

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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July 4, 2021

2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 07 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
Sun. 11 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: Wednesday and Friday (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

Troparion – Tone 1
(Ressurrection)

Kontakion – Tone 3
(Saints of North America)

*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!”*

*Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America
now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us.
With them the Angels glorify Him,
and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them;
and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.*

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.

Church Lectionary

Today

Hebrews 11:33-12:2
Matthew 4:25-5:12
Romans 2:10-16
Matthew 4:18-23

Monday

Galatians 5:22-6:2
Luke 6:17-23
Romans 7:1-13
Matthew 9:36-10:8

Tuesday

Romans 7:14-8:2
Matthew 10:9-15

Wednesday

Romans 8:2-13
Matthew 10:16-22

Thursday

Romans 8:22-27
Matthew 10:23-31

Friday

Romans 9:6-19
Matthew 10:32-36, 11:1

Saturday

Galatians 5:22-6:2
Matthew 4:25-5:12
Romans 3:28-4:3
Matthew 7:24-8:4

Reading the Bible in a Year

July 04: Isaiah 63-66
July 05: Jeremiah 1-4
July 06: Jeremiah 5-8
July 07: Jeremiah 9-12
July 08: Jeremiah 13-16
July 09: Jeremiah 17-20
July 10: Jeremiah 21-24

Children's Word

Follow me!

Have you ever been very busy at something—maybe building something with Legos, maybe writing a letter. Then, all of a sudden, your mother or father says, “It’s time for dinner!” or “We have to leave right now!” It’s hard to stop what we’re doing and start something else.

But in today’s Gospel reading, we hear about how Christ called His first disciples. These men were very busy, working as fishermen. Then, all of a sudden, Jesus comes to them and says, “Follow me!” It would have been hard to put down what they were doing. But they did! The Bible says, “Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.” Now let’s say you are doing something you really like to do. All of a sudden, you might have a good thought like, “I could read my Bible.” Or “I could say my prayers.” Or “I could see if my parents need help with something.” Or “I could send money to people who need it.” Now you might go right back to what you are doing. But you could try to be like the disciples. “Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.”

God sometimes gives us these good ideas. When we think of these good ideas, God is helping us follow Him! If we ignore these things, we can miss a chance to do the right thing. Listen to these good ideas! Can you try to stop what you’re doing sometimes and follow Him?

SAINT PROKOPIOS A SAINT FOR CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE Have you ever been to a wedding service at your church? If you listened very carefully (and you weren’t thinking ahead to the reception), you might have heard the name of a special saint we remember this week! At the very end of the marriage service, we ask for the prayers of Saint Prokopios. Do you know him?

Sadly, Prokopios’s father died when the boy was very young. His father was a Christian, but his mother, Theodosia, worshipped idols. Theodosia brought her son to the Emperor Diocletian, who was very cruel to Christians. Later, when Prokopios wanted to be a Christian, Theodosia even told the emperor on her son! She told the emperor Prokopios worshipped Christ!

The emperor had Prokopios hurt and tortured. Theodosia saw all this, and she saw her son’s courage. She knew that his God must be someone very special, if Prokopios was willing to die for Him! Then Theodosia became a Christian too! Prokopios and Theodosia both followed Christ to the end, and then got a new beginning with God in heaven!

So why do we pray to Saint Prokopios at weddings? Because the new husband and wife want to grow close to our Lord Jesus Christ too! Saint Prokopios can help them struggle to heaven together!

We remember Saint Prokopios on Thursday, July 8th.

July

04 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

07 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

11 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

14 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

18 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

21 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

28 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

Putting Aside all Hypocrisy and Living for Christ

How easy it is to worship with all piety and correctness while standing in a service within an Orthodox temple, yet make no effort to live Orthodoxy during the rest of our week. If we are abusive towards our spouse, abrasive with a coworker, and short tempered with a neighbor, all the piety and liturgical correctness of our Sunday morning is of no value.

If we cheat on our taxes, steal pens from the office, or refuse to point out an error to a clerk who has failed to ring up an item, we will have reduced our life in Christ to no more than membership in a club. If we walk past a child who is being bullied, without intervening, we have become the bully. If we fail to call the police when we hear a neighbor pleading with an abusive husband, not wanting to get involved, we are a wife beater. If we smile at the racist joke of a coworker, we are just as guilty of racism as he.

Being a Christian is far more than adherence to a set of doctrines, or the adaptation of liturgical forms of worship and piety. To be a follower of Christ is not like joining the Elks Club, where paying your dues and attending meetings makes you a member. Taking the name of the Saviour for ourselves, and calling ourselves Christians, must mean that we imitate the Saviour’s life. It must mean that others see Christ in us, each and every hour of our day.

We must be the neighborhood peacemaker, the one who is quick to forgive when wronged, the person who is always looking for ways of being in service to others. If we truly wish to be called a Christian, we must put aside hypocrisy in all its forms, and live Christ. We must work towards changing the world, just as did Saint Seraphim of Sarov, who told us that if we acquire peace in our heart, we will save a thousand around us. Justice and peace does not come with revolution, but comes when the hearts of men and women are transformed by the Holy Spirit, and this change can only begin, when we put aside all hypocrisy, and replace it with genuine, heartfelt commitment to Jesus Christ, living in imitation of the Saviour.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

Romans 2:10-16

but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Hebrews 11:33-12:2 (Saints)

who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Matthew 4:18-23

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Saints)

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, You made me a free, unique, and unrepeatable person that uniquely incarnates the common human nature. Thinking about this makes me wonder at the many ways I stumble in actually knowing Your gifts that You've given me, and how many times I foolishly compare myself to others. Please help me use the moments of my life to so know You and get close to you that Your grace and light reveals me to me! And forgive me for comparing myself to others. Amen.

The Way of Excellence

July 1, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

“Excellence” is a term we hear a lot in sports and in business. And that ties the word to an idea of achievement or progress.

But there is also an application of “excellence” when it comes to your relationship with God, and that has little to do with achievement or progress and everything to do with growing in love for God and others!

Look at our lesson today in 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8 as St. Paul teaches us about a “more excellent way.”

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

This “more excellent way” is the key to understanding just how a group of persons can be molded into the Church, the Body of Christ that isn’t divided by death, time, history, personal preferences, or any mundane “enemy.” Christ has already overcome death, destroying this “enemy” by His resurrection and His continued Presence in His Church through the Person of the Holy Spirit. It is IN the Church that we discover how to actually live an excellent life connected to His eternal Life!

First, this “more excellent way” is a way that avoids the weakness of comparing ourselves to others. Not everyone has the same giftings, and that’s OK. A Body needs all kinds of “abilities” to function well. When we avoid comparing ourselves and our abilities to others, we are set free from both arrogance and despondency over our perceived strengths and weaknesses. We need each other to be complete and whole as the Body of Christ.

Next, St. Paul reveals why this “more excellent way” is so “excellent.” He declares that love is the key to making all this unity and cooperation possible. But not some syrupy, sentimental view of Love. No, a love that is robust, serious, overwhelming to circumstances, and enduring. This love is “patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

Today, are you trapped in the dead-end situation of comparing yourself to another – either good or bad? It is a deficiency of love. Are you struggling with getting along with others in the Church? It is a deficiency of Love. Are you fighting to discover your own purpose in the Body of Christ? Now that may be a challenge of both obedience or even finally admitting you need to be a student of yourself and your faith to discover your gifts. The “more excellent way” invites you and me to an excellent life IN the Church, the Lord’s Body, precisely because He is the excellent human life and all the Faith is designed to “school” us how to embrace and be embraced by this Purposeful Orthodoxy, this “more excellent way!

К Римлянам 2:10-16

Напротив, слава и честь и мир всякому, делающему доброе, во-- первых, Иудею, [потом] и Еллину! Ибо нет лицепрятия у Бога. Те, которые, не [имея] закона, согрешили, вне закона и погибнут; а те, которые под законом согрешили, по закону осудятся (потому что не слушатели закона праведны пред Богом, но исполнители закона оправданы будут, ибо когда язычники, не имеющие закона, по природе законное делают, то, не имея закона, они сами себе закон: они показывают, что дело закона у них написано в сердцах, о чем свидетельствует совесть их и мысли их, то обвиняющие, то оправдывающие одна другую) в день, когда, по благовествованию моему, Бог будет судить тайные [дела] человеков через Иисуса Христа.

