

# 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

frnicholas490@aol.com - <http://sspeterpaulphila.org/>

December 23, 2018

## FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Today .....	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
Mon 24 .....	6:00pm	Compline & Matins
Tues. 25 .....	10:00am	Divine Liturgy for the <i>Nativity of our Lord</i>
Sat. 29 .....	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 30 .....	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:** Every day (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.)

### **Troparion – Tone 4 (Resurrection)**

*When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous  
message of thy Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen,  
granting the world great mercy!”*

### **Kontakion – Tone 6 (Forefathers)**

*Ye did not worship the graven image,  
O thrice-blessed ones,  
but armed with the immaterial  
Essence of God,  
ye were glorified in a trial by fire.  
From the midst of unbearable flames  
ye called on God, crying:  
“Hasten, O compassionate One!  
Speedily come to our aid,  
for Thou art merciful and able to do  
as Thou dost will!”*

**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 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40  
Matthew 1:1-25

#### Monday

Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31  
Mark 10:46-52

#### Tuesday

Galatians 4:4-7  
Matthew 2:1-12

#### Wednesday

Hebrews 2:11-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

#### Thursday

James 1:19-27  
Mark 11:27-33

#### Friday

Hebrews 11:8, 11-16  
Mark 10:23-32

#### Saturday

Colossians 1:3-6  
Luke 17:3-10

### **Reading the Bible in a Year**

Dec 23: 2 John; 3 John

Dec 24: Jude

Dec 25: Revelation 1-3

Dec 26: Revelation 4-6

Dec 27: Revelation 7-9

Dec 28: Revelation 10-12

Dec 29: Revelation 13-15

## 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, Mat. Linda DuDash, Leon, the child Luka, child Makayla, Rhonda, Fr. Patrick

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, Fr. Gregory DuDash,

Memory Eternal: Gregory Vrato



***“The Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering men. For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholders. But for Him Who came to heal and to teach the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed Him, and to be manifested according as they could bear it, not vitiating the value of the Divine appearing by exceeding their capacity to receive it.”***

— St. Athanasius the Great



## December/January Events

### December

23- 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School  
24 - 6:00pm Compline & Matins  
25 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Nativity of our Lord  
29 - 6:00pm Vespers  
30 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School

31 - 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy &  
Pot Luck  
Circumcision of Christ,  
St. Basil's day &  
New Year

### January

02 - 7:00pm Bible Study

05 - 4:00pm Holy Supper (potluck)  
6:00pm Vespers  
06 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Theophany of our lord  
Great blessing of water  
Sunday School  
09 - 7:00pm Bible Study  
11 - 6:00pm Fun Night  
12 - 6:00pm Vespers  
13 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School

***We are having a Potluck Holy Supper for Theophany on Saturday, January 5. Please bring your favorite strict-fast dish to church at 4:00pm to share with each other. Many families have this tradition, with many different varieties of foods. Please contact Tish and let us know what you plan to bring! This will keep us from all bringing the same item and missing out on the rest of the wonderful foods.***

### Coffee Hour

Today: Gregory Vrato Memorial  
Next Week:

### Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Tina Murianka B - 12/27  
Tamara Kiselev B - 12/28

Donations are being taken for the Christmas tree and poinsettias for the church. Please help to defray the cost of decorating our worship space for the celebration of our Lord's Nativity!

## Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Epistle)

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

## Matthew 1:1-25 (Gospel)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

## Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon

# Nativity of Christ 2018

**Christ is born! Glorify Him!**

To the Honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My beloved brethren and blessed children in the Lord,

Today, the glorious feast of the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ shines forth and brings joy to all of creation. The sacred hymnography and iconography of the Church provide words and images to help us interpret the light-filled feast that we celebrate on this day, when He Who *“has adorned the vault of heaven with stars has been well pleased to be born as a babe,”* and He Who *“holds all the earth in the hollow of His hands is laid in a manger of dumb beasts.”*

Holy Tradition offers us the account of the universal hush that took place at the incarnation, expressed in Joseph’s encounter with the stillness of the natural world: birds hanging motionless in flight, men and beasts frozen in their tracks and the waters ceasing their flow. The continuous passage of time and movement of history came to a halt as creation paused in astonishment as the Eternal enters into the heart of time and the pre-eternal God is born as a little child.

This miraculous moment may be unique in history, but it provides us with some inspiration for the manner in which we ought to receive the sacred mystery that we celebrate today. The Apostle Paul writes: *“Be ye thankful”* (Colossians 3:15) and *“In everything give thanks”* (I Thessalonians 5:18). It is in this spirit of gratitude that we should receive this feast.

We live in a world in which the offering of thanksgiving has become a scarce commodity and a rare virtue. In almost every aspect of our human existence, it seems that our first instinct is not to give thanks, but rather to reply, to respond, or to react. At every second of our waking, we are compelled to reply to emails, to texts and to posts. Daily, we respond to our own passionate desires, to every perceived threat and to every offense, and we are drawn to react to every instance of human fallenness, political division and ecclesiastical conflict.

While it may be easier to blame the world for these challenges, we should remember that it is from within our hearts that our actions and attitudes spring forth. We may long for perfection, but we are confronted by our own weaknesses. But even here we should remember, as Saint Barsanuphius reminds us, that thanksgiving intercedes before God for our weaknesses. Thanksgiving is not the crown of the perfect but the strength of the weak.

Thanksgiving is what allows us as broken, sorrowful, hurting and frail human beings to join our voices to the rest of creation in singing:

*Make glad, O ye righteous; Greatly rejoice, O ye heavens; Ye mountains dance for joy.  
Christ is born; and like the cherubim the Virgin makes a throne,  
Carrying at her bosom God the Word made flesh.  
Shepherds glorify the new-born Child.  
Magi offer the Master gifts.  
Angels sing praises, saying:  
“O Lord past understanding, glory to Thee” (Praises at Matins).*

Sincerely yours in the new-born Christ,

+ Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada