

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/>

May 12, 2018

3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA: HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN TONE 2

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	11:15am	Sunday School
	1:30pm	Blessing of the Graves (Oakland)
Wed. 16	7:00pm	Bible Study
Sat. 18	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 19	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	11:15am	Sunday School
	1:30pm	Blessing of the Graves (Lawnview)

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 2 *(from the Pentecostarion)*

*The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Thy most
pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed
it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But Thou didst arise on the third
day, O Lord,
granting the world great mercy.*

Kontakion – Tone 2 *(from the Pentecostarion)*

*Thou didst command the
Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ
God.
By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst
stop the lamentation of Eve, the
first
mother.
Thou didst command them to
preach to Thine Apostles:
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”*

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

Acts 6:1-7
Mark 15:43-16:8

Monday

Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60
John 4:46-54

Tuesday

Acts 8:5-17
John 6:27-33

Wednesday

Acts 8:18-25
John 6:35-39

Thursday

Acts 8:26-39
John 6:40-44

Friday

Acts 8:40-9:19
John 6:48-54

Saturday

Acts 9:20-31
John 15:17-16:2

Reading the Bible in a Year

May 12: Psalms 53-56
May 13: Psalms 57-60
May 14: Psalms 61-64
May 15: Psalms 65-68
May 16: Psalms 69-72
May 17: Psalms 73-76
May 18: Psalms 77-80

Special Prayers

Ill/Home-bound:

Virginia Rifkin, Ruth Rifkin, Virginia Daka, Emmelia Stone, Liam, Denise Gormley, 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, Louise,

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, Sophia and the child to be born of her, Evgenia and the child born of her, John,

Memory Eternal: *Newly Departed Linda*



“When anyone is disturbed or saddened under the pretext of a good and soul-profiting matter, and is angered against his neighbor, it is evident that this is not according to God: for everything that is of God is peaceful and useful and leads a man to humility and to judging himself.”

-St. Barsanuphius the Great



May

12 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Sunday School
1:30pm Blessing of the Graves
(Oakland)
15 – 7:00pm Bible Study
18 – 6:00pm Vespers
19 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Sunday School
1:30pm Blessing of the Graves
(Lawnview)

Coffee Hour

Today: Rubis Family

Next Week: Dellermann Family

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Katie Dellermann B – 5/13

May/June Events

22 – 7:00pm Bible Study
25 – 6:00pm Vespers
26 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Sunday School
1:30pm Blessing of the Graves
(Magnolia)
29 – 7:00pm Bible Study
31 – 6:00pm Fun Night

June

01 – 6:00pm Vespers & General
Confession
02 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Sunday School
1:30pm Blessing of the Graves
(Forrest Hills)
05 – 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy
(Ascension)

Cemetery Blessings

Due to a variety of factors, the blessing of the graves was pushed back one week. The following is the revised schedule of cemeteries:

05/12 – Oakland

05/19 – Lawnview

05/26 – Magnolia

06/02 – Forrest Hills

Other cemeteries will be visited by request

We are collecting donation items to go to Albania with Fr. Dennis Rhodes!

Our parish will take donations of all sizes and types of freshly laundered clothing for both boys and girls, sizes infant to teenagers, including dress clothes for church as well as casual everyday wear, socks and tights, shoes and sneakers, underwear, jackets, sweaters and sweatshirts. If the clothes cannot be used by the children at the orphanage he visits, they will be given to other needy children in the village.

Acts 6:1-7 (Epistle)

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Mark 15:43-16:8 (Gospel)

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Children's Word

Have you ever been afraid of something that was actually good for you? Maybe you were afraid of starting a new school? Or afraid of a shot at the doctor's office? Sometimes we might be scared of something that is really good for us, something that will help us.

Today we remember a group of women who felt that same way. After Jesus had died, some women came to His tomb so they could bring sweet smelling myrrh (like perfume) for the Lord's body. When they got to the tomb, they saw the tomb was open, and there was an angel there! The angel told the women, "He is risen. He is not here." The angel told them to tell the good news to Jesus's disciples. Christ had risen! Shouldn't the myrrh-bearing women be happy? Shouldn't they be excited to tell everybody? Well, the Gospel tells us, "They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." They were afraid of a good thing. They were afraid of something that was good for the whole world. They were afraid of something that would save the whole world!

