

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/>

January 19, 2020

31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: VEN MACARIUS THE GREAT OF EGYPT TONE 6

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
Wed. 23	7:00pm	Bible Study
Sat. 25	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 26	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	3:00pm	<i>Blessing of the Waters at the Cooper River</i>

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 6 (Resurrection)

*The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being
tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin,
granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the
dead, glory to Thee.*

Kontakion – Tone 6 (Resurrection)

*When Christ God the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the
valleys of misery with His mighty
hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the
human race.
He is the Savior of all, the
Resurrection, the Life, and the God
of all.*

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 Timothy 1:15-17
Luke 18:35-43

Monday

James 2:14-26
Mark 9:42-10:1

Tuesday

James 3:1-10
Mark 10:2-12

Wednesday

James 3:11-4:6
Mark 10:11-16

Thursday

James 4:7-5:9
Mark 10:17-27

Friday

1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10
Mark 10:23-32

Saturday

1 Thessalonians 5:14-23
Luke 16:10-15

Reading the Bible in a Year

Jan 19: Exodus 21-24
Jan 20: Exodus 25-28
Jan 21: Exodus 29-32
Jan 22: Exodus 33-36
Jan 23: Exodus 37-40
Jan 24: Leviticus 1-4
Jan 25: Leviticus 5-8

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, 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, Sophia and the child to be born of her, Catherine and the child to be born of her,

Memory Eternal:



"Ever let mercy outweigh all else in you. Let our compassion be a mirror where we may see in ourselves that likeness and that true image which belong to the Divine nature and Divine essence. A heart hard and unmerciful will never be pure."

- St. Isaac of Syria



January

19 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
23 - 7:00pm Bible Study
25 - 6:00pm Vespers
26 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
3:00pm Blessing of the Waters
at Camden Boathouse
29 - 7:00pm Bible Study

January/February Events

February

01 - 6:00pm Vespers & General
Confession
02 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Meeting of Christ in
the Temple
Souper Bowl Sunday
05 - 7:00pm Bible Study
07 - 6:00pm Fun Night
08 - 6:00pm Vespers

09 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
Icon Pledge Sunday
12 - 7:00pm Bible Study
15 - 6:00pm Vespers
16 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
19 - 7:00pm Bible Study
22 - 6:00pm Vespers
23 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School
26 - 7:00pm Bible Study

Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Anthony Mogilevich B - 1/24
Dn. Gregory Vrato N - 1/25

Coffee Hour

Today: No Volunteer

Next Week: No Volunteer

House Blessings are coming up in 2020! Please sign up on the sheet upstairs or at the candle desk so that we can begin to organize and schedule House blessings. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number. Alternatively, you can call Fr. Nicholas at 860-861-7468 and he will take your information.

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (Epistle)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 18:35-43 (Gospel)

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

***The Pan-Orthodox Clergy
Brotherhood of Philadelphia is
holding the Great Blessing of
Waters at the Cooper river
next Sunday, January 26. The
event will be held at 7050
North Park Drive, Pennsauken
Township, NJ 08109 and will
begin at 3:00 PM. All are
invited to come and experience
this wonderful event.***

Children's Word

Be Truthful!

Has anybody ever told a lie to you? Have you ever been untruthful about something too?

In today's epistle reading, Saint Paul writes, "Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature and have put on the new nature." Saint Paul knew that "Do not lie" was one of the Ten Commandments. And in the epistle, he tells others who were new to Christianity not to lie too. When we read the epistle, we know that Saint Paul is telling us today not to lie too.

As Christians, we always want to try to be more like our Lord, Jesus Christ. We know that God is always truthful. Jesus even said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." God is Truth, because He is always truthful and honest. What we hear from Him is always right.

God gives us lots of instructions, and today we hear some of those instructions from His saint, the apostle Paul. Saint Paul reminds us that Christians must act differently from others! Even if everyone around you is acting one way, we always try to act like Christ. Even if everyone lies to you, you tell the truth, because that's one way we can be like God, the Truth!

THE NEW MARTYRS OF RUSSIA

Is it easy to be a Christian? Sometimes, people try to tell us that life is fun and easy if we just follow Christ. But when we read the lives of the saints, it sure doesn't seem that way! So many of them were poor and uncomfortable during their lives. So many of them were made fun of. So many of them were even killed just for being Christians.

On Saturday, we remember a big group of Christian saints. THEY did not have easy lives. These saints are the Orthodox Christians who died about a hundred years ago in Russia. Why? And how? They died simply because they were Christians! They were killed because the bad rulers did not believe in God, and so they didn't like Christians.

