

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

Albanian Archdiocese - OCA

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Philadelphia, PA 19115

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST ^

Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

The First Antiphon

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise! (Ps. 65:1)

Refrain: *Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!*

The voice of Thy thunder was in the whirlwind; Thy lightning lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. (Ps. 76:17b-18) **(Refrain)**

Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment. (Ps. 103:2) **(Refrain)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **(Refrain)**

The Second Antiphon

Mount Zion in the far north is the city of the great King. (Ps. 47:2)

Refrain: *O Son of God, transfigured on the mountain, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!*

And He brought them to the mountain of His sanctuary, this mountain which His right hand had won. (Ps. 77:58) **(Refrain)**

The Mount Zion which He loved, He built as His sanctuary with mighty strength. (Ps. 77:73b-74a) **(Refrain)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(“Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God...”)

The Third Antiphon

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Ps. 124:1)

Tone 7 Troparion

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it.

Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos!

O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

As the mountains are round about it, so the Lord is round about His people, from this time and forevermore. (Ps. 124:2)

Troparion of the Feast

O Lord, who shall sojourn in Thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell on Thy holy mountain? (Ps. 14:1)

Troparion of the Feast

Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? (Ps. 23:3)

Troparion of the Feast

Entrance Verse

Send out Thy light and Thy truth; they have led me and brought me to Thy holy mountain.

(Ps. 42:3)

Tone 7 Troparion

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos! O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

Tone 7 Kontakion

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.

Prokeimenon

Tone 4

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom hast Thou made them all. (Ps. 103:26)

V. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great! (Ps. 103:1)

We believe that at the Transfiguration He manifested not some other sort of light, but only that which was concealed beneath His fleshly exterior. This Light was the Light of the Divine Nature, and as such, it was Uncreated and Divine. So also, in the teachings of the Fathers, Jesus Christ was transfigured on the Mount, not taking upon Himself something new nor being changed into something new, nor something which formerly He did not possess. Rather, it was to show His disciples that which He already was, opening their eyes and bringing them from blindness to sight. For do you not see that eyes that can perceive natural things would be blind to this Light? Thus, this Light is not a light of the senses, and those contemplating it do not simply see with sensual eyes, but rather they are changed by the power of the Divine Spirit. They were transformed, and only in this way did they see the transformation taking place amidst the very assumption of our perishability, with the deification through union with the Word of God in place of this.

- Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica

✧ The Epistle Reading ✧

2 Peter 1:10-19

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

II Pjetrit 1:10-19

Prandaj, o vëllezër, kujdesuni më tepër të siguronit thirrjen dhe zgjedhjen tuaj; sepse duke bërë këto, nuk do të mëkatonit kurrë. Sepse kështu do t'ju jepet juve plotësisht hyrja në mbretërinë e përjetshme të Zotit dhe Shpëtimtarit tonë Jisu Krisht. Prandaj nuk do të përtoj t'ju kujtoj këto përherë, ndonëse i dini, edhe jeni të qëndrueshëm në këtë të vërtetë. Por unë mendoj se është e drejtë, deri sa jam në këtë tendë, t'ju nxis duke ju sjellë ndërmend. Sepse e di, se së shpejti do ta hedh tej tendën time, sikurse edhe Zoti ynë Jisu Krisht ma shfaqti. Por do të kujdesem që ju, edhe pas vdekjes sime, të mundeni përherë t'i kujtoni ato. Sepse jua bëmë të ditur fuqinë dhe ardhjen e Zotit tonë Jisu Krisht jo duke shkuar pas përrallave të thurura me mjeshtëri, por duke ju treguar se me sytë tanë e pamë madhështinë e tij. Sepse mori nder e lavdi prej Perëndisë Atë, kur i erdhi atij një zë i tillë prej lavdisë së madhërishme: "Ky është Biri im i dashur, në të cilin unë gjeta pëlqim". Edhe këtë zë e dëgjuam se erdhi nga qielli, kur ishim bashkë me të në malin e shenjtë. Edhe kemi më të vërtetuar fjalën profetike, për të cilën bëni mirë të shikoni si në një kandil që ndrit në një vend të errët, deri sa të zbardhë dita, edhe ylli i dritës të lindë në zemrat tuaja;

