

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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September 8, 2019

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY
THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

TONE 3

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
Wed. 11	7:00pm	Bible Study
Fri. 13	7:00pm	Vespers
Sat. 14	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
		<i>Exultation of the Cross</i>
	6:00pm	Vespers & General Confession
Sun. 15	10:00am	Divine Liturgy

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: Fasting Wednesday and Friday.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.)

Troparion – Tone 4
(Nativity of the Theotokos)

*Thy nativity, O Virgin,
has proclaimed joy to the whole
universe!
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our
God,
has shone from thee, O Theotokos.
By annulling the curse,
He bestowed a blessing.
By destroying death, He has granted
us eternal life.*

Kontakion – Tone 3
(Resurrection)

*On this day Thou didst rise from the
tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve
rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs
they unceasingly praise the divine
majesty of Thy power.*

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

1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Matthew 19:16-26
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Monday

2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 3:6-12

Tuesday

2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5
Mark 3:13-19

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 9:12-10:7
Mark 3:20-27

Thursday

2 Corinthians 10:7-18
Mark 3:28-35

Friday

2 Corinthians 11:5-21
Mark 4:1-9

Saturday

1 Corinthians 2:6-9
Matthew 22:15-22
1 Corinthians 11:8-24
John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

Reading the Bible in a Year

Sept 08: Wis Sir 13-16
Sept 09: Wis Sir 17-20
Sept 10: Wis Sir 21-24
Sept 11: Wis Sir 25-28
Sept 12: Wis Sir 29-32
Sept 13: Wis Sir 33-36
Sept 14: Wis Sir 37-40

Special Prayers

Ill/Home-bound:

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, John, John, Lev, Margarita, Ludmilla, Jake, Amanda, George, David, Thomas, Helen

General:

Michael, 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, John, Eugenia and the child to be born of her, Sophia and the child to be born of her, Catherine and the child to be born of her, the newly married servants of God Spencer and Rebecca

Memory Eternal: His Eminence, the newly departed Archbishop Nikon, Newly Departed Archpriest Steven Belonick, Newly Departed Archpriest Dimitrios Katerlis, Martha Murianka



"Our life depends on the kind of thoughts we nurture. If our thoughts are peaceful, calm, meek, and kind, then that is what our life is like. If our attention is turned to the circumstances in which we live, we are drawn into a whirlpool of thoughts and can have neither peace nor tranquility."

-Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica



September

08 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Nativity of the Theotokos
10 – 7:00pm Orthodoxy on Tap
11 – 7:00pm Bible Study
13 – 7:00pm Vespers
14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Exultation of the Cross
6:00pm Vespers & General Confession

September/October Events

15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
18 – 7:00pm Bible Study
21 – 6:00pm Vespers
22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
25 – 7:00pm Bible Study
26-28 Archdiocesan Assembly
28 – No Vespers
29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

October

02 – 7:00pm Bible Study
05 – 6:00pm Vespers & General Confession
06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
09 – 7:00pm Bible Study
11 – 6:00pm Fun Night
12 – 6:00pm Vespers
13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

Today: Martha Murianka Memorial

Next Week: Kris Kotori

NOTICE:

There will be a special general meeting after Liturgy today to discuss approval of funds to be used to repair and re-pave the parking lot.

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Ilia Rubis B – 09/01
David Lane B – 09/02
Connie Douris N – 09/07
Ryan Desloges B – 09/07
Sarah Kelly B – 09/08
Lucy Nesova B – 09/11

Philippians 2:5-11 (Epistle, Theotokos)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Gospel, Theotokos)

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Children's Word

Christ saved the world!

What does your family do when something is broken in your house? Let's say the sink is clogged or the refrigerator is broken. Your parents might try their best to fix it themselves. Then, if it's really broken, they might have to call a plumber or a repairman.

Today, in the Orthodox Church, is the Sunday before the feast of the Holy Cross. So, we hear about how and why our Lord, Jesus Christ, came into the world!

