

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. Dennis Rhodes

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

December 19, 2021

26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 22 7:15pm Bible Study
via GoogleMeet
Fri. 24 7:00pm Compline & Matins
Sat. 25 10:00am Divine Liturgy *Feast of
the Nativity of our Lord*
Sun. 19 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Church Lectionary

Today

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Matthew 1:1-25

Monday

1 Timothy 5:1-10
Mark 9:42-10:1

Tuesday

1 Timothy 5:11-21
Mark 10:2-12

Wednesday

1 Timothy 5:22-6:11
Mark 10:11-16

Thursday

1 Timothy 6:17-21
Mark 10:17-27

Friday

2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18
Mark 10:23-32
Hebrews 1:1-12
Luke 2:1-20

Saturday

Galatians 4:4-7
Matthew 2:1-12

Reading the Bible in a Year

Dec 19: James
Dec 20: 1 Peter
Dec 21: 2 Peter
Dec 22: 1 John
Dec 23: 2 John; 3 John
Dec 24: Jude
Dec 25: Revelation 1-3

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: Monday to Friday (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

Troparion – Tone 7 (Resurrection)

*When the stone had been sealed by
the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy
most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O
Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried
to Thee, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O
Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou
Who lovest mankind!”*

Kontakion – Tone 6 (Holy Fathers)

*You did not worship the graven
image,
O thrice-blessed ones,
but armed with the immaterial
Essence of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable
flames you called on God, crying:
“Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our aid,
for Thou art merciful and able to do
as Thou dost will!”*

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.

DECEMBER EVENTS

December

19 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

22 – 7:15pm Bible Study via
GoogleMeet

24 – 7:00pm Compline & Matins

25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy *for the
Nativity of Our Lord*

26 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

31 – 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy *for the
Circumcision of the Lord*

January

01 – NO VESPERS

02 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

05 – 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy

Coffee Hour

This Week:

Next Week: Gregory Vrato Memorial

Flower Donation

***This week's flowers were
donated by:***

Children's Word

King of kings

Would you like to meet a king? Usually, a king is a king because his father is a king, and his father is too. Being a king goes on down the line.

We are getting closer and closer to Christmas, and we are almost ready to celebrate our Lord's birth! Today in the Gospel, we hear the history of Jesus's family. We hear many, many names, starting with Abraham and his son, and his son, and so on... all the way down to Joseph, Jesus's earthly father.

In this long list, we hear the names of lots of kings! We hear of David and Solomon. We hear about Manassah and Josiah and Asa. Jesus had lots of kings in his family history! In a way, Jesus had lots of royal connections.

We know though that these were all earthly kings, and Jesus was a different kind of king. We call Jesus the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords," but we're not talking about the kind of king that David was or Josiah was. Jesus is more than that! Jesus was born to be our heavenly king, who reigns forever!

So, would you like to meet a king? Yes, you would, wouldn't you? Let's love our King with all our hearts so that we can meet Him each Sunday in Holy Communion. And that one day, we can meet Him in heaven forever!

SAINT ANASTASIA THE DELIVERER FROM POTIONS

Do you see the icon here? It's Saint Anastasia, the Great Martyr. Do you think she looks rich and famous, or do you think she looks kind of simple and plain?

Saint Anastasia grew up in a rich family, and her father (who wasn't a Christian) wanted her to marry a rich man (who wasn't a Christian), and she'd be set up for life! Young Anastasia did marry the man, but she had other plans for her life, too. She wanted to serve her Lord. She wanted to help other Christians serve the Lord too!

Saint Anastasia did just that. She gave up her rich and comfortable life in high Roman society. She learned more about Christ from a secret teacher, and she was baptized as a Christian. Anastasia visited other Christians (many who were secret Christians), and she acted kind of like a doctor to them. She visited Christians in many cities in her province, even going into the prisons to take care of them.

Saint Anastasia was a brave young woman. Later on, she suffered a lot as a Christian, and she was even killed because she wouldn't give up her faith. We call her a "great martyr" just like we do for other big saints like Saint Katherine and Saint George. That's because many people became Christian when they saw Anastasia's strong faith in the Lord!

We celebrate St. Anastasia on Wed., December 22nd.

A Prayer for the Week

Dear God, I need You. I need to stay awake to my need for You in every moment in my life. I forget this too often, Lord. And when I do my life becomes unbalanced disoriented. And I know the best way for me to avoid this is cultivating gratitude in my heart because when I'm thankful for Your generosity, I am awake to my need for Your generosity. Help me to be like You so that as I grow in my own generosity, I will stay attentive to my need to be grateful!

