

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!

Rev. Nicholas Dellermann (*Rector*) (860) 861-7468 – Very Rev. H Gregory DuDash

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September 15, 2019

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: AFTERFEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS, GREATMARTYR NICETAS
TONE 4

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
Wed. 18	7:00pm	Bible Study
Sat. 21	10:00am	No Vespers
Sun. 22	10:00am	Divine Liturgy

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 Wednesday and Friday.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.)

Troparion – Tone 3
(Greatmartyr Nicetas)

Thou didst defeat error and didst triumph in martyrdom, Nicetas, namesake of victory; for thou didst conquer the ranks of the enemy and ended thy contest by fire. Pray to Christ our God to grant us His great mercy!

Kontakion – Tone 4
(Elevation of the Cross)

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy pow'r, granting them victories over their adversaries by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

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 16:13-24
Matthew 21:33-42

Monday

2 Corinthians 12:10-19
Luke 3:19-22

Tuesday

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:2
Luke 3:23-4:1

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 13:3-14
Luke 4:1-15

Thursday

Galatians 1:1-10, 20-2:5
Luke 4:16-22

Friday

Galatians 2:6-10
Luke 4:22-30

Saturday

1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Luke 4:31-36

Reading the Bible in a Year

Sept 15: Wis Sir 41-44

Sept 16: Wis Sir 45-48

Sept 17: Wis Sir 49-51

Sept 18: Baruch

Sept 19: Ep Jer; Sus; Hymn 3 Men; Bel

Sept 20: 1 Macc 1-4

Sept 21: 1 Macc 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, Fr. Gregory & Mat. Linda DuDash, Leon, child Luka, child Makayla, Rhonda, Ashley, John, John, Lev, Margarita, Ludmilla, Jake, Amanda, George, David, Thomas, Helen

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: His Eminance, the newly departed Archbishop Nikon, Newly Departed Archpriest Steven Belonick, Newly Departed Archpriest Dimitrios Katerlis, Martha Murianka

September

15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
18 – 7:00pm Bible Study
19-21 Archdiocesan Assembly
21 – *No Vespers*
22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
25 – 7:00pm Bible Study
28 – 6:00pm Vespers
29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

A Prayer for Today

St. Isaac the Syrian (613-700 CE)

**Lord Jesus Christ, King of kings,
You have power over life and death.
You know even things
that are uncertain and obscure,
and our very thoughts and feelings
are not hidden from you.
Cleanse me from my secret faults,
for I have done wrong and you saw it.**



**So, read the Fathers, even one
or two lines a day. They are
very strengthening vitamins
for the soul.**

-St. Paisios



Coffee Hour

Today: Kris Kotori

Next Week:

September/October Events

October

02 – 7:00pm Bible Study
05 – 6:00pm Vespers & General
Confession
06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
09 – 7:00pm Bible Study
11 – 6:00pm Fun Night

12 – 6:00pm Vespers
13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
16 – 7:00pm Bible Study
19 – 6:00pm Vespers
20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
23 – 7:00pm Bible Study
26 – 6:00pm Vespers
27 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**You know how weak I am,
both in soul and body.**

**Give me strength, O Lord, in my frailty
and sustain me in my sufferings.**

**Grant me a prudent judgment, dear
Lord,
and let me always be mindful of Your
blessings.**

**Let me retain until the end, Your grace
that
has protected me until now. Amen**

1 Corinthians 16:13-24 (Epistle)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Matthew 21:33-42 (Gospel)

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?’ They said to Him, ‘He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

Children's Word

What do you want to be?

Has anybody ever asked you what you want to be when you grow up? Some kids know right away what they want to be, and some grownups don't even know how to answer that question!

Yesterday, we celebrated the great feastday of the Cross. We remembered again what our Lord, Jesus Christ, did for us. We remember how He died for us on the Cross. And today, in the Gospel reading, we hear how we Christians have to show that we follow Christ! But how do we do that? Well, we show we are Christians in everything we do!

