

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

fnicholas490@aol.com - <http://sspeterpaulphila.org/>

March 1, 2020

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

TONE 4

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Vespers
Mon. 02	7:00pm	Canon of St. Andrew
Tue. 03	7:00pm	Canon of St. Andrew
Wed. 04	7:00pm	Canon of St. Andrew
Thu. 05	7:00pm	Canon of St. Andrew
Sat. 07	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 08	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 4 (Resurrection)

*When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous
message of thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,
granting the world great mercy!”*

Kontakion – Tone 6 (from the Lenten Triodion)

*O Master, Teacher of wisdom,
Bestower of virtue,
Who teachest the thoughtless and
protectest the poor,
strengthen and enlighten my heart!
O Word of the Father,
let me not restrain my mouth from
crying to Thee:
Have mercy on me, a transgressor,
O merciful Lord!*

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

Romans 13:11-14:4
Matthew 6:14-21

Monday

Isaiah 1:1-20
Genesis 1:1-13
Proverbs 1:1-20

Tuesday

Isaiah 1:19-2:4
Genesis 1:14-23
Proverbs 1:20-33

Wednesday

Isaiah 2:3-11
Genesis 1:24-2:3
Proverbs 2:1-22

Thursday

Isaiah 2:11-21
Genesis 2:4-19
Proverbs 3:1-18

Friday

Isaiah 3:1-15
Genesis 2:20-3:20
Proverbs 3:19-34

Saturday

Hebrews 1:1-12
Mark 2:23-3:5

Reading the Bible in a Year

Mar 01: 1 Samuel 1-4
Mar 02: 1 Samuel 5-8
Mar 03: 1 Samuel 9-12
Mar 04: 1 Samuel 13-16
Mar 05: 1 Samuel 17-20
Mar 06: 1 Samuel 21-24
Mar 07: 1 Samuel 25-28

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, Donna, Fr. Gregory & Mat. Linda DuDash, child Luka, child Makayla, Rhonda, Ashley, John, Lev, Margarita, Ludmilla, Jake, Amanda, David, Thomas, Helen, Nahum, Alex, Olga, Maria, Elena, Natalia, Oleg, Heather, Oona, Edward, Valentina, Larry, the child Luke and his family

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, Polina, Bree and the child to be born of her, the newly-illuminated Reli

Memory Eternal: *Newly departed Elena*

March

01 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Forgiveness Vespers
02 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew
03 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew
04 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew
05 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew
07 – 6:00pm Vespers & General
Confession

08 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
4:00pm *Mission Vespers*
11 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot-luck dinner
13 – 6:00pm Fun Night
14 – 6:00pm Vespers
15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
4:00pm *Mission Vespers*

18 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot-luck dinner
21 – 6:00pm Vespers
22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
4:00pm *Mission Vespers*
25 – 7:00pm Vespers and Liturgy
Feast of Annunciation
Pot-luck dinner
28 – 6:00pm Vespers

PHILADELPHIA ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD

MISSION VESPERS SCHEDULE

GREAT LENT 2020

ALL SERVICES ARE SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 PM

Sunday of Orthodoxy 1 st Sunday (March 08)	Ss Peter and Paul, Wilmington 1406 Philadelphia Pike, 19809
Sunday of St. Gregory 2 nd Sunday (March 15)	Palamas St Mark Church, Wrightstown 452 Durham Rd, 18940
Sunday of the Cross 3 rd Sunday (March 22)	Holy Trinity Church, Pottstown 1236 Juniper St, 19464
Sunday of St. John Climacus 4 th Sunday (March 29)	St George Church, Upper Darby 8210 W. Chester Pike, 19082
Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt 5 th Sunday (April 05)	St John Chrysostom, Philadelphia 237 N 17th Street, 19103

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Coffee Hour

Today: Lenten Luncheon

Next Week: Donna Bacon

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“Christ prayed for those that crucified Him: ‘Father, count not this sin against them; they know not what they do.’ Archdeacon Stephen prayed for those who stoned him so that the Lord would not judge this sin against them. And so we, if we wish to retain grace, must pray for our enemies. If you do not find pity on a sinner who will suffer in flames, then you do not carry the grace of the Holy Spirit, but rather an evil spirit; and while you yet live, you must free yourself from his clutches through repentance.”

-St. Silouan the Athonite

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Romans 13:11-14:4 (Epistle)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Matthew 6:14-21 (Gospel)

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Children's Word

Treasures in heaven

Do you have a piggy bank? Do you have somewhere you keep your extra money, or where you try to save for something? You probably keep it in a safe place, because it is a little treasure for you, isn't it?