Amen

❧ • ❧ • ❧

"The Lord, before His Incarnation, let mankind experience all the bitterness of sin, all their powerlessness to eradicate it; and when all longed for a Deliverer, then He appeared, the most wise, all-powerful Physician and Helper. When men hungered and thirsted after righteousness, as it grew weaker, then the everlasting righteousness came."

-St. John of Kronstadt



Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Nativity of our Lord 2021

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,
My Beloved Children in the Lord,

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

I greet you all today on this Great Feast of our illumination. At the Vespereal Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great for this Feast we sing:

*When the Lord Jesus was born of the holy virgin, the whole universe was filled with light.
The shepherds watched in the fields. The wise men worshiped and the angels sang. But
Herod was troubled, for God had appeared in the flesh. He is the Savior of our souls!*
(Third Sticheron at "Lord, I Call")

The Lord's entry into the world invites us all to pursue this spiritual illumination, which is Christ, the Wisdom of God Himself. In the Gospel we read of the shepherds who leave their pastures to find the Infant Christ. Likewise, Magi, the wise men from the East, traveled in pursuit of true Wisdom, which they found lying in a manger. They came at great cost and with great effort to worship Christ and offer their gifts to Him. In return, the darkness of their hearts was lifted, and they left, refusing to return to Herod, but instead "departed to their own country by another way" (Mt 2:12).

But we know that not everyone wants this light that our Lord offers. Herod did not. We remember that he also pursued the Wisdom of God. But instead of seeking illumination from Him, Herod sought His blood, preferring earthly power to heavenly blessings. His vision was too narrow to see that in trying to protect his throne he was keeping himself in the darkness of sin, ignorance, and selfish ambition. Seeing these examples before us, we need the light of Christ's Nativity in our world darkened with confusion, anxiety, and temptations. We might struggle to see this light in our suffering world, racked by a pandemic, and with societal changes coming at an alarming rate. We acutely feel the words of St. Paul: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies" (Rom 8:22-23).

Be encouraged! It is into our world, "groaning in travail," that our Deliverer is born. God in His love for mankind did not leave the world in darkness but came as its Savior. Even today Christ has "shone to the world the light of wisdom" (Nativity Troparion). We can see this light by unreservedly following the gospel and trading the earthly for the heavenly. Because of the light which shines from the cave this morning, the shadows of ignorance are dispelled and we are able to perceive the world as an object of God's eternal love. For Herod, Christ's Nativity brought anxiety and a troubled heart. For us today, we are offered illumination and joy. Like the shepherds, Magi, and angels let us behold the Incarnation of the Son of God with reverence and pious hope, in full knowledge that the "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev 19:16) is born for our redemption.

With all the blessings of the Feast, I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

К Евреям 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Верую обитал он на земле обетованной, как на чужой, и жил в шатрах с Исааком и Иаковом, сонаследниками того же обетования; ибо он ожидал города, имеющего основание, которого художник и строитель Бог. Верую Авраам, будучи искушаем, принес в жертву Исаака и, имея обетование, принес единородного, о котором было сказано: в Исааке наречется тебе семья. Ибо он думал, что Бог силен и из мертвых воскресить, почему и получил его в предзнаменование. Верую в будущее Исаак благословил Иакова и Исава. Верую Иаков, умирая, благословил каждого сына Иосифова и поклонился на верх жезла своего. Верую Иосиф, при кончине, напоминал об исходе сынов Израилевых и завещал о костях своих. Верую Моисей по рождении три месяца скрывается был родителями своими, ибо видели они, что дитя прекрасно, и не устрашились царского повеления. И что еще скажу? Недостанет мне времени, чтобы повествовать о Гедеоне, о Вараке, о Самсоне и Иеффаяе, о Давиде, Самуиле и (других) пророках, которые верую побеждали царства, творили правду, получали обетования, заграждали уста львов, угашали силу огня, избегали острия меча, укреплялись от немощи, были крепки на войне, прогоняли полки чужих; жены получали умерших своих воскресшими; иные же замучены были, не приняв освобождения, дабы получить лучшее воскресение; другие испытали поругания и побои, а также узы и темницу, были побиваемы камнями, перепиливаемы, подвергаемы пытке, умирали от меча, скитались в милотях и козых кожах, терпя недостатки, скорби, озлобления; те, которых весь мир не был достоин, скитались по пустыням и горам, по пещерам и ущельям земли. И все сии, свидетельствованные в вере, не получили обещанного, потому что Бог предусмотрел о нас нечто лучшее, дабы они не без нас достигли совершенства.

