

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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February 7, 2021

35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: AFTERFEAST OF THE MEETING,
ST. PARTHENIUS, BISHOP OF LAMPACUS
TONE 8

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 10 7:15pm Bible Study
Sun. 14 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 on Wednesday and Friday.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.)

Troparion – Tone 2
(Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

Kontakion – Tone 3
(St. Parthenius)

Thou didst receive divine grace to work miracles/ wise and holy God-bearing wonderworker Parthenius. Thou didst cleanse the passions of all the faithful and didst drive out evil spirits. Therefore, we praise thee as a great initiate of the grace of God.

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
Matthew 15:21-28

Monday

James 2:14-26
Mark 10:46-52

Tuesday

James 3:1-10
Mark 11:11-23

Wednesday

James 3:11-4:6
Mark 11:22-26

Thursday

James 4:7-5:9
Mark 11:27-33

Friday

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

Saturday

1 Thessalonians 5:14-23
Luke 17:3-10

Reading the Bible in a Year

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

Feb 13: Deuteronomy 17-20

No matter how much we may study, it is not possible to come to know God unless we live according to His commandments, for God is not know by science, but by the Holy Spirit. Many philosophers and learned men came to the belief that God exists, but they did not know God. It is one thing to belief that God exists and another to know Him. If someone has come to know God by the Holy Spirit, his soul will burn with love for God day and night, and his soul cannot be bound to any earthly thing.

-St. Silouan the Athonite

Health of the Parish

The Church is the hospital for the cure of the illness of the soul



\$15,000.00

\$10,000.00

\$5,000.00

Our Orthodox Faith defines sin as an illness that is in need of healing, not as a crime that requires punishment. The Church is a hospital for the soul whose therapists (priests) first sought therapy and then became the therapists. As a healing institution the Church is the place for broken souls.

We come before Christ as tarnished images, far from that which God intended. Yet this very Creator God is patient and loving, quick to forgive. Our God invites us to holiness, to be made whole. His grace is sufficient to lift us up out of our mire and into the heights of a joy and gladness that is meant to be eternal. We need only to humble ourselves and ask for help and the Kingdom is ours.

Heaven and hell are not about location, but about our relationship with God. All that is needed is our responsive word, followed by action. We say yes to God's invitation while seeking out the therapy that is ours within the life of the Church.

Wholeness (holiness) is ours through this relationship with Christ, Who's redemptive act upon the Cross, together with His having conquered death by death, delivers us from the depths of estrangement. As we are lifted up to God, having been made whole, eternal communion with God will be our destiny.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

February Events

February

01 – 7:00pm Vesperal Liturgy

Feast of the Meeting of Christ

03 – 7:15pm Bible Study via Google Meet

07 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

10 – 7:15pm Bible Study via Google Meet

14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

17 – 7:15pm Bible Study via Google Meet

21 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

24 – 7:15pm Bible Study via Google Meet

28 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Congratulations to Amanda and Ralph Napoli on the birth of Niko!

We give thanks to God for your newly enlarged family and that God kept you all safe and healthy throughout the pregnancy and we continue to pray for God's blessings on you and the entire Schaeffer family!

Children's Word

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.

Matthew 15:21-28 (Gospel)

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

A Prayer for Use During the Week

O Lord, Great and Mighty, and beyond both knowing and unknowing, You, alone, are the Author and Finisher of our faith. You complete all the shadows of all the rituals of our past and fill all our worship with the singular call to fix our eyes on You, the Lord and Savior Who is both fully God and fully man. You make the way for us to be reunited with the Father and have His life flow through us for our eternal life. Keep me from a frivolous life that ignores my desperate need to stay connected to You! Amen

Great is your faith!

Have you ever wanted something so much that you asked your parents for it again and again? Maybe it was a toy for Christmas or for your birthday. Maybe it was just a special meal or a treat. When we really want something, it's hard to give up when somebody tells us "no."

In today's Gospel reading, we hear the story of the woman who was asking Jesus to heal her sick daughter. This woman was from Canaan, so she probably was a pagan (she believed in false gods). Also the Canaanite people had been enemies of the Jews for a long, long time. So when she came to Jesus asking Him for help, His disciples told her to go away. Jesus even told her "no" at first.

But this woman really wanted something. She wanted her daughter to be well! So it was hard for her to give up. Even though she didn't worship the God of the Jewish people, she knew Jesus could heal her daughter. Jesus told her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you want." Our Lord healed the daughter right away. He knew she believed. He knew she had strong faith. And He knew she was an example for us all!

HUSBAND AND WIFE SAINTS SAINTS AQILA AND PRISCILLA

Do you know how many Christians there are in the world? More than 2 billion! That means that out of every three people in the whole world, one is a Christian.

But how did that happen? Two thousand years ago, there were only a few Christians. Well, the first Christians worked hard to tell other people about Jesus Christ, and they told other people, and so on. Saint Paul helped many, many people become Christians, but even he couldn't do it all! He had friends who helped him, too. Two of his most important helpers and friends were Saints Aquila and Priscilla. These two were husband and wife. They taught lots of people about Jesus Christ—about His life, and about how we can be more like Him. In one of his letters, Saint Paul says, "Greet Priscilla and Aquilla. They risked their lives for me." Saint Paul shows how thankful he was to these two. And now WE are thankful to them too because of their great work for Christ and His Church.

We celebrate Sts. Aquila and Priscilla on Wed, Feb 13th.

