

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 13, 2022

34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Souper Bowl Sun.
Wed. 16 7:15pm Bible Study Via
GoogleMeet
Sat. 19 6:00pm Vespers
Sun. 20 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: Fast-free week!

Troparion – Tone 1 (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 4 (from the Lenten Triodion)

*Let us flee from the pride of the
Pharisee!
Let us learn humility from the
Publican's tears!
Let us cry to our Savior:
“Have mercy on us,
O only merciful One!”*

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

2 Timothy 3:10-15
Luke 18:10-14

Monday

2 Peter 1:20-2:9
Mark 13:9-13

Tuesday

2 Peter 2:9-22
Mark 13:14-23

Wednesday

2 Peter 3:1-18
Mark 13:24-31

Thursday

1 John 1:8-2:6
Mark 13:31-14:2

Friday

1 John 2:7-17
Mark 14:3-9

Saturday

2 Timothy 3:1-9
Luke 20:46-21:4

Reading the Bible in a Year

Feb 13: Deuteronomy 17-20
Feb 14: Deuteronomy 21-24
Feb 15: Deuteronomy 25-29
Feb 16: Deuteronomy 30-34
Feb 17: Joshua 1-4
Feb 18: Joshua 5-8
Feb 19: Joshua 9-12

FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS

February

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
***Sunday School &
Adult Education***

March

02 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
04 – 6:00pm Fun Night
05 – 6:00pm Vespers
06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Forgiveness Vespers
Ladies Society Luncheon
08- 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew
09- 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew
12 – 6:00pm Vespers
13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Icon Procession
16 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot Luck & Lenten Study

Coffee Hour

Aleksandra Kosho Memeorial

Souperbowl Sunday!

Flower Donation

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

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, it's so easy to point out where others have missed opportunities in their lives because they weren't focused in the right direction. But this is so very true of my own life as well. Please help me start with myself and not worry about the speck in my brother's eye! Being attentive to You and Your work in my life is easily lost in this chaotic age. Please help me be quick to repent when I'm distracted from You! And help me have the courage to take up the spiritual treasures given to me by Your precious Church! Amen

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***"Let us cut sin out of our
heart, and we will find
within us the kingdom of
heaven."***

-St. Philotheos of Sinai



Souper Bowl Sunday is TODAY!

Today we 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.

2 Timothy 3:10-15

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Luke 18:10-14

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Children's Word

A very good habit

Have you ever started a good habit, a habit that you've kept? Finishing your homework every night, not eating so much candy, making your bed every day. Have you made a good habit that stuck?

With our faith, we have lots of good habits we can work on, don't we? In today's epistle reading, Saint Paul gives some good advice. “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

We all should make a habit to read the Bible. Saint Paul says, “From childhood, you have known the sacred writings.” Children can read the Bible too! And if you're too little, ask your parents to read to you. We can make the Bible part of every day of our life. Read a little every day, especially the Gospels, which tell us about what Jesus did.

Good habits are important because they do something for us. Making our beds keeps our bedrooms nice and neat. Not eating too much candy keeps us healthy. But Saint Paul tells us reading the Bible does something a million times better. These holy writings teach us about “salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” The Bible teaches us how God will save us! Let's make this special Book a special habit.

SAINT ROMANOS OF KARPENISI A SAINT WHO COULDN'T READ!

Do you remember the three saints we celebrated a few weeks ago? They were the Three Hierarchs—Saint Basil, Saint Gregory, and Saint John Chrysostom. These three saints had read everything, and knew so much. They had had great teachers and learned all their lives.

This week, we celebrate a saint who was different from the hierarchs. Why? Because Saint Romanos couldn't even read! Romanos came from Karpenisi, a part of Greece up in the mountains. Saint Romanos didn't know a lot, but he knew the most important thing. He knew he loved God. He knew he would do anything to keep his faith.

Sadly, Saint Romanos lived during the time when the Ottomans were very cruel to Christians. When the authorities knew that Romanos would not give up and become Muslim, they began to hurt him more and more. They wanted to make an example out of him.

Saint Romanos was an example—but a good one! He is an example for all of us! Finally, the people in charge decided they were going to kill Romanos. On the way to the place he would be killed, Romanos was smiling and very joyful to the people he passed. He knew he was doing the right thing. He knew he would be with his Lord, whom he loved so much! Saint Romanos couldn't read, but he knew what the smartest saints knew! We celebrate Saint Romanos on Wednesday, February 16th.

They Should Be Ready By Now!

February 11, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

An ongoing joke among church families is how long it takes to get ready for church on Sunday mornings! Of course, this isn't true of going to work or going to school, or going to a game, or a dance or most other social and work-related events. But, when it comes to church services, well, the excuses fly!

But in reality, we all suffer from this tendency to not be ready when the time comes. We know we should! We know we can. But, despite our best intentions, it seems there is a spiritual conspiracy to keep us from worship and arriving on time for services.

I tell my own folks, if you arrive too late to have heard the Gospel proclaimed, you are not prepared properly to receive the Eucharist. That's actually a pretty old discipline in the Orthodox Church, but, still, it's a good rule of thumb to use.

So, how can we address the seemingly human-wide struggle to be ready at the right moment?

Look at our lesson today in Matthew 10:1, 5-8:

At that time, Jesus called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay."

