

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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January 17, 2021

32ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: VENERABLE AND GODBEARING
FATHER ANTHONY THE GREAT
TONE 7

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 20 7:15pm Bible Study
Sun. 24 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 7
(Resurrection)**

*By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy
death.
To the thief Thou didst open
Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst
change weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy
disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,
granting the world great mercy.*

**Kontakion – Tone 2
(St. Anthony)**

*Thou didst reject the tumult of this
life
living thy life to the end in solitude,
imitating the Baptist in every way.
With him we honor thee, most
venerable Anthony,
the foundation of the Fathers.*

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

Hebrews 13:17-21

Luke 6:17-23

Colossians 1:12-18

Luke 18:18-27

Monday

Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19

Luke 20:27-44

Tuesday

Hebrews 4:1-13

Luke 21:12-19

Wednesday

Hebrews 5:11-6:8

Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24

Thursday

Hebrews 7:1-6

Luke 21:28-33

Friday

Hebrews 7:18-25

Luke 21:37-22:8

Saturday

Ephesians 2:11-13

Luke 13:18-29

Reading the Bible in a Year

Jan 17: Exodus 13-16

Jan 18: Exodus 17-20

Jan 19: Exodus 21-24

Jan 20: Exodus 25-28

Jan 21: Exodus 29-32

Jan 22: Exodus 33-36

Jan 23: Exodus 37-40

If you become rich, consider whether or not you could worthily bear poverty.

If you are happy, imagine how you could worthily meet unhappiness.

When people praise you, think how you might worthily bear insult. And, all your life, think how you might worthily meet death.

-St. Nicholas of Serbia

All suffering is ultimately for our salvation

God reigns over all, and He actively cares for us. We simply need to pay more attention to the truth of His presence in our lives. We need to see that the negative things we are witnessing are not, ultimately, about the truth of our lives, nor the truth about our situation. If we refuse to focus on the negative, we avoid the danger of being blinded to the good things that surround us. This is why Saint Paisius of Mt. Athos told us that we must consciously cultivate positive thoughts. Sometimes things seem so horrible we feel as

Health of the Parish



\$15,000.00

\$10,000.00

\$5,000.00

though we've been buried alive, and have no hope for ever emerging from the darkness that has engulfed us. But if we think about it, we've actually been planted, and in the long run we will grow into a beautiful plant, budding forth gorgeous flowers. This is what God has in store for us, even when everything around us seems to have been shrouded in darkness.

The Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain said there are two types of people. There are the bees and the flies. The bees are attracted to flowers and sweet smells, whereas the flies are only attracted to dirt and stench. Ask a bee where there is stench, and he will say "what is stench". Ask a fly, where is the sweet smell, and he will say "what sweet smell?" The bee knows only sweetness and good, whereas the fly knows only stench and dirt.

As we examine our lives, we must decide whether we will be a bee, or a fly. Do we judge others, and look only for the stench and the dirt, or do we look only for the good in others, and see the stench only in ourselves. Do we see only the hardships that seemingly take possession of our lives, or do we see the heavenly garden that is in the horizon?

Saint Ignatius (Brianchaninov) tells us, "All things pass – both the

January/February Events

January

- 17 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 20 – 7:15pm Bible Study via Google Meet
- 24 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 27 – 7:15pm Bible Study via Google Meet
- 31 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

February

- 03 – 7:15pm Bible Study via Google Meet
- 07 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 10 – 7:15pm Bible Study via Google Meet

bad and the good – and neither men, nor demons can do anything if God does not allow it." For we Christians, we know that all our struggles, all our sorrows, and, indeed, all our suffering, is ultimately for our salvation.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

Colossians 1:12-18 (Epistle)

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Luke 18:18-27 (Gospel)

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Children's Word

A rich man in heaven?

Have you ever wanted to be rich? Really rich? After you hear today's Gospel reading, maybe you might change your mind.

A rich man asked our Lord, Jesus Christ, how he could go to heaven. He was a faithful man, and he tried to do all the right things. But Jesus told him that he needed to do one thing. He needed to sell all his things and give them to the poor. Wow! How could this man ever do that?

