

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 31, 2021

34TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY NEW
MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS OF RUSSIA
TONE 8

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Mon. 01 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy
Feast of the Meeting
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 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 3
(Sts. Cyrus and John)**

*Having received the gift of miracles
through divine grace, O saints,
you work wonders in the world
unceasingly.
You remove all of our passions
through your invisible surgery,
divinely-wise Cyrus and glorious
John,
for you are truly divine physicians.*

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

Colossians 3:12-16
Matthew 25:14-30

Monday

Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31
Mark 9:42-10:1

Tuesday

Hebrews 12:25-26, 13:22-25
Mark 10:2-12
Hebrews 7:7-17
Luke 2:22-40

Wednesday

James 1:1-18
Mark 10:11-16

Thursday

James 1:19-27
Mark 10:17-27

Friday

James 2:1-13
Mark 10:23-32

Saturday

Colossians 1:3-6
Luke 16:10-15

Reading the Bible in a Year

Jan 31: Numbers 1-4
Feb 01: Numbers 5-8
Feb 02: Numbers 9-12
Feb 03: Numbers 13-16
Feb 04: Numbers 17-20
Feb 05: Numbers 21-24
Feb 06: Numbers 25-28

How do we keep our youth in the Church?

We are living in an age that has witnessed changes on a massive scale as never before. The way we communicate has changed with the coming of the internet, with information available that would have required a library and advanced degrees to access in the past. Ideas and information are available that leave our youth with choices that were never available a generation ago.

Moral norms have changed, with values and lifestyles that would have never been seen as acceptable in the past becoming part of mainstream. Gay marriage, the high divorce rate, children being raised by unwed parents, and profane music that sounds like it came from the underworld (which inspired it, I'm sure). Child sexual abuse is reaching shocking numbers, with clergy, boy scout leaders, coaches and police officers under arrest. With the environmental crisis increasing and political unrest spreading, hope is fading. Our world is polarized in ways that are mind boggling, and the economy has lowered the hopes and expectations of a whole generation.

With all that has changed in our world, is it any wonder young people are abandoning the Christian faith in droves? With the youthful questioning of authority, it is not enough to simply expect them to accept the authority of bishops, priests, and the traditions and teachings of the Church. There needs to be a change in the way we of the older generations communicate with our youth.

Health of the Parish



\$15,000.00

\$10,000.00

\$5,000.00

In this age of information we must demonstrate to our youth the difference between information and wisdom. Wisdom is that which is passed down from the past and which imparts substance and enlightenment. Wisdom is not about information, and does not compete with worldly knowledge. Wisdom need not be in conflict with science, nor be linked to narrow mindedness. Wisdom is that which not only connects us to the best of human knowledge and experience, but links us to that which is eternal. Wisdom gives us the ability to relate to our Creator, to our culture and to others. The urgency of imparting this message is great, for we have a whole generation that is in danger of losing faith in God. It is not enough to expect our young people to attend services if we do not listen to them, respect them, and try to understand the world that is confronting them. They are growing up in a different world than people of my generation experienced, and this important difference must be acknowledged and respected. We can't simply teach the truth to our youth, we must live it in a way that makes it real for them. We must be patient with them, be open to their struggles and non-confrontational when they disagree with us, or we will lose them forever to Christ. Today's young people have the same hopes and dreams that previous generations held, but this fast changing world is depriving them of hope. Nihilism has become the religion of countless numbers of our youth, with the result that life has become meaningless. The information age has driven God out of societal, cultural and governmental prominence, resulting in mass disbelief. We who are of the older generations must witness to the wealth of truth that is in the ancient knowledge and wisdom of the Church by demonstrating it's worth in how we live. If young people do not see a genuine living out of the Faith in us, they will keep looking for truth in directions that will take them far from it.

January/February Events

January

31 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

February

01 – 7:00pm Vespertal 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

Young people are worthy of our love and respect, and worthy of sharing with us the life in Christ that is their heritage as well. The Church will not be a draw to our youth unless her members demonstrate holiness of life and reach out with love, patience and understanding, offering something that is seen as real by today's young people.

