

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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April 7, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: ST JOHN OF THE LADDER TONE 4

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy Sunday School Lenten Vespers
Wed. 10	7:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy Pot-luck dinner
Thu. 11	7:00pm	Canon of St. Andrew
Sat. 13	9:00am 6:00pm	Church Clean-up Vespers
Sun. 14	10:00am	Divine Liturgy Sunday School

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: Strict fast all week.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.) Wine and oil allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Troparion – Tone 1 (for St John Climacus)

*O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,
thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.
Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a crown!
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!*

Kontakion – Tone 4 (Resurrection)

*My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,
He has risen on the third day!*

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

Hebrews 6:13-20
Mark 9:17-31

Monday

Isaiah 37:33-38:6
Genesis 13:12-18
Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday

Isaiah 40:18-31
Genesis 15:1-15
Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday

Isaiah 41:4-14
Genesis 17:1-9
Proverbs 15:20-16:9

Thursday

Isaiah 42:5-16
Genesis 18:20-33
Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Friday

Isaiah 45:11-17
Genesis 22:1-18
Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Saturday

Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 8:27-31

Reading the Bible in a Year

Apr 07: 4 Kings 21-24
Apr 08: 4 Kings 25-28
Apr 09: 4 Kings 29-32
Apr 10: 4 Kings 33-36
Apr 11: Ezra 1-5
Apr 12: Ezra 6-10
Apr 13: Nehemiah 1-4

Special Prayers

Ill/Home-bound:

Virginia Rifkin, Ruth Rifkin, Virginia Daka, Emmelia Stone, Liam, Denise Gormley, Victor, 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, CJ, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Lev, Margarita, Rachel

General:

Michael Peterson, 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, Eugenia and the child to be born of her, Evgenia and the child to be born of her

Memory Eternal:

Newly Departed Penelope



“Have confidence in the compassion of our Creator. Reflect well on what you are now doing, and keep before you the things you have done. Lift up your eyes to the overflowing compassion of heaven, and while He waits for you, draw near in tears to our merciful Judge. Having before your mind that He is a Just Judge, do not take your sins lightly; and having also in mind that He is compassionate, do not despair. The God-Man gives man confidence before God.”

- St. Gregory the Great



March/April Events

April

07 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
4:00pm Lenten Vespers

10 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot-luck dinner

11 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew

13 – 9:00am Church Clean-up
6:00pm Vespers

14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
4:00pm Lenten Vespers

17 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot-luck dinner

20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
6:00pm Vespers

21 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
4:00pm Bridegroom Matins

23 – Holy Tuesday
7:00pm Bridegroom Matins

24 – Holy Wednesday
7:00pm Holy Unction

25 – Holy Thursday

9:00am Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil

7:00pm Matins of Great and Holy Friday

26 – Great and Holy Friday
3:00pm Vespers of Great and Holy Friday

7:00 Matins of Great and Holy Saturday

27 – Great and Holy Saturday
10:00am Vespers with Divine Liturgy
11:30pm Nocturne

Coffee Hour

Today: David Lane

Next Week: Milto Memorial

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Max Broeker B – 4/13

2019 Mission Vespers

April 7 – Sunday of St. John Climacus – Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church (OCA)
2101 South 28th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145

April 14 – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt – Mother of God Church (Georgian)
412 Philmont Avenue, Feasterville, PA 19053

Hebrews 6:13-20 (Epistle)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Mark 9:17-31 (Gospel)

Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

Children's Word

Have you ever watched construction vehicles building a road? Have you watched as they break up the ground, and put down materials, and smooth it all out? The construction trucks make a path for us to use, to get us to where we want to go.

Today's epistle reading tells us how our Lord went before us too. He went before us so that we could go down His same path. The epistle says we want to take the “hope set before us.” As Christians, what is our greatest hope? Our hope is to go to heaven, to live with Christ, to be with Him forever in peace. The epistle tells us that our Lord has already gone there! “Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf.” A forerunner is somebody who goes before.

