

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 16, 2020

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: FEAST OF THE DORMITION,
TRANSLATION OF THE IMAGE "NOT-MADE-BY-HANDS" OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST FROM EDESSA TO CONSTANTINOPLE
TONE 1

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Celebration of the
Feast of the Dormition
Wed. 19 7:15pm Bible Study via Google
Sun. 23 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: Strict fast Sunday to Saturday.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.) Fish, wine and oil allowed on Saturday and Thursday.

**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 1
(Resurrection)**

*As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as God,
for death has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:
"Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"*

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 4:9-16
Matthew 17:14-23

Monday

2 Corinthians 2:4-15
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday

2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3
Matthew 23:23-28

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 3:4-11
Matthew 23:29-39

Thursday

2 Corinthians 4:1-6
Matthew 24:13-28

Friday

2 Corinthians 4:13-18
Matthew 24:27-33, 42-51

Saturday

1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Matthew 19:3-12

Reading the Bible in a Year

Aug 16: Zechariah 1-5

Aug 17: Zechariah 6-10

Aug 18: Zechariah 11-14

Aug 19: Malachi

Aug 20: Tobit 1-5

Aug 21: Tobit 6-10

Aug 22: Tobit 11-14

There was a tightrope walker, who did incredible aerial feats. All over Paris, he would do tightrope acts at tremendously scary heights. Then he had succeeding acts; he would do it blindfolded, then he would go across the tightrope, blindfolded, pushing a wheelbarrow. An American promoter read about this in the papers and wrote a letter to the tightrope walker, saying, "Tightrope, I don't believe you can do it, but I'm willing to make you an offer. For a very substantial sum of money, besides all your transportation fees, I would like to challenge you to do your act over Niagara Falls." Now, Tightrope wrote back, "Sir, although I've never been to America and seen the Falls, I'd love to come." Well, after a lot of promotion and setting the whole thing up, many people came to see the event. Tightrope was to start on the Canadian side and come to the American side. Drums roll, and he comes across the rope which is suspended over the treacherous part of the falls -- blindfolded!! And he makes it across easily. The crowds go wild, and he comes to the promoter and says, "Well, Mr. Promoter, now do you believe I can do it?" "Well of course I do. I mean, I just saw you do it." "No," said Tightrope, "do you really believe I can do it?" "Well of course I do, you just did it." "No, no, no," said Tightrope, "do you believe I can do it?" "Yes," said Mr. Promoter, "I believe you can do it." "Good," said Tightrope, "then you get in the wheel barrow." The word believe, in Greek means "to live by". This is a nice story...makes you ask, how often do we say that we believe Christ can do it, but refuse to get in the wheelbarrow?



"Finally when blessed Mary having completed the course of this life, and was to be called from the world, all the Apostles gathered to her house from their different regions. And when they had heard that she was to be taken from the world, together they kept watch with her; a lo, the Lord Jesus came with His angels. Taking her soul, He gave it to the Archangel Michael and withdrew. At dawn the Apostles raised her body with a pallet and they placed it in a vault and they guarded it awaiting the coming of the Lord. And lo, a second time the Lord stood by them and he ordered the holy body to be taken and borne to Paradise; there having rejoined the soul exultant with His elect, it enjoys the good things of eternity which shall know no end."

- St. Gregory of Tours



August

16 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 Celebration of the
*Feast of the Dormition
 of the Theotokos*
 with the blessing of
 Fragrant Herbs
 19 – 7:15pm Bible Study
 23 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 26 – 7:15pm Bible Study
 30 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

August/September Events

September

02 – 7:15pm Bible Study
 06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 Celebration of the
*Feast of the Nativity of
 the Theotokos*
 08 – *Feast of the Nativity of the
 Theotokos*
 09 – 7:15pm Bible Study

13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 Celebration of the
*Feast of the Exultation
 of the Precious Cross*
 14 - *Feast of the Exultation of the
 Precious Cross*
 16 – 7:15pm Bible Study
 20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 23 – 7:15pm Bible Study
 27 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 30 – 7:15pm Bible Study

As a help to those who wish to worship, but cannot gather in the church, we stream the Divine Liturgy on our YouTube channel. You can look up the channel at YouTube.com. We are SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church of Philadelphia or you can follow the link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpqQHigwM5deWD2Se8_MVhw

Liturgy is at 10:00am every Sunday. If the livestream has not begun, you will have to refresh your browser until it gives you a notice that we are live.