К Евреям 11:33-12:2

которые верою побеждали царства, творили правду, получали обетования, заграждали уста львов, угашали силу огня, избегали острия меча, укреплялись от немощи, были крепки на войне, прогоняли полки чужих; жены получали умерших своих воскресшими; иные же замучены были, не приняв освобождения, дабы получить лучшее воскресение; другие испытали поругания и побои, а также узы и темницу, были побиваемы камнями, перепиливаемы, подвергаемы пытке, умирали от меча, скитались в милотях и козьих кожах, терпя недостатки, скорби, озлобления; те, которых весь мир не был достоин, скитались по пустыням и горам, по пещерам и ущельям земли. И все сии, свидетельствованные в вере, не получили обещанного, потому что Бог предусмотрел о нас нечто лучшее, дабы они не без нас достигли совершенства. Посему и мы, имея вокруг себя такое облако свидетелей, свергнем с себя всякое бремя и запинаящий нас грех и с терпением будем проходить предлежащее нам поприще, взирая на начальника и совершителя веры Иисуса, Который, вместо предлежавшей Ему радости, претерпел крест, пренебрегши посрамление, и воссел одесную престола Божия.

От Матфея 4:18-23

Проходя же близ моря Галилейского, Он увидел двух братьев: Симона, называемого Петром, и Андрея, брата его, закидывающих сети в море, ибо они были рыболовы, и говорит им: идите за Мною, и Я сделаю вас ловцами человеков. И они тотчас, оставив сети, последовали за Ним. Оттуда, идя далее, увидел Он других двух братьев, Иакова Зеведеева и Иоанна, брата его, в лодке с Зеведеем, отцом их, починивающих сети свои, и призвал их. И они тотчас, оставив лодку и отца своего, последовали за Ним. И ходил Иисус по всей Галилее, уча в синагогах их и проповедуя Евангелие Царствия, и исцеляя всякую болезнь и всякую немощь в людях.

От Матфея 4:25-5:12

И следовало за Ним множество народа из Галилеи и Десятиградия, и Иерусалима, и Иудеи, и из-за Иордана. Увидев народ, Он взошел на гору; и, когда сел, приступили к Нему ученики Его.

И Он, отверзши уста Свои, учил их, говоря:

Блаженны нищие духом, ибо их есть Царство Небесное.

Блаженны плачущие, ибо они утешатся.

Блаженны кроткие, ибо они наследуют землю.

Блаженны алчущие и жаждущие правды, ибо они насытятся.

Блаженны милостивые, ибо они помилованы будут.

Блаженны чистые сердцем, ибо они Бога узрят.

Блаженны миротворцы, ибо они будут наречены сынами Божиими.

Блаженны изгнанные за правду, ибо их есть Царство Небесное.

Блаженны вы, когда будут поносить вас и гнать и всячески неправедно злословить за Меня. Радуйтесь и веселитесь, ибо велика ваша награда на небесах: так гнали [и] пророков, бывших прежде вас.

Romakëve 2:10-16

por lavdi, nder e paqe cilitdo që bën të mirën, Judeut më parë e pastaj Grekut. Sepse te Perëndia nuk ka anësi. Në fakt të gjithë ata që kanë mëkatuar pa ligjin, do të humbasin gjithashtu pa ligj; dhe të gjithë ata që kanë mëkatuar nën ligjin do të gjykoohen sipas ligjit, sepse jo ata që dëgjojnë ligjin janë të drejtë para Perëndisë, por ata që e zbatojnë ligjin do të shfajësohen. Në fakt kur johebrenjtë, që s'kanë ligjin, nga natyra bëjnë punët e ligjit, ata, megjithëse s'kanë ligjin, janë ligj për vetveten; këta tregojnë veprën e ligjit të shkruar në zemrat e tyre për dëshminë që jep ndërgjegja e tyre, dhe sepse mendimet e tyre shfajësojnë ose edhe akuzojnë njëri-tjetrin, ditën në të cilën Perëndia do të gjykojë të fshehtat e njerëzve me anë të Jezu Krishtit, sipas ungjillit tim.

