

# 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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January 13, 2019

33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: AFTERFEAST OF THE THEOPHANY, MARTYRS HERMYLUS AND STRATONICUS  
TONE 8

Today .....	10:00am	Divine Liturgy Sunday School
Wed. 16 .....	7:00pm	Bible Study
Sat. 19 .....	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 20 .....	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:** Wednesday and Friday (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.)

**Troparion – Tone 8  
(Resurrection)**

*Thou didst descend from on high,  
O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three day  
burial  
to free us from our sufferings!  
O Lord, our Life and  
Resurrection, glory to Thee!*

**Kontakion – Tone 4  
(for the Feast)**

*Today Thou hast shone forth to  
the world, O Lord,  
and the light of Thy countenance  
has been marked on us.  
Knowing Thee, we sing Thy  
praises.  
Thou hast come and revealed  
Thyself,  
O unapproachable Light.*

**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 4:7-13  
Matthew 4:12-17

### Monday

Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19  
Luke 20:27-44

### Tuesday

Hebrews 4:1-13  
Luke 21:12-19

### Wednesday

Hebrews 5:11-6:8  
Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24

### Thursday

Hebrews 7:18-25  
Luke 21:37-22:8

### Friday

Titus 1:15-2:10  
Luke 20:19-26

### Saturday

Ephesians 2:11-13  
Luke 13:18-29

## Reading the Bible in a Year

Jan 13: Genesis 49-50

Jan 14: Exodus 1-4

Jan 15: Exodus 5-8

Jan 16: Exodus 9-12

Jan 17: Exodus 13-16

Jan 18: Exodus 17-20

Jan 19: Exodus 21-24

## 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, Ashley

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: Newly Departed Helen, Isabelle, James, Charles, Athina, Barbara, Theodore, Marie, Doni, Milto

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God's grace always assists those who struggle, but this does not mean that a struggler is always in the position of a victor. Sometimes in the arena the wild animals did not touch the righteous ones, but by no means were they all preserved untouched. What is important is not victory or the position of a victor, but rather the labor of striving towards God and devotion to Him. Though a man may be found in a weak state, that does not at all mean that he has been abandoned by God. On the cross, the Lord Jesus Christ was in trouble, as the world sees things. But when the sinful world considered Him to be completely destroyed, in fact He was victorious over death and hades. The Lord did not promise us positions as victors as a reward for righteousness, but told us, "In the world you will have tribulation — but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33). The power of God is effective when a person asks for the help from God, acknowledging his own weakness and sinfulness. This is why humility and the striving towards God are the fundamental virtues of a Christian.

+ St. John Maximovitch



## January/February Events

### January

13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School  
16 – 7:00pm Bible Study  
19 – 6:00pm Vespers  
20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School  
23 – 7:00pm Bible Study  
26 – 6:00pm Vespers  
27 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School

30 – 7:00pm Bible Study

### February

01 – 7:00pm Vespers  
02 – Divine Liturgy  
*Meeting of Christ in the Temple*  
03 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School

06 – 7:00pm Bible Study  
09 – 6:00pm Vespers  
10 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School  
13 – 7:00pm Bible Study  
16 – 6:00pm Vespers  
17 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School  
20 – 7:00pm Bible Study  
23 – 6:00pm Vespers  
24 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School

The Pan-Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Philadelphia is holding the Great Blessing of Waters at the Schuylkill river in two weeks, on Sunday 20 January 2019. The event will be held at 2 Boathouse Row, Philadelphia, PA 19130 and will begin at 3:00 PM. All are invited to come and experience this wonderful event.

### Coffee Hour

Today: Tish Deloges Family Memorial

Next Week:

### Birthdays/ Anniversaries

### **Ephesians 4:7-13 (Epistle, Sunday After)**

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

### **Matthew 4:12-17 (Gospel, Sunday After)**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."



***House Blessings are coming up in 2019! Please sign up on the sheet upstairs 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.***

### **Children's Word**

Now that Christmas is all over, are you tired of thinking about presents? Today's epistle reading tells us about a different kind of present— a gift that Christ gives to each of us. The epistle says that our Lord, Jesus Christ, gives each one of us a gift—not one that you can use for a few weeks and throw away, but one that you use for your whole life. It is a gift that we use to help God's church!