If you would like to attend services on feast days when we cannot hold services, I recommend watching the streamed services from Transfiguration Monastery located at

<http://www.orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org/>

They have a calendar that has their service schedule on it and the services can be viewed via their online chapel.

Philippians 2:5-11 (Epistle, Theotokos)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (Epistle)

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Gospel, Theotokos)

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Matthew 17:14-23 (Gospel)

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Children's Word

Be imitators of me!

Have you ever had to follow an example? Maybe when you were learning to read and write, you traced letters. Or when you wanted to learn how to draw something, you colored the pattern just the way they told you to. If you follow the pattern or example closely, your work will turn out just right.

In our Christian faith, we need examples too! Saint Paul is a wonderful example to us, and we can follow him to turn out to be great, strong, Christians. In today's epistle reading, Saint Paul tells his students in Corinth, "I urge you then, be imitators of me." Saint Paul knew that God had shown him the right way. Now, he wanted the Christians to imitate him so they would turn out right. He wanted the new Christians to follow his example.

Sometimes we might think we know a lot about our Church, especially when we answer all the questions right in Church School. But as Christians, we are really just beginners! We try to imitate Saint Paul and the saints so that we follow a good example and turn out right—with a good and holy Christian life.

So, let's always try to learn more about the saints so we can imitate them. You can read the Bible by yourself or with your parents. You can ask your teachers or your priest to tell you some good books so you can learn more about other saints too! Be imitators of them!

Dormition of the Theotokos

The feast of the Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, preceded by a two-week fast. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not "voluntarily" as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the Mother of Life and participates already in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who "hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk 11.27-28).

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity. In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death (Troparion).

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. For being the Mother of Life, she was translated to life, by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb (Kontakion).

The services of the feast repeat the main theme, that the Mother of Life has "passed over into the heavenly joy, into the divine gladness and unending delight" of the Kingdom of her Son (Vesperral hymn). The Old Testament readings, as well as the gospel readings for the Vigil and the Divine Liturgy, are exactly the same as those for the feast of the Virgin's nativity and her entrance into the Temple. Thus, at the Vigil we again hear Mary say: "My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Lk 1.47). At the Divine Liturgy we hear the letter to the Philippians where Saint Paul speaks of the self-emptying of Christ who condescends to human servitude and ignoble death in order to be "highly exalted by God his Father" (Phil 2.5-11). And once again we hear in the Gospel that Mary's blessedness belongs to all who "hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk 11.27-28).

Thus, the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is the celebration of the fact that all men are "highly exalted" in the blessedness of the victorious Christ, and that this high exaltation has already been accomplished in Mary the Theotokos. The feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee, and the celebration that Mary's fate is, the destiny of all those of "low estate" whose souls magnify the Lord, whose spirits rejoice in God the Saviour, whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the Word of God which is given to men in Mary's child, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

Finally it must be stressed that, in all of the feasts of the Virgin Mother of God in the Church, the Orthodox Christians celebrate facts of their own lives in Christ and the Holy Spirit. What happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience, and love. With her all people will be "blessed" to be "more honorable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim" if they follow her example. All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit. All will become temples of the living God. All will share in the eternal life of His Kingdom who live the life that Mary lived.

In this sense everything that is praised and glorified in Mary is a sign of what is offered to all persons in the life of the Church. It is for this reason that Mary, with the divine child Jesus within her, is called in the Orthodox Tradition the Image of the Church. For the assembly of the saved is those in whom Christ dwells.

It is the custom in some churches to bless flowers on the feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos.

