

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/>

February 6, 2022

33RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING
SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS, ST. BUCOLUS, BISHOP OF SMYRNA

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 09 7:15pm Bible Study Via
GoogleMeet
Fri. 11 6:00pm Fun Night
Sat. 12 6:00pm Vespers
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: Wednesday and Friday (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

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 1 (Three Hierarchs)

*By Thy Nativity Thou didst
sanctify the Virgin's womb
and didst bless Simeon's hands,
O Christ God.
Now Thou hast come and saved
us through love.
Grant peace to all Orthodox
Christians,
O only Lover of Man!*

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 4:9-15
Luke 19:1-10

Monday

1 Peter 2:21-3:9
Mark 12:13-17

Tuesday

1 Peter 3:10-22
Mark 12:18-27

Wednesday

Hebrews 7:7-17
Luke 2:22-40
1 Peter 4:1-11
Mark 12:28-37

Thursday

1 Peter 4:12-5:5
Mark 12:38-44

Friday

2 Peter 1:1-10
Mark 13:1-8

Saturday

2 Timothy 2:11-19
Luke 18:2-8

Reading the Bible in a Year

Feb 06: Numbers 25-28
Feb 07: Numbers 29-32
Feb 08: Numbers 33-36
Feb 09: Deuteronomy 1-4
Feb 10: Deuteronomy 4-8
Feb 11: Deuteronomy 9-12
Feb 12: Deuteronomy 13-16

FEBRUARY EVENTS

February

06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

09 – 7:15pm Bible Study with

GoogleMeet

11 – 6:00pm Fun Night

12 – 6:00pm Vespers

13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Souper bowl Sunday

16 – 7:15pm Bible Study with

GoogleMeet

19 – 6:00pm Vespers

20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Icon Pledge

23 – 7:15pm Bible Study with

GoogleMeet

26 – 6:00pm Vespers

27 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Meatfare Sunday

Coffee Hour

HOT DOG SUNDAY

Flower Donation

*This week's flowers were
donated by:*

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, You are Holy, and Your Holiness invites me to be holy like You. But, Lord, I live in an unholy world; a world that is gripped by divided loyalties and confused devotions. Help me to choose the singular path of loving You above all other loves and grant me the courage and strength to focus my energies and desires toward You and You alone. Having granted me this grace, help me to share this singular vision with others and become by Grace what you are by Nature. Amen.

"God did not create us for wrath but for salvation (cf. I Thes. 5:9), so that we might enjoy His blessings; and we should therefore be thankful and grateful towards our Benefactor. But our failure to get to know His gifts has made us indolent, and indolence has made us forgetful, with the result that ignorance lords it over us."

-St. Peter of Damaskos

Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb. 13!

Bring a pot of your best soup and a hearty appetite! Next Sunday we will have our annual Souper Bowl Charity fund raiser.

Try a plethora of delicious soups here at coffee hour!

Buy some more of your favorites to take home!

Donate to a worthy cause!

The Icon Pledge is February 20th! Please make sure that all pledged icons from last year have been returned!

House Blessings are here for 2022! Please sign up on the sheet upstairs 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 4:9-15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Luke 19:1-10

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Children's Word

Jesus came to save the lost!

Have you ever lost something that you really, really liked? A favorite toy? A piece to a puzzle? A piece of jewelry? Something special from a grandparent? Maybe you searched all over the place for it. And if you found it...do you remember how happy you were?

Today we hear the story of Zacchaeus. You remember it, don't you? Zacchaeus was the short man who climbed up in the tree so he could see Jesus pass by. Zacchaeus is the one Jesus called down from the tree, and told him he would stay at his house!

Zacchaeus, remember, was a rich man because he had taken from the poor. He had charged them too much money. But when Jesus came to his house, Zacchaeus changed his ways. He pledged to give half of his things to the poor. He pledged to give back four times as much as he took from them! He made things right with the people. He made things right with God!

The Gospel tells us, "Today salvation has come to this house...For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost." God wants to save the lost. Do you remember how happy you were when you found your special thing? Our Lord searches for people to save. When He finds somebody who was lost (like Zacchaeus), He is so happy. He came to save all of us!

SAINT PHOTIOS A GREAT LIGHT FOR THE CHURCH

Can you think of a "great" saint? We call St. Basil "the Great," we have St. Katherine the Great Martyr, St. Makarios the Great, St. Euthemios the Great and lots more. What made them great? They did really great things for the Church!

This week we celebrate another saint whom we call "the Great." Saint Photios the Great was a special saint who lived more than 1,200 years ago. He was a patriarch, the leader of the Church of Constantinople. What made Saint Photios great?

Well, St. Photios did some really great things for the Church. He sent missionaries (Saints Cyril and Methodios) to spread the Christian Church to the Slavic people. Today, there are millions of Orthodox Christians who are Slavic. Saint Photios is the patriarch who first made this happen.

St. Photios did so much to keep the Church on the right path. He wrote lots of theological works so that bishops and priests and the faithful people would know what the Church teaches. He knew how important it was to keep the Church together, and teaching the truth. We have lots to thank Saint Photios for. His name, "Photios" means "light," and he is still a great light for the Church, even today!

We celebrate St. Photios today, Feb. 6.

You Belong to God

February 4, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

“Being precedes doing!” I heard the phrase and thought to myself “I’m not sure I understand what that is supposed to mean?” And, as I listened to the speaker longer, my confusion just grew.

I think what the professor was trying to say was our actions flow from who we really are. And he was trying to get us to understand that it is the interior battle of slaying the “dragons” inside of us that must be our focus if we are ever to hope to change how we behave. And I think that’s exactly right EXCEPT saying it and actually doing it are two very different things! We certainly are all called, as Christians, to “BE” holy, but WHAT does that actually mean, and HOW am I supposed to accomplish this?