Let's listen to the epistle. "And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers." Some of those words you might not know yet, but the epistle tells us that whatever gift God gives us, whatever we do with our lives, we do it so that we can "build up the body of Christ." That means that whatever we do, we do it so we can help others grow closer to Jesus Christ.

Sometimes people think that if you love God very much, then you should definitely be a priest, or you should become a monk or a nun or a teacher. But that's not what the epistle tells us today. We all have different gifts, and God wants us to use them to share His love with other people.

Do you see what the Saint Paul tells us in the epistle? Each one of us has a different task for our life. But each one of us also has the SAME task—to help others grow close to our Lord!

**SAINT NINA OF GEORGIA AND HER CROSS OF VINES**  
Think for a minute about your country's greatest hero. Is it George Washington riding into battle on his horse? Is it somebody else who helped save the country?

This week we will celebrate the feastday of a great hero from the country of Georgia (a country with Russia to the north and Turkey and Armenia to the south). Saint Nina lived long, long ago, but the people of Georgia have never forgotten her. That's because she brought Christianity to their country, and the people have kept the Christian faith ever since. That's 1,700 years...and counting!

Saint Nina had a cross made out of vines, which she brought with her everywhere. She carried her cross and taught the people about Christ. With God's help, she healed many people with her cross. Once, the queen of Georgia was very, very sick, and the Christian people brought her to Saint Nina. When the saint prayed to God, the queen suddenly got better. She wanted to be baptized, and later her husband, the king, was baptized too.

Once the rulers became Christians, the faith really took off in Georgia. Saint Nina is called the "enlightener of Georgia" because she brought the light of Christ to this country!

We celebrate St. Nina on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

# **Baptized into His Death**

January 8, 2019 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

We are a death-denying culture. In the US, the Funeral business is a \$20 Billion industry employing over 13,000 people nationwide! And, in 2016 we crossed that line where over half of the American's who passed away choose cremation over a burial. If we don't choose cremation, we apply technics to the body to make it look less like a corpse.

While all of this may seem to be honoring, and to be sure, it is to many, there is an element in our treatment of our loved ones who pass as an attempt to escape dealing with our own mortality. We hide from the terrifying truth of our mortal life. And that fear of death drives so many of our passions to rule us rather than we mastering them. By the way, if you want to read a wonderful book about a traditional Orthodox way of honoring and interring the faithful passed, I recommend highly "A Christian Ending" by J. Mark and Elizabeth Barna.

Look at our lesson today in Romans 6:3-11:

Brethren, all who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

While the Orthodox Church attempts to get us to step back and see all of the Lord's earthly ministry as His saving work, it would simply be wrong to not see the central reality of suffering and even physical death as a message we cannot ignore or minimize. Jesus was born to die and live again. And so were you! St. Paul's magnificent Romans epistle spells out this wisdom through the Divine Mystery of Baptism as an icon of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ SO THAT you will appreciate just what the Church is saying to you at your own baptism. Notice three inescapable Truths in Christian Baptism: First, You have to Die to Live. This plays out in so many ways even in our everyday lives. I have to die to the choices that destroy me so that I can live by the choices that engender life within me. I have to die to live. Of course, dying entails suffering. It is simply delusional to pretend that this Christian Way is going to have me avoiding suffering, no matter what the modern prophets of "feel good" religion as mere therapy may promise. Dying means being willing to pass through temporary suffering to get to eternal joy!

Next, You were meant for Freedom. Christian baptism embarks the newly baptized on a life of purposeful and pursued freedom from the brokenness and slavery of sin and death. This new way of living on the other side of Baptism is meant to foster freedom from sin ("missing the mark") and freedom from the dead-end notion that sin is just "breaking the rules."

Finally, You were meant to be LIKE Christ. We baptize SO THAT we will become like Jesus Christ. Period. Full Stop. End of discussion. The purpose of the Mystery of Baptism is to emulate Jesus in His death AND His resurrection! AND all the wisdom of the Faith preserved for you through the centuries is meant to equip you to live out the purpose of your baptism.

Today, it's time we Orthodox Christians abandon the death-denying culture of delusion of our modern age. It's time we Orthodox Christians live out the promise of our theology and enter daily into the eternal blessings of our Baptism as Christians. It's time we be Orthodox on Purpose!