

Ss. 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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December 4, 2022

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: GREATMARTYR BARBARA AND MARTYR JULIANA, AT HELIOPOLIS IN SYRIA, VEN. JOHN OF DAMASCUS, GLORIFICATION OF NEW HIEROMARTYR PROTOPRESBYTER ALEXANDER HOTOVITZKY, MISSIONARY IN AMERICA

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Penny Party
Wed. 07 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
Sun. 11 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: Every day for the Nativity Fast

Troparion – Tone 8 (Resurrection)

*Thou didst descend from on high, O
Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day
burial to free us from our sufferings!
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection,
glory to Thee!*

Kontakion – Tone 4 (St. Barbara)

*Singing the praises of the Trinity,
thou didst follow God by enduring
suffering;
thou didst renounce the multitude
of idols,
O holy martyr Barbara.
In thy struggles, thou wast not
frightened by the threats of thy
torturers,
but cried out in a loud voice:
“I worship the Trinity in one
Godhead.”*

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

Hebrews 13:7-16
Luke 12:32-40
Ephesians 4:1-6
Luke 17:12-19

Monday

Galatians 5:22-6:2
Matthew 11:27-30
1 Timothy 1:1-7
Luke 20:27-44

Tuesday

Hebrews 13:17-21
Luke 6:17-23
1 Timothy 1:8-14
Luke 21:12-19

Wednesday

1 Timothy 1:18-20, 2:8-15
Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24

Thursday

1 Timothy 3:1-13
Luke 21:28-33

Friday

Galatians 4:22-31
Luke 8:16-21
1 Timothy 4:4-8, 16
Luke 21:37-22:8

Saturday

Galatians 3:8-12
Luke 13:18-29

Reading the Bible in a Year

Dec 04: Ephesians 1-3
Dec 05: Ephesians 4-6
Dec 06: Philippians
Dec 07: Colossians
Dec 08: 1 Thessalonians
Dec 09: 2 Thessalonians
Dec 10: 1 Timothy 1-3

Flower Donation

This week's flowers were
donated by:
Tina Murianka

Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is
provided by:
Ladies' Society



"Be attentive to your heart and watch your enemies, for they are cunning in their malice. In your heart be persuaded of this: it is impossible for a man to achieve good through evil means. That is why our Savior told us to be watchful, saying: 'Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there are that find it' (Mt. 7:14)."

-St. Isaiah the Solitary



Children's Word

Open for business!

Have you ever wanted to go somewhere, but when you got there, you found it was closed? What a disappointment!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear the story of a woman who had been crippled for 18 years. She couldn't straighten up her back for 18 whole years! Well, the Bible tells us about the many, many people whom our Lord, Jesus Christ healed. Usually, the sick people cry out for Jesus. "Have mercy on me!" they might say. But in this story, we read that our Lord called out to her instead. He wanted to heal her, to make her better, so He did!

Lots of people were angry at Jesus then. He had broken a rule—He had done work on the Sabbath day, and you were supposed to keep that day holy. You were supposed to rest on that day. They told the people to stay away if they wanted to be healed. They said, "There are six days on which work should be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Really, they wanted to put up a "CLOSED" sign. They wanted to keep the people away.

Our Lord is always ready to call out to us, to help us. He never puts up a "CLOSED" sign. We can pray to God anytime—in the middle of the night, in the day, at school, at a party, when we're alone or with a bunch of people. When we want the Lord to listen to us, pray to Him, and He will be open for business!

THE POPULAR SAINT SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

Who doesn't love Saint Nicholas? This wonderful saint is the patron saint for many countries (including Greece and Russia), for cities, for travelers, and for fishermen and sailors. So many children are named after him, especially in Orthodox countries. How did he get to be so popular? Why do people love him so much?

The funny thing about Saint Nicholas is that we don't know too much about his life. He was a bishop, and he went to the first great meeting (the first Ecumenical Council) of the Christian Church. But still, we don't have anything today he might have written or said.

