

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 28, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

TONE 5

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 03 7:15pm Bible Study
Sun. 07 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 5
(Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion - Tone 1
(Lenten Triodion)

I have recklessly forgotten Thy glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which Thou gavest me. And now I cry to Thee as the Prodigal: "I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father; receive me as a penitent, and make me as one of Thy hired servants!"

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 Corinthians 6:12-20
Luke 15:11-32

Monday

1 John 2:18-3:10
Mark 11:1-11

Tuesday

1 John 3:11-20
Mark 14:10-42

Wednesday

1 John 3:21-4:6
Mark 14:43-15:1

Thursday

1 John 4:20-5:21
Mark 15:1-15

Friday

2 John 1:1-13
Mark 15:22-25, 33-41

Saturday

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
John 5:24-30
1 Corinthians 10:23-28
Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

Reading the Bible in a Year

Feb 28: Ruth
Mar 01: 1 Samuel 1-4
Mar 02: 1 Samuel 5-8
Mar 03: 1 Samuel 9-12
Mar 04: 1 Samuel 13-16
Mar 05: 1 Samuel 17-20
Mar 06: 1 Samuel 21-24

Just as those who are deprived of light cannot walk straight, so also those who do not behold the ray of the Holy Scriptures must necessarily sin, since they walk in the deepest darkness.

-St. John Chrysostom

Health of the Parish



\$15,000.00

\$12,700

\$10,000.00

\$5,000.00

If you've ever been lost, you might have had those same feelings. When you realize you're lost, you know you want to be with your family. You know you want to be safe and taken care of and loved. You know you want to be back home.

This Gospel story isn't just about a lost young man. It's about how we can get lost from our Lord sometimes. We can wander off. We can get lost, and we can know that scary feeling of being away from God. God always wants to find us. He wants us to come back home to Him. He is always ready to take care of us and love us. Let's always remember this special story of the Prodigal Son. If we ever make the mistake to wander away from God, we know we can be safe when we are back home with Him!

SAINT JAMES THE FASTER GOD FORGIVES!

Sometimes you might hear about somebody who seems like a good guy, but then he does something really wrong.

Saint James was like that. He spent 15 years living out in the wilderness in what is now Syria. Out there, he prayed to God and he grew closer and closer to Him. He was getting to be quite a holy man! But one day he did something really wrong, so wrong that he felt awful about it. He thought about it all the time. He wandered around for years, feeling sad and down. After a while, Saint James met another holy man, who reminded James about God's mercy. He reminded him that God will forgive us when we do

something wrong, even if it is something really wrong. Then, Saint James went to live all alone in a cave. He spent his time begging God to forgive him. He fasted a lot, too. (That's why we call him Saint James the Faster!) God showed Saint James that he forgave him, because soon he was able to do miracles when he asked God for help with things. With this, God showed James that he was listening to him.

When we think of Saint James, we know that God wants to forgive us too. We have to tell our Lord that we are sorry for what we have done.

We celebrate St. James on Thursday, March 4th.

March Events

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*

17 - 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew followed by pot-luck and Lenten study

21 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy

25 - 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy followed by pot-luck and Lenten study

28 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Children's Word

Lost and found

Have you ever been lost? Maybe you've been at the mall or at a fair. You wandered off, and then you looked around and you couldn't find your family! What a scary feeling it is to be lost, isn't it?

Today's Gospel story tells about a young man who wandered off. His family knew he was leaving, but they let him go anyway. After a while, this young man realized he was lost. He knew he wanted to be with his father. He knew he wanted to be safe and loved. He knew he wanted to be back home.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (Epistle)

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Luke 15:11-32 (Gospel)

Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and

kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

A Prayer for Use During the Week

Dear Lord, Your grace and Your mercy are available to all of us no matter our age or our need. You are so kind and loving that You come to me during every age of my life and You make Yourself available to me no matter where I am in my life. This proves to me, O Lord, that You are so loving toward me that there is no time in my life that You aren’t available to me. And this love calls me to spiritual maturity so that I can embrace more of You in my everyday life. Please help me grow up through repentance so that I may be like You. Amen.

Grace For Every Age!

February 26, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

“I wish I were older!” Those were my words to my mother when I was a teenager and longed for the “freedom” of being an adult! If I only knew then what I know now! Bills, taxes, responsibilities, ugh! Can I take it back and go back to being a teenager again, please?!?

Well, of course, I can't. At least I shouldn't. But too many in today's culture really have refused to grow up. The “Peter Pan” syndrome seems to be all too common today. What's that you say? Well, you remember the story of Peter Pan, don't you? The boy who never grew up and lived in “Never Never Land.” But we humans were meant to mature. We were meant to get wiser, older, and more able to deal with life as it really is rather than hiding from life in some perpetual adolescence.