2-е Петра 1:10-19

Посему, братья, более и более старайтесь делать твердым ваше звание и избрание; так поступая, никогда не преткнетесь, ибо так откроется вам свободный вход в вечное Царство Господа нашего и Спасителя Иисуса Христа. Для того я никогда не перестану напоминать вам о сем, хотя вы то и знаете, и утверждены в настоящей истине. Справедливым же почитаю, доколе нахожусь в этой [телесной] храмине, возбуждать вас напоминанием, зная, что скоро должен оставить храмину мою, как и Господь наш Иисус Христос открыл мне. Буду же стараться, чтобы вы и после моего отшествия всегда приводили это на память. Ибо мы возвестили вам силу и пришествие Господа нашего Иисуса Христа, не хитросплетенным басням следуя, но быв очевидцами Его величия. Ибо Он принял от Бога Отца честь и славу, когда от великолепной славы принесся к Нему такой глас: Сей есть Сын Мой возлюбленный, в Котором Мое благоволение. И этот глас, принесшийся с небес, мы слышали, будучи с Ним на святой горе. И притом мы имеем вернейшее пророческое слово; и вы хорошо делаете, что обращаетесь к нему, как к светильнику, сияющему в темном месте, доколе не начнет рассветать день и не взойдет утренняя звезда в сердцах ваших,

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. The heavens are Thine, the earth also is Thine! (Ps. 88:11a)

V. Blessed are the people who know the festal shout! (Ps. 88:14b)



✠ The Gospel Reading ✠

Matthew 17:1-9

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

Mattheut 17:1-9

Edhe pas gjashtë ditësh Jisui merr me vete Pjetrin edhe Jakovin edhe Joanin, vëllanë e tij, edhe i ngjit mbi një mal të lartë veçan. Edhe ndërroi fytyrën përpara tyre; edhe fytyra e tij ndriti pors dielli, edhe rrobat e tij u bënë të bardha pors drita. Edhe ja tek iu dukën atyre Moisiu dhe Ilija duke folur bashkë me të. Edhe Pjetri u përgjigj e i tha Jisuit: Zot, mirë është të jemi këtu. Nëse do, le të bëjmë këtu tri tenda, një për ty dhe një për Moisiun e një për Ilian. Edhe ndërsa ai ishte ende duke folur, ja tek i mbuloi ata një re e ndritshme; edhe ja një zë nga reja tek thoshte: Ky është biri im i dashuri, që e pëlqeva. Atë dëgjoni. Edhe nxënësit me ta dëgjuar, ranë përmbys, edhe u frikësuan fort. Po Jisui erdhi pranë dhe i preku e tha: Ngrihuni, e mos u frikësoni. Edhe kur ata ngritën sytë, nuk panë asnjë, përveçse Jisuin vetëm. Edhe tek zbritnin nga mali, Jisui i urdhëroi, duke thënë: Mos i thoni asnjëri u ç'patë, deri sa të ngjallet i Biri i njeriut prej së vdekurish.

От Матфея 17:1-9

По прошествии дней шести, взял Иисус Петра, Иакова и Иоанна, брата его, и возвел их на гору высокую одних, и преобразился пред ними: и просияло лице Его, как солнце, одежды же Его сделались белыми, как свет. И вот, явились им Моисей и Илия, с Ним беседующие. При сем Петр сказал Иисусу: Господи! хорошо нам здесь быть; если хочешь, сделаем здесь три кущи: Тебе одну, и Моисею одну, и одну Илию. Когда он еще говорил, се, облако светлое осенило их; и се, глас из облака глаголющий: Сей есть Сын Мой Возлюбленный, в Котором Мое благоволение; Его слушайте. И, услышав, ученики пали на лица свои и очень испугались. Но Иисус, приступив, коснулся их и сказал: встаньте и не бойтесь. Возведя же очи свои, они никого не увидели, кроме одного Иисуса. И когда сходили они с горы, Иисус запретил им, говоря: никому не сказывайте о сем видении, доколе Сын Человеческий не воскреснет из мертвых.

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

Tone 4

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor!
Thy childbearing was without corruption;
God came forth from thy body clothed in flesh,
and appeared on earth and dwelt among men.
Therefore we all magnify thee, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymn

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in Thy Name forever. *(Ps. 88:15)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