Most of us do know the story of the three poor young girls. Saint Nicholas helped them by giving them money so they could get married and have happy, safe lives. Saint Nicholas had compassion on these children, and he asked God to help them. Even today, Saint Nicholas is a special saint for children. Your parents might pray to him for you, and you can pray to him too!

One prayer to Saint Nicholas says, "You were shown to be a feeder of the hungry, a great pilot for those on the seas, and a healer of the sick. You have proved to be a helper of all that cry to God, Alleluia." Saint Nicholas listens to all of us who pray to him! We celebrate St. Nicholas on Tuesday, Dec. 6th.

DECEMBER EVENTS

December

04 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

07 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

11 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Education Sunday

14 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

16 – 6:00pm Fun Night

18 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

21 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

24 – 7:00pm Compline & Matins

25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**FEAST OF THE NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD**

31 – 6:00pm Vespers & Potluck

January

01 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

05 – 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy &
Blessing of the Waters

FEAST OF THEOPHANY

Ephesians 4:1-6

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Hebrews 13:7-16

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, You have a purpose for my life, and that purpose is to be formed as a fit habitation for You through eternity. You desire me to be so like You that I become Your eternal companion in the "fire" of Your Undimmed Presence forever! Your purpose for me is both thrilling and terrifying! And yet, You call me to this purpose and then provide me with everything I'll need to achieve it! Thank You, Gracious Lord, for Your purpose and Your love. Amen!

Luke 17:12-19

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Luke 12:32-40

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

St. Andrew – The First Called

November 30, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

I've been saying "Orthodox on Purpose" for so long that sometimes I wonder if I've grown deaf to the wisdom behind the words. After all, the danger for any minister is to keep all the words of his purpose and forget the meaning behind them. Terrifying!

But I've discovered that most of us struggle to know just what our true purpose is supposed to be! Every time I begin to forget, I try to remember the quote from Pablo Picasso: "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

There is a Path to knowing your Purpose. And the Gospel tells us all about it.

Look at our lesson today in Matthew 4:18-23:

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Our Gospel lesson displays the familiar story of the Lord calling His first disciples. These simple men, fishermen, blue-collar workers if you will, were doing all they knew to do: They were fishermen so they fished for a living. The Lord comes to them where they are and He reveals to them their true purpose – to catch people instead of fish. In other words, the Lord invites them to be truly living rather than merely surviving! And today is the day we commemorate St. Andrew the First-Called!

Of course, this is what the Lord wants for all of us. And this passage reveals the path to discovering our purpose!

First, Be Active. Notice the Lord doesn't stop by the kafenion while the boys are having a coffee and discussing politics. No, the Lord goes to those who are already working. And it's because the delusion of sloth blinds us to God's presence. Don't know what you're supposed to do? Don't know your purpose yet? That's OK. But don't just sit there – get involved and get active in doing good. It may not be what you do forever, but at least you won't be blinded by laziness when the Lord comes by to reveal your true purpose!

Next, Be Attentive. Pay attention to your life. What do you love? Where is your passion? I was having lunch recently with a friend and we were discussing this very idea. He said, "I know I'm good at this particular job, but I don't want to do that anymore." He had lost his passion for a particular skill. But he did have a passion for other ministries and skills he possessed. It was his attentiveness to his own life AND his attentiveness to the precious voice of the Spirit that was leading him to discover his true purpose. Peter, James, and John were good fishermen, but that wasn't what they were meant to be forever! The best way to learn attentiveness is through prayer. You'll never recognize God's Voice until you spend the time to get to know God's Voice.

Finally, Acquiesce. Say "yes" when the Activity and the Attentiveness reveal your true purpose. Notice that the three fishermen "immediately" left their nets, their mere survival, to follow the Lord. When someone is active in doing good; when someone is attentive to the life of prayer and the disciplines of the Faith, that person is primed to hear the Lord's direction. And when That Voice comes to that person, their hearts are already eager to say "yes." "Here I am, Lord, send me!" A heart that knows how to obey knows its true purpose.

Today, what is your purpose? Are you truly living or merely surviving? Waiting patiently for you is all the wisdom you will ever need to spend your life being who you really are. And, as we travel this path to purpose, we not only discover ourselves but we light the path for others as well. When we are Orthodox on Purpose we show all around us that they can be too!

К Ефессянам 4:1-6

Итак я, узник в Господе, умоляю вас поступать достойно звания, в которое вы призваны, со всяким смиренномудрием и кротостью и долготерпением, снисходя друг ко другу любовью, стараясь сохранять единство духа в союзе мира. Одно тело и один дух, как вы и призваны к одной надежде вашего звания; один Господь, одна вера, одно крещение, один Бог и Отец всех, Который над всеми, и через всех, и во всех нас.

К Евреям 13:7-16

Поминайте наставников ваших, которые проповедывали вам слово Божие, и, взирая на кончину их жизни, подражайте вере их. Иисус Христос вчера и сегодня и во веки Тот же. Учениями различными и чуждыми не увлекайтесь; ибо хорошо благодатью укреплять сердца, а не яствами, от которых не получили пользы занимающиеся ими. Мы имеем жертвенник, от которого не имеют права питаться служащие скинии. Так как тела животных, которых кровь для [очищения] греха вносится первосвященником во святилище, сжигаются вне стана, – то и Иисус, дабы освятить людей Кровию Своею, пострадал вне врат.

От Луки 17:12-19

И когда входил Он в одно селение, встретили Его десять человек прокаженных, которые остановились вдали и громким голосом говорили: Иисус Наставник! помилуй нас. Увидев [их], Он сказал им: пойдите, покажитесь священникам. И когда они шли, очистились. Один же из них, видя, что исцелен, возвратился, громким голосом прославляя Бога, и пал ниц к ногам Его, благодаря Его; и это был Самарянин. Тогда Иисус сказал: не десять ли очистились? где же девять? как они не возвратились воздать славу Богу, кроме сего иноплеменника? И сказал ему: встань, иди; вера твоя спасла тебя.

От Луки 12:32-40

Не бойся, малое стадо! ибо Отец ваш благоволил дать вам Царство. Продавайте имущества ваши и давайте милостыню. Приготовляйте себе влагалища не ветшающие, сокровище неоскудевающее на небесах, куда вор не приближается и где моль не съедает, ибо где сокровище ваше, там и сердце ваше будет. Да будут чресла ваши препоясаны и светильники горящи. И вы будьте подобны людям, ожидающим возвращения господина своего с брака, дабы, когда придёт и постучит, тотчас отворить ему. Блаженны рабы те, которых господин, придя, найдёт бодрствующими; истинно говорю вам, он препояшется и посадит их, и, подходя, станет служить им. И если придет во вторую стражу, и в третью стражу придет, и найдет их так, то блаженны рабы те. Вы знаете, что если бы ведал хозяин дома, в который час придет вор, то бодрствовал бы и не допустил бы подкопать дом свой. Будьте же и вы готовы, ибо, в который час не думаете, придет Сын Человеческий.

Efesianeve 4:1-6

Ju lutem pra juve unë i burgosuri në Zotin, të ecni denjësisht në thirrjen që u thirrët, me çdo përlësi e butësi, me zemërgjerësi, duke duruar njëri-tjetrin me dashuri, duke u kujdesur të ruani bashkimin e Frymës me anë të lidhjes së paqes. Një trup e një Frymë ka, sikurse edhe u thirrët me një shpresë të thirrjes suaj; një Zot, një besim, një pagëzim, një Perëndi dhe Atë të të gjithëve, i cili është përmbi të gjithë, edhe me anë të të gjithëve, edhe në të gjithë ju.

Hebrenjve 13:7-16

Kujtoni ata që ju drejtojnë, të cilët ju folën juve fjalën e Perëndisë; besimin e tyre ta keni për shembull, duke pasur përpara syve frytin e sjelljeve të tyre. Krishti është po ai dje dhe sot dhe në jetë të jetëve. Mos u rrëmbeni prej mësimesh të ndryshme e të huaja; sepse është mirë të forcohet zemra juaj me hir, jo me të ngrëna, ndër të cilat ata që ecën nuk panë dobi. Kemi një therore, prej së cilës ata që shërbejnë në tendë s'kanë pushtet të hanë. Sepse trupat e atyre kafshëve, gjaku i të cilave sillet brenda në shenjtërore prej kryepriiftit për mëkat, digjen jashtë vendfushimit. Prandaj edhe Jisui, që të shenjtërojë popullin me anë të gjakut të tij, pësoi jashtë portës. Le të dalim pra tek ai jashtë vendfushimit, duke mbajtur poshtërimin e tij. Sepse nuk kemi këtu qytet që mbetet përherë, po kërkojmë atë që ka për të ardhur. Me anë të atij pra le të sjellim gjithnjë tek Perëndia theror lavdie, domethënë fryt buzësh që rrëfejnë emrin e tij. Edhe mos harroni të bëni mirë e të ndani gjithçka me të tjerët, sepse therore të tilla pëlqen Perëndia.

Llukait 17:12-19

Edhe kur po hynte në një fshat, e takuan atë dhjetë burra lebrozë, të cilët qëndruan nga larg. Edhe ata ngritën zërin, duke thënë: Jisu, mjeshtër, përdëllena. Edhe kur i pa, u tha atyre: Shkoni e rrëfeni veten tuaj tek priiftërinjtë. Edhe ata duke shkuar u pastruan. Edhe një nga ata, kur pa se u shërua, u kthye duke lavdëruar Perëndinë me zë të madh, edhe ra përmbys në këmbët e tij, dhe e falënderoi; edhe ai ishte samaritan. Edhe Jisui u përgjigj e tha: A nuk u pastruan që të dhjetë? Po nëntë ku janë? Si nuk u gjetën të tjerë të kthehen që t'i japin lavdi Perëndisë, veç këtij të huaji? Edhe i tha: Ngrihu, e shko; besimi yt të shpëtoi.

Llukait 12:32-40

Mos ki frikë, o grigjë e vogël; sepse Atit tuaj i pëlqeu t'ju japë juve mbretërinë. Shitni pasuritë tuaja, edhe jepni lëmoshë. Bëni për veten tuaj kuleta që nuk vjetërohen, thesar në qiejt që nuk shterret, atje ku vjedhësi nuk afrohet, as krimbi nuk prish. Sepse ku është thesari juaj, atje do të jetë edhe zemra juaj. Le të jenë meset tuaj ngjeshur, edhe kandilet ndezur. Edhe ju jini gati si njerëz që presin të zotin e tyre, kur do të kthehet nga dasma, që, kur të vijë e të trokasë, menjëherë t'ia hapin derën. Lum ata shërbëtorë, të cilët, kur të vijë i zoti, do t'i gjejë zgjuar. Vërtet po ju them juve, se do të ngjeshë brezin e do t'i vërë të rrinë në tryezë, dhe do të vijë pranë e do t'u shërbejë atyre. Edhe në ardhhtë në rojen e dytë, edhe në të tretën roje në ardhhtë, edhe t'i gjejë kështu, të lumur janë ata shërbëtorë. Edhe këtë e dini, se, po ta dinte i zoti i shtëpisë në ç'orë vjen vjedhësi, do të rrinte zgjuar, edhe nuk do të linte t'i shpohej shtëpia. Edhe ju pra bëhuni gati; sepse i Biri i njeriut vjen në atë orë që nuk e mendoni.