Sometimes we might be scared of something. After a while, you might understand that the new school is good for you, or the shot at the doctor is good for you. Later on, these women began to understand the best news ever—Christ is risen!

SAINT GLYCERIA: A MARTYR OF THE ONE, TRUE GOD
In school, you have probably learned a little about the Greek myths. These stories about Zeus and Hercules and Poseidon and Athena (and many more) are all exciting stories. But sometimes we forget that people once really believed them!

Today, we remember a saint who lived in Greece during a time when most people believed in those many Greek gods. Saint Glyceria had learned about Jesus Christ and she decided to become a Christian. She knew that these Greek gods were all myths. She knew that there was really one, true God.

Once, the governor had a big festival, and everybody was supposed to sacrifice to the statues. Saint Glyceria was a Christian. She refused to worship something that wasn't God. She saw the statue of Zeus and turned it over! When the governor saw this, he ordered all kinds of tortures for her.

Finally, Saint Glyceria was sent to be attacked by wild animals. One of them bit her, and she died. Saint Glyceria knew the truth, and she died for it. And now, God has rewarded her with a place in Heaven!

We celebrate St. Glyceria on Sunday, May 13th

The Power of a Mother's Prayer

As someone who studies motherhood and theology and who has five children myself, fellow Orthodox mothers often ask me if I can point them to prayers for mothers for their children, since few of our prayer books include prayers on this subject. While I do have a few prayers I pass on, I also recommend that they read Saint John Chrysostom's thoughts on prayer and motherhood.

Saint John of the fourth century is a frequent source for reflection on family life in the twenty-first. His reverence for family rings clear across the centuries, and this is true especially in his appreciation for motherhood. Saint John elevated motherhood to something beyond the mundane, daily care of children and into the realm of spiritual significance. Directing his remarks at mothers, he said, "I mean, the children being born, provided they receive proper care and are brought up to virtue by your attention, prove a basis and occasion of complete salvation for you; and in addition to your own virtuous acts you will receive a great reward for your care of them" (Homily on Hannah, Old Testament Homilies by Robert Hill). Thus Chrysostom saw motherhood as a salvific opportunity, as a vocation that can lead to the heavenly reward.

Saint John was particularly moved by the vision of motherhood he saw in Hannah, the mother of Prophet Samuel in the Old Testament (1 Samuel 1-2). He admired the power of Hannah's spontaneous prayer when she visited the temple eager to have a child. He wrote of the intensity of the prayer she prayed in her quest for motherhood and in her later dedication of her child to the Lord.

In praising Hannah's spontaneous prayer, Saint John contrasted it with more typical, less mindful prayer: "I mean, while we all pray, we do not all do it before the Lord: when the body is lying on the ground and the mouth is babbling on, and the mind wandering through all parts of the house and the market place, how will such people be in a position to claim that they prayed before the Lord?" (Homily on Hannah, Old Testament Homilies by Robert Hill)

In short, Hannah provides the model for all types of prayer, not just a mother's prayer. Most prayer is half-hearted, barely present, whereas Hannah's prayer is fully present, felt in her body and her soul. Yet, Saint John also saw a special role for prayer by mothers. His specific instruction to mothers is that they should consecrate their children through prayer. As a mother and a theologian, I find this to be an important reminder of the importance of my prayers for my own children.

Though the Orthodox Church lacks many composed prayers for mothers, and though the addition of such prayers would be welcome, Hannah's tale shows that mothers have taken prayers for their children into their own hands for millennia—and that the Church has celebrated this initiative. This is why I point mothers to Saint John: he reminds us that our spontaneous prayers as mothers are powerful on their own. Whatever words we choose, it is our sacred responsibility as mothers to bless and consecrate our children by praying for them.

Carrie Frederick Frost, PhD is a lifelong Orthodox Christian of Belarusian descent and a scholar of Orthodox theology, with an eye for theological matters of family. She lives in Washington State with her husband and their five children.

<https://www.goarch.org/-/the-power-of-a-mother-s-prayer>

Happy Mother's Day

to all women in the nurturing roles of mothers, godmothers, grandmothers,
and aunts, whether it is through blood or adoption!

"A mother is clothed with strength and dignity, laughs without fear of the future. When she speaks her words are wise and she gives instructions with kindness." —Proverbs