

Sts. Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church

First-enthroned of the apostles, teachers of the universe: Entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy!

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August 18, 2019

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: AFTERFEAST OF THE DORMITION
MARTYRS FLORUS AND LAURUS OF ILLYRIA
TONE 8

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	4:00pm	Paraklesis Service
Wed. 21	7:00pm	Bible Study
Sat. 24	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 25	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	4:00pm	Paraklesis Service

One must be baptized and chrismated an Orthodox Christian to receive Holy Communion. Guests are invited to receive a blessing at the chalice and partake of the post-Communion bread (Antidoron).

Fast Days: Fasting all Monday through Wednesday, and on Friday. (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able. Wine and oil is allowed Sunday and Tuesday. Fish is allowed on Tuesday)

Troparion – Tone 1 (Dormition)

*In giving birth thou didst
preserve thy virginity.
In falling asleep thou didst not
forsake the world, O Theotokos.
Thou wast translated to life, O
Mother of Life,
and by thy prayers thou dost deliver
our souls from death.*

Kontakion – Tone 8 (Martyrs Florus and Laurus)

*Today all the world honors in
glory the divinely wise Florus
and Laurus as pious martyrs
who suffered for Christ.
Through their prayers may we
receive grace and mercy
and be delivered from calamity
and temptation, and from wrath
and sorrow on the Day of
Judgment!*

Welcome to all visitors! Please join us upstairs in the church hall for coffee hour after liturgy.

Prayers for those in our Sts. Peter and Paul community (parishioners, family, friends) can be listed for remembrance in our litanies during the Liturgy. Feel free to give names to Fr. Nicholas - please indicate how each person listed is connected to us (parishioner, family, friend, etc.), as well as why we are praying for them (health, memory, travel, etc.).

Confessions can be heard by appointment. If you need, I will come to you during the week. Please do not hesitate to call for a time to drop by the church or to have me visit you.

Remembrances for both the living and the dead during the prayers of preparation of the Eucharistic Lamb and during the Augmented Litany should be given the week before the desired remembrance so that the names can be put into the bulletin and given to the Deacons for the prayers. Any names of the living that are not marked as sick or traveling will be listed under general prayers.

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

Church Lectionary

Today

1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Matthew 14:22-34

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

Romans 15:30-33
Matthew 17:24-18:4

Reading the Bible in a Year

Aug 18: Zechariah 11-14
Aug 19: Malachi
Aug 20: Tobit 1-5
Aug 21: Tobit 6-10
Aug 22: Tobit 11-14
Aug 23: Judith 1-4
Aug 24: Judith 5-8

Special Prayers

Ill/Home-bound:

Ruth Rifkin, Virginia Daka, Emmelia Stone, Liam, Denise Gormley, Sonya, Anna, George, Lyanna, Barbara, Katelyn, Margarita, Annmarie, Shpresa, Ralph John, Christina, Mary, Alexandra, Matthew, Fran, Sophie Plasari, Donna, Michael, Fr. Gregory & Mat. Linda DuDash, Leon, child Luka, child Makayla, Rhonda, Ashley, John, John, Lev, Margarita, Ludmilla, Jake, Amanda, George, David, Thomas

General:

Michael, John, Darian, Tammy, Jean Dimitri, Cheryl Dimitri, Jason, Anna, George, Sonya, Catherine, Alisha, Sasha, Joseph, Kimberly, Niko, Kristin, Robert, Jerry, Pina, Jerry, Chris, Matt, Gianna, Menina, John, Eugenia and the child to be born of her, Sophia and the child to be born of her, Catherine and the child to be born of her

Memory Eternal: Newly Departed Virginia Rifkin, Newly Departed David Zaychik, Newly Departed Archpriest Steven Belonick, Newly Departed Archpriest Dimitrios Katerlis

August

18 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
4:00pm Paraklesis
21 – 7:00pm Bible Study
24 – 6:00pm Vespers
25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
4:00pm Paraklesis
28 – 7:00pm Bible Study
31 – No Vespers

Coffee Hour

Today: Jeanne Rifkin 40 day memorial

Next Week: Ladies Society

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Denise Gormly B – 08/20

NOTICE:

There will be a special general meeting after Liturgy on Sunday, September 8, to discuss approval of funds to be used to repair and re-pave the parking lot.

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“Are you fighting against your passions? Fight, fight, and be good soldiers of Christ! Do not give in to evil and do not be carried away by the weakness of the flesh. During the time of temptation, flee to the Physician, crying out with the Holy Church, our mother: “O God, number me with the thief, the harlot, and the publican (i.e., with the repentant), and save me!”

