

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

fnicholas490@aol.com - <http://sspeterpaulphila.org/>

December 1, 2019

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: HOLY PROPHET NAHUM
TONE 7

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
Wed. 04	6:30pm	Akathist
	7:00pm	Bible Study
Sat. 07	10:00am	Youth Retreat
	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 08	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
		Penny Party

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 2
(Prophet Nahum)

Kontakion – Tone 7
(Resurrection)

*We celebrate the memory
of Thy Prophet Nahum, O Lord;
through him we beseech Thee:
“save our souls!”*

*The dominion of death can no
longer hold men captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and
destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets
rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in
faith;
enter, you faithful, into the
Resurrection!”*

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 2:14-22
Luke 18:18-27

Monday

2 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Luke 20:27-44

Tuesday

2 Thessalonians 1:10-2:2
Luke 21:12-19

Wednesday

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24

Thursday

Galatians 5:22-6:2
Matthew 11:27-30
2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
Luke 21:28-33

Friday

Hebrews 13:17-21
Luke 6:17-23
2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
Luke 21:37-22:8

Saturday

Galatians 1:3-10
Luke 13:18-29

Reading the Bible in a Year

Dec 01: 2 Corinthians 10-13
Dec 02: Galatians 1-3
Dec 03: Galatians 4-6
Dec 04: Ephesians 1-3
Dec 05: Ephesians 4-6
Dec 06: Philippians
Dec 07: Colossians

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,

- St. Isaac the Syrian



“Be a herald of God’s goodness, for God rules over you, unworthy though you are; for although your debt to Him is so great, yet He is not seen exacting payment from you, and from the small works you do, He bestows great rewards upon you.”

December

01 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
04 – 6:30pm Akathist & Bible Study
07 – 10:00am St. Nicholas Retreat
6:00pm Vespers & General Confession

November/December Events

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
22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
24 – 6:00pm Compline & Matins

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Hope Vrato B – 12/06
Nick Schaeffer N – 12/06
Nick Desloges N – 12/06
Fr. Nicholas N – 12/06

We are preparing the 2019 community Christmas card. To have your name included, see Jim Schaeffer after Liturgy or send a minimum donation of \$10 or more with a notice that it is for the Christmas card. We will be collecting during the month of November.

The Ladies Society would like to announce that the Annual Penny Party will be held on December 8th after Divine Liturgy. They are accepting donations of new presents for the event. Please contact Tish Desloges to arrange donations. The more donations that come in, the better the event!

Coffee Hour

Today:

Next Week: Gregory Vrato Memorial

Ss. Peter & Paul

Saturday, December 7th, 10:00am – 4:00pm

St. Nicholas Day Youth Retreat

Learn About the real Santa Claus through the art of Niko Chocheli

Crafts to take home – Fun and Fellowship
Lunch Provided

(Let Fr. Nicholas know of any food allergies)
ALL ARE WELCOME! INVITE FRIENDS!

We do ask you to register if you are able in order to enable us to plan for the meal and St. Nicholas Day Gifts

860-861-7468

9230 Old Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia, PA

Ephesians 2:14-22

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Luke 18:18-27

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."



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 Wichita, 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/f/memory-eternal-kh-anastasia-farha>

Children's Word

Salvation is a gift!

Has anybody ever given you a gift...and you never gave anything back? Sometimes you might get a present, and you just say "thank you!" You might not give a present back.

Today's epistle reading reminds us of the great gift that God gives us...and we can never give anything back for it. Saint Paul writes, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God."

God has given the world a great gift—the best gift! When God sent His Son, He wanted to save the world. He wanted to give people a place in heaven with Him forever. When Saint Paul wrote, "By grace you have been saved," he meant that saving the world was a gift. God gave us this gift because He loves us. He didn't save us because of something we did, or because of a gift we gave God. God saved us because He loves us.

On Christmas or on our birthdays, sometimes our parents have to remind us to say thank you for all of our presents. But today, when we hear the epistle, let's remember to say thank you to our Lord for the best gift anybody could ever give—joy in heaven forever!

HIS BIG MISTAKE – SAINT GEORGE OF CHIOS

Think to yourself: What's the biggest mistake you've ever made? Sometimes we might make mistakes that we feel bad about for the rest of our lives!

This week we remember a Saint George who made a mistake when he was a boy, and he regretted it very much. Once, young George was caught stealing some fruit. The owner brought George to the authorities, who told him he could be free if only he would give up his Christian faith. George said okay, and became Muslim. Now, he had a new name, Ahmed. But George felt so bad about his mistake. He cried all the way home, and he told his parents what he had done.

George grew up and lived as a Christian. But somebody told the authorities what he had done as a child. Now George was in big trouble! But this time, George was not going to make the same mistake. He would not deny Christ. He told the authorities about his love for his Lord, Jesus Christ. The rulers hurt him again and again, but all the time, George prayed to God and to Mary, the Theotokos. This time, George stayed strong in his faith. When he died, God welcomed him to heaven.

We celebrate this Saint George Wed., Nov. 27th.

Just a Consumer?

November 29, 2019 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

We really have succumbed to such a consumerist mindset that the Pavlovian trigger of “sale” actually has us queuing up outside the “box” retailers to wait in the cold to get a slip of paper that gives us permission to purchase a product at a particular price so we will “have” the product. One begins to wonder if we “have” the product, or does the “product” have us?

On the other hand, this is also an icon of a system that has brought unprecedented wealth and economic achievement into the world. Our society has created a place where even the poor among us are considered “wealthy” by the vast majority of the population on the earth. We have so banished hunger that the main problem in our society is obesity. We are a wealthy society, at least in terms of “products.” But is that wealth? Is the lack of hunger actual nutrition? Is the accumulation of “stuff” real prosperity?

Look at our lesson today in Luke 20:19-26:

At that time, the scribes and the chief priests tried to lay hands on him at that very hour, but they feared the people; for they perceived that he had told this parable against them. So they watched him, and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might take hold of what he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor. They asked him, “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?” But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, “Show me a coin. Whose likeness and inscription has it?” They said, “Caesar’s.” He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him by what he said; but marveling at his answer they were silent.

Jesus is confronted with the duplicitous motives of those around Him trying to trap Him so they can destroy Him. By the way, that is the reality of anyone who leads or is called to lead. There will always be those around you whose motives are at least suspect. It’s the reason the scripture declares that “Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.”

Notice Jesus sidesteps their flattery. Flattery can be a clue to challenged motives. Then the Lord uses wisdom, not shrewdness, to overcome their hidden motives. “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.” These spies hoped to catch Jesus in a trap by having Him say that Caesar’s secular tax was evil. That way, they could report Him to the government as a rebel leader and then Rome would arrest Him. Or, they could get the Lord to say the tax was good and then turn the Jewish people against Him because the people hated being under an occupying army and foreign government.

But the Lord sidestepped their tricks with wisdom. After all, true freedom is an internal reality. In fact, if you are waiting for external answers to your internal struggles, you will always be a slave to your surroundings. Internal freedom comes from internal spiritual discipline. And freedom from within can never be taken from you, no matter what your external circumstances.

Today, instead of falling prey to reducing your real self to merely a “consumer” (that sounds inhuman), why not stop during this tempting time of year. Ask your family to choose a charity to add to your giving list this year. And then commit a portion of the money you were going to spend on “stuff” that wears out or comes with a “limited warranty” and put that amount into hungry mouths, suffering people, and needy folks in your community. Why not add generosity and charity to your frenzied season and watch as this wisdom undoes the hold that “things” have on us? After all, that’s part of being Orthodox on Purpose!