

# 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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March 10, 2019

## FORGIVENESS SUNDAY TONE 8

Today .....	10:00am	Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Vespers
Mon. 11 .....	7:00pm	Canon of St. Andrew
Tue. 12 .....	7:00pm	Canon of St. Andrew
Wed. 13 .....	7:00pm	Canon of St. Andrew
Thu. 14 .....	7:00pm	Canon of St. Andrew
Sat. 16 .....	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 17 .....	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:** Strict fast all week.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.) Wine and oil allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.

### 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 6 (from the Lenten Triodion)

*O Master, Teacher of wisdom,  
Bestower of virtue,  
Who teachest the thoughtless and  
protectest the poor,  
strengthen and enlighten my heart!  
O Word of the Father,  
let me not restrain my mouth from  
crying to Thee:  
Have mercy on me, a transgressor,  
O merciful Lord!*

**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

Romans 13:11-14:4  
Matthew 6:14-21

#### Monday

Isaiah 1:1-20  
Genesis 1:1-13  
Proverbs 1:1-20

#### Tuesday

Isaiah 1:19-2:4  
Genesis 1:14-23  
Proverbs 1:20-33

#### Wednesday

Isaiah 2:3-11  
Genesis 1:24-2:3  
Proverbs 2:1-22

#### Thursday

Isaiah 2:11-21  
Genesis 2:4-19  
Proverbs 3:1-18

#### Friday

Isaiah 3:1-15  
Genesis 2:20-3:20  
Proverbs 3:19-34

#### Saturday

Hebrews 1:1-12  
Mark 2:23-3:5

### Reading the Bible in a Year

Mar 10: 2 Samuel 5-8  
Mar 11: 2 Samuel 9-12  
Mar 12: 2 Samuel 13-16  
Mar 13: 2 Samuel 17-20  
Mar 14: 2 Samuel 21-24  
Mar 15: 1 Kings 1-4  
Mar 16: 1 Kings 5-8

## 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, Shpresha, Ralph John, Christina, Mary, Alexandra, Matthew, Fran, Sophie Plasari, Donna, Michael, Fr. Gregory & Mat. Linda DuDash, Leon, child Luka, child Makayla, Rhonda, Ashley, CJ, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Lev, Margarita

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,

Memory Eternal:

Newly departed Giorgi



**Thou art the good Shepherd; seek me,  
Thy lamb, and neglect not me who have  
gone astray. [John 10:11-14]**

**Thou art my sweet Jesus, Thou art my  
Creator; in Thee, O Savior, I shall be  
justified.**

**I confess to Thee, O Savior, I have  
sinned, I have sinned against Thee, but  
absolve and forgive me in Thy  
compassion.**

-The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete



## March Events

### **March**

10 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Sunday School

*Forgiveness Vespers*

11 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew

12 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew

13 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew

14 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew

16 – 6:00pm Vespers

17 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday School

*Lenten Vespers*

20 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy

Pot-luck dinner

23 – 6:00pm Vespers

24 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday School

*Lenten Vespers*

25 – 9:00am Divine Liturgy  
*Annunciation*

27 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy  
Pot-luck dinner

30 – 6:00pm Vespers

31 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday School

*Lenten Vespers*

## Coffee Hour

**Today:** Lenten Luncheon

**Next Week:** Stacy Clark Memorial

## Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Skylar Starr B – 3/10

Elizabeth Shaloka B – 3/14

## 2019 Mission Vespers

**March 17 – Orthodoxy Sunday – St. Michael Church (OCA)**

2300 East Huntington Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808

*March 24 – Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas – Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit (OCA)*

*1323 Ashbourne Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027-2913*

**March 31 – Sunday of the Precious Cross – St. George Church (Antiochian)**

8210 West Chester Pike, Upper Darby, PA 19082

*April 7 – Sunday of St. John Climacus – Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church (OCA)*

*2101 South 28th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145*

**April 14 – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt – Mother of God Church (Georgian)**

412 Philmont Avenue, Feasterville, PA 19053

### **Romans 13:11-14:4 (Epistle)**

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

### **Matthew 6:14-21 (Gospel)**

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### **Children's Word**

Have you ever done something nice for a friend? Well, of course you have! Maybe you picked out a present for him or her, or sent a card, or helped your friend with something. But did you grumble about it? Did you complain? Probably not. When we do something for a friend, we are happy. We want to help, don't we?

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about how we should act when we fast. That's because tomorrow we start Great Lent, the time when we get ready for Easter, for Pascha! We get ready by eating not-so-fancy foods, by helping the poor more, by going to church more, by forgiving others, and helping people who need our help. Sometimes people might complain about Lent. YOU might even start to complain. You won't get to have a big ice cream sundae when you want it. You might not get to watch a TV show you wanted to watch, because your family is off to church. Or you might miss out on something else you want.

