

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!

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May 19, 2018

4TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC TONE 3

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|---------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Today | 10:00am | Divine Liturgy |
| | 11:15am | Sunday School |
| | 1:30pm | Blessing of the Graves (Oakland) |
| Wed. 22 | 7:00pm | Bible Study |
| Sat. 25 | 6:00pm | Vespers |
| Sun. 26 | 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 3 (Resurrection)

*Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with
His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the
dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of
hell,
and has granted to the world great
mercy.*

Kontakion – Tone 3 (from the Pentecostarion)

*By Thy divine intercession, O Lord,
as Thou didst raise up the Paralytic
of old,
so raise up my soul, paralyzed by
sins and thoughtless acts;
so that being saved I may sing to
Thee:
“Glory to Thy power, O
compassionate Christ!”*

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 9:32-42
John 5:1-15

Monday

Acts 10:1-16
John 6:56-69

Tuesday

Acts 10:21-33
John 7:1-13

Wednesday

Acts 14:6-18
John 7:14-30

Thursday

Acts 10:34-43
John 8:12-20

Friday

Acts 10:44-11:10
John 8:21-30

Saturday

Acts 12:1-11
John 8:31-42

Reading the Bible in a Year

May 19: Psalms 81-84
May 20: Psalms 85-88
May 21: Psalms 89-92
May 22: Psalms 93-96
May 23: Psalms 97-100
May 24: Psalms 101-104
May 25: Psalms 105-108

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, Ludmila

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 - St. Macarius the Great
and the child to be born of her, Sophia and the child to be born of her, John,

Memory Eternal: Newly Departed Linda, Flora and Simon

May

19 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Sunday School
1:30pm Blessing of the Graves
(Lawnview)
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

Coffee Hour

Today: Dellermann Family

Next Week: Ladies Society

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Elaina Desloges B – 5/22

Issak Rubis B – 5/22

May/June Events

June

01 – No Vespers
02 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Sunday School
05 – 7:00pm Vesperal Liturgy
(Ascension)
07 – 6:00pm Fun Night
08 – 6:00pm Vespers & General
Confession

09 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Sunday School
1:30pm Blessing of the Graves
(Forrest Hills)
12 – 7:00pm Bible Study
15 – 6:00pm Vespers
16 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:15am Sunday School
1:30pm Blessing of the Graves
(Oakland)
19 – 7:00pm Bible Study
22 – 6:00pm Vespers



**“Just as the blessings of
God are unutterably great,
so their acquisition
requires much hardship
and toil undertaken with
hope and faith.”**

- St. Macarius the Great



Cemetery Blessings

05/19 – Lawnview

05/25 – Fernwood

05/26 – Magnolia

06/09 – Forrest Hills

06/16 – Oakland

Other cemeteries will be visited by request

Vendors are wanted for a Flea Market!

There will be a flea market held in the church parking lot on Saturday, June 15. Tables/spaces can be rented for \$10 and reserved by calling Nick Desloges at 215 630-7325.

Acts 9:32-42 (Epistle)

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

John 5:1-15 (Gospel)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Children's Word

Do you ever make lists so you can remember to do something? Maybe you see your parents write lists—for groceries, for appointments, for bills, and so on. They do that so they will remember to do something important, right?

Well, today when we hear the Gospel, we can really try to remember to do something important too! Today we hear the gospel about the man who could not walk for 38 years. Sadly, he did not have anybody to help him be healed.

But one day, Jesus came, and He asked the man, "Do you want to be healed?" Then He told him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk!" And instantly the man could walk! Suddenly, after 38 years, he was completely healed. Lots of people were amazed, and they asked the man who had made him better. The man told everybody that it was Jesus Christ who had healed him.

Sometimes when we are sick, or when a friend or a relative is sick, we remember to ask God to help us. We ask God to make us—or our friend—better. But then, when we're all better, we forget to thank God!

Let's try to be like the man in the gospel today. When he could walk again, he didn't keep it all to himself. He remembered to tell others that it was Christ who healed him! Let's remember to thank God!

SAINT KALI THE PHILANTHROPIST

Do you have a nickname? Some people like their nicknames, and some people wish they'd never have to hear it again!

Lots of times, saints have something like a nickname too. It's called an epithet, and it's just a little description of him or her. You might have heard of Saint Basil the Great, or Saint or Saint Elizabeth the Grand Duchess.

This week we celebrate Saint Kali, a saint with the epithet, "The Philanthropist." A philanthropist means "a lover of mankind," and it means she helped people.

We don't know much about Saint Kali, but we do know she did help people! We don't know when she lived, and we don't know exactly where she lived. We still have a church service written about her, and this service tells us that she helped the poor. She let many people stay in her house, and she gave them food and clothing.

Even today, many people pray to Saint Kali so she can ask God for help. She especially helps with painful diseases, like arthritis.

Isn't "the Philanthropist" a wonderful nickname or epithet? That is exactly what our Lord, Jesus Christ wants each one of us to be! He wants each one of us to love our neighbor!

We celebrate Saint Kali on Wednesday, May 22nd.

Eat My Flesh; Drink My Blood

May 17, 2019 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Christ is risen!

“Stubborn, stubborn, I tell you.” I can still hear the words of my grandmother fussing about a relative who simply refused to hear “good sense” as she called it. “That boy is as stubborn as a mule!”

I confess, as I enter the latter half of my own life, I can look back and see some places where I was just plain stubborn. And my active refusal to hear “good sense” has a ripple effect through my own life to this very day.

The good news is, I don't have to remain stubborn. I can let go of my foolish pride and admit that I'm wrong, and in that release of my stubborn pride, I can be healed!

Look at our lesson today in John 6:48-54:

The Lord said to the Jews who believed in him: “I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

This passage hit me like a ton of bricks when I was making my way to the Orthodox Church. Oh, I had read it a thousand times before, but without the historical context needed to fully appreciate the radical message Jesus was communicating here. And it's a message that divides as well as heals.

It divides because we humans insist that our impressions and identity are without flaw and need nothing to correct them. We know who we are, and we stubbornly insist our opinions or insights into our own identity are flawless. And we are wrong! We don't know who we are UNLESS our identity is informed and shaped by the radical message of Jesus: “unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.” Simply put, without the intimate connection to Jesus Christ in His Flesh and Blood, you will always be confused about your own flesh and blood!

Notice how the Jews “disputed among themselves.” A classic symptom of misunderstanding is when you refuse to speak to the Person speaking hard truths to you, and you talk to others about what confuses you INSTEAD of speaking directly to Him! Of course we know why we do that, don't we? We do it to escape a confrontation that just may require us to change!

To be fair, the message IS pretty gruesome. Jesus says we have to “eat” His flesh, and “drink” His blood. Without some serious explaining, anyone would have trouble with this.

But at the heart of this challenging message is an invitation to intimate relationship. Jesus promises to share His Life with everyone who enters into His flesh and blood. Not in a cannibalistic sense. That misunderstanding is what got the earliest Christians accused of cannibalism by the pagan Roman government. But in the sense that we become so connected with Him that our “food” is His life in us. Our “drink” is His life in us. So the Bread becomes the Body of Christ at the Eucharist, and the Wine becomes the Blood of Christ at the Eucharist. How? By faith, that's how. By grace, that's how. Because of love! And Christ makes a glorious promise to everyone willing to risk this closeness to Him in His Flesh and Blood – He will “raise him up on the last day.”

Today, can you describe your relationship with Jesus as intimate? Why or why not? Are you recognizing Jesus in the Eucharist at liturgy, or is this just one more empty ritual done out of habit? The invitation stands today as fresh as when the Lord first said it. Think of your relationship with Jesus as the very food you eat and the very drink you drink so that you'll be Orthodox on Purpose.