The Gospel today says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

Before our Lord came to earth, there were a lot of wrong things happening in the world. In a way, things were broken. Some people might have tried to fix things on their own. But when God saw that the world really needed Him to fix things, He sent His Son. He sent His Son to live and grow up from a baby. He sent His Son to teach and heal, and then even to die on a Cross. God wanted the world to be fixed. He wanted it to be saved! That is why Jesus came into the world. When we think of it, let's thank God for that!

ANOTHER NATIVITY: THE BIRTH OF THE THEOTOKOS

Do you celebrate your birthday? Does your family celebrate your birthday too? Your parents or grandparents are probably especially happy on your birthday, because they remember you as a little baby. They remember how you could grow up to be someone really special.

In our Church today, we celebrate a very special birthday. It is the day Mary, the Holy Theotokos, was born. Her parents knew that she would grow up to be someone really special, because her birth was really a miracle in the first place! Her parents, Saints Joachim and Anna, were very old, and they didn't think they could have any children. With the new little baby, Mary, they knew that she was special to God.

In our Church calendar, we celebrate a few birthdays. Can you think of another? Well, Christmas, of course! Mary knew that her son would be a special person too. We also remember the birthday of Saint John the Baptist too. His parents knew he would be special.

Birthdays are fun to celebrate, but we can also use them as a time to thank God for what He has given us. We can ask God to help us use our lives in the way He wants us to....just like baby Mary grew up and did what God wanted her to do!

We celebrate this great feastday today, September 8th.

Suffering CAN BE Perfect!

September 6, 2019 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

A recent article on the Christian view of marriage is titled "Marriage is a Lifetime of Suffering." You won't see that on any Hallmark card for wedding anniversaries anytime soon. And yet, the idea of salvific suffering is so foreign to us as to be actually offensive to many. But the Christian understanding of life and salvation can be summed up in this quote from Elder Sophrony of Sussex "...in this world there is nothing more difficult than to be saved."

Look at our lesson today in Hebrews 2:2-10:

BRETHREN, if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will. For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou carest for him? Thou didst make him for a little while lower than the angels, thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

St. Paul here tells us that Jesus Christ was made "perfect" THROUGH suffering (emphasis mine). Now, first, we have to deal with this word "perfect." It isn't that Jesus somehow lacked anything because He is God in the flesh so Paul isn't saying Jesus needed to be made better. No, the word "perfect" here means "complete" or finished work." The perfection comes in Him completing His task, His mission and He completed His mission THROUGH His suffering. And if we are going to complete our task, our mission to be made like Him it is going to be THROUGH suffering.

Ask any athlete who has won an Olympic Gold Medal. Ask any person who has achieved some great goal or reached the top of their field and they will tell you it has been through hard work, dedication, and effort. It has been won through suffering. Suffering the dismissal of other choices. Suffering the focused practice until your muscles ache and your face pours with sweat. Suffering hours of practice time, study, or exhaustive repetition until you get it "perfect." All achievement comes through suffering.

And yet, the Lord's suffering, just as our suffering, is temporary. But that which is won THROUGH suffering lasts forever. Look what St. Paul tells the Roman Christians about the hardships they were facing because of their faith: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18) This salvific suffering is THE Orthodox Way of salvation. So we fast, we pray, and we give alms all in a lifelong effort to press the salvation of our souls deep into our everyday lives. To grab suffering which the rest of the world mindlessly and vigorously attempts to avoid and escape, and we embrace it to us as a dear friend, knowing the endurance of suffering brings perfection, salvation.

Today, are you suffering? Know it isn't God's will to make you unhappy or to be in pain, but it is God's will, since we all face hardship and pain in our lives, to press you THROUGH this suffering moment to the spiritual health and perfect salvation on the other side of your suffering. We Orthodox on Purpose participate in the active choice of an ascetic Christian life precisely because we know "weeping endures for a moment, but joy comes in the morning!"

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/faithencouraged/2019/09/suffering-can-be-perfect/>