

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 31, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT: VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy Sunday School Lenten Vespers
Wed. 03	7:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy Pot-luck dinner
Fri. 05	6:00pm	Fun Night
Sat. 06	6:00pm	Vespers & General Confession
Sun. 07	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 1 (for the Cross)

*O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox
Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross,
preserve Thy habitation!*

Kontakion – Tone 7 (for the Cross)

*Now the flaming sword no longer
guards the gates of Eden;
it has been mysteriously quenched
by the wood of the Cross.
The sting of death and the victory of
hell have been vanquished;
for Thou, O my Savior, hast come
and cried to those in hell:
“Enter again into Paradise!”*

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 4:14-5:6
Mark 8:34-9:1

Monday

Isaiah 14:24-32
Genesis 8:21-9:7
Proverbs 11:19-12:6

Tuesday

Isaiah 25:1-9
Genesis 9:8-17
Proverbs 12:8-22

Wednesday

Isaiah 26:21-27:9
Genesis 9:18-10:1
Proverbs 12:23-13:9

Thursday

Isaiah 28:14-22
Genesis 10:32-11:9
Proverbs 13:19-14:6

Friday

Isaiah 29:13-23
Genesis 12:1-7
Proverbs 14:15-26

Saturday

Hebrews 6:9-12
Mark 7:31-37

Reading the Bible in a Year

Mar 31: 3 Kings 21-24
Apr 01: 3 Kings 25-29
Apr 02: 4 Kings 1-4
Apr 03: 4 Kings 5-8
Apr 04: 4 Kings 9-12
Apr 05: 4 Kings 13-16
Apr 06: 4 Kings 17-20

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, Rachel

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, Eugenia and the child to be born of her, Evgenia and the child to be born of her

Memory Eternal:
Taisia



All that you lose in the name of God, you keep. All that you keep for your own sake, you loose. All that you give in the name of God, you will receive with interest. All that you give for the sake of your own glory and pride, you throw into the water. All that you receive from people as from God will bring you joy. All that you receive from people as from people will bring you worries.

-St. Nicholas of Serbia



March/April Events

March

31 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
4:00pm *Lenten Vespers*

April

03 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot-luck dinner
05 – 6:00pm Fun Night
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
13 – 6:00pm Vespers
14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
4:00pm *Lenten Vespers*
17 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot-luck dinner
20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
6:00pm Vespers
21 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
4:00pm *Bridegroom Matins*

23 – Holy Tuesday
7:00pm Bridegroom Matins
24 – Holy Wednesday
7:00pm Holy Unction
25 – Holy Thursday
9:00am Vespers with Liturgy of
St. Basil
7:00pm Matins of Great and
Holy Friday
26 – Great and Holy Friday
3:00pm Vespers of Great and
Holy Friday
7:00 Matins of Great and Holy
Saturday
27 – Great and Holy Saturday
10:00am Vespers with Divine Liturgy
11:30pm Nocturne

Coffee Hour

Today: Ladies Society
Next Week: David Lane

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Kathryn Vrato B – 3/31
Eleni Demas B – 4/03

2019 Mission Vespers

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 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek";

Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Children's Word

Have you ever wondered why we wear crosses? Have you wondered why we make the sign of the cross when we pray? Do you know why, today, on the Sunday of the Holy Cross, we decorate a cross with flowers and see a procession around the whole church with it? We remember that our Lord, Jesus Christ was killed on the Cross. We remember that the people were angry at Him, and we remember how they shouted "Crucify Him!" when they wanted Him to be killed on the cross. That doesn't sound so great, so why do we make such a big deal about the cross in our Christian faith today?

When we think about the Cross, we think about what our Lord, Jesus Christ did for us. We think about how He gave up His life for us, so that we could live in heaven someday with Him. When we think about the Cross, we think about how it didn't stop there... our Lord came out of the tomb, and He rose from the dead!

So for us, the Cross wasn't a bad thing. It is the best thing ever because it gives us all life!

A WONDER-WORKING ICON: THE PANAGIA PORTAITISSA ICON

Do you have icons in your house? In your family's car? In your room? We use these icons to remember Christ and His saints. But God sometimes uses icons in other special ways too. Tomorrow we'll remember a very special icon called the Portaitissa Icon.

More than a thousand years ago, iconoclasts tried to destroy icons all over the Christian world. A Christian lady kept an icon in her house. Once, these icon-hating men came into her house and stabbed this icon with a spear. Blood poured out of it!

Then, of course, she knew it was a very special icon. With this miracle, God wanted to show how important icons are to our faith. The lady asked the soldiers to wait until the morning to take it. When they left, she put it in the sea, and it floated away. It floated to Mount Athos, a place in Greece that is filled with monasteries and churches.

This amazing icon has been at a monastery on Mount Athos ever since then. Today we celebrate this miracle that God worked through this special icon.

We celebrate this special icon today, Mar. 31st.

Time to Build an Altar

March 29, 2019 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

At the very heart of the timeless Christian faith is the Eucharist. And you've heard me say many times before that the word "Eucharist" has its root in the Greek word for "thank you." The very center of what it means to be a Christian isn't some cultural habit "I'm Christian because I was born in a Christian family." It isn't in some political allegiance like insisting we are a "Christian" nation. Nor is it the happy accident of your birth. While all of the above can and will give you a "head start" (for which you must be grateful), the key to being Christian is being grateful!

Look at Genesis 8:4-21. We'll just quote the passage below:

In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go forth from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring forth with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh – birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth – that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply upon the earth." So Noah went forth, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. And every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves upon the earth, went forth by families out of the ark.

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done."

Noah and his family and all on the ark had weathered the storm and the flood. They had obeyed God and the consequence of their obedience was their salvation, their lives. It was in "passing through" the waters of the flood that saved them. Their salvation was scary and terrible, as they were going through it, but now the flood waters have passed and the ark was on dry land.

But notice what happens when the flood ends. First God speaks. As always, God takes the initiative to lead, instruct, and guide His humanity. He tells Noah and his family to get out of the boat and get to multiplying on the earth. Just as God commanded Adam and Eve to "tend" the earth and be fruitful, so He commands Noah to do the same as He "reboots" His humanity.

The curious response of Noah is very instructive to us today. What does Noah do after hearing from God? He builds an altar! Noah's response to God's salvation, to God's instruction, to God's purpose for His humanity was to perform an act of gratitude. Noah's motivation in his relationship with God certainly was fearful as in a deep awe of God's presence, but fear isn't the primary motivator here. Noah's motivation in his relationship with God certainly included deep mystery and even confusion about why God did what He did, but confusion wasn't his primary motivator here. No, Noah was motivated by gratitude, so he does what Adam failed to do. He does what Cain failed to do. He does what all of humanity failed to do before the flood; he worships God in gratitude for God's salvation. And he does so with an offering that pleases the Lord so much that God reveals to Noah that He will never again destroy the earth with water.

But that's always the consequence of gratitude towards God: Deeper intimacy with God always leads to deeper knowledge and greater gratitude as well.

Today, what regular practices in your life displays your gratitude towards God? You do understand that God doesn't "need" your gratitude at all. No, the benefits of a life of gratitude toward God is always one sided – mine! As we learn the path of a grateful life, we watch as our hearts grow more accustomed to God's Presence and we know Him better. It's what results from being Orthodox on Purpose.