Look at our lesson today in 1 Peter 1:1-25; 2:1-10:

Therefore gird up your minds, be sober, set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you invoke as Father him who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of the times for your sake. Through him you have confidence in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

St. Peter writes the churches and says that God will judge us “according to his deeds.” And he says that should cause us to conduct ourselves “with fear throughout the time of your exile.” What does he mean by exile? Well, nothing less than the reality that we cannot consider where and when we are in this present life as eternal. But we must see ourselves as strangers in this mortal life.

And here is where Peter starts to help us understand what he means when he says we are to “be” holy and to “gird up” our minds (discipline how we think) and to “hopefully” on the grace that will be shown to you when Jesus is revealed at His dread judgment seat!

It has everything to do with your FIRST understanding that you are meant for God alone! Your life doesn’t belong to you. It belongs to God. That’s why we have to FIRST start with the way we think. We have to discipline our thoughts about ourselves, our lives, our priorities, our desires, and those around us. Our minds MUST lead us to the sober truth, and not allow our thinking to become intoxicated by our desires. Peter goes on to remind his readers that we are redeemed (saved FROM) a futile life focused on the temporary, rather than investing in eternity. And that’s what drives our disciplining of our desires. The passions tempt us with temporary “feel good” moments, but a disciplined mind invites us to value eternity over the temporary! And what gives us hope? The grace, the mercy, that Jesus shows us in calling us to embrace His life and His strength instead of just depending on ourselves. We turn in worship to Him in the full confidence that He will add His strength to our desire for Him in our lives and that’s what finally focuses us on WHO we belong to and not on just WHAT our desires want in any given moment!

So, today, are you holy? I mean do you live as if you belong to God and Him alone? Or are you finding yourself divided up into different temporary loyalties that never help you become WHO you were created to be? By disciplining your mind first and using the tools of your faith to focus your thinking, you can be Orthodox on Purpose!

1-е Тимофею 4:9-15

Слово сие верно и всякого принятия достойно. Ибо мы для того и трудимся и поношения терпим, что уповаем на Бога живаго, Который есть Спаситель всех человеков, а наипаче верных. Проповедуй сие и учи. Никто да не пренебрегает юностью твоею; но будь образцом для верных в слове, в житии, в любви, в духе, в вере, в чистоте. Доколе не приду, занимайся чтением, наставлением, учением. Не неради о пребывающем в тебе даровании, которое дано тебе по пророчеству с возложением рук священства. О сем заботься, в сем пребывай, дабы успех твой для всех был очевиден.

От Луки 19:1-10

Потом [Иисус] вошел в Иерихон и проходил через него. И вот, некто, именем Закхей, начальник мытарей и человек богатый, искал видеть Иисуса, кто Он, но не мог за народом, потому что мал был ростом, и, забежав вперед, взлез на смоковницу, чтобы увидеть Его, потому что Ему надлежало проходить мимо нее. Иисус, когда пришел на это место, взглянув, увидел его и сказал ему: Закхей! сойди скорее, ибо сегодня надобно Мне быть у тебя в доме. И он поспешно сошел и принял Его с радостью. И все, видя то, начали роптать, и говорили, что Он зашел к грешному человеку; Закхей же, став, сказал Господу: Господи! половину имения моего я отдам нищим, и, если кого чем обидел, воздам вчетверо. Иисус сказал ему: ныне пришло спасение дому сему, потому что и он сын Авраама, ибо Сын Человеческий пришел взыскать и спасти погибшее.

I Timotheut 4:9-15

E besueshme është fjala dhe e denjë për t'u pranuar. Sepse për këtë edhe mundohemi edhe përbuzemi, se shpresuam në Perëndinë e gjallë, i cili është shpëtimtari i gjithë njerëzve, po më fort i besimtarëve. Këto porosit edhe mëso. Askush le të mos të të përbuzë për rininë tënde, po bëhu shembull i besimtarëve në fjalë, në shoqëri, në dashuri, në frymë, në besim, në dëlirësi. Deri sa të vij unë, jepu pas leximit, pas këshillimit, pas mësimit. Mos ji i pakujdesshëm për dhuntinë që është tek ti, e cila t'u dha me anë profecie, me vënien e duarve të pleqësisë. Për këto kujdesu, në këto qëndro, që të shfaqet mbarësia jote tek të gjithë.

Llukait 19:1-10

Edhe Jisui hyri e shkante nëpër Jeriko. Edhe ja një njeri i quajtur me emrin Zakhe, i cili ishte kryetagrambledhës. Dhe ky ishte i pasur. Edhe kërkonte të shihte Jisuin se cili është; po nuk mundej nga turma, sepse ishte i vogël në shtat. Edhe u sul përpara e hipi mbi një man që ta shihte, sepse nga ajo udhë do të shkante. Edhe Jisui, si erdhi në atë vend, ngriti sytë dhe e pa atë, edhe i tha: Zakhe, zbrit shpejt; sepse sot unë duhet të qëndroj në shtëpinë tënde. Edhe zbriti shpejt dhe e priti me gëzim. Edhe të gjithë, kur panë, murmurisnin, duke thënë se hyri të rrijë te një njeri mëkatar. Edhe Zakheu qëndroi e i tha Zotit: Ja, o Zot, gjysmën e pasurisë sime tek po ua jap të varfërve, edhe në i kam marrë gjë njeriu me mashtrim, ia kthej katërfish. Edhe Jisui i tha se sot u bë shpëtim në këtë shtëpi, sepse edhe ky është bir i Abrahamit. Sepse Biri i njeriut erdhi të kërkojë e të shpëtojë të humburën.