От Матфея 1:1-25

Родословие Иисуса Христа, Сына Давидова, Сына Авраамова. Авраам родил Исаака; Исаак родил Иакова; Иаков родил Иуду и братьев его; Иуда родил Фареса и Зару от Фамари; Фарес родил Есрома; Есром родил Арама; Арам родил Аминадава; Аминадав родил Наассона; Наассон родил Салмона; Салмон родил Вооза от Рахавы; Вооз родил Овида от Руфи; Овид родил Иессея; Иессей родил Давида царя; Давид царь родил Соломона от бывшей за Уриеню; Соломон родил Ровоама; Ровоам родил Авию; Авия родил Асу; Аса родил Иосафата; Иосафат родил Иорама; Иорам родил Озию; Озия родил Иоафама; Иоафам родил Ахаза; Ахаз родил Езекию; Езекия родил Манассию; Манассия родил Амона; Амон родил Иосию; Иосия родил Иоакима; Иоаким родил Иехонию и братьев его, перед переселением в Вавилон. По переселении же в Вавилон, Иехония родил Салафииля; Салафииль родил Зоровавеля; Зоровавель родил Авиуда; Авиуд родил Елиакима; Елиаким родил Азора; Азор родил Садока; Садок родил Ахима; Ахим родил Елиуда; Елиуд родил Елеазара; Елеазар родил Матфана; Матфан родил Иакова; Иаков родил Иосифа, мужа Марии, от Которой родился Иисус, называемый Христос. Итак всех родов от Авраама до Давида четырнадцать родов; и от Давида до переселения в Вавилон четырнадцать родов; и от переселения в Вавилон до Христа четырнадцать родов. **Рождество Иисуса Христа было так: по обручении Матери Его Марии с Иосифом, прежде нежели сочтались они, оказалось, что Она имеет во чреве от Духа Святаго.** Иосиф же муж Ее, будучи праведен и не желая огласить Ее, хотел тайно отпустить Ее. Но когда он помыслил это, --се, Ангел Господень явился ему во сне и сказал: Иосиф, сын Давидов! не бойся принять Марию, жену твою, ибо родившееся в Ней есть от Духа Святаго; родит же Сына, и наречешь Ему имя Иисус, ибо Он спасет людей Своих от грехов их. А все сие произошло, да сбудется реченное Господом через пророка, который говорит: се, Дева во чреве примет и родит Сына, и нарекут имя Ему Еммануил, что значит: с нами Бог. Встав от сна, Иосиф поступил, как повелел ему Ангел Господень, и принял жену свою, и не знал Ее. Как наконец Она родила Сына Своего первенца, и он нарек Ему имя: Иисус.

Hebrenjve 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Me anë të besimit shkoi e banoi në tokën e premtuar si në tokë të huaj, edhe banoi në tenda, bashkë me Isakun e me Jakovin bashkëtrashëgimtarët e po atij premtimi; sepse priste qytetin që kishte themele, mjeshtër edhe krijues i të cilit është Perëndia. Me anë të besimit Abrahami, kur provohej, pruri Isakun për theror; dhe ai që pati pritur premtimet pruri për theror birin e tij të vetëmlindur, për të cilin qe folur: “Se në Isakun do të quhet fara jote”; duke menduar se Perëndia mund të ngjallë edhe prej së vdekurish, prej të cilëve edhe e mori atë prapë simbolikisht. Me anë të besimit Isaku bekoi Jakovin dhe Esaun për punët që do të vinin. Me anë të besimit Jakovi duke vdekur bekoi secilin prej bijve të Josifit, “edhe u fal duke u mbështetur mbi majën e shkopit të tij”. Me anë të besimit Josifi duke vdekur përmendi për daljen e bijve të Izraelit nga Egjipti, edhe porositi për eshtrat e tij. Me anë të besimit Moisiu, si lindi, u fsheh tre muaj prej prindërve të tij, sepse panë se djali ishte i bukur; edhe nuk u trembën nga urdhri i mbretit. Edhe ç’të them më? Sepse nuk do të më arrijë koha të tregoj për Gedeonin, për Barakun e Samsonin, edhe Jeftanë, për Davidin e Samuilin dhe profetët, të cilët me anë të besimit mundën mbretëri, punuan drejtësi, fituan premtime, mbyllën gojë luanësh, shuan fuqinë e zjarrit, shpëtuan nga tehu i thikës, morën fuqi nga dobësitë, u bënë të fortë në luftë, thyen ushtritë e të huajve. Gra morën të vdekurit e tyre të ngjallur; edhe të tjerë u munduan, sepse nuk pranuan shpëtimin, që të fitonin një ngjallje më të mirë. Edhe të tjerë u provuan me të përqeshura e me të rrahura, po edhe me të lidhura e me burgime. U vranë me gurë, u sharruan më dysh, u ngranë, vdiqën të vranë prej shpate; endeshin lart e poshtë veshur me lëkurë dhensh, e me lëkurë dhish, në nevojë, në shtrëngime, në keqtrajtime, ata për të cilët bota nuk ishte e denjë; – duke u endur nëpër shkretëtira e nëpër male e nëpër shpella e nëpër vrimat e dheut. Edhe këta të gjithë, ndonëse morën dëshmi të mirë me anë të besimit, nuk morën premtimin, sepse Perëndia pati urdhëruar që përpara një gjë më të mirë për ne, që të mos bëhen të përsosur pa ne.