К Филиппийцам 2:5-11

Ибо в вас должны быть те же чувствования, какие и во Христе Иисусе: Он, будучи образом Божиим, не почитал хищением быть равным Богу; но уничижил Себя Самого, приняв образ раба, сделавшись подобным человекам и по виду став как человек; смирил Себя, быв послушным даже до смерти, и смерти крестной. Посему и Бог превознес Его и дал Ему имя выше всякого имени, дабы пред именем Иисуса преклонилось всякое колено небесных, земных и преисподних, и всякий язык исповедал, что Господь Иисус Христос в славу Бога Отца.

1-е Коринфянам 4:9-16

Ибо я думаю, что нам, последним посланникам, Бог судил быть как бы приговоренными к смерти, потому что мы сделали позорищем для мира, для Ангелов и человеков. Мы безумны Христа ради, а вы мудры во Христе; мы немощны, а вы крепки; вы в славе, а мы в бесчестии. Даже доныне терпим голод и жажду, и наготу и побои, и скитаемся, и трудимся, работая своими руками. Злословят нас, мы благословляем; гонят нас, мы терпим; хулят нас, мы молим; мы как сор для мира, [как] прах, всеми [попираемый] доныне. Не к постыжению вашему пишу сие, но вразумляю вас, как возлюбленных детей моих. Ибо, хотя у вас тысячи наставников во Христе, но не много отцов; я родил вас во Христе Иисусе благовествованием. Посему умоляю вас: подражайте мне, как я Христу.

От Луки 10:38-42, 11:27-28

В продолжение пути их пришел Он в одно селение; здесь женщина, именем Марфа, приняла Его в дом свой; у неё была сестра, именем Мария, которая села у ног Иисуса и слушала слово Его. Марфа же заботилась о большом угощении и, подойдя, сказала: Господи! или Тебе нужды нет, что сестра моя одну меня оставила служить? скажи ей, чтобы помогла мне. Иисус же сказал ей в ответ: Марфа! Марфа! ты заботишься и суетишься о многом, а одно только нужно; Мария же избрала благую часть, которая не отнимется у неё. Когда же Он говорил это, одна женщина, возвысив голос из народа, сказала Ему: блаженно чрево, носившее Тебя, и сосцы, Тебя питавшие! А Он сказал: блаженны слышащие слово Божие и соблюдающие его.

От Матфея 17:14-23

Когда они пришли к народу, то подошел к Нему человек и, преклоняя пред Ним колени, сказал: Господи! помилуй сына моего; он в новолуния [беснуется] и тяжко страдает, ибо часто бросается в огонь и часто в воду, я приводил его к ученикам Твоим, и они не могли исцелить его. Иисус же, отвечая, сказал: о, род неверный и развращенный! доколе буду с вами? доколе буду терпеть вас? приведите его ко Мне сюда. И запретил ему Иисус, и бес вышел из него; и отрок исцелился в тот час. Тогда ученики, приступив к Иисусу наедине, сказали: почему мы не могли изгнать его? Иисус же сказал им: по неверию вашему; ибо истинно говорю вам: если вы будете иметь веру с горчичное зерно и скажете горе сей: 'перейди отсюда туда', и она перейдет; и ничего не будет невозможного для вас; сей же род изгоняется только молитвою и постом. Во время пребывания их в Галилее, Иисус сказал им: Сын Человеческий предан будет в руки человеческие, и убьют Его, и в третий день воскреснет. И они весьма опечалились.

Filipianëve 2:5-11

Kini në ju po atë ndjenjë që ishte në Jezu Krishtin, i cili, edhe pse ishte në trajtë Perëndie, nuk e çmoi si një gjë ku të mbahej fort për të qenë barabar me Perëndinë, por e zbrazti veten e tij, duke marrë trajtë shërbëtori, e u bë i ngjashëm me njerëzit; dhe duke u gjetur nga pamja e jashtme posi njeri, e përuli vetveten duke u bërë i bindur deri në vdekje, deri në vdekje të kryqit. Prandaj edhe Perëndia e lartësoi madhërisht dhe i dha një emër që është përmbi çdo emër, që në emër të Jezusit të përkulet çdo gju i krijesave (ose gjërave) qiellore, tokësore dhe nëntokësore, dhe çdo gjuhë të rrëfejë se Jezu Krishti është Zot, për lavdi të Perëndisë Atë.