Hebrenjve 11:33-12:2

të cilët, me anë të fesë nënshtruan mbretëria, realizuan drejtësinë, arritën ato që u premtuan, ua zunë grykën luanëve, fikën fuqinë e zjarrit, shpëtuan nga tehu i shpatës, nga të dobët u bënë të fuqishëm, u bënë të fortë në betejë, thyen ushtritë e huaja. Gratë morën të vdekurit e tyre me anë të ringjalljes; e të tjerët u torturuan, sepse nuk pranuan çlirimin, për të fituar një ringjallje më të mirë. Dhe të tjerë hoqën përqeshje dhe goditje, madje edhe pranga dhe burgime. U vranë me gurë, me sharrë, u prenë, u vranë nga shpata, u endën të mbuluar me lëkurë dhësh e dhish, nevojtarë, të pikë-lluar, të keqtrajtuar (bota nuk ishte e denjë për ta), u sollën nëpër shkretëtira e nëpër male, nëpër shpella dhe nëpër guva të dheut. E pra, të gjithë këta, ndonëse morën dëshmim të mirë me anë të besimit, nuk morën atë që u ishte premtuar, sepse Perëndia kishte paraparë diçka më të mirë për ne, që ata të mos arrinin në përsosje pa ne. Prandaj edhe ne, duke qenë të rrethuar nga një re kaq e madhe dëshmimtarësh, duke hedhur tej çdo barrë dhe mëkatin që na qarkon vazhdimisht duke na joshur, le të rendim me durim në udhën që është përpara nesh, duke i drejtuar sytë te Jezusi, kreu dhe plotësonjësi i besimit, i cili, për gëzimin që ishte përpara tij, duroi kryqin duke e përçmuar fyerjen dhe u ul në të djathtën e fronit të Perëndisë.

Mateu 4:18-23

Duke ecur gjatë bregut të detit të Galilesë, Jezusi pa dy vëllezër: Simonin, të quajtur Pjetër, dhe Andrean, të vëllanë, të cilët po hidhnin rrjetën në det, sepse ishin peshkatarë; dhe u tha atyre: “Ndiqmëni dhe unë do t’ju bëj peshkatarë njerëzish.” Dhe ata i lanë menjëherë rrjetat dhe e ndoqën. Dhe, duke vazhduar rrugën, pa dy vëllezër të tjerë: Jakobin, birin e Zebedeut dhe Gjonin, vëllanë e tij, në barkë bashkë me Zebedeun, atin e tyre, duke ndrequr rrjetat; dhe i thirri. Dhe ata lanë menjëherë barkën dhe atin e tyre dhe i shkuan pas. Jezusi shkante kudo nëpër Galile, duke mësuar në sinagogat e tyre, duke predikuar ungjillin e mbretërisë dhe duke shëruar çdo sëmundje dhe çdo lëngatë në popull.

Mateu 4:25-5:12

Dhe një mori e madhe njerëzish i shkante pas, nga Galileja, nga Dekapoli, nga Jeruzalemi, nga Judeja dhe nga përtej Jordanit. Dhe ai, kur pa turmat, u ngjit në mal dhe, pasi u ul, iu afruan dishepujt e tij. Atëherë ai hapi gojën dhe i mësoi duke u thënë:

“Lum skamësit në frymë, sepse e tyre është mbretëria e qiejve.

Lum ata që vajtojnë, sepse ata do të ngushëllohen.

Lum ata që janë zemërbutë, sepse ata do ta trashëgojnë tokën.

Lum ata që janë të uritur dhe të etur për drejtësi, sepse ata do të ngopen.

Lum ata që janë të mëshirshëm, sepse ata do të gjejnë mëshirë.

Lum ata që janë të pastër në zemër, sepse ata do ta shohin Perëndinë.

Lum ata që përpiqen për paqen, sepse ata do të quhen bij të Perëndisë.

Lum ata që janë përndjekur për hir të drejtësisë, sepse e tyre është mbretëria e qiejve.

Lum ju kur do t’ju shajnë dhe do t’ju përndjekin dhe, duke gënjer, do të thonë të gjitha të zezat kundër jush, për shkakun tim. Gëzohuni dhe ngazëllohuni, sepse shpërblimi juaj është i madh në qiej, sepse kështu i kanë përndjekur profetët që qenë para jush.”