Mattheut 1:1-25

Libri i gjenealogjisë së Jisu Krishtit, të birit të Davidit, të birit të Abrahamit. Abrahamit i lindi Isaaku; edhe Isaakut i lindi Jakovi; edhe Jakovit i lindi Juda dhe vëllezërit e tij. Edhe Judës i lindi Faresi dhe Zarai nga Tamara; edhe Faresit i lindi Arami. Edhe Aramit i lindi Aminadabi; edhe Aminadabit i lindi Nasoni; edhe Nasonit i lindi Salmoni. Edhe Salmonit i lindi Bozi nga Rahaba; edhe Vozit i lindi Ovidi nga Ruthi; edhe Ovidit i lindi Jeseu; Edhe Jeseut i lindi Davidi, mbreti. Edhe mbretit David i lindi Solomoni nga gruaja e Uriut. Edhe Solomonit i lindi Roboami; edhe Roboamit i lindi Abiai; edhe Abiait i lindi Asai. Edhe Asait i lindi Josafati; edhe Josafatit i lindi Jorami; edhe Joramit i lindi Ozia. Edhe Ozisë i lindi Joatami; edhe Joatamit i lindi Akazi; edhe Akazit i lindi Ezekia. Edhe Ezekisë i lindi Manasiu; edhe Manasiut i lindi Amoni; edhe Amonit i lindi Josia. Edhe Josisë i lindi Jehonia dhe vëllezërit e tij, në kohën e shpërnguljes në Babiloni. Edhe pas shpërnguljes në Babiloni, Jehonisë i lindi Salatieli; edhe Salatielit i lindi Zorobabeli. Edhe Zorobabelit i lindi Abiudi; edhe Abiudit i lindi Eliakimi; edhe Eliakimit i lindi Azori. Edhe Azorit i lindi Sadoku; edhe Sadokut i lindi Akimi; edhe Akimit i lindi Eliudi. Edhe Eliudit i lindi Eleazari; edhe Eleazarit i lindi Matani; edhe Matanit i lindi Jakovi. Edhe Jakovit i lindi Josifi, burri i Marisë, prej së cilës lindi Jisui që thuhet Krisht. Gjithë brezat pra, që nga Abrahami e deri te Davidi, janë katërmbëdhjetë breza; edhe që nga Davidi e deri në shpërnguljen në Babiloni katërmbëdhjetë breza; edhe nga shpërngulja në Babiloni e deri te Krishti katërmbëdhjetë breza. **Edhe lindja e Jisu Krishtit kështu ishte: Pasi u fejua e ëma e tij, Maria, me Josifin, përpara se të bashkoheshin, u gjend me barrë nga Fryma e Shenjtë.** Edhe Josifi, burri i saj, duke qenë i drejtë, e duke mos dashur t’i nxjerrë asaj zë të lig, deshi ta linte fshehurazi. Po ndërsa ai ishte duke menduar këto, ja një engjëll i Zotit tek iu duk në ëndërr, duke thënë: Josif, bir i Davidit, mos u frikëso të marrësh me vete gruan tënde Mariamin; sepse mbarsja që u bë tek ajo është nga Fryma e Shenjtë. Edhe do të lindë djalë edhe do t’ia quash emrin Jisu; sepse ai do të shpëtojë popullin e tij nga mëkatet e tyre. Edhe gjithë kjo u bë, që të përmbushet e thëna prej Zotit me anë të profetit, që thotë: “Ja virgjëresha tek do të mbarset, edhe do të lindë djalë, edhe do t’ia quash emrin Emanuel”, që e përkthyer do me thënë, Perëndia bashkë me ne. Edhe Josifi, si u zgjua nga gjumi, bëri siç e urdhëroi engjëlli i Zotit, edhe mori pranë vetes gruan e tij. Edhe nuk e njohu atë, derisa lindi të birin e saj, të parëmlindur; edhe ia quajti emrin Jisu.