Finally, today's young people need to see joy in the hearts of those of us who have taken on Christ. If we do not have joy in our hearts the youth will see nothing that is attractive to them, and will continue in the wasteland of consumerism, materialism, nihilism, and all hope for the future of our planet will have died.

Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

Colossians 3:12-16 (Epistle)

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Matthew 25:14-30 (Gospel)

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

What will you bring back?

Let's say your parents have a little treat for you and a sibling—candy, or cookies, or a surprise. Usually they divide them up evenly, don't they? Three for you, and three for your brother or sister. Ten for you, and ten for another. That seems fair, doesn't it?

In today's Gospel reading, we hear a story that might not seem so fair...at first. In the story, a man goes on a trip, and he wants his servants to take care of his things. He gives a lot of money to one of his servants, a medium amount to another, and just a little bit to another. The man wants the servants to take care of that money.

After a while, the man comes back from his trip. He asks his servants what happened to the money. The first two servants took care of the money, and they even made more money with it. The third one had just hidden the money, and he gave him back the same amount. The master was angry with this third one.

This story has another meaning, of course. God gives us all different gifts. Some people can do really amazing things. Some people can just do simple things. Some people have a lot. Some people have almost nothing! But God wants us each to use what we have. He wants us to take care of the things He has given us. He wants us to do the best we can with them. God doesn't always give an even amount of gifts, but He wants us to use what we have the best way we can!

SAINT BRIDGET ANOTHER IRISH SAINT

It won't be long before everybody will be talking about Saint Patrick, Ireland, and green shamrocks. But tomorrow we celebrate the feastday of another great saint of Ireland, Saint Bridget.

Nowadays, most people in Ireland are Christian, but Saint Bridget lived long ago, when not many people knew about our one, true God! Lots of people there worshipped trees and other things in nature. Bridget's father was a pagan, too. He named his daughter after the goddess of fire. He wanted her to grow up worshipping those things, too. But Bridget had other ideas! Even when she was little, Bridget wanted to follow Christ.

Bridget tried to help people whenever she could. She helped the poor, and her father was not too happy when she would give away the family's milk and flour to poor people who needed it. Finally, he let her become a nun. Then later, when she was older, Bridget started another monastery in a place in Ireland called Kildare. It was very, very popular and important. Many people became Christian monks and nuns because of this great saint, Saint Bridget.

We celebrate St. Bridget tomorrow, February 1st.

Hearing AND Seeking Jesus

January 28, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

In the beginning, God said.... And with that action, God has been using speaking and hearing to start the process of metania (repentance) in the hearts of those who have “ears to hear.”

There are so many examples of this pattern of God’s actions that there are too many to mention them all. God “called” Abraham from the land of his father. God “called” the prophet Samuel and the prophet Isaiah in the First Testament. And God used the Archangel Gabriel to speak to the Theotokos the truth of her conception. An ancient saying is that the Lord began His fleshtaking from Mary the moment the words fell on her ears and she gave her Magnificat response.

Hearing and the resulting healing of persons and all humanity is tied together. And your own healing is tied to your willingness to hear!

Look at our lesson today in Luke 6:17-23:

At that time, Jesus stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on His disciples, and said: “Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven.”

We’ve looked at this passage many times. But I want you to notice today what motivated these broken people to seek out Jesus. These people were convinced that to hear Jesus and to be close to Jesus would result in their healing. And they were right, but at a deeper level than many of them knew.

Jesus was going to heal these folks, but His healing was meant to heal a deeper sickness in them all. And to prove this, He preached to them that they were already blessed if they were poor, or hungry, or weeping, or hated, or excluded, or even cast out. These folks were offered healing that was meant to turn them into people who could even look at desperate circumstances and see the blessing in them.

