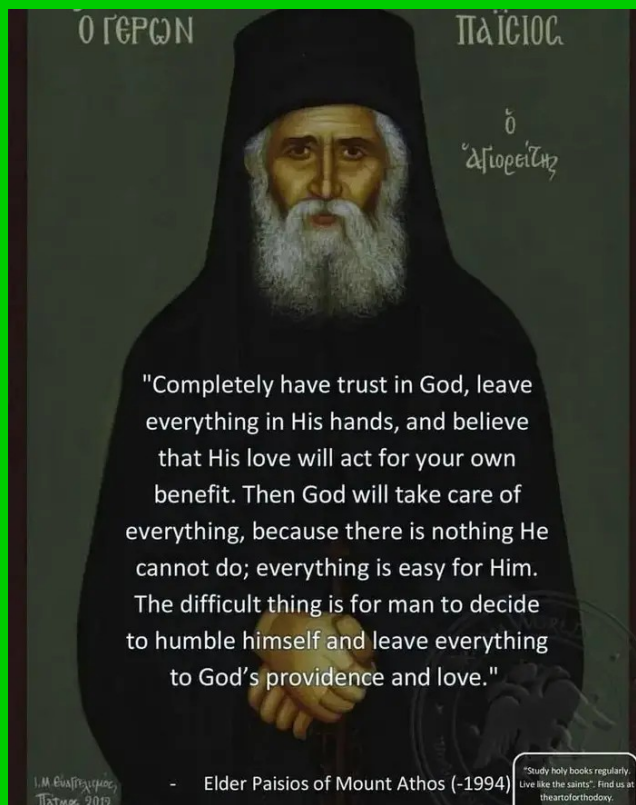
August

02 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets
06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord
09 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets
11 – 6:00pm Fun Night
13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
15 – 9:00am Divine Liturgy
Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos
16 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets
20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
23 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets
27 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
30 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets

Can't join us in person?

We stream our services on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sspeterpaulorthodoxhurchoi810>



Being Orthodox in a Non-Orthodox World

When We do the Wrong Things Habitually

That we must struggle with our passions is a given. All the holy fathers council us to do battle with the passions, yet we continue committing the same sins over and over. Sometimes it is because we've allowed ourselves to fall into the habit of submitting to the same passions time and again. We stole an item from the office and got away with it, so the next time we think we need an extra pen, we take it. Perhaps we have twenty such corporate pens in a large mug, sitting on the counter in our kitchen. Do we need all of them, or do we ever even use any of them? Yet the count continues, because we've gotten into the habit of taking them from the office.

Do we think our job in a restaurant gives us the right to smuggle out food at the end of our shift, and does our low salary make us excuse such theft? Or perhaps we switch a high end bulk coffee into the low end store brand bag, paying three dollars less per pound than we should, because we could get away with it?

Perhaps we find we snap at our spouse, or our children, even when we are not angry. Or, we drive in an aggressive manner, thinking we need to be ahead of someone driving the speed limit, all because we've been doing so on work days. Maybe we are verbally abusive with our employees because we have the power to do so, given the economy (where are they going to work, if not here).

These are all examples of sinful behavior that can become habitual, and should be addressed directly if we are ever to be freed from our passions. We can start by slowly returning the pens to the office, two by

two, until they've all been returned. We can arrive early at the restaurant job, and stay beyond our shift, paying for the stolen food with our extra hours of service. We can purchase a money order and anonymously pay back the grocery store the amount we've stolen from them over the years. We can choose to drive in the slow lane, on a daily basis, leaving early enough to reduce the temptation for aggressive driving.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

<https://abbottryphon.com/making-a-habit-of-our-passions/>

FROM MUSEUM TO ALBANIAN MONASTERY

Tirana, Albania, April 14, 2021

Photo: Facebook



A portion of the holy relics of St. John Vladimir were recently returned to the Albanian Orthodox Church. St. John Vladimir was a 10th-century Serbian prince and is known as a beacon of Orthodoxy in Albania and throughout the Balkans.

The relics had been previously been kept the National History Museum in Tirana. His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony of Elbasan festively greeted the transfer of the relics to the monastery named for the saint in Shijon, on the outskirts of Elbasan, the Albanian Ministry of Culture reported on Monday.

The relics were accompanied and returned by the Albanian Minister of Culture and the director of the museum. Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama was also present.

St. John's full relics were located in the monastery from 1381 to 1995, after which they were transferred to Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Tirana. The relics were taken to the monastery for its patronal feast on June 3 and 4.

The holy Martyr John Vladimir, a Serbian prince, was born in the 10th century. From his childhood he was raised in piety, and at maturity he wisely governed his holdings of Illyria and Dalmatia, preserving the holy faith in purity.

The noble prince was married to Kosara, a daughter of the Bulgarian Tsar Samuel. Summoned for talks with the Bulgarian Tsar John-Vladislav, he was treacherously murdered by the Tsar on May 22, 1015, at the entrance to a church. Kosara, the pious spouse of the holy prince, entered a women's monastery that she built, and where also she died, not leaving the church until the very end of her life. The relics of the holy prince are located near Elbasan.

<https://orthochristian.com/138656.html>