- St. Anatoly of Optina



August/September Events

September

01 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
04 – 7:00pm Bible Study
06 – Fun Night
07 – No Vespers
08 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Nativity of the Theotokos

11 – 7:00pm Bible Study
13 – 7:00pm Vespers
14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Exultation of the Cross
6:00pm Vespers & General
Confession
15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
18 – 7:00pm Bible Study
21 – 6:00pm Vespers

The service of the Small Paraklesis is chanted in times of distress and sorrow of soul and during the first fourteen days of August. This month, it will be celebrated together by the entire body of the Philadelphia Orthodox community every Sunday in August at 4:00pm at a different parish each week.

**August 18 – SS. Peter and Paul Church
1406 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, DE
19809**

**August 25 – St. Mary Church
2412 West 3rd St. Chester, PA 19013**

1 Corinthians 3:9-17 (Epistle)

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

Matthew 14:22-34 (Gospel)

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

Children's Word

God is more Powerful than Anything

Have you ever been afraid of the weather? Maybe a hurricane was supposed to come, or a tornado, or even just a bad thunderstorm. Bad weather can make us wonder what is going to happen!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear the story about our Lord's disciples, who were traveling in a boat to the other side of the big lake. Jesus came to meet them, walking on the water! St. Peter, you remember, asked Jesus if he could walk out to Him, and he did. But then St. Peter grew afraid of the weather. The wind was so strong, and the waves were so high!

But you remember what happened then. Jesus caught Peter, and He saved him from sinking. The wind stopped when Jesus got into the boat. The wind stopped suddenly, because Jesus Christ is God, and God is more powerful than anything! He is more powerful than the weather, for sure!

Sometimes we can be afraid of big things, like storms or sickness or even sadness. But God is more powerful than any of these things. We can turn to God, like St. Peter did. We can ask Him to help us! During our Divine Liturgy, we even pray to the Lord, "For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times." Let's always remember to turn to God and ask Him to help us!

SAINTS TIMOTHY, AGAPIOS, AND THEKLA.

Do you like to hear stories about people who lived long ago? Sometimes, you might hear a story about somebody in history...that might not actually be true! Like George Washington and his wooden teeth. Sometimes people make up stories over the years, and we have to sort out what is true or just a story.

Many, many years ago (only 300 years after Christ's birth), a church historian named Eusebius wrote down stories about things in the early church. He wrote about some saints too—what they did and why they were so special. Tomorrow, we celebrate three saints who lived during the same time as this famous historian, Eusebius. Saint Timothy, Agapius, and Thekla lived in Palestine. They were Christians who lived when the emperors were really cruel and really hated Christians. These emperors did everything they could to totally wipe out the Christian faith. But remember, God is stronger than emperors! And these three saints knew that. When the emperors had them arrested, they trusted in God. They trusted in God, even though they were going to be killed and hurt and even attacked by wild animals. These three saints knew they would soon be with their sweet Lord in heaven! We celebrate these three saints on Monday, Aug. 19.

Humility Leads to Greatness

August 12, 2019 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

The words of Jesus often strike us as paradoxical: To be free, you must be a slave, to live you have to die, to be great, you must be humble! Hundreds of books have been written trying to understand the paradox of Jesus and His influence on humanity. The fact is His life shouldn't have mattered much at all when you think of the millions of lives lived of just religious philosophers and leaders in human history.

But, still, the life of Jesus Christ has radically changed human history. The story of humanity simply can't be told without His story being central to the narrative. Why? Why does the life of an obscure, wandering itinerant Jewish rabbi, in an out of the way part of the ancient Roman Empire, Who was executed by the State with the collusion of the religious leaders of His own people, and who was reported to do some fantastical and unbelievable "miracles" change the course of human history?

Look at our lesson today in Matthew 18:1-11:

At that time, the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the man by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the Gehenna of fire.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of man came to save the lost."

The Life of Jesus Christ transforms human history precisely because of His consistency of message and the reality of His ministry. Jesus Christ lived out His preaching. He came to us in humility. God, choosing to "empty" Himself of His prerogatives so that He could rescue us from our greatest enemy: mortality.

And how does He do this? Humility. He, Who is All Powerful, makes Himself powerless. He makes Himself "nothing" and becomes obedient to the humiliating death of the cross SO THAT His humility can show us the way to true greatness ourselves. It won't be through our supposed "strengths" or "power" or "intelligence" or "politics" or any other deluded self sufficiency. Greatness will only be possible through childlike humility and wonder.

And the Lord warns us of the natural consequences of trying to get to greatness without humility. He clearly warns us that, while temptations are inevitable because we are created with freedom, "woe" to those who foolishly, and blindly, cooperate with the temptations. Jesus goes on to tell you and me that our priorities have to set humility and freedom from the slavery of sin even above our own bodies. If your eye sins, get rid of it and avoid the "fire" of the trash heap that your life will degenerate into if you never aspire to the freedom of humble greatness.

Today, are you living your life, or is life living you? Do you desire to be free and participate in the greatness of your potential? Then it will be because you dare to embrace a childlike humility and not participate in a world or society that blindly thinks greatness comes from some notion of power. Being Orthodox on Purpose is true freedom and true greatness!