PRAYERS	Birthdays, Names-days, & Anniversaries	SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>For Those Who Have Fallen Asleep</i></p>		
<p>Newly Departed Nikoli, Newly Departed Alex</p> <p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the departed]</i></p> <p>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 30 – August 5 Jim & Christina Schaeffer (A)</p> <p><u>Seven-Day Vigil Candles</u></p> <p>Michael Mogilevich - health</p>	<p><u>Church Lectionary</u></p> <p><u>Today</u> 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 Matthew 14:22-34 2 Peter 1:10-19 Matthew 17:1-9</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>For Those Who Are Sick And Home-bound</i></p>		
<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, Marina, Sophia</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>Monday</u> 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Matthew 21:18-22</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u> 1 Corinthians 15:29-38 Matthew 21:23-27</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Prayers In General</i></p>		
<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, Marsha</p>		<p><u>Wednesday</u> Galatians 5:22-6:2 Luke 6:17-23 1 Corinthians 16:4-12 Matthew 21:28-32</p> <p><u>Thursday</u> 2 Corinthians 1:1-7 Matthew 21:43-46</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the living]</i></p>		
<p>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 style="text-align: center;"><i>[Petitions at Augmented Litany]</i></p>		
<p>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>August</u> 06 13 20 27</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> 2 Corinthians 1:12-20 Matthew 22:23-33</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> Romans 15:30-33 Matthew 17:24-18:4</p> <p><u>Reading the Bible in a Year</u></p> <p>Aug 06: Joel Aug 07: Amos 1-4 Aug 08: Amos 5-9 Aug 09: Obadiah & Jonah Aug 10: Micah 1-4 Aug 11: Micah 5-7 Aug 12: Nahum</p>

Truly Marvelous

August 2, 2023 · Fr. Barnabas Powell



It's the second day of the Dormition Fast! The wisdom of the fasting disciplines of the Church is meant to reinforce the reality that unless the faith is holistically practiced, that is it affects every aspect of your person, the real danger of compartmentalization exists!

One aspect of Orthodoxy that first caught my attention was this focus on Cosmic Truths AND the everyday practice of the Faith. What I discovered was the lofty theology gave me the endurance and courage and humility to keep putting the Faith at the top of my priority list every day! We Orthodox talk about "Theosis" and "Illumination, Purgation, and Union." We

call Jesus "Theanthropos." We call Mary "Theotokos" and then we go on and on (Just attend one of the many Paraklesis services during this time of year) about the glories of the Mystery of the Theotokos birthing the Word into the World. Lofty, Deep stuff!

But the necessity of this focus becomes all too real to us when we then allow this deep theology to fill the sails of our soul for a recalibration of the priority of the Faith in my everyday life!

Listen to our Lord this morning in our Lesson in Mark 12:1-12:

The Lord said this parable, "A man planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a pit for the wine press, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. And they took him and beat him, and sent him away empty handed. Again he sent to them another servant, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. And he sent another, and him they killed; and so with many others, some they beat and some they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son; finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' And they took him and killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard. What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants, and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this scripture: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'" And they tried to arrest him, but feared the multitude, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them; so they left him and went away.

One of the greatest strengths of daily handling of the words of Scripture is seeing treasures like this! The Lord uses a common and mundane daily task like agriculture and teaches us the invaluable lesson of "tending" to our souls. If you've ever had a garden, you know how easy it is to ruin the garden by neglect. But there is more to the story here. The Lord illustrates the reality of God, the Creator, creating His world, His vineyard, and putting "tenants" in charge of His creation to tend to His creation, care for His creation, and grow in their maturity in doing the work of caring for His creation. And the tenants blew it! They fell into the delusion that they, somehow, earned the right to lay claim to the work of Someone else and demand that the "Master" of the vineyard give them all the "fruit" of His vineyard. They even go so

far as to kill the “Son of the Master” in the deluded hope they would get the inheritance. Jesus tells this story to His Jewish audience to wake them up to their misuse of the blessing of being the “chosen people.” We hear the same story as ones who have been blessed with the fullness of the Orthodox Faith for generations and we stand accused of misusing this blessing and keeping this blessing for ourselves. Of course, our horrible stewardship of such a treasure means we’ve watched as successive young people have abandoned anything resembling a serious devotion to the Faith for the “fool’s gold” of a thin veneer of Orthodoxy in their dance costumes!

But, the Lord makes one, final claim; the stone that the builders of our societies have rejected has been made the “Chief Cornerstone” of the building the Creator is building without them! And this loving Creator is constantly inviting all of us to enter into His “building” the Church and live a life of Faith, instead of staying asleep to the Truth! And the gift of fasting is meant to keep us from going back to sleep!