But always remember, when we do these things, we are remembering a friend, our Lord, Jesus Christ. And when we remember Him, we are happy too. Let's see if we can go through Great Lent without complaining about it. Instead, we can remember why we're doing it! Can you have a happy Lent?

### **SAINTLY PARENTS Saints Zebulon and Susanna**

Sometimes, we hear about an athlete or a singer or somebody else with a great talent. We might wonder, "What made him so good at that?" Then, we might find out that his parents were great athletes too, or great singers, or something else! Our parents can help shape us into something great.

Back in January, we celebrated the feastday of Saint Nina. She was a saint who lived in the country of Georgia. She told many people about Christ, and thousands of people became Christian because of her words and her prayers! She is even called, "Equal-to-the-Apostles" because she did so much for our Christian Church.

But what about her parents? Well, they are saints too! Saints Zebulon and Susanna taught their daughter Nina about Christ. They also showed her a great example of helping the poor. They lived a simple life so that they could focus their lives on God. Do you see how these saintly parents helped guide their daughter to be a saint too?

We celebrate Sts. Zebulon and Susanna on Saturday, March 15th.

# Forgiveness Sunday

A Sermon from Orthodox England

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Tomorrow is Monday. Not just any Monday, but Clean Monday, the first day of Clean Week, the beginning of Great Lent, a time of particular prayer and fasting. Great Lent will take us on a journey through forty days, or six weeks, to Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday and then Holy Week. At the end of that Week, God willing, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Night. For we are now fifty days exactly from Easter Day.

This Sunday is known as Forgiveness Sunday, and also Cheesfare Sunday for it is the last day on which we may eat dairy produce. On it we remember the Fall of Adam and Eve and how they lost Paradise by eating 'the forbidden fruit', which is why we fast, eating only 'the permitted fruit'. How exactly did that Fall happen?

We know from the Scriptures that the first man and the first woman lived in Paradise, in Eden. We know also that they walked with God, meaning that they lived in harmony and communion with God, suffering neither sin, nor sorrow, neither aging, nor death.

We know also that they disobeyed God. The cause of their disobedience was in the temptation of pride: they thought that they knew better than their Maker. Creation, given freedom, thought that it was greater than the Creator. The fact that the first man and first woman preferred to trust in themselves, rather than in God, to trust in their proud self-importance, led to their fall from communion with God. But once they had rejected God, they also rejected freedom from sin and its result, sorrow, and freedom from aging and its result, death.

The cure for their Fall was made clear to them; it was in doing the opposite of all they had done. Instead of disobedience, they needed obedience; instead of pride, they needed humility. In other words they had to turn back on what they had done in repentance and ask forgiveness. At first they had been unable to do this. When God had first spoken to Adam and Eve after their act of disobedience, Adam had blamed Eve, and Eve had blamed the serpent. Neither had had the humility to take responsibility for his errors and ask for forgiveness. It was not that God did not know what they had done; it was simply that He wanted to give them the opportunity to ask Him, and to ask each other, for forgiveness. Instead they blamed each other and in the process blamed God their Maker. We can hear the Devil laughing.

To us, as children of Adam and Eve, God also gives opportunities to ask for forgiveness, as Adam and Eve should have done. He gives us the sacrament of Confession. Confession does not exist because God wants to know what we have done or left undone. He already knows that. Confession exists because God is giving us an opportunity to own up to our mistakes and failings. He wants us to ask for forgiveness, so that we can then take strength from Him through the prayers of the priest, so as to clean ourselves and strive not to repeat our mistakes.

God does not need our confession, but we do.

Every confession is a repeat, in the New Eden of the Church, of that opportunity given to Adam and Eve in Eden, to ask God for forgiveness.

Unlike human-beings, God always forgives those who sincerely, with repentance, ask Him for forgiveness.

However, before we ask forgiveness of God, we first have to ask forgiveness of each other.

And just at this time, on Forgiveness Sunday and all during Clean Week, it is the custom of Orthodox throughout the world to come to Confession, to ask God for forgiveness, preparing ourselves for Communion next Sunday.

First, therefore, we must ask each other for forgiveness. We can ask forgiveness of those who are not here by visiting them or telephoning them. But of those who are here, we can now ask forgiveness directly, for all our errors towards them in thought, word or deed, whether conscious or unconscious.

For if we do not first ask each other for forgiveness, we cannot ask God for forgiveness. And without forgiveness, there is no way back into Paradise for any of us.

Forgive me, brothers and sisters.

Amen.

<http://orthodoxengland.org.uk/sermforg.htm>