

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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December 8, 2019

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: VENERABLE PATAPIUS OF THEBES
TONE 8

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
Wed. 11	6:30pm	Akathist
	7:00pm	Bible Study
Sat. 14	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 15	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 every day.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able. Wine and oil are allowed on Sunday Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Fish is allowed Sunday and Saturday)

Troparion – Tone 8
(Venerable Patapius of Thebes)

*The image of God was truly
preserved in thee, O Father,
for thou didst take up the Cross and
follow Christ.
By so doing thou didst teach us to
disregard the flesh for it passes
away
but to care instead for the soul,
since it is immortal.
Therefore thy spirit, venerable
Patapius, rejoices with the Angels.*

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

Ephesians 4:1-6
Luke 17:12-19

Monday

1 Timothy 1:1-7
Mark 8:11-21

Tuesday

1 Timothy 1:8-14
Mark 8:22-26

Wednesday

1 Timothy 1:18-20, 2:8-15
Mark 8:30-34

Thursday

1 Timothy 3:1-13
Mark 9:10-16

Friday

Galatians 5:22-6:2
Luke 6:17-23
1 Timothy 4:4-8, 16
Mark 9:33-41

Saturday

Galatians 3:8-12
Luke 14:1-11

Reading the Bible in a Year

Dec 08: 1 Thessalonians
Dec 09: 2 Thessalonians
Dec 10: 1 Timothy 1-3
Dec 11: 1 Timothy 4-6
Dec 12: 2 Timothy
Dec 13: Titus
Dec 14: Philemon

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, 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: Newly Departed Khouria Anastasia, Kathleen

December

08 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
Penny Party
11 – 6:30pm Akathist & Bible Study
13 – 6:00pm Fun Night
14 – 6:00pm Vespers
15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
18 – 6:30pm Akathist & Bible Study
21 – 6:00pm Vespers

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

December/January Events

22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
24 – 6:00pm Compline & Matins
25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Nativity of our Lord
28 – 6:00pm Vespers
29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
31 – 7:00pm Vesperal Liturgy &
Pot Luck
Circumcision of our
Lord & St. Basil's Day

Coffee Hour

Today: Penny Party

Next Week: Margie Kelly

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“For if God does not for a moment tire of giving us good things, how can we tire of thanking Him for these good things?”

-St. Nikolaj Velimirovic

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In order that you may move your will more easily to this one desire, in everything—to please (God and to work for His glory alone—remind yourself” often, that He has granted you many favours in the past and has shown you His love. He has created you out of nothing in His own likeness and image, and has made all other creatures your servants; He has delivered you from your slavery to the devil, sending down not one of the angels but His Only-begotten Son to redeem you, not at the price of corruptible gold and silver, but by His priceless blood and His most painful and degrading death. Having done all this He protects you, every hour and every moment, from your enemies; He fights your battles by His divine grace; in His immaculate Mysteries He prepares the Body and Blood of His beloved Son for your food and protection. All this is a sign of God’s great favour and love for you; a favour so great that it is inconceivable how the great Lord of hosts could grant such favours to our nothingness and worthlessness.

-From Unseen Warfare, St. Theophan the Recluse and St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain

Ephesians 4:1-6 (Epistle)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Luke 17:12-19 (Gospel)

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."



Khouria Anastasia Farha, 36, a native Yup'ik from Kwethluk, Alaska, passed away at the Hillsborro Community Hospital, November 1st, 2019 leaving her husband, Father Isaac Farha, of Witchita, Kansas and their four children, Peter (11) Melania (9), Barbara (7), and Biana (5).

There is a **gofundme** account to cover funeral expenses, travel expenses of Native Alaskan family members and to provide for the ongoing needs of the family.

Who can put a price on a loving wife and mother? Father Isaac will need our help to raise these children.

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." -James 1:27

Please give generously!

<https://www.gofundme.com/ff/memory-eternal-kh-anastasia-farha>

Children's Word

Rejoice for others!

Rejoice for others! Have you ever been to somebody else's birthday party? Maybe you watched as a friend or a brother or sister opened presents. Maybe you watched as he was excited with what he got. Were you happy for him? Or did you wish it was your day instead?