Look at our Lesson today in 1 John 2:7-17:

Brethren, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling. But he who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever.

St. John is writing to his faithful as their bishop and he knows he is communicating to people who are in various stages of growing up. He tells his faithful that, now that the light has come, we are no longer free to pretend we don't see! And our willingness to admit the light now shines is tied forever to how we treat each other! If someone claims to have “seen the light” but hates his brother is still actually gripped by darkness because when you see the light you don't stumble anymore! I was thinking this same thing a few nights ago when I got up in the middle of the night and tripped over a toy in the hall!

St. John wants to encourage us and he does this by writing to children, young men, and fathers: three stages of growth that each come with their own blessings and responsibilities. To “children,” John writes, your sins are forgiven, and you know the Father. This is the “elementary” phase of spiritual growth. We all begin our lives as babes in Christ by having our sins forgiven and being introduced to God as Father.

To “young men,” he writes, you have overcome the evil one and you are strong. The “young man” phase of our spiritual growth reveals us exercising our faith and strengthening our faith with discipline and focus and that makes us able to avoid the traps of the evil one because of our vitality and purpose!

To “fathers,” he writes, you “know” Him Who is from the beginning. The “father” phase of our spiritual growth is all about an eternal perspective and freedom to rest in that perspective undisturbed by the swirl of chaos around us. This maturity sets us free to be at rest no matter what life brings!

Today, where are you in your spiritual growth? Are you ready to grow up? Are you ready to graduate from the elementary ways of children and finally move forward to becoming “fathers” and “mothers” who can pass on this treasure of faith to the next generation? All you need is in the rhythm of the Church; in Her prayers, liturgies, disciplines, and ways. It's finally all about being Orthodox on Purpose!

1-е Коринфянам 6:12-20

Все мне позволительно, но не все полезно; все мне позволительно, но ничто не должно обладать мною. Пища для чрева, и чрево для пищи; но Бог уничтожит и то и другое. Тело же не для блуда, но для Господа, и Господь для тела. Бог воскресил Господа, воскресит и нас силою Своею. Разве не знаете, что тела ваши суть члены Христовы? Итак отниму ли члены у Христа, чтобы сделать [их] членами блудницы? Да не будет! Или не знаете, что совокупляющийся с блудницею становится одно тело [с нею]? ибо сказано: два будут одна плоть. А соединяющийся с Господом есть один дух с Господом. Бегайте блуда; всякий грех, какой делает человек, есть вне тела, а блудник грешит против собственного тела. Не знаете ли, что тела ваши суть храм живущего в вас Святаго Духа, Которого имеете вы от Бога, и вы не свои? Ибо вы куплены [дорогою] ценою. Посему прославляйте Бога и в телах ваших и в душах ваших, которые суть Божии.

От Луки 15:11-32

Еще сказал: у некоторого человека было два сына; и сказал младший из них отцу: отче! дай мне следующую [мне] часть имения. И [отец] разделил им имение. По прошествии немногих дней младший сын, собрав всё, пошел в дальнюю сторону и там расточил имение свое, живя распутно. Когда же он прожил всё, настал великий голод в той стране, и он начал нуждаться; и пошел, пристал к одному из жителей страны той, а тот послал его на поля свои пасти свиней; и он рад был наполнить чрево свое рожками, которые ели свиньи, но никто не давал ему. Придя же в себя, сказал: сколько наемников у отца моего избыточествуют хлебом, а я умираю от голода; встану, пойду к отцу моему и скажу ему: отче! я согрешил против неба и пред тобою и уже недостойн называться сыном твоим; прими меня в число наемников твоих. Встал и пошел к отцу своему. И когда он был еще далеко, увидел его отец его и сжалился; и, побежав, пал ему на шею и целовал его. Сын же сказал ему: отче! я согрешил против неба и пред тобою и уже недостойн называться сыном твоим. А отец сказал рабам своим: принесите лучшую одежду и оденьте его, и дайте перстень на руку его и обувь на ноги; и приведите откормленного теленка, и заколите; станем есть и веселиться! ибо этот сын мой был мертв и ожил, пропадал и нашелся. И начали веселиться. Старший же сын его был на поле; и возвращаясь, когда приблизился к дому, услышал пение и ликование; и, призвав одного из слуг, спросил: что это такое? Он сказал ему: брат твой пришел, и отец твой заколол откормленного теленка, потому что принял его здоровым. Он осердился и не хотел войти. Отец же его, выйдя, звал его. Но он сказал в ответ отцу: вот, я столько лет служу тебе и никогда не преступал приказания твоего, но ты никогда не дал мне и козлёнка, чтобы мне повеселиться с друзьями моими; а когда этот сын твой, расточивший имение своё с блудницами, пришел, ты заколол для него откормленного теленка. Он же сказал ему: сын мой! ты всегда со мною, и всё мое твое, а о том надобно было радоваться и веселиться, что брат твой сей был мертв и ожил, пропадал и нашелся.

