

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 25, 2021

5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: DORMITION OF THE RIGHTEOUS ANNA, MOTHER OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 28 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
Sun. 01 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Church Lectionary

Today

Galatians 4:22-31
Luke 8:16-21
Romans 10:1-10
Matthew 8:28-9:1

Monday

Romans 16:17-24
Matthew 13:10-23

Tuesday

2 Timothy 2:1-10
John 15:17-16:2
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Matthew 13:24-30

Wednesday

1 Corinthians 2:9-3:8
Matthew 13:31-36

Thursday

1 Corinthians 3:18-23
Matthew 13:36-43

Friday

1 Corinthians 4:5-8
Matthew 13:44-54

Saturday

Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 9:18-26

Reading the Bible in a Year

July 25: Ezekiel 25-28
July 26: Ezekiel 29-32
July 27: Ezekiel 33-36
July 28: Ezekiel 37-40
July 29: Ezekiel 41-44
July 30: Ezekiel 45-48
July 31: Daniel 1-4

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 4 (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

Kontakion – Tone 2 (St. Anna)

We celebrate the memory of the progenitors of Christ, and with faith we ask their help, that deliverance from every affliction be granted to those who cry out: "Be with us, O God, Who in Thy good pleasure glorified them!"

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.

Remembrance of the Things of God

JULY/AUGUST EVENTS

Today is the perfect day to start doing battle with the passions that create a state of unrest in our hearts. Tomorrow may be too late to begin this battle, for none of us knows the day we will face God, and be called upon to account for our life. In our forgetfulness, the goal of union with God has been allowed to become secondary to everything else. We must take control as though we were entering into a battle, for our eternal life is at stake.

Saint Basil the Great tells us we cannot approach the knowledge of the truth with a disturbed heart. Conflict, downheartedness, lust, worry, and judging others, are all things that can not be allowed to distract us from the goal. Letting ourselves become troubled, or full of anxiety, does nothing to further our journey into the heart. Giving ourselves over to the passions depletes us, and leaves us waylaid along the narrow path towards the Kingdom of God.

Perhaps the fastest way to realign the unrest in our heart, is to focus on the needs of others. Saint Basil tells us that a man who has two coats or two pairs of shoes, when his neighbor has none, is a thief.

In the Holy Scriptures we read, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell in it (Psalm 24:1)."

No one can be saved, according to Saint John Chrysostom, without giving alms and without caring for the poor. We are but stewards of what belongs to God, and now is the perfect time to share the gifts of God's creation with one another as much as we can. To store up earthly possessions, according to Christ, is the epitome of foolishness, and a rich man shall hardly be saved (Luke 12:15-21).

When we turn our attention towards the needs of others, our focus changes, and we are no longer consumed with self. In this turning of the heart towards those in need, we are turning our hearts to God. "Verily I say unto you, Since you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me (Matthew 25:40)." In our fasting, increased time spent in prayer, and acts of alms giving (charity), we are energized in our battle against the passions, and our hearts become at rest in Christ.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

July

25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

28 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

August

01 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

04 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

05 – 7:00pm Vesperal Liturgy *Feast of Transfiguration*

06 – 6:00pm Fun Night

08 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

11 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet



Meekness is an unchanging state of mind, which both in honor and dishonor remains the same. Meekness consists in praying sincerely and undisturbedly in the face of afflictions from one's neighbor. Meekness is a cliff rising from the sea of irritability, against which all the that waves that strive against it break, but which is itself never broken.

-St. John of the Ladder



A Prayer for the Week

O Lord, please rescue me from the dangers of being formed in my soul by that which is not wisdom. Please help me stay attentive to the power of what I watch, what I read, what I hear, and what I think to form my priorities and actions. Give me the wisdom and discipline to allow Your Words and Wisdom to form my actions and choices, and help me help my children develop this life-giving discipline as well. Amen

Transfiguration & the Blessing of Fruit

The Feast of Transfiguration is observed on August 6th every year. The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God's unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord. We will be celebrating the feast with a Vesperal Liturgy on the evening of August 5th. **Please feel free to bring a basket or bowl of fruit to be blessed at the end of Liturgy.**

Coffee Hour

This Week: Masha Zaychik

Next Week:

If anyone who is currently unable to attend our Sunday Liturgy and supply coffee hour would like to donate to host a coffee hour, please contact Fr. Nicholas 860-861-7468

Children's Word

Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Matthew 8:28-9:1

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

God is wonderful in His saints

Before your school day starts, do you ever have any special announcements at the beginning of the day? You might hear some announcements about things that are coming up, things you need to know, things you need to keep in mind throughout the day.

In our Church, we also hear some special announcements in our liturgy. Before we hear the epistle and gospel, we hear something called the prokeimenon (it means "before the reading"). This prokeimenon is some good advice or a beautiful thing that we can keep in mind when we hear the readings.

Today, you will hear the chanter sing, "God is wonderful among his saints. Bless God in the congregations." Doesn't that sound like good advice to keep in mind? The prokeimenon is like our morning announcement. Just like at school, we remember the special advice we hear, we can remember these special words too.

We can