Imagine if you could ask these saints, "Is it easy to be a Christian?" What would they say? Maybe they would tell you that it was hard to be a Christian when the rulers hated them. But now they are with our Lord in heaven, and things are easy now. Life is easy for them now, without any pain or suffering. Which easy life do you think we should try for?

If you get to be a Christian in peace, thank God for that freedom! If you live in a country where life is hard as a Christian, pray to these special saints to give you strength! We celebrate these saints on Sat. Jan. 25th

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon

January 19, 2020

To the honorable Clergy, venerable Monastics, and pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, From ancient times, all who have believed in the One God have believed that He takes special care in the formation of each human being. As God Himself expressed to Jeremiah: *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you"* (Jeremiah 1:5).

In the moment of conception in the mother's womb, a human being comes into existence. Yet even before being conceived and formed, this human being is known by God. God exists outside of time, and already knows and loves each one of us personally, knowing what we will do and who we will become both in this life and in eternity. As Solomon proclaims, *"God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he created all things that they might exist"* (Wisdom of Solomon 1.13-14). God wants us to be alive, and certainly, this is why we must speak against abortion and its legalization in our country: it is in opposition to God's loving plan to bring a human being into the world to live.

For just as He consecrated Jeremiah a prophet so that he might speak God's word, God brings each human being into the world with a unique purpose of speaking a unique word to the world, to reveal something to the world that will bring it closer to Him. Our lives are intended to be a period of sanctification, each one of us helping in the salvation and sanctification of our neighbor, and in this way being sanctified ourselves. Whatever occupations we have, together with the universal human callings to be loving children, siblings, parents or friends, can thus be holy and life-giving. For the purpose of all of our lives' activities is ultimately to become sanctified images of God by imitating God in caring for others. Because of this, we must give every human being the opportunity to live their life and work toward sanctification, just as we have been given that opportunity.

And what does this work of sanctification look like? Keeping in mind that David instructs us to *"turn away from evil, and do good"* (Psalm 33:15), we must begin to sanctify ourselves and the world by preaching the truth about evil, just as Jeremiah did. Above all, we reject Cain's first sin of murder, in all of its loathsome forms: murder against the unborn, murder through violence, murder by starvation or deprivation, and murder of the ill and elderly. We also reject greed, lust, and selfishness, and we reject harming others, being dismissive of others, and hating others. We then *"do good"* by being imitators of God in caring for one another, by speaking the truth in love, and by emptying ourselves for the sake of others. Remembering that *"this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life"* (John 6:40), we couple our efforts of care for humanity with a call to the world to believe in the Son of God, Jesus the Savior of the human race, who was *"given as a ransom for all,"* because His Father *"desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:6, 4).

Yet we know that despite our efforts to do good, each of us falls at times and does evil. But with incredible compassion, our God who knew us before we were formed in our mother's womb still loves and respects us. He still loves each and every human being, despite our faults and mistakes, even those who have made terrible mistakes and have worked evil.

Thus, if we recognize that our purpose in this life is to become images of God, we must also forgive, help, pray for, and love all those who have committed wrong. In imitation of our loving God, whose mercy is immeasurable, we too must love those who have been involved in the evil of abortion, showing mercy and compassion to the poor, desperate, and confused parents who have committed abortions, and praying fervently for the repentance of abortion doctors and advocates everywhere. We must love them and forgive them their sins, knowing that God loves all of humanity and is willing to forgive all sins.

At the same time, we cannot allow any excuse for abortion. We firmly believe that a new person comes into being in the moment of conception, and because of this, we must ever strive to prevent abortions from happening, making sure our local communities know of the many Christian-supported pregnancy crisis services available to unprepared and confused young parents. In turn, our churches must ever be willing to love and help such parents and their unborn children.

Thus, this year, as we mark the sorrowful 47th anniversary of the legalization of abortion, we remember to hate the sin of abortion, and to make ever effort we can to stop it from happening, while loving the misguided and confused ones who have been involved in abortions, knowing that God is willing to forgive all transgressions. In this way, we fulfill the purpose that God has given us in this life to become His images and presence in the world, while helping others – unborn and born alike – to have that same opportunity to come to *"the knowledge of the truth"* and fulfill their own lives' God-intended purposes. For this *"truth,"* as we all should be reminded of again and again, is that:

For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." - John 3:16-17

With love in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada