

# 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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December 6, 2020

25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST : MARTYR PARAMON AND 370  
MARTYRS IN BITHYNIA  
TONE 8

Today ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. 09 ..... 7:15pm Bible Study via Google  
Sun. 13 ..... 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:** Strict fast all week (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.) Fish, wine and oil are allowed Sunday and Saturday. Wine and oil are also allowed on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

**Troparion – Tone 4**  
**(St. Nicholas)**

*In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; thy humility exalted thee; and thy poverty enriched thee. O Hierarch Father Nicholas, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved!*

**Kontakion – Tone 1**  
**(Resurrection)**

*As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"*

**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 13:17-21

Luke 6:17-23

Ephesians 5:9-19

Luke 17:12-19

### Monday

1 Timothy 5:1-10

Luke 20:27-44

### Tuesday

1 Timothy 5:11-21

Luke 21:12-19

### Wednesday

Galatians 4:22-31

Luke 8:16-21

1 Timothy 5:22-6:11

Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24

### Thursday

1 Timothy 6:17-21

Luke 21:28-33

### Friday

2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18

Luke 21:37-22:8

### Saturday

Galatians 5:22-6:2

Luke 13:18-29

## Reading the Bible in a Year

Dec 06: Philippians

Dec 07: Colossians

Dec 08: 1 Thessalonians

Dec 09: 2 Thessalonians

Dec 10: 1 Timothy 1-3

Dec 11: 1 Timothy 4-6

Dec 12: 2 Timothy

***We are beginning to prepare the 2020 community Christmas card. To be included, please see Jim Schaeffer or send a donation of \$10 or more designated "Christmas Card" to the church.***



***"Merely to hear the word of God saves no one and is instead a condemnation. After hearing, one must do."***

*- Blessed Theophylact*



**Health of the Parish**



\$15,000.00

\$10,000.00

\$5,000.00

**We have recently put out a call for aid to cover the shortfall in our budget caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. At our Annual Parish Meeting, we put approved \$15,000 income under Parish Health in order to compensate for lost regular income during our time of reduced capacity. We will be tracking our progress here in the bulletin.**

Last year we began a beautiful tradition of adorning our parish Christmas tree with personally inscribed glass teardrop ornaments that parishioners purchased in memory of their loved ones. This was a successful fundraiser for the church, but more importantly, it transformed our parish Christmas tree into a blessed memorial for our beloved families and friends, priests and bishops, and fellow parishioners who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

We would like to keep this tradition going. Ornaments may be brought back to the church on Sundays for Liturgy, or you can contact Fr. Nicholas for pick-up or drop-off during the week.

**December Events**

**December**

- 02 – 7:15pm Bible Study
- 06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 09 – 7:15pm Bible Study
- 13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 16 – 7:15pm Bible Study
- 20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 24 – 7:00pm Compline & Matins
- 25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- Nativity of our Lord*
- 27 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

## Children's Word

### **Ephesians 5:9-19 (Epistle)**

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

### **Luke 17:12-19 (Gospel)**

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."

### **God equips us!**

Have you ever packed for a trip? Maybe you've packed for a camping trip, even if it was just to camp out in your own backyard. When you pack, you have to think about what you need, and what you'll use that equipment for.

In the epistle reading today, we hear about how God equips us too. He gives us what we need for life! The epistle says, "Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good, that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ." We ask God to equip us. We ask Him to give us everything good.

But...did you read the rest of the sentence? We ask God to give us these good things so that we may do God's will. We want God to give us good things so God can work in us. We want God to give us everything good so we can do what is pleasing to God.

We ask our parents for all kinds of things. And, when we pray, we ask God for all kinds of things too. But, let's remember that we ask for good things so that we can do what God wants. We use our equipment, "everything good" so God can work in us. We want to do what is pleasing to God!

### **SAINT NICHOLAS LISTENS TO OUR PRAYERS!**

Do you remember people who do nice things for you? Yes, of course we do! Even if a stranger does something for us, we remember it. And if a friend does something for us, we remember it too. Everybody remembers Saint Nicholas, because Saint Nicholas has helped so many people. He helped people when he lived over 1,700 years ago, and he still helps people today! He even listens to our prayers too. Not so long ago, there was a big icon of Saint Nicholas in a train station in China. People would pray to Saint Nicholas as they passed by. (A train station is a good place for a Saint Nicholas icon, because Saint Nicholas especially helps travelers).

Once, many people saw a man, soaked in rain water, run straight to the icon. He was thanking Saint Nicholas for saving him!

The man told the people that he had gotten caught on the ice. The ice was cracking, and he was stuck, about to go under! He prayed, "Old man at the train station, save me!" The next thing he knew, he was on the shore, safe. He knew Saint Nicholas had saved him, and he ran all the way to the train station. He thanked Saint Nicholas, "the old man at the train station."

Saint Nicholas has helped so many people from so many places for so many years. Remember Saint Nicholas! He listens to us. Then, let's thank him too!

We celebrate St. Nicholas today, December 6th .

# Allow The Faith To Confront Your Everyday Life!

December 2, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Recently a famous Evangelical pastor came out and stated that he is discovering that the history of the Church was plain that the Eucharist was the center of the Church's life and not merely a sermon. I remember when I learned that the sermon wasn't the normal center of Christian worship, it opened the floodgates of information about how normal Christianity was practiced for centuries AND the implications of this information for my own formation as a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ.

The greatest implication was that my Faith was meant to be practices; not merely thought about!

Look at our lesson today in Luke 20:1-8:

*At that time, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up and said to Him, "Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority." He answered them, "I also will ask you a question; now tell me, was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?" And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us; for they are convinced that John was a prophet." So they answered that they did not know whence it was. And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."*

It seems that most people always start with "Who gives you the right to do that/say that?" or "You can't judge me!" This seemingly automatic response by most of us, even if we don't say it out loud is both a positive and a negative. It's positive because it is usually a smart thing to "test the spirits."

Finding out what's behind directions and commands is a key element in growing up and developing discernment. My teenage daughter is in that stage of life where she challenges me with "I don't understand why you have these rules for me." And it would be easy to react with anger and say "Because I said so" but that rarely works out well. Instead, I take the educational opportunity to try and explain my reasons for the disciplines I ask of her. Sometimes, it even works!

It is also potentially a negative when that attitude reveals an unwillingness to be led or trained. That negative internal pridefulness always leads to a perpetual immaturity and, worse yet, actual disaster in one's life when you refuse to hear correction or wisdom.

Our Lord Jesus confronts that negative aspect here and it shows just how far these Jewish religious leaders had drifted to a normal and healthy relationship with the ancient Faith. And the Lord uses the Baptism of John to expose this deep poverty in these leaders. They judge their answer to the Lord's confrontation based on their own well being: One answer leads them to have to confront their own disobedience and the second possibility leads them to have to deal with the disapproval of the people. they're caught, but they are too prideful to admit they are caught so they resort to false ignorance.

But that false ignorance never works. It leaves us stuck in our own arrogant pride. We actually do know what we should do, especially after we are confronted with the wisdom of the Faith. Now, all that is left is the humble repentance that leads us to the freedom of "slavery" to following Christ!

Being confronted with wisdom, with the timeless vision of "normal" Christianity will give you moments of choice: Will I see the wisdom in this consistent message of Faith? Will I be curious enough to seek out WHY this wisdom has been so consistent and transformative for so many? Or will I insist that my own understanding is superior or unassailable by this consistent wisdom and pretend to be either superior to it or "ignorant" of it? That choice will define your freedom or your slavery to delusion.

## **К Ефесеянам 5:9-19**

потому что плод Духа состоит во всякой благодати, праведности и истине. Испытывайте, что благоугодно Богу, и не участвуйте в бесплодных делах тьмы, но и обличайте. Ибо о том, что они делают тайно, стыдно и говорить. Все же обнаруживаемое делается явным от света, ибо все, делающееся явным, свет есть. Посему сказано: 'встань, спящий, и воскресни из мертвых, и осветит тебя Христос'. Итак, смотрите, поступайте осторожно, не как неразумные, но как мудрые, дорожа временем, потому что дни лукавы. Итак, не будьте нерассудительны, но познавайте, что есть воля Божия. И не упивайтесь вином, от которого бывает распутство; но исполняйтесь Духом, назидая самих себя псалмами и славословиями и песнопениями духовными, поя и воспевая в сердцах ваших Господу,

## **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.

## **Efesianëve 5:9-19**

sepse fryti i Frymës konsiston në gjithçka që është mirësi, drejtësi dhe të vërtetë, duke provuar çfarë është e pranueshme për Perëndinë. Dhe mos merrni pjesë në punët e pafrytshme të errësirës, por më tepër t'i qortoni, sepse ato që bëjnë ata në fshehtësi, është turp edhe të thuhet. Kurse të gjitha gjërat, kur dalin në dritë, bëhen të dukshme, sepse çdo gjë që shfaqet është dritë. Prandaj Shkrimi thotë: “Zgjohu, ti që fle, dhe ringjallu prej së vdekurish, dhe Krishti do të shndrisë mbi ty.” Kujdesuni, pra, që të ecni me kujdes dhe jo si të marrët, por si të mençurit, duke e shfjrtësuar kohën, sepse ditët janë të mbrapshta. Prandaj mos u bëni të pakujdesshëm, por kuptoni cili është vullneti i Zotit. Dhe mos u dehni me verë, në të cilën ka shturje, por mbushuni me Frymë, duke i folur njeri tjetrit me psalme, himne dhe këngë frymërore, duke kënduar dhe duke lavdëruar Zotin me zemrën tuaj,

## **Luka 17:12-19**

Dhe, kur po hynte në një fshat, i dolën para dhjetë lebrozë, të cilët ndaluan larg, dhe duke ngritur zërin, thanë: “Mjeshtër, Jezus, ki mëshirë për ne.” Dhe ai, si i pa, u tha atyre: “Shkoni e paraqituni te priftërinjtë.” Dhe ndodhi që, ndërsa ata po shkonin, u pastruan. Dhe një nga ata, si e pa se u shërua, u kthye mbrapa dhe përlevdonte Perëndinë me zë të lartë. Dhe ra përmbys me fytyrë për tokë te këmbët e Jezusit, duke e falënderuar. Ky ishte Samaritan. Jezusi atëherë filloi të thotë: “A nuk u shëruan që të dhjetë? Ku janë nëntë të tjerët? A nuk gjet asnjë që të kthehet për të dhënë lavdi Perëndisë, përveç këtij të huaji?.” Dhe i tha atij: “Çohu dhe shko; besimi yt të shëroi.”