Don’t you see, if we really so reorient our thinking that even bad circumstances hold blessings for us, we are truly free! We cannot be crushed by the temporary troubles that are crushing others BECAUSE we have been healed so deeply by our intimacy with Jesus Christ that temporary troubles are impotent to destroy us. We are free from the intoxicating powers of fear and anxiety because our intimacy with Jesus, our closeness to Him, our willingness to hear His wisdom and His love, make us immune to those intoxicating passions.

So, how do we get this healing, this deep and eternal healing?

First, we have to wake up to our need, our deep need, for Jesus Christ. The healing of these people started when they got up from where they were and sought out Jesus. A person who is healed and immune from the power of the temporary to enslave them embraces the spiritual labor of getting close to Jesus. Times of worship are prioritized. Personal piety of daily prayers and a busy icon corner in one’s home. Get up! Get to Jesus.

Next, we have to want more than temporary comfort. These folks started out towards Christ because they were physically suffering. But they left from their encounter with Christ with the deeper ability to never allow temporary troubles to steal their joy and peace. You have to begin to desire deeper truths than mere physical comfort.

Finally, we have to stay attentive to His Wisdom. Healing starts with a willingness to hear. Finally abandoning the shallow egoism of some kind of “self-sufficiency” is key to escape the drunken blindness of our passions. I have to humbly embrace and constantly maintenance with prayer, fasting, and generosity, my hearing from Him in His holy Scriptures, in the liturgical life of the Faith, and in His “still, small Voice” that calls me away from that which enslaves me!

Today, are you hearing Jesus? Are you desiring to seek Him out and be close to Him? To truly hear Him is to be set free to be Orthodox on Purpose.

К Колоссянам 3:12-16

Итак облекитесь, как избранные Божии, святые и возлюбленные, в милосердие, благодать, смиренномудрие, кротость, долготерпение, снисходя друг другу и прощая взаимно, если кто на кого имеет жалобу: как Христос простил вас, так и вы. Более же всего [облекитесь] в любовь, которая есть совокупность совершенства. И да владычествует в сердцах ваших мир Божий, к которому вы и призваны в одном теле, и будьте дружелюбны. Слово Христово да вселяется в вас обильно, со всякою премудростью; научайте и вразумляйте друг друга псалмами, славословием и духовными песнями, во благодати воспевая в сердцах ваших Господу.

От Матфея 25:14-30

Ибо [Он пошлет], как человек, который, отправляясь в чужую страну, призвал рабов своих и поручил им имение свое: и одному дал он пять талантов, другому два, иному один, каждому по его силе; и тотчас отправился. Получивший пять талантов пошел, употребил их в дело и приобрел другие пять талантов; точно так же и получивший два таланта приобрел другие два; получивший же один талант пошел и закопал [его] в землю и скрыл серебро господина своего. По долгом времени, приходит господин рабов тех и требует у них отчета. И, подойдя, получивший пять талантов принес другие пять талантов и говорит: господин! пять талантов ты дал мне; вот, другие пять талантов я приобрел на них. Господин его сказал ему: хорошо, добрый и верный раб! в малом ты был верен, над многим тебя поставлю; войди в радость господина твоего. Подошел также и получивший два таланта и сказал: господин! два таланта ты дал мне; вот, другие два таланта я приобрел на них. Господин его сказал ему: хорошо, добрый и верный раб! в малом ты был верен, над многим тебя поставлю; войди в радость господина твоего. Подошел и получивший один талант и сказал: господин! я знал тебя, что ты человек жестокий, жнешь, где не сеял, и собираешь, где не рассыпал, и, убоившись, пошел и скрыл талант твой в земле; вот тебе твое. Господин же его сказал ему в ответ: лукавый раб и ленивый! ты знал, что я жну, где не сеял, и собираю, где не рассыпал; посему надлежало тебе отдать серебро мое торгующим, и я, придя, получил бы мое с прибылью; итак, возьмите у него талант и дайте имеющему десять талантов, ибо всякому имеющему дастся и приумножится, а у неимеющего отнимется и то, что имеет; а негодного раба выбросьте во тьму внешнюю: там будет плач и скрежет зубов. Сказав сие, возгласил: кто имеет уши слышать, да слышит!