OK, let me set the scene for you. Jesus' public ministry has just begun. He's been baptized by St. John the Forerunner and He has gathered His disciples, which include both the 12 Apostles and the 70 disciples that surrounded them. The Lord is sending these out two by two to spread the word of the coming Kingdom of God. They are to preach, heal, and cast out demons. In other words, they are to be the first wave of attack against the kingdom of darkness and the reign of death in the world.

And Jesus gives them specific instructions. He tells them to go "nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Really? The Lord will use Samaritans and Gentiles as His ministry grows as examples of great faith and extraordinary belief. But He tells His disciples to avoid these groups. The Gentiles were anyone not born in the lineage of St. Abraham and under the covenant that God made with Abraham and his descendants. The Samaritans were "half-breeds." They represent the people in history who were at one time part of the lineage of Abraham but had intermarried with pagans and had become influenced by these foreign religions and mixed the Faith with paganism. But why avoid them?

Because the first group that needed tending to was the "lost sheep of the house of Israel!" They were the ones who had been formed by 6000 years of Temple worship, stories, wisdom, scripture, preaching, prayers, prophets, and even times of exile for breaking the covenant with God. They should have known better. They had had all the advantages of wisdom, scripture, and prayer, and they still wandered away from the Lord. They get to hear the Good News first because they had been prepared and they should have been ready.

And many did believe! What was 120 followers of the Lord in the Upper Room on the Feast of Pentecost in Acts 1 grew to over 3000 believers by Acts 2! And the vast number of converts to the Faith of Christ in the first few years of the Church were Jewish believers! In fact, Rome considered the nascent Christian Church as a sect of Judaism until the events after 70 AD and the destruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. The Children of Abraham should have been ready. Sadly too many were not and they missed the fulfillment of all they had in the Faith of Abraham.

But that's such a familiar story. All the benefits, all the advantages. And still we humans squander opportunities. It happens in all our lives. What's the missing piece that makes us so susceptible to "not being ready?" The answer isn't mysterious or even complicated. But it isn't easy. What you and I have to embrace is ATTENTIVENESS! We have to stay focused on the right goal. And that goal is to understand you were made in God's image to become LIKE Him SO THAT you will ultimately become who you really ARE! Stay Attentive and staying attentive means always making sure your faith takes top priority in your life!

Today, are you ready? You've had all the treasures of the Faith for generations. You have the Holy Scriptures, and you have the liturgical life of the Church to form you and keep you focused in the right direction! So, what are you waiting for before you actually live Orthodox on Purpose?

2-е Тимофею 3:10-15

А ты последовал мне в учении, житии, расположении, вере, великодушии, любви, терпении, в гонениях, страданиях, постигших меня в Антиохии, Икони, Листрах; каковые гонения я перенес, и от всех избавил меня Господь. Да и все, желающие жить благочестиво во Христе Иисусе, будут гонимы. Злые же люди и обманщики будут преуспевать во зле, вводя в заблуждение и заблуждаясь. А ты пребывай в том, чему научен и что тебе вверено, зная, кем ты научен. Притом же ты из детства знаешь священные писания, которые могут умудрить тебя во спасение верою во Христа Иисуса.

От Луки 18:10-14

два человека вошли в храм помолиться: один фарисей, а другой мытарь. Фарисей, став, молился сам в себе так: Боже! благодарю Тебя, что я не таков, как прочие люди, грабители, обидчики, прелюбодеи, или как этот мытарь: пощусь два раза в неделю, даю десятую часть из всего, что приобретаю. Мытарь же, стоя вдали, не смел даже поднять глаз на небо; но, ударяя себя в грудь, говорил: Боже! будь милостив ко мне грешнику! Сказываю вам, что сей пошел оправданным в дом свой более, нежели тот: ибо всякий, возвышающий сам себя, унижен будет, а унижающий себя возвысится.

II Timotheut 3:10-15

Po ti i re prapa mësimin tim, sjelljet, qëllimin, besimin, zemërgjerësinë, dashurinë, durimin, përndjekjet, pësimet, që më ndodhën në Antioki, në Ikoni, në Listër. Çfarë përndjekjesh pësova! Dhe Zoti më shpëtoi nga të gjitha. Po edhe gjithë sa duan të rrojnë me shprestari në Krishtin Jisu do të përndiqen. Po njerëzit e ligj e gënjeshtarë do të shkojnë mbarë në më të ligën, duke gënjyer dhe duke u gënjyer. Po ti qëndro në ato që mësove e u vërtetove, duke ditur prej cilit i ke mësuar; edhe se që nga foshnjëria i di shkronjat e shenjta, të cilat mund të të bëjnë të ditur për shpëtim me anë të besimit që është në Krishtin Jisu.

Llukait 18:10-14

Dy njerëz u ngjitën në tempull që të faleshin; njëri ishte Farise dhe tjetri tagrambledhës. Fariseu qëndroi e lutej me veten e tij, duke thënë: O Perëndi, të falënderoj, se nuk jam si njerëzit e tjerë, grabitqarë, të padrejtë, kurorëshkelës, ose edhe si ky tagrambledhës. Agjëroj dy herë në javë, jap të dhjetën nga gjithë ç'kam. Edhe tagrambledhësi kishte ndenjur larg e nuk donte as sytë të ngrinte përpjetë në qiell, po rrihte krahërorin e tij duke thënë: O Perëndi, mëshiomë mua mëkatarin. Ju them juve, ky zbriti në shtëpinë e tij i drejtësuar dhe jo ai, sepse kushdo që ngrë lart veten e tij, do të përulet; dhe ai që përul veten e tij, do të ngrihet lart.