Our Lord knows how hard it is to give up things that we have! In the Gospel today, Christ even says, "It will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven." But did you know something? Lots of rich people are saints in our church. Think about Saint Helen. She was an empress who gave lots of her money to build churches. Think about Saint Elizabeth. She was a duchess who gave away lots of her money and things to start a hospital for poor people. These rich people became saints!

If we have money, we can show God that money doesn't mean so much to us. God wants us to help people who don't have money. Yes, it's hard, but we can think of the saints who gave up even more!

SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT "HUMBLE YOURSELVES"

Have you ever heard of somebody called "the Great"? Alexander the Great conquered huge lands, and he won battles left and right. Wayne Gretsky was called "the Great One." He was a hockey player who could score goals better than anybody else. Catherine the Great was an empress who made Russia a very powerful country. But what about a poor man living in the desert? A man who had no money or power? Why does our Orthodox Church call this man, "the Great"?

Saint Anthony once had lots of money, but he sold all of his things and gave his money to the poor. He went out of the city to live in the desert, in Egypt. He left so that he could be close to God, in prayer and by fasting. He remembered what the Bible tells us about being important. It says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

Saint Anthony humbled himself. He tried not to be important and famous and powerful. He knew that God would make him important if He wanted to! We remember Saint Anthony as "the Great" because he is a great saint, and a great example to us!

We celebrate St. Anthony today, January 17th.

Surviving Temptation Means Preparing for Next Time!

January 11, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

My teenage daughter and I have some great conversations in the mornings when I take her to school. Recently, we talked about the importance of a foundation for our thinking and choices. I was encouraging her to learn HOW to think so that she can maneuver all of life's situations with a consistency and strength. That means learning how to examine the WHY of my choices, feelings, and motivations.

What shapes the way you think and approach life? How you handle a particularly difficult time becomes a major way to learn how to handle all difficult times. A sign I saw recently on a school building sign says it best "10% of Life is what happens to you, and 90% of life is how you handle it!"

Look at our lesson today in Luke 4:1-15:

At that time Jesus returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" And the devil took him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I will give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it shall all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

And he took him to Jerusalem, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here; for it is written, 'He will give his angels charge of you, to guard you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and a report concerning him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Notice several pieces of information that may inform us about our own spiritual journey: First, the devil left Him "until an opportune time." Just because we persevere through a time of temptation doesn't mean we should let down our guard. While the enemy may withdraw, it is only to wait for the next opportunity to attack. Wakefulness and constant preparation through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving means we won't be surprised when he attacks again and we'll be ready for him.

Next, the Lord returned in Power. There's nothing more debilitating and exhausting than a prolonged time of spiritual warfare, but there is also nothing more empowering than coming out the other end of that struggle. The energy given to us as we faithfully stay our course is meant to refresh us after the fight. We need to heal. We need to recuperate. Just like a prolonged battle with a physical ailment calls for proper time to regain our strength, so a spiritual battle needs the energizing presence of the Spirit to strengthen us for the next battle!

Finally, the Lord didn't simply revel in His victory over the devil, He got to work! He began to teach and preach and do the ministry He fought to preserve. And the people loved it, and they loved Him. But, as that old TV show said "Danger Will Robinson!" Another place it says "beware when all men speak well of you." The crowd is fickle, and the Lord didn't allow the good times to intoxicate Him into abandoning His mission either.

The enemy of your soul doesn't care which tactic works to knock you off your practice of the faith. He just wants you off the path!

Today, don't waste any wilderness experience in your life. Even in the middle of the pain of temptation, of despair, of disappointment, don't allow the evil one to con you into believing all is lost. It isn't if you just stay sober to yourself and to your "high calling of God in Christ Jesus." And when the battle is past (and all battles really do end, even though in the middle of it it seems to go on forever) don't allow the happiness of peace to intoxicate you either. Be Ready! Be Orthodox on Purpose.