Sometimes things might be hard for us, but we always have to choose to follow our Lord. The Gospel tells us, ‘For what will it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?’ In other words, we can get everything in the world—lots of money, lots of friends, lots of fame, and even lots of fun. We can grow up to have the best job in the world. But the Gospel tells us that those things aren't the things that matter the most!

We want to grow up to follow Christ in everything we do! So, when somebody asks you what you want to be when you grow up, you can tell him. But what we really want to be is a good follower of Christ!

POKING FUN: SAINT PORPHYRIOS THE MIME

Have you ever made fun of something or somebody...that maybe you shouldn't have? It might have felt good at the time, but then afterwards, you probably felt really awful!

Today we celebrate a saint who did just that. Saint Porphyrios lived many, many years ago. That was, of course, a time with no TVs, no internet, and no movies! St. Porphyrios worked in the court of the Emperor Julian, and Porphyrios's job was to entertain him.

On his birthday, Emperor Julian (who wasn't a Christian) wanted to be entertained. He wanted Porphyrios to poke fun at Christians, and do a little skit about Christian baptisms. So, Porphyrios got into a big water font, and he said, ‘Porphyrios is baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.’ (Those are just the words the priest said for you when you were baptized as a Christian.) Then, Porphyrios came out of the font and put on white clothes, and he declared that he was now a Christian. Everybody thought he was still joking around, but Porphyrios wasn't! He had really changed. He knew that God had given him the grace of Holy Baptism.

Then, of course, the emperor was furious. He sentenced him to be hurt and even killed. But Saint Porphyrios knew that he would be with his Lord forever, and that was something he wouldn't give up!

We celebrate St. Porphyrios today, September 15th.

For God So Loved the World...

September 10, 2019 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

The famous author J.K. Rowling once said: "I'm interested in that drive, that rush to judgment, that is so prevalent in our society. We all know that pleasurable rush that comes from condemning, and in the short term it's quite a satisfying thing to do, isn't it?" And she's right! I can't tell you how many times I've ranted and raved at the TV news reports, or some post on Facebook with some asinine political opinion, or even in a conversation with someone who disagrees with me, that I've felt that pleasurable rush in my "righteous condemnation" of their "wrong ideas!"

And yet, we do ourselves and the Faith a disservice if we allow the wrong notion that the Truth is about "being right" or even "condemning wrong." In fact, the scriptures declare that God the Father did not send the Son to the world to condemn the world! To be sure, Light and Dark won't ever co-exist, but that isn't the Light's fault!

Look at our Gospel Lesson today in John 3:16-21:

The Lord said to his disciples: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that these deeds have been wrought in God."

You see, the Son doesn't HAVE TO condemn. The one who rejects the Life offered by God condemns himself! Instead of condemning others, we should pity them and have compassion on them in their self-imposed prison of their own condemnation! The mercy God the Father shows His world in sending His Son to destroy sin, death, and Satan, is an act of total love and with no condemnation at all. What possible good would come from the Father condemning the world? Does God need some self-satisfaction that He's right and we are wrong? Is God "afraid" we won't realize how right He is if He doesn't condemn us? How can someone actually worship and love a deity like that? That idea of god has more in common with the pagan view of the gods in Greek Mythology than the Christian belief of the God of the Scriptures.

No, just like the Father, we who say we follow Christ are called to forgo condemnation for love and pity and faithfulness. Now before you misunderstand and say that this excuses unhealthy behavior, please remember WHY condemnation is both unhelpful and unnecessary: those who reject the wisdom of Christ and His Church "are condemned already." Their condemnation doesn't have to come from outside themselves, they condemn themselves. There is no Christian virtue in "piling on" someone who is already their own worst enemy!

Today, why not abandon the condemning of others? Since God Himself refuses to do this, we who follow God should join Him in His wise and loving ways. It's better to seek where my own heart already condemns myself, where my own rejection of the Light of the Son condemns me before His Light and Love. To seek first to remedy that self-condemnation is the very focus that will make me Orthodox on Purpose!