1 e Korintasve 6:12-20

Çdo gjë më lejohet, por jo gjithçka është e dobishme; çdo gjë më lejohet, por unë nuk do të nënshtrohem asnjërës. Gjellët janë për barkun dhe barku për gjellët; por Perëndia do të shkatërrojë edhe këtë edhe atë; por trupi nuk është për kurvëri, po për Zotin, dhe Zoti për trupin. Tani Perëndia siç e ringjalli Zotin kështu do të na ringjallë edhe ne me fuqinë e tij. A nuk e dini ju se trupat tuaj janë gjymtyrë të Krishtit? Të marr, pra, unë gjymtyrët e Krishtit dhe t'i bëj gjymtyrë të një kurve? mos qoftë ashtu! A nuk e dini ju se ai që bashkohet me një kurvë bëhet një trup me të? Sepse thuhet: "Do të jenë të dy, thotë Zoti, një mish i vetëm." Por ai që bashkohet me Zotin është një frymë me të. Largohuni nga kurvëria! Çdo mëkat që kryen njeriu është jashtë trupit, po ai që kurvëron mëkaton kundër trupit të vet. A nuk e dini se trupi juaj është tempulli i Frymës së Shenjtë që është në ju, të cilin e keni nga Perëndia, dhe se nuk i përkitni vetvetes? Sepse u bletë me një çmim! Përlëvdoni Perëndinë, pra, në trupin tuaj dhe në frymën tuaj, që i përkasin Perëndisë.

Luka 15:11-32

Tha akoma: "Një njeri kishte dy bij. Më i riu i tyre i tha babait: "Atë, më jep pjesën e pasurisë që më takon". Dhe i ati ua ndau mes tyre pasurinë. Mbas pak ditësh biri më i ri mblodhi çdo gjë, shkoi në një vend të largët dhe atje e prishi gjithë pasurinë, duke bërë një jetë të shthurur. Por, si i shpenzoi të gjitha, në atë vend ra një zi e madhe buke, dhe ai filloi të jetë në hall. Atëherë shkoi e iu ngjit pas një banori të atij vendi, i cili e çoi në arat e tij që të ruajë derrat. Dhe ai dëshironte të mbushte barkun me lendet që hanin derrat, por askush nuk ia jepte. Atëherë erdhi në vete dhe tha: "Sa punëtorëve mëditës të atit tim u tepron buka, kurse unë po vdes nga uria! Do të çohem dhe do të shkoj tek im atë dhe do t'i them: Atë, mëkatova kundër qiellit dhe para teje; nuk jam më i denjë të quhem yt bir; trajtomë si një nga mëditësit e tu". U çua, pra, dhe shkoi tek i ati. Por kur ishte ende larg, i ati e pa dhe dhembshuri; u lëshua vrap, ra mbi qafën e tij dhe e puthi. Dhe i biri i tha: "O atë, mëkatova kundër qiellit dhe para teje dhe nuk jam më i denjë të quhem biri yt". Por i ati u tha shërbëtorëve të vet: "Sillni këtu rrobën më të bukur dhe visheni, i vini një unazë në gisht dhe sandale në këmbë. Nxirrni jashtë viçin e majmur dhe thereni; të hamë dhe të gëzohemi, sepse ky biri im kishte vdekur dhe u kthye në jetë, kishte humbur dhe u gjet përsëri". Dhe filluan të bënin një festë të madhe. Djali i tij i madh ishte në ara; dhe kur u kthye dhe iu afrua shtëpisë, dëgjoi këngë e valle. Atëherë thirri një shërbëtor dhe e pyeti ç'ishte e gjitha kjo. Dhe ai i tha: "U kthye yt vëlla dhe yt atë theri viçin e majmur, sepse iu kthye djali shëndoshë e mirë". Kur i dëgjoi këto, ai u zemërua dhe nuk desh të hynte; atëherë i ati doli dhe iu lut të hynte. Por ai iu përgjigj të atit dhe tha: "Ja, u bënë kaq vite që unë të shërbej dhe kurrë s'kam shkelur asnjë nga urdhërat e tu, e megjithatë kurrë s'më dhe një kec për të bërë një festë me miqtë e mi. Por, kur u kthye ky djali yt, që prishi pasurinë tënde me prostituta, ti there për të viçin e majmur". Atëherë i ati i tha: "O bir, ti je gjithmonë me mua, dhe çdo gjë që kam është jotja. Por duhet të festojmë dhe të gëzohemi, sepse ky vëllai yt kishte vdekur dhe u kthye në jetë, kishte humbur dhe u gjet përsëri"."