К Колоссянам 1:12-18

благодаря Бога и Отца, призвавшего нас к участию в наследии святых во свете, избавившего нас от власти тьмы и введшего в Царство возлюбленного Сына Своего, в Котором мы имеем искупление Кровию Его и прощение грехов, Который есть образ Бога невидимого, рожденный прежде всякой твари; ибо Им создано всё, что на небесах и что на земле, видимое и невидимое: престолы ли, господства ли, начальства ли, власти ли, --все Им и для Него создано; и Он есть прежде всего, и все Им стоит. И Он есть глава тела Церкви; Он--начаток, первенец из мертвых, дабы иметь Ему во всем первенство,

От Луки 18:18-27

И спросил Его некто из начальствующих: Учитель благий! что мне делать, чтобы наследовать жизнь вечную? Иисус сказал ему: что ты называешь Меня благим? никто не благ, как только один Бог; знаешь заповеди: не прелюбодействуй, не убивай, не кради, не лжесвидетельствуй, почитай отца твоего и мать твою. Он же сказал: все это сохранил я от юности моей. Услышав это, Иисус сказал ему: еще одного недостает тебе: все, что имеешь, продай и раздай нищим, и будешь иметь сокровище на небесах, и приходи, следуй за Мною. Он же, услышав сие, опечалился, потому что был очень богат. Иисус, видя, что он опечалился, сказал: как трудно имеющим богатство войти в Царствие Божие! ибо удобнее верблюду пройти сквозь игольные уши, нежели богатому войти в Царствие Божие. Слышавшие сие сказали: кто же может спастись? Но Он сказал: невозможное человекам возможно Богу.

Kolosianëve 1:12-18

duke e falënderuar Perëndinë At, që na bëri të denjë të kemi pjesë trashëgimin e shenjtorëve në dritë. Ai na nxori nga pushteti i errësirës dhe na çoi në mbretërinë e Birit të tij të dashur, në të cilën ne kemi shpengimin me anë të gjakut të tij dhe faljen e mëkateve. Ai është shëmbëllesa e Perëndisë së padukshëm, i parëlinduri i çdo krijese, sepse në të u krijuan të gjitha gjërat, ato që janë në qiell dhe ato mbi dhe, gjërat që duken dhe ato që nuk duken: frone, zotërime, principata dhe pushtete; të gjitha gjërat janë krijuar me anë të tij dhe në lidhje me të. Ai është përpara çdo gjëje dhe të gjitha gjërat qëndrojnë në të. Ai vetë është kreu i trupit, pra i kishës; ai është fillimi, i parëlinduri nga të vdekurit, përderisa të ketë parësinë në çdo gjë,

Luka 18:18-27

Një nga krerët e pyeti duke thënë: “Mësues i mirë, ç’duhet të bëj për të trashëguar jetën e përjetshme?” Dhe Jezusi i tha: “Përse më quan të mirë? Askush nuk është i mirë, përveç një të vetmi, domethënë Perëndisë. Ti i njeh urdhërimet: "Mos shkel kurorën, mos vrit, mos vidh, mos thuaj dëshmi të rrem, ndero atin tënd dhe nënën tënde".” Dhe ai tha: “Të gjitha këto i kam zbatuar që nga rinia.” Si e dëgjoi, Jezusi i tha: “Të mungon akoma një gjë: shit gjithçka që ke dhe jepua të varfërve dhe do të kesh një thesar në qiell; pastaj eja e më ndiq.” Por ai, kur i dëgjoi këto gjëra, u trishtua shumë, sepse ishte shumë i pasur. Atëherë Jezusi, kur pa se ai ishte trishtuar shumë, tha: “Sa është e vështirë për ata që kanë pasuri të hyjnë në mbretërinë e Perëndisë! Sepse është më lehtë që një deve të kalojë nëpër vrimën e gjilpërës, sesa i pasuri të hyjë në mbretërinë e Perëndisë.” Dhe ata që e dëgjonin thanë: “Po kush, pra, mund të shpëtohet?” Por ai tha: “Gjëra të pamundshme për njerëzit janë të mundshme për Perëndinë.”