Today's Gospel reading gives us some special advice for living a good life as a Christian. We learn about what kind of treasure we should have, and what we should do with that treasure! The Bible says, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

What kind of treasures are these "treasures in heaven"? Well, these treasures are all the good things we do for others—like giving food and money to the poor, visiting the sick or the lonely, helping people who have nobody else to help them. These treasures are also our faith in God. We can make these treasures grow even bigger by coming closer to God with our prayers and with our reading the Bible and by receiving Holy Communion and Holy Confession. These treasures in heaven will grow and grow!

This is good advice for us Christians every day, but especially for tomorrow. Tomorrow we start Great Lent, a special time we can grow closer to our Lord!

SAINT CONON THE GARDENER

Have you ever had to do something very, very hard? Well, Saint Conon did. His whole life was hard, and his death was too.

Saint Conon was born and raised in Nazareth, in the same area where our Lord, Jesus Christ lived as a child. Later on, he lived in what is now Turkey. Saint Conon worked hard all his life as a simple gardener. He had a little garden with vegetables, which he sold to others and kept some for himself to live.

Once, Saint Conon was surprised that the governor wished to see him. He was surprised, because he was just a simple gardener, and Conon wondered what the mighty Governor Puplius wanted him for! Well, Governor Puplius just wanted to hurt Christians. Conon knew he had to look to his Lord, Jesus Christ for help. Conon told the governor that he was a Christian and that he would never back down.

Saint Conon never did back down, even though the governor sentenced him to lots of terrible punishments. He was even tied to the governor's chariot and made to run after it. Saint Conon had a hard life, but we know that God rewards us for our struggles. In the Bible, we read Christ's words, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." And surely God has given rest to this wonderful saint! We celebrate St. Conon on Thursday, March 5.

Pray For Your Enemies

February 27, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

So much conflict today is based on nothing more than finding out that someone agrees with someone else you disagree with! The friend of my enemy is my enemy. But what if all the conflicts in the world could be solved by admitting that the Source of all conflict FIRST starts within each of us?

What if outward conflict is merely a reflection of our inner conflict?

Just look at our Lesson today in Jude 1:11-25:

Beloved, woe to the ungodly, for they walk in the way of Cain, and abandon themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error, and perish in Korah's rebellion. These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they boldly carouse together, looking after themselves; waterless clouds, carried along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars for whom the nether gloom of darkness has been reserved for ever.

It was of these also that Enoch in the seventh generation from Adam prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with his holy myriads, to execute judgment on all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness which they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own passions, loud-mouthed boasters, flattering people to gain advantage.

But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; they said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who set up divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And convince some, who doubt; save some, by snatching them out of the fire; on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

St. Jude continues our education about the perennial war between the "ungodly" and themselves. Yes, you read that correct. There is no war against God. How foolish. God is no one's enemy, though there are many who are His enemy, at least in their own minds. Actually they war against themselves. That's the war that has been raging since the Garden of Eden. And God, Who did not start this fight, will end it!

Look at how Jude describes these foolish people:

- They walk in the way of Cain. This way is the way that led Cain to destruction. The path that only focuses on me rather than the humble willingness to follow timeless wisdom.
- They "abandon themselves" (isn't that a wonderful way to say that?) to Balaam's error. This is the error that led the prophet Balaam to accept money to prophesy against the People of God in the First Testament.
- They "perish in Korah's rebellion." Korah rebelled against Moses' authority in the First Testament along with 249 co-conspirators and was consumed by fire! St. Jude goes on to describe these people as "blemishes on your love feasts" (referring to the Eucharistic assembly), waterless clouds, fruitless trees, wild waves, and so on.

All to show that their rebellion against wisdom is empty and self destructive, but brings no lasting harm to God or His plan for humanity!

Jude reminds the believers that this was all foretold. Scoffers would be where ever the Faith was practiced. And the natural result of these scoffers would be division, empty lives, and undisciplined passions. And the only response to these scoffers isn't argument, but a focus on our own spiritual discipline through prayer and growing in our love for God. That is the only response that can ever hope to turn a scoffer away from his self destruction towards God's mercy!

Today, are you discouraged by the folks who make fun of people of faith? Or do you get angry when your faith is attacked? Don't. It doesn't help and only sinks you into the very mud that traps these misguided people. No, respond with tears of compassion and a redoubling of your focused discipline in the faith and you will show these people how to be Orthodox on purpose!

