

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 14, 2021

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS TONE 3

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 17 7:15pm Bible Study
Sun. 21 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 3 (Resurrection)

*Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength
with His arm.
He has trampled down death by
death.
He has become the first born of
the dead.
He has delivered us from the
depths of hell,
and has granted to the world
great mercy.*

Troparion – Tone 1 (Ven. Auxentius)

*O dweller of the wilderness and
angel in the body,
thou wast a wonderworker, O
our God-bearing Father
Auxentius.
Thou didst receive heavenly gifts
through fasting, vigil, and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of
those drawn to thee by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave thee
strength!
Glory to Him Who granted thee
a crown!
Glory to Him Who grants
healing to all!*

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

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 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
Feb 20: Joshua 13-16

"...God will be 'all in all' (I Cor. 15:28) when we are no longer what we are now, a multiplicity of impulses and emotions, with little or nothing of God in us, but are fully like God, with room for God and God alone. This is the 'maturity' (cf. Col. 1:28) towards which we speed."

-St. Gregory of Nazianzus

Health of the Parish



\$15,000.00

\$10,000.00

\$5,000.00

dinner party. Now of course it was noted by the butler that the bottle had already been opened, and he thought that was rather peculiar. But he allowed the wine to be brought to the table.

When the grand duchess had a little poured in her glass and toasted everyone, she tasted one of the worst wines she had ever tasted. And her grimace carried with it a look telling everyone that they probably didn't want to try the wine, and they didn't.

There's a comparison here to who we are. We are the vessels, and we are filled with the Holy Spirit upon our baptism. Then we progress on and we essentially waste what the Holy Spirit has filled our vessel with. Then we start thinking about temptations that come our way, and even though we have the grace that's within us to resist the temptations, we give in and surrender to them.

We judge other people, we lose our temper, we take God's name in vain, we use foul words, we cheat on our income tax, we short-change people when we can, we don't leave much of a tip for the waitress who's working very hard and has a family to support. We do all of these things that are contrary to what it means to be a Christian.

Essentially every time we make an infraction against God and His commandments and the grace that dwells within us, we are pouring the expensive wine out of the vessel. And, since the vessel can not remain empty, who comes along and starts to fill this vessel? The demons come and fill it, and the original contents of this vessel, the Holy Spirit, is displaced by them. And thus we waste God's grace by the way we live, as if we are not a Christian and never were.

We need to think about this, and with God's help we need to reform, and take our

We need to pay attention to what we allow to be placed into our vessel

There was once a wealthy, but miserly man, who was gifted a very expensive bottle of fine French wine. The next evening he was invited to a dinner party in the home of a duchess. He decided that since he needed to take something to present as a gift for the dinner table he would take that expensive bottle of wine.

But then the more he thought about it, he decided that he wanted to try the wine first. So he took a corkscrew, opened the bottle of wine, poured a little of it into a glass, and he loved it. So he had a little more, and found he loved it even more, and decided that this was too good a wine to "waste" on that dinner party.

So he poured it into an empty bottle of inexpensive wine while pouring the inexpensive wine into the now empty bottle of the expensive French wine, and then took it to the

February/March Events

February

- 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

March

- 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 *Forgiveness Sunday*

Christian life seriously, behaving like a Christian.

Can you imagine what it would be like to see that lovely, pious old woman that you see in church every Sunday who lights candles and greets everyone with a kiss suddenly losing her temper in the grocery store and cussing someone out, using foul words? It would impact you in a terrible way. And yet each and every one of us at some point does the same thing, scandalizing other people. But most of all we turn our back on God at that moment.

We need to pay attention to what we allow to be placed into our vessel.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

Children's Word

1 Timothy 4:9-15 (Epistle)

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 (Gospel)

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."

A Prayer for Use During the Week

O Lord of Mercy, grant me the ability to see the joy and beauty in living life gratefully. Help me escape the bitterness and delusion of only focusing on what I don't have. Grant me to escape the temptation of being enslaved to the despondency of a life lived blind to Your grace and mercy. Give me the wisdom and the patience to stay faithful so that I cross the finish line of my life filled with Your life and the anticipation of eternity at Your side! Amen.

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 LEO THE GREAT POPE OF ROME

Have you ever stood up for something you knew was right? So many of our saints did!

On Thursday, we celebrate the feastday of Saint Leo the Great, Pope of Rome. A pope? That sounds like he was Catholic, not Orthodox! Actually, Saint Leo was both! Many years ago, there was one Christian Church, all together. Saint Leo was the bishop of the Christian Church in Rome.

Saint Leo was a strong Christian leader. He lived about 1600 years ago, when the one Christian Church was attacked by all kinds of heresies. (A heresy is something that is different from the truth.) Saint Leo fought against those heresies—not with a sword, but by teaching people the truth. He wanted everyone to know what we Christians really believe!

Saint Leo wrote many things that we can still read today—hundreds and hundreds of years after he wrote them! Do you think you can try to remember one little thing he wrote? In one sermon, he said, "Christians, remember your dignity." He told the people how, as Christians, we have to show that we're different, always trying to do the right thing. We try not to get mixed up in things we know are wrong or bad. "Christians, remember your dignity." As Christians, we are special followers of Christ, and we want to be like Him!

