

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/>

March 10, 2019

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
VENERABLE ALEXIUS, THE MAN OF GOD
TONE 1

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy Sunday School Lenten Vespers
Wed. 20	7:00pm	Canon of St. Andrew
Sat. 23	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 24	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 2 **(Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

*We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.
Of Thy good will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy.
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:
“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,
for Thou alone hast come to save the world.”*

Kontakion – Tone 8 **(from the Lenten Triodion)**

*No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty.
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.*

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 11:24-26, 32-12:2
John 1:43-51

Monday

Isaiah 4:2-5:7
Genesis 3:21-4:7
Proverbs 3:34-4:22

Tuesday

Isaiah 5:7-16
Genesis 4:8-15
Proverbs 5:1-15

Wednesday

Isaiah 5:16-25
Genesis 4:16-26
Proverbs 5:15-6:3

Thursday

Isaiah 6:1-12
Genesis 5:1-24
Proverbs 6:3-20

Friday

Isaiah 7:1-15
Genesis 5:32-6:8
Proverbs 6:20-7:1

Saturday

Hebrews 3:12-16
Mark 1:35-44

Reading the Bible in a Year

Mar 17: 1 Kings 9-12
Mar 18: 1 Kings 13-17
Mar 19: 1 Kings 18-22
Mar 20: 2 Kings 1-4
Mar 21: 2 Kings 5-8
Mar 22: 2 Kings 9-12
Mar 23: 2 Kings 13-16

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, 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:

Stacy Clark



“The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God.”

-St. John of Damascus, Treatise



March/April Events

March

20 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot-luck dinner

23 – 6:00pm Vespers

24 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
4:00pm 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
4:00pm Lenten Vespers

April

03 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot-luck dinner

06 – 6:00pm Vespers & General
Confession

07 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School

4:00pm Lenten Vespers

10 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot-luck dinner

11 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew

12 – 6:00pm Fun Night

13 – 6:00pm Vespers

14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School

4:00pm Lenten Vespers

Coffee Hour

Today: Stacy Clark Memorial

Next Week:

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Steve Murianka B – 3/22

Debbie Krimetz B – 3/22

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

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Epistle)

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 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. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 1:43-51 (Gospel)

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Children's Word

If you had a choice, would you choose to be a prince, or would you choose to be close to God? Would you choose to have lots of riches, or would you choose to do what God wanted from you?

Did you know that Moses had that choice? Do you remember how the Pharaoh's daughter found baby Moses in a basket, and she took care of him? If he had wanted to, Moses could have been a prince!

But the epistle reading today tells us, "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God." Moses was faithful to God, and he knew that God wanted his help. God wanted Moses to be close to Him, and God wanted Moses to help His people. The Bible tells us that Moses gave up being a prince so that he could be close to God.

Today, on this great Sunday of Orthodoxy, our Church reminds us to always choose to be close to God first. Lots and lots of saints gave up lots of things, just so they could be close to God, so they could do what God wanted them to do, and so they could have the reward that God wanted to give them—joy and peace and life with Him!

SAINT PATRICK: ENLIGHTENER TO IRELAND

Today, at the end of Liturgy, you will hear your priest read some special words. He says, "This is the Faith of the Apostles. This is the Faith of the Fathers. This is the Faith of the Orthodox. This is the Faith which has established the Universe."

But what is this faith, and why did so many saints risk their lives to tell people about it? Our faith is our love for God, and our faith is how we have learned to worship from Christians who came before us!

One of these Christians was Saint Patrick, a bishop of Ireland. He is a saint we remember today. When St. Patrick was little, he was not a Christian. He was born in about the year 373 in Britain. He wrote about his life, and he wrote that when he was 16 years old, he was kidnapped and brought to the island of Ireland. Well, he escaped, and he went back home to Britain. But when he got home, he somehow knew that God wanted him to be back in Ireland!

Sooner or later, he became a Christian, and he left for Ireland. He knew that he wanted to follow Saint Paul's example and tell the world about our Lord, Jesus Christ, and what He has done for us! Saint Patrick became a bishop and he worked his whole life to do just that. Today, let's celebrate the right way and thank Saint Patrick for his good work!

We celebrate St. Patrick today, Sunday, Mar. 17th

You Are a Living Breath of God

March 14, 2019 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Phillip James Bailey, an English poet of the late 19th century, once said: “Let each man think himself an act of God; his mind a thought; his life, a breath of God; and let each try, by great thoughts and good deeds to show the most of heaven he hath in him.”

One of the amazing revelations of the Orthodox Christian Faith is the high dignity humanity has in this wondrous creation. We humans, uniquely empowered by grace, to have an actual relationship with the Uncreated, are called to such a dignity BECAUSE of our origin – the Breath of God Himself!

Look at our lesson today in Genesis 2:4-19. We won't read the whole pericope, but I hope you take the time later!

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up — for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground — then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

This second recapitulation of the Creation of Humanity is Moses way of emphasizing the purpose of Genesis in the first place. Genesis is a story, a true story, of the creation of Humanity. It is only the creation of humanity that is repeated three times in the first three chapters of Genesis. It's done for emphasis so that we humans will grasp what we are made of, for, and by!

- We are made OF this creation. God took our flesh from His earth. We are made of the stuff of creation, not separate from creation. And this is because we were created to be the caretakers of creation. We were meant to feel deeply our connection to this earth and to our shared responsibility for this earth. And it is in learning our stewardship of this creation, our characters are shaped in such a way that we resemble our Creator. This is our home. Our willingness to care for our home and cherish, value, and be grateful for our home works a spiritual treasure within us!
- We are made FOR communion. God creates humanity in His Image. Moses sets the tone for the rest of Genesis by focusing primarily on the creation of Humanity. The rest of the creation story is relegated to footnote status or merely a place made so that Humanity can BE there. But make no mistake, Genesis is about Humanity! And this Humanity is uniquely gifted to be in communion with each other and our Creator. What feeds and fosters communion is good; what breaks and interrupts communion leads to death.
- We are made BY God Himself. Notice how God first forms our body from this creation, then God does something unique for His Humanity: He breathes into our nostrils “the breath of life.” This means that we humans are living breaths of God. This dignity of God sharing His breath with us sets us up for an amazing possibility – we can embrace our dignity and grow up into being “like” God or we can squander our potential and descend into death.

God provides for His Humanity and sets two trees in the Garden for His Humanity, but God asks His Humanity one labor before all others; to fast! Don't eat this. But His Humanity failed to fast in the Garden, so now we are called to do what our first parents failed to do; fast so that we will strengthen our hearts to choose wisely instead of consuming His creation without gratitude, honor, or a sense of responsibility for His creation.

Today, we are once again, lovingly and hopefully, offered another moment first offered to Adam and Eve. And once again, life hangs in the balance. Once again, we are offered the wisdom of being Orthodox on Purpose!