We commemorate the removal of the relics of the very first Christian martyr, St. Stephen, today. After St. Stephen had been killed by the mob, Gamaliel, the great Jewish scribe and philosopher and teacher, and the teacher of St. Stephen, asked certain Christians to go by night to get the body of St. Stephen and bury him in the “field of Gamala” about 20 miles outside of Jerusalem. This is also the place where Gamaliel himself would later be buried. The fact that this great teacher who had St. Stephen as a student cared for him is a testimony of the grace of God. Later, in about 427 AD, a pious priest named Lucian, who was a parish priest nearby this ancient field, was given a dream by God revealing the place where St. Stephen was buried. He went and told the Patriarch of Jerusalem, John, about this and they had workers dig in the spot until they found a box with the name “Stephen” in Aramaic letters. When they opened the box they found the relics of this great Christian hero. They moved this precious treasure with great honor and among a throng of the faithful to Jerusalem on this very day.

Today, when was the last time you really spent time marveling at God’s mercy and love toward you? If you keep that sense of marvel about His wisdom and this faith, you will watch as every part of your life, all your priorities, and your very self becomes transformed by His marvelous acts. You won’t be a foolish tenant in His Vineyard; you’ll live a Normal Orthodox life!

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

For the struggles you endured for Christ God, a royal diadem crowns your head, O First Champion of Martyrs. For you refuted the folly of the Jews and beheld your Savior on the right of the Father. Ever beseech Him, therefore, for our souls.

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/faithencouraged/2023/08/truly-marvelous/>



The Importance of Preparing for the Divine Liturgy

That the Church requires us to prepare to receive the Holy Mysteries of the Body and Blood of Christ, prior to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, by saying the Pre-Communion Prayers, is a given. The Church also requires us to fast from midnight on, abstaining from either food or drink, until after we have received the Body and Blood of our Saviour. The only exception is when we must, because of health issues, eat or drink something, and this must be blessed by our confessor or priest.

Although not required, if we read the appointed Epistle and Gospel readings prior to entering into the Liturgy, the Word can better enter the heart, for when hearing God’s Word for the second time, we are more receptive, and the Word penetrates deeply.

Perhaps the most important preparation we must make before attending the Divine Liturgy, is to be sure we are at peace with all our brothers and sisters. We dare not approach the chalice with malice or hatred

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August Events

August

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

September

03 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

06 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets

08 – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

6:00pm Fun Night

10 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

13 – 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy

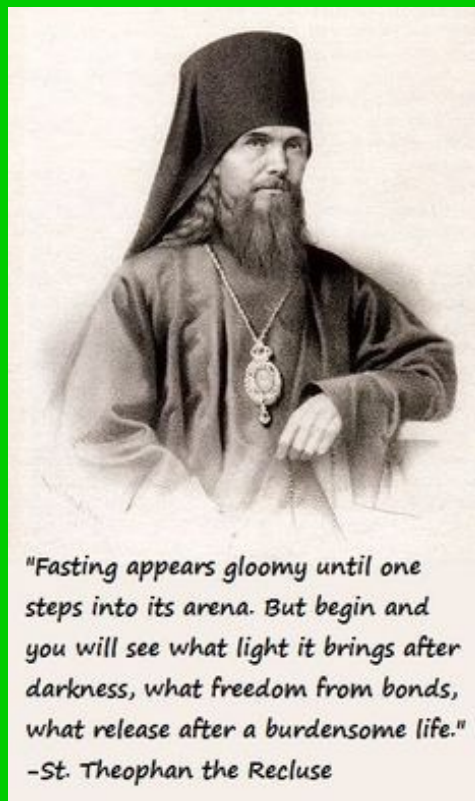
Feast of the Exultation of the Precious Cross

17 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

20 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets

24 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy (Education Sunday)

27 – 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets



"Fasting appears gloomy until one steps into its arena. But begin and you will see what light it brings after darkness, what freedom from bonds, what release after a burdensome life."
-St. Theophan the Recluse



Can't join us in person?

We stream our services on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sspeterpaulorthodoxchurcho1810>

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towards anyone, nor can we receive the Holy Gifts with a heart that has refused to forgive those who have hurt or offended us. An important part of forgiving others, is for us to seek forgiveness. Thus, frequent confession is an imperative.

Participating in the Divine Liturgy is a great privilege, for in this service we are entering into a place where there is neither time nor space, and where we are worshipping the Holy Trinity, together with the hosts of heaven.

In the Liturgy, encounter God in a way that is beyond human comprehension, for we are invited to commune with our Creator in the most intimate way. To approach the Holy Mysteries (Communion) without thought, as though we were simply going to a movie, is beyond foolishness. To receive the "hot coals" that is meant to transform us, and make us whole, without proper preparation, is a very dangerous thing to do.

Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