We celebrate St. Leo on Thursday, February 18th.

A Eucharistic Life!

February 8, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

“All is gift.” This phrase captures both the simple and profound message that embodies the mystery of living a Eucharistic life. You may ask “What does that mean?” And I understand. We moderns are far removed from a world where mystery and wonder and story dominated our human society. And we are impoverished by this reduction of true mystery in our lives.

Although, I will say that our modern world is slowly being re-enchanted because the younger generation is seeing the bankruptcy of mere materialistic life. This means we Orthodox have a window of evangelistic opportunity IF we embrace a normal Orthodox life that is defined by the centrality of the Eucharist. Living a Eucharistic Life is all about not denying the truth that what we don't see is as real as what we do see!

Eucharistic life is a life lived on the firm foundation of true gratitude, a life lived in a thankful way; a life lived free of bitterness, false expectations, and slavery to passions. Interested?

Look at our Lesson today in Ephesians 2:4-10:

BRETHREN, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

St. Paul wants to make it clear to the Ephesians that their renewed life of faith and their eternal life is due to God's mercy and grace. They haven't "earned" God's mercy. It's a gift! And a gift is just that: a gift! You see one of the great threats to the Christian life in the earliest days of the Church was a false notion that you had to obey the law of Moses along with your faith in Christ to receive salvation. The people who taught this false message were called "Judaizers" because they said you had to become Jewish before you could be Christian. These folks were disturbed by all the Gentiles coming to faith in Christ and they wanted to make sure these Gentiles adopted their Jewish practices. St. Paul, a Jew himself and a former teacher of the Law, rejected this message and emphasized that this new life won for us by Jesus was a gift to the whole world; for everyone!

And Paul emphasizes this precisely so that no one could boast that they earned their salvation! Because that leads to one of the most deadly spiritual illnesses that the Fathers called "prelest" or spiritual pride. Over and over again the Fathers warn us against such an illness that deludes us into believing we have somehow "achieved" great spiritual power or strength by our own efforts as if God now is "obligated" to treat us well because we've "earned" His favor. The Christian message says with St. Paul "I am the chiefest of sinners" and allows us no place to put our confidence in our own efforts to "get God to be good to us." God IS good to us even when we are against, or as is more often the case, dismissive of, Him! God loved us even when we were "dead" in our spiritual lives!

So, our motivation to follow Him changes from the narcissistic "what's in this for me" mentality that leads to prelest, to the loving and grateful Eucharistic motivation of thankfulness that He has given me His salvation. I live as I do from gratitude, not from expectation!

Today, what are you doing in your life to keep this new life of Faith at the top of your priorities? Are you constantly aware of His Gift to you? Do you know how to live a Eucharistic life? You have been given all things as a Gift. Living grateful, Eucharistically is being 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.

1 Timoteut 4:9-15

Kjo fjalë është e sigurt dhe e denjë për t'u pranuar në çdo mënyrë. Për këtë, në fakt, ne po mundohemi dhe na shajnë, sepse kemi shpresuar në Perëndinë e gjallë, që është Shpëtimtari i gjithë njerëzve dhe sidomos i besimtarëve. Urdhëro këto gjëra dhe mëso këto gjëra. Askush të mos e shpërfillë moshën tënde të re, por bëhu shembull për besimtarët në fjalë, në sjellje, në dashuri, në Frymë, në besim dhe në dëlirësi. Kushtoj leximit, këshillimit dhe mësimimit derisa të vij unë. Mos e lër pas dore dhuntinë që është në ty, e cila të është dhënë me anë profecie, me vënien e duarve nga ana e pleqësisë. Kujdesu për këto gjëra dhe kushtoj atyre tërësisht, që përparimi yt të jetë i dukshëm për të gjithë.

Luka 19:1-10

Pastaj Jezusi hyri në Jeriko dhe po kalonte nëpër qytet; dhe ja, një njeri i quajtur Zake, i cili ishte kryetari i tagrambledhësve dhe ishte i pasur. Ai kërkonte të shihte kush ishte Jezusi, por nuk mundte për shkak të turmës, sepse ishte i shkurtër nga shtati. Atëherë rendi përpara dhe u ngjit në një fik për ta parë, sepse ai duhet të kalonte andej. Dhe kur Jezusi arriti në atë vend, i çoi sytë, e pa dhe i tha: “Zake, zbrit shpejt poshtë, sepse sot duhet të rri në shtëpinë tënde.” Dhe ai zbriti me nxitim dhe e priti me gëzim. Kur panë këtë, të gjithë murmuritën, duke thënë: “Ai shkoi të rrijë në shtëpinë e një njeriu mëkatar.” Por Zakeu u çua dhe i tha Zotit: “Zot, unë po u jap të varfërve gjysmën e pasurisë sime dhe, po të kem marrë ndonjë gjë nga ndonjëri me mashtrim, do t'ia kthej katërfish.” Dhe Jezusi i tha: “Sot në këtë shtëpi ka hyrë shpëtimi, sepse edhe ky është bir i Abrahamit. Sepse Biri i njeriut erdhi të kërkojë dhe të shpëtojë atë që kishte humbur.”