Jesus, Our Final High Priest

February 3, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

What is the significance of the phrase “not made with hands?” We see this in our lesson today and we even see an Orthodox ikon of the same name. You know the ikon I’m talking about. It is the ikon of the Lord’s Face that the Lord sent to Abgar, the leader of the city of Edessa who had been afflicted with leprosy. The tradition says that the Lord commanded a bowl of water to be brought and a towel, and when the Lord washed His face He placed the towel against His face and His image was on the towel. This holy relic was sent to Abgar in Edessa and he began to be healed.

So, the image was placed there, not by a painter or an artist but by grace and love.

But there’s more. Look at our Lesson today in Hebrews 9:11-14:

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

St. Paul is attempting to help these Hebrew Christians realize that they are exactly where they need to be. He mentions the “greater and more perfect tent” which is a reference to the Tabernacle the Jews traveled within the desert and it was also called the “tent of meeting.” But the greater tent refers to Christ Himself Who is, as we say in the liturgy, he Who is “the Offerer and the Offered, the One who receives and is distributed.” Paul tells these Christians that the image of sacrifice and the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer makes a person ceremonially clean for Temple worship, how much more will the sacrifice of Christ Himself clean the very soul of a man! In other words, what we have in Christ is better than the outward sacrificial that was meant to train us how to understand the ultimate and final sacrifice of Christ Himself in the fight to defeat sin, death, and Satan.

Paul goes on to tell us that this purification of the whole person by the grace of God is to “purify” our conscience “from dead works to serve the living God.” By this, he does not mean the works of righteousness, love, and kindness. He does not mean to suggest that works of obedience or the spiritual and even physical labor of the liturgical life are “dead works.” Not at all. Paul means the old way of sacrifice in the Temple is “dead” or it has served its purpose. Now we are purified by grace through faith so that our works are motivated not by a fear we are “unclean” but by a motivation of gratitude for the grace given to us by Christ!

In other words, all the old law was meant to do was to tutor us in our spiritual infancy so that when Christ came, we could then graduate to having our lives lived in grateful labors motivated by love instead of fear or obligation or mere rule-keeping. A person who has graduated to the “not made with hands” faith is shaped by his love for God and not driven by some fear of God or a narcissistic motivation to get God to “give me something.” This eternal liberty to love and be grateful is why the central act of worship in the Orthodox Church is the Holy Eucharist; the ultimate sacrifice of praise and gratitude!

Today, are you still trying to get God to love you by doing religious stuff? Are you motivated by your desire to get God to give you something because you’ve been a “good boy?” That’s the old religion. The Faith of Christ now offers you a path based on gratitude and true love for God and a “not made with hands” faith that makes you Orthodox on Purpose!

1-е Тимофею 1:15-17

Верно и всякого принятия достойно слово, что Христос Иисус пришел в мир спасти грешников, из которых я первый. Но для того я и помилован, чтобы Иисус Христос во мне первом показал все долготерпение, в пример тем, которые будут веровать в Него к жизни вечной. Царю же веков нетленному, невидимому, единому премудрому Богу честь и слава во веки веков. Аминь.

От Матфея 15:21-28

И, выйдя оттуда, Иисус удалился в страны Тирские и Сидонские. И вот, женщина Хананеянка, выйдя из тех мест, кричала Ему: помилуй меня, Господи, сын Давидов, дочь моя жестоко беснуется. Но Он не отвечал ей ни слова. И ученики Его, приступив, просили Его: отпусти ее, потому что кричит за нами. Он же сказал в ответ: Я послан только к погибшим овцам дома Израилева. А она, подойдя, кланялась Ему и говорила: Господи! помоги мне. Он же сказал в ответ: нехорошо взять хлеб у детей и бросить псам. Она сказала: так, Господи! но и псы едят крохи, которые падают со стола господ их. Тогда Иисус сказал ей в ответ: о, женщина! велика вера твоя; да будет тебе по желанию твоему. И исцелилась дочь ее в тот час.

1 Timoteut 1:15-17

Kjo fjalë është e sigurt e denjë për t'u pranuar plotësisht, që Krishti Jezus erdhi në botë për të shpëtuar mëkatarët, ndër të cilët unë jam i pari. Por prandaj u mëshirova, që Jezu Krishti të tregojë më përpara në mua gjithë zemërgjerësinë, për të qenë shembull për ata që do të besojnë në të për jetë të përjetshme. Dhe Mbretit të amshuar, të pavdekshmit, të padukshmit, të vetmit Perëndi të ditur, i qoftë nder e lavdi në shekuj të shekujve. Amen.

Mateu 15:21-28

Pastaj Jezusi, pasi u largua që andej, u nis drejt rrethinave të Tiros dhe të Sidonit. Dhe ja, një grua kananease, që kishte ardhur nga ato anë, filloi të bërtasë duke thënë: “Ki mëshirë për mua, o Zot, o Bir i Davidit! Vajza ime është tmerrësisht e pushtuar nga një demon!” Por ai nuk iu përgjigj fare. Dhe dishepujt e tij iu afruan dhe iu lutën duke thënë: “Lëshoje atë, sepse po bërtet pas nesh.” Por ai u përgjigj dhe tha: “Unë nuk jam dërguar gjetiu, përveç te delet e humbura të shtëpisë së Izraelit.” Por ajo erdhi dhe e adhuroi, duke thënë: “O Zot, ndihmomë!” Ai u përgjigj, duke thënë: “Nuk është gjë e mirë të marrësh bukën e fëmijëve dhe t'ua hedhësh këlyshëve të qenve.” Por ajo tha: “Është e vërtetë, Zot, sepse edhe këlyshët e qenve hanë thërrimet që bien nga tryeza e zotërinjve të tyre.” Atëherë Jezusi iu përgjigj duke thënë: “O grua, i madh është besimi yt! T'u bëftë ashtu si dëshiron.” Dhe që në atë çast e bija u shërua.