In today's Gospel reading we hear about a wonderful miracle our Lord did. Then we hear about how people reacted to it. A woman had had a bent back for 18 years. She couldn't straighten it out, so she had to walk around with her back bent over. Yes, for 18 whole years! Our Lord Jesus Christ had mercy on this woman. Even though it was the Sabbath, a special day to rest, Jesus healed her so she could straighten out her back again.

This was a great miracle for her, and it would change this woman's life! But still, the ruler of the synagogue was angry at Jesus. He told Him that He shouldn't have healed her because the Sabbath was a special day to rest—not to work! He was angry. But other people reacted a different way, "All the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him."

When good things happen to other people, let's not be like the ruler in the story today. He was angry and wanted to find something wrong. Let's always be happy for others. Let's hope the best for others, just as the people did in the Gospel story today. They rejoiced for her!

TURNING TO GOD IN PRAYER SAINT HANNAH THE PROPHETESS

Have you ever prayed to God for something you wanted very, very much? Sometimes we want something that doesn't really matter. But sometimes we might want something that we pray so hard for—for somebody to get well, for somebody to get a job, for somebody to stay safe.

Tomorrow, we celebrate a saint from the Old Testament (before Christ). Saint Hannah prayed very, very hard to God because she really wanted to have a baby. Once, she went to the temple to pray. She cried to God because it meant so much to her. Hannah asked God to let her have a child. God listened to her (He always listens) and He gave her a beautiful boy, Samuel. When he grew up, Samuel was a great prophet who helped God. Hannah had five more children too after that!

Hannah is a great example to us because she knew that when she had a problem, she could turn to God first. She wasn't angry at God because she didn't have a child. She loved God, and she asked Him to help her.

Also, after she had this beautiful gift of baby Samuel, Hannah remembered to thank God! In the Bible we can read the little prayer, "My heart rejoices in the Lord." Let's follow Saint Hannah's example! We celebrate Saint Hannah on Monday, December 9th.

Kept Under Restraint

December 4, 2019 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

One of the most difficult realities I've had to face as an adult, as a priest, as a husband, and as a father is waking up to the reality of the complexity of each human person I encounter, including myself. This continuous process of discovery has me regularly seeing places of spiritual progress and immaturity in my heart first of all. All leading to the unmistakable conclusion that the taming of the passions, the disciplines that lead to my desires being my servants rather than my masters, is at the very heart of the wisdom and purpose of the Faith!

And with that eureka comes an issue I'm wrestling with today: Rules or Disciplines? Wisdom or Obligation? What do I do with the paradox of the scriptures that unmistakably teach that we have to Obey AND we are made for Freedom?

Look at our lesson today in Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5:

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

So, St. Paul is trying to get these Galatians, most of which were not raised in Jewish homes, to not buy into the heresy that they had to be Jewish before they could be Christian. Its kind of like the false notion that you have to be Greek, or Russian, or Serbian, or Romanian, or (fill in the blank of your favorite ethnicity) before you can become Orthodox. That notion is, has always, and will forever be, false.

And yet...

St. Paul refuses to call the Jewish practices of the Law that had actually become second nature to the Jews, bad. In fact St. Paul insists that the Law, the ritual rules, and regulations, were our "custodian" until Christ came.

This means that the "rules and regulations" serve a vital purpose in our maturity and development, and always will. There is a great benefit in the humble honesty of realizing you need boundaries to not just keep you safe (that's too small a motivation to produce anything else but slavery) but to train your inner self to recognize the dangers in life when they come. Most of my biggest mistakes in my life have come when I was asleep to the "cliffs" of my own intoxicated actions devoid of the wisdom of maturity. I bet you can see that in your life as well.

So, the purpose of the "rules and regs" is to train you, to form you, to teach you to recognize when your passions are out of control. They serve as the "custodian" until we grow up enough to value our relationship with Jesus ABOVE our own immediate desires! And that "grown-up" place isn't some "magic moment" when "poof" "I'm saved" as much as it is a day by day choosing from my freedom to realize the treasure the Faith gives me in giving me Jesus! That treasure is nothing less than actually "putting on" Christ at my baptism, becoming "Abraham's offspring," and "heirs" of the promise of new life in Christ.

Today, don't despise or dismiss the wisdom of the rules and regulations." You do so at your own peril. Embrace them as the valuable tools they are to show you the dangers of undisciplined desires. Then, don't stop! Keep growing up until you realize the unspeakable joy of being Orthodox on Purpose!