1 e Korintasve 4:9-16

Sepse unë mendoj se Perëndia na ka paraqitur ne apostujt si të fundit, si njerëz të dënuar për vdekje; sepse u bëmë lojë për botën, për engjëjt dhe për njerëzit. Ne jemi të marrë për Krishtin, por ju të urtë në Krishtin; ne jemi të dobët, por ju të fortë; ju jeni të nderuar, por ne të përbuzur. Deri tani vuajmë nga uria, etja, e jemi të zhveshur; jemi të qëlluar me shuplaka dhe endemi pa shtëpi, dhe mundohemi, duke punuar me duart tona; duke qenë të fyer, bekojmë; duke qenë të përndjekur, durojmë; duke qenë të sharë, lutemi; jemi bërë si pislleku i botës, porsì plehurat e të gjithëve deri më sot. Këto gjëra nuk po i shkruaj që t'ju turpëroj, por që t'ju paralajmëroj si fëmijët e mi të dashur. Sepse, edhe sikur të kishit dhjetë mijë mësues në Krishtin, nuk do të kishit shumë etër, sepse unë ju kam dhënë jetë në Krishtin Jezus, me anë të ungjillit. Prandaj ju bëj thirrje të bëheni imituesit e mi.

Luka 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Ndodhi që, ndërsa ata po udhëtonin, Jezusi hyri në një fshat; dhe një grua, që e kishte emrin Marta, e priti në shtëpinë e vet. Ajo kishte një motër që quhej Mari, e cila u ul te këmbët e Jezusit dhe dëgjonte fjalën e tij. Por Marta, që ishte krejt e zënë nga punët e shumta, iu afrua dhe i tha: “Zot, a nuk të intereson që ime motër më la vetëm të shërbej? I thuaj, pra, të më ndihmojë.” Por Jezusi, duke u përgjigjur, i tha: “Martë, Martë, ti po shqetësohesh dhe kujdesesh për shumë gjëra; por vetëm një gjë është e nevojshme, dhe Maria zgjodhi pjesën më të mirë, që asaj nuk do t'i hiqet.” Ndodhi që, ndërsa ai po thoshte këto gjëra, një grua nga turma e çoi zërin e saj dhe i tha: “Lum barku që të barti dhe gjinjtë që të mëndën.” Por ai u tha: “Me tepër lum ata që e dëgjojnë fjalën e Perëndisë dhe e zbatojnë.”

Mateu 17:14-23

Kur arritën afër turmës, një burrë iu afrua dhe, duke u gjunjëzuar para tij, tha: “Zot, ki mëshirë për birin tim, sepse është epileptik dhe vuan shumë; shpesh ai bie në zjarr dhe shpesh në ujë. Tani unë e solla te dishepujt e tu, por ata nuk mundën ta shërojnë.” Dhe Jezusi duke u përgjigjur tha: “O brez që nuk beson dhe i çoroditur! Deri kur do të qëndrosh midis jush? Deri kur do t'ju duroj? E sillni këtu tek unë.” Atëherë Jezusi e qortoi demonin dhe ky doli nga djali; dhe që nga ai çast djali u shërua. Atëherë dishepujt iu afruan Jezusit mënjanë dhe i thanë: “Përse ne nuk ishim në gjendje ta dëbonim?” Dhe Jezusi u tha atyre: “Prej mosbesimit tuaj; sepse në të vërtetë, unë po ju them, se po të keni besim sa një kokërr sinapi, do t'i thoni këtij mali: "Zhvendosuni nga këtu atje," dhe ai do të zhvendoset; dhe asgjë nuk do të jetë e pamundshme për ju. Por ky lloji demoni nuk del veçse me anë të lutjes dhe të agjërimit.” Por, ndërsa ata qëndronin në Galile, Jezusi u tha atyre: “Biri i njeriut do t'u dorëzohet në duart e njerëzve, dhe ata do ta vrasin; por ditën e tretë ai do të ringjallet.” Dhe ata u pikëlluan shumë.