К Римлянам 13:11-14:4

Так [поступайте], зная время, что наступил уже час пробудиться нам от сна. Ибо ныне ближе к нам спасение, нежели когда мы уверовали. Ночь прошла, а день приблизился: итак отвергнем дела тьмы и облечемся в оружия света. Как днем, будем вести себя благочинно, не [предаваясь] ни пиروваниям и пьянству, ни сладострастию и распутству, ни ссорам и зависти; но оденьтесь в Господа нашего Иисуса Христа, и пощения о плоти не превращайте в похоти. Немошного в вере принимайте без споров о мнениях. Ибо иной уверен, [что можно] есть все, а немощный ест овощи. Кто ест, не унижай того, кто не ест; и кто не ест, не осуждай того, кто ест, потому что Бог принял его. Кто ты, осуждающий чужого раба? Перед своим Господом стоит он, или падает. И будет восставлен, ибо силен Бог восставить его.

От Матфея 6:14-21

Ибо если вы будете прощать людям согрешения их, то простит и вам Отец ваш Небесный, а если не будете прощать людям согрешения их, то и Отец ваш не простит вам согрешений ваших. Также, когда поститесь, не будьте унылы, как лицемеры, ибо они принимают на себя мрачные лица, чтобы показаться людям постящимися. Истинно говорю вам, что они уже получают награду свою. А ты, когда постишься, помажь голову твою и умой лице твое, чтобы явиться постящимся не пред людьми, но пред Отцом твоим, Который втайне; и Отец твой, видящий тайное, воздаст тебе явно. Не собирайте себе сокровищ на земле, где моль и ржа истребляют и где воры подкапывают и крадут, но собирайте себе сокровища на небе, где ни моль, ни ржа не истребляют и где воры не подкапывают и не крадут, ибо где сокровища ваши, там будет и сердце ваше.

Romakëve 13:11-14:4

Dhe këtë aq më shumë duhet të bëjmë, duke ditur kohën, sepse tanimë erdhi ora të zgjohemi nga gjumi, sepse shpëtimi ynë është më afër, se kur besuam. Nata u thye dhe dita u afrua; le të flakim, pra, veprat e errësirës dhe të veshim armët e dritës. Le të ecim me ndershmëri, si ditën, jo në orgji dhe në dehje, jo në imoralitet dhe sensualizëm, jo në grindje e në smirë. Por vishuni me Zotin Jezu Krisht dhe mos tregoni kujdes për mishin, që t'ia kënaqni lakmitë. Pranojeni atë që është i dobët në besim, pa e qortuar për mendimet. Dikush mendon se mund të hajë nga çdo gjë, ndërsa ai që është i dobët ha vetëm barishte. Ai që ha të mos e përbuzë atë që nuk ha, dhe ai që nuk ha të mos gjykojë atë që ha, sepse Perëndia e ka pranuar. Kush je ti që gjykon shërbyesin e tjetrit? A qëndron mbi këmbë ose rrëzohet, është punë e zotit të tij, por ai do të qëndrojë, sepse Perëndia është i zoti ta bëjë atë të qëndrojë në këmbë.

Mateu 6:14-21

Sepse në qoftë se ju ua falni njerëzve gabimet e tyre, Ati juaj qiellor do t'juaj falë edhe juve; por në qoftë se ju nuk ua falni njerëzve gabimet e tyre, as Ati juaj nuk do t'ua falë juve gabimet tuaja. Dhe kur të agjëroni, mos u tregoni të pikëlluar si hipokritët; sepse ata shfytyrohen për t'u treguar njerëzve se agjërojnë; në të vërtetë ju them se ata tashmë e kanë marrë shpërblimin e tyre. Kurse ti, kur të agjërosh, vajose kokën dhe laje fytyrën, me qëllim që të mos u tregosh njerëzve se ti agjëron, por Atit tënd në fshehtësi; dhe Ati yt, i cili shikon në fshehtësi, do ta japë shpërblimin publikisht. Mos mblidhni për vete thesare mbi tokë, ku i brejnë tenja dhe ndryshku, dhe ku vjedhësit shpërthejnë dhe vjedhin, përkundrazi mblidhni për vete thesare në qiell, ku as tenja as ndryshku nuk prishin dhe ku vjedhësit nuk shpërthejnë dhe nuk vjedhin. Sepse ku është thesari juaj do të jetë edhe zemra juaj.