Kolosianëve 3:12-16

Vishuni, pra, si të zgjedhur të Perëndisë, shenjtorë dhe të dashur, me dhembshuri të brendshme, mirësinë, përvullësinë, zemërbutësinë dhe me durimin, duke duruar njeri tjetrin dhe duke falur njeri tjetrin, nëqoftëse dikush ankohet kundër një tjetri; dhe sikundër Krishti ju ka falur, ashtu bëni edhe ju. Dhe, përmbi të gjitha këto gjëra, vishni dashurinë, që është lidhja e përsosmërisë. Dhe paqja e Perëndisë, për të cilin ju u thirrët në një trup të vetëm, të mbretërojnë në zemrat tuaja; dhe jini mirënjohës! Fjala e Krishtit banoftë në ju me begatinë e vet; në çdo dituri, mësoni dhe këshilloni njeri tjetrin me psalme, himne dhe këngë frymërore, duke kënduar Zotit me hir në zemrat tuaja!

Mateu 25:14-30

"Mbretëria e qiejve i ngjan gjithashtu një njeriu, që, kur po nisej për një udhëtim, i thirri shërbëtorët e tij dhe u besoi pasuritë e veta. Njërit i dha pesë talenta, tjetrit dy dhe një tjetri një; secilit sipas zotësisë së tij; dhe u nis fill. Tani ai që kishte marrë të pesë talentat shkoi, dhe bëri tregti me to dhe fitoi pesë të tjerë. Po ashtu edhe ai që kishte marrë dy talenta fitoi edhe dy të tjerë. Por kurse ai që kishte marrë një, shkoi, hapi një gropë në dhe dhe e fshehu denarin e zotit të vet. Tani mbas një kohe të gjatë, u kthye zoti i atyre shërbëtorëve dhe i bëri llogaritë me ta. Dhe ai që kishte marrë të pesë talentat doli përpara dhe i paraqiti pesë të tjerë, duke thënë: "Zot, ti më besove pesë talenta; ja, me ato unë fitova pesë talenta të tjerë". Dhe i zoti i tha: "Të lumtë, shërbëtor i mirë dhe besnik; ti u tregove besnik në gjëra të vogla, unë do të të vë mbi shumë gjëra; hyr në gëzimin e zotit tënd". Pastaj erdhi edhe ai që kishte marrë të dy talenta dhe tha: "Zot, ti më besove dy talenta; ja, me ato unë fitova dy talenta të tjerë". Dhe zoti i tij i tha: "Të lumtë, shërbëtor i mirë dhe besnik; ti u tregove besnik në gjëra të vogla; unë do të të vë mbi

shumë gjëra; hyr në gëzimin e zotit tënd". Në fund erdhi edhe ai që kishte marrë vetëm një talent dhe tha: "Zot, unë e dija se je njeri i ashpër, që korr atje ku nuk ke mbjellë dhe vjel ku nuk ke shpërndarë, prandaj pata frikë dhe shkova dhe e fsheha talentin tënd nën tokë; ja, unë po ta kthej". Dhe i zoti duke i përgjigjur i tha: "Shërbëtor i mbrapshtë dhe përtac, ti e dije se unë korr atje ku nuk kam mbjellë dhe vjel aty ku nuk kam shpërndarë; Ti duhet t'ia kishe besuar denarin tim bankierëve dhe kështu, në kthimin tim, do ta kisha marrë me interes. Prandaj ia hiqni këtij talentin dhe ia jepni atij që ka dhjetë talenta. Sepse atij që ka do t'i jepet edhe më e do të ketë me bollëk të madh, por atij që nuk ka, do t'i merret edhe ajo që ka. Dhe flakeni në errësirën e jashtme këtë shërbëtor të pavlefshëm. Atje do të jetë e qara dhe kërcëllim dhëmbësh".