Let's always remember that our Lord, Jesus Christ, isn't only God. He is also a man, and He went before us. He lived here so He could know us and understand us. He died before us, and He went to heaven before us. He did this so He could get a path ready for us. God wanted to help us to get to where we want to go...and where is that? Life in heaven forever!

CLIMBING THE LADDER: ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

Now, we're more than halfway finished with Great Lent! Today is the 4th Sunday, when we remember St. John Climacus. St. John was a monk who wrote an important (but very hard to read!) book. In this book, he gave advice about how we can go up the ladder—to heaven! (That's what Climacus means— “of the ladder.”)

At first, St. John's book was meant only for monks, men who live their whole lives in a special place to grow close to God. But now we know this book can be helpful for all of us Christians! That's because St. John wrote how we Christians must always be trying harder and harder to grow closer to Christ. That's our goal.

Maybe one day, when you're older, you'll have a chance to read and study his book. But for today, let's remember one thing he wrote: “Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And truly, your guardian angel will honor your patience.”

So remember, as YOU are trying every day to climb the ladder to grow closer to our Lord—you're going to make mistakes! But as St. John tells us, don't give up! Be brave and try harder next time! Isn't it nice to know that holy saints made mistakes too? They fell, but stood up again!

We celebrate St. John today, the fourth Sunday of Lent.

This is The Purpose for the Whole Earth

April 1, 2019 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

I'm not a big fan of the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. But I do like this quote of his: "He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how." Spend any time with my writings and you'll see me say this and more often about being Orthodox on Purpose.

Having a purpose transforms a daily life from drudgery to meaning. And when a purpose is missing, well, life lives you rather than the other way around. You may be asking "how do I discover my purpose?" And the best place to start is by answering this question: "What do you love?" Find out what you love, find out what you want, and then you can start the process of evaluating whether those things are your purpose or hindering you from finding your purpose.

But, guess what? God, our Creator, has a purpose for the whole earth. And knowing that purpose will go a long way in helping you discover your ultimate purpose as well!

Look at our lesson today in Isaiah 14:24-32:

The LORD of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand, that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains trample him under foot; and his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder." This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back? In the year that King Ahaz died came this oracle: "Rejoice not, O Philistia, all of you, that the rod which smote you is broken, for from the serpent's root will come forth an adder, and its fruit will be a flying serpent. And the first-born of the poor will feed, and the needy lie down in safety; but I will kill your root with famine, and your remnant I will slay. Wail, O gate; cry, O city; melt in fear, O Philistia, all of you! For smoke comes out of the north, and there is no straggler in his ranks." What will one answer the messengers of the nation? "The LORD has founded Zion, and in her the afflicted of his people find refuge."

We continue our Lenten journey in the wisdom of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. And here the prophet gives us a peek into God's ultimate purpose for the whole world!

And he starts by giving us an insight into the very hard life of the Jews under the control of foreign powers, specifically here the power of Assyria. The Assyrians were constantly threatening Judah with attack and invasion. They were the greatest military power of that day and they wanted to conquer Judah and make Judah part of their Empire. They had already cost the Jews tribute and subjugation in negotiations, and now the prophet was telling the Assyrians and the Jews God is about to intervene!

God is going to bring an end to the Assyrian Empire and the burden that this powerful nation had imposed on His people. And then the prophet let's slip a powerful insight: "This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth..."

What was that purpose? Nothing less than freedom from oppression. Nothing less than the downtrodden getting relief. Nothing less than the reality that God's Nation will become a refuge for all who struggle!

And that, dear ones, is what Jesus Christ offers you today: Freedom. But not some mere political freedom or material possessions. No, this freedom we are offered today in the midst of our Lenten journey is a freedom from the slavery of the passions that keep us locked away in the subjugation to the fear of death and the desires of our unruly heart! That freedom illustrated here in God intervening on behalf of His oppressed people in the Old Testament is seen as God's purpose for the whole world, you included!

So, today, are you ready to hear that God's ultimate purpose for you is your freedom? Are you willing to learn that the path to freedom runs through the paradox of the disciplines of the Faith so that your passions no longer oppress you so that you can become by grace what Christ is by nature, and finally be Orthodox on purpose!