

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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February 2, 2020

33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, IN THE TEMPLE,
SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS
TONE 8

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Meeting of Christ in the Temple
Souper Bowl Sunday
Wed. 05 7:00pm Bible Study
Fri. 07 6:00pm Fun Night
Sat. 08 6:00pm Vespers
Sun. 09 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 1 (Feast)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!

From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness.

Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection!

Kontakion – Tone 8 (Resurrection)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam.

Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

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 Timothy 4:9-15
Luke 19:1-10
Hebrews 7:7-17
Luke 2:22-40

Monday

1 Peter 2:21-3:9
Mark 12:13-17

Tuesday

1 Peter 3:10-22
Mark 12:18-27

Wednesday

1 Peter 4:1-11
Mark 12:28-37

Thursday

1 Peter 4:12-5:5
Mark 12:38-44

Friday

2 Peter 1:1-10
Mark 13:1-8

Saturday

2 Timothy 2:11-19
Luke 18:2-8

Reading the Bible in a Year

Jan 26: Leviticus 9-12
Jan 27: Leviticus 13-16
Jan 28: Leviticus 17-20
Jan 29: Leviticus 21-24
Jan 30: Leviticus 25-27
Jan 31: Numbers 1-4
Feb 01: Numbers 5-8

Special Prayers



Ill/Home-bound:

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

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, Polina, Catherine and the new child Kassia,

Memory Eternal:

“He who receives Communion is made holy and divinised in soul and body in the same way that water, set over a fire, becomes boiling... Communion works like yeast that has been mixed into dough so that it leavens the whole mass; ...Just as by melting two candles together you get one piece of wax, so, I think, one who receives the Flesh and Blood of Jesus is fused together with Him by this Communion and the soul finds that he is in Christ and Christ is in him.”

-St Cyril of Alexandria



February

February Events

01 – 6:00pm Vespers & General Confession

02 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Meeting of Christ in the Temple

Souper Bowl Sunday

05 – 7:00pm Bible Study

07 – 6:00pm Fun Night

08 – 6:00pm Vespers

09 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School

Icon Pledge Sunday

12 – 7:00pm Bible Study

15 – 6:00pm Vespers

Visit with Michael Gregory

16 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School

19 – 7:00pm Bible Study

22 – 7:00pm Vespers

Visit with Met. Tikhon

23 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School

26 – 7:00pm Bible Study

29 – 6:00pm Vespers

House Blessings are coming up in 2020! Please sign up on the sheet upstairs or at the candle desk so that we can begin to organize and schedule House blessings. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number. Alternatively, you can call Fr. Nicholas at 860-861-7468 and he will take your information.

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Roland Dani B – 2/4

Ralph John B&A – 2/5

Jude Carter B – 2/7

Bronya Dellermann B – 2/8

Coffee Hour

Today: *Souper-Bowl Sunday*

Next Week: *Icon Pledge*

It's Souper Bowl Sunday!

It's our annual Souper Bowl Charity fund raiser!

Try a plethora of delicious soups here at coffee hour!

Buy some more of your favorites to take home!

Donate to a worthy cause!

The Icon Pledge is next Sunday,

February 9th!

Please make sure that all pledged icons from last year have been returned!

Diluted Faith

January 30, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

"It's like trying to take an aspirin for cancer!" OK, that got my attention! The speaker was talking about the dangers of watering down the clear message needed for our group so that it wasn't so discomforting. But his illustration really drove the point home that some problems need the fully potent dose of truth to be corrected.

I admit it hit home with me, especially as I thought about how just a "little bit" of the truth can sometimes make me "immune" to the full weight of the truth I need for my life. It's like getting a vaccine against a disease – they give you a mild form of the disease so that you build up an immunity to the sickness. But imagine how dangerous it is to become immune to the truth!

Look at our Gospel Lesson today in Matthew 5:14-19:

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus makes it clear that His faithful followers will be the light of the world. They will be a "city set on a hill that cannot be hidden." Notice, He doesn't say we should try to be the light of the world or a city that can't be hidden. He simply declares that His true followers "will BE" this obvious to the whole world. And if the Light is hidden THAT will be obvious as well!

This insight, this reality, flows from His clear wisdom He declares when He says that He hasn't come to destroy the law and the prophets, to destroy the past, but to fulfill them!

You see, your fidelity to the wisdom of the faith that transcends time and space, your active participation in the Life of the Faith MAKES YOU the light of the world. This active participation in regular liturgies, daily prayers, generous giving, and willingness to share this faith with others sets you free to be what Christ says you are: The Light of the world. And this very purposeful Orthodoxy is the spiritual medicine at full potency and not the diluted "medicine" that simply makes others immune to the fullness of the faith.

Have you ever wondered why some find it so easy to abandon the Orthodox Church? Could it be that they have been "inoculated" by a diluted witness of the Faith? How sad that we insist on potent medicines for our physical ailments but accept watered-down "medicines" for our souls. No wonder we grieve when our children make choices that cause them to drift further from the Faith we've known our whole lives. And yet, all is not lost. No, we can, and must, abandon the diluted witness of a Faith used more as a cultural decoration rather than the center of our very existence.

So, Today, have the courage to accept the wisdom of the faith at full dosage so that your deepest and most damning spiritual disease will be healed by God's undiluted Love! Then share that medicine with others! It's what being Orthodox on Purpose is all about!

The "Excellent" Way

January 31, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

"Excellence" is a term we hear a lot in sports and in business. And that ties the word to an idea of achievement or progress. But there is also an application of "excellence" when it comes to your relationship with God, and that has little to do with achievement or progress and everything to do with growing in love for God and others!

Look at our lesson today in 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8 as St. Paul teaches us about a "more excellent way."

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and

kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

This “more excellent way” is the key to understanding just how a group of persons can be molded into the Church, the Body of Christ that isn’t divided by death, time, history, personal preferences, or any mundane “enemy.” Christ has already overcome death, destroying this “enemy” by His resurrection and His continued Presence in His Church through the Person of the Holy Spirit. It is IN the Church that we discover how to actually live an excellent life connected to His eternal Life!

First, this “more excellent way” is a way that avoids the weakness of comparing ourselves to others. Not everyone has the same giftings, and that’s OK. A Body needs all kinds of “abilities” to function well. When we avoid comparing ourselves and our abilities to others, we are set free from both arrogance and despondency over our perceived strengths and weaknesses. We need each other to be complete and whole as the Body of Christ.

Next, St. Paul reveals why this “more excellent way” is so “excellent.” He declares that love is the key to making all this unity and cooperation possible. But not some syrupy, sentimental view of Love. No, a love that is robust, serious, overwhelming to circumstances, and enduring. This love is *“patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”* (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

Today, are you trapped in the dead-end situation of comparing yourself to another – either good or bad? It is a deficiency of love. Are you struggling with getting along with others in the Church? It is a deficiency of Love. Are you fighting to discover your own purpose in the Body of Christ? Now that may be a challenge of both obedience or even finally admitting you need to be a student of yourself and your faith to discover your gifts. The “more excellent way” invites you and me to an excellent life IN the Church, the Lord’s Body, precisely because He is the excellent human life and all the Faith is designed to “school” us how to embrace and be embraced by this Purposeful Orthodoxy, this “more excellent way!”

Children's Word

Leading you to church

Who takes you to church? Do you go with your parents or your grandparents? Do you sometimes go with a friend or with your Godmother or Godfather?

Today is one of the 12 great feasts of our Church. We celebrate the day that Mary and Joseph brought the 40-day-old baby Jesus into the holy Temple. They brought Him there for the first time because they knew it was a special place to be close to God. This was a custom for Jewish families, and it is a custom in our Orthodox Church too. Have you seen a little baby being brought to the Church for the first time?

It’s a very special thing for parents (or grandparents or Godparents) to bring their children to church—not just that first time, but all the time! God wants children to be close to Him. He wants children to be with Him in His house. Saint John Chrysostom once told parents, “Fathers and mothers, Go and lead your child by the hand into the church.” St. John’s advice is still good advice today, of course! We know that God wants fathers and mothers (and other grown-ups) to bring children to church. We know that when they do, they are doing exactly what God wants.

Can you thank God for whomever brings you to church? Thank them too!

SAINT PHOTIOS A GREAT LIGHT FOR THE CHURCH

Can you think of a “great” saint? We call St. Basil “the Great,” we have St. Katherine the Great Martyr, St. Makarios the Great, St. Euthemios the Great and lots more. What made them great? They did really great things for the Church!

This week we celebrate another saint whom we call “the Great.” Saint Photios the Great was a special saint who lived more than 1,200 years ago. He was a patriarch, the leader of the Church of Constantinople. What made Saint Photios great?

Well, St. Photios did some really great things for the Church. He sent missionaries (Saints Cyril and Methodios) to spread the Christian Church to the Slavic people. Today, there are millions of Orthodox Christians who are Slavic. Saint Photios is the patriarch who first made this happen.

St. Photios did so much to keep the Church on the right path. He wrote lots of theological works so that bishops and priests and the faithful people would know what the Church teaches. He knew how important it was to keep the Church together, and teaching the truth. We have lots to thank Saint Photios for. His name, “Photios” means “light,” and he is still a great light for the Church, even today!

We celebrate St. Photios on Thursday, Feb. 6

1 Timothy 4:9-15 (Epistle)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Hebrews 7:7-17 (Epistle, Meeting of the Lord)

Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

Luke 19:1-10 (Gospel)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest

with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 2:22-40 (Gospel, Meeting)

Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

• FEBRUARY 2020 •

10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday School						01 6:00pm Vespers & General Confession
02 10:00am Divine Liturgy Vespers <i>Meeting of the Lord at the Temple</i> Souper-Bowl Sunday	03	04	05 7:00pm Bible Study	06	07 6:00 pm Fun Night	08 6:00pm Vespers
09 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday School Icon Pledge	10	11	12 7:00pm Bible Study	13	14	15 6:00pm Vespers <i>Visit from Michael Gregory</i>
16 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday School	17	18	19 7:00pm Bible Study	20	21	22 7:00pm Vespers <i>Visit from Met. Tikhon</i>
23 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday School	24	25	26 7:00pm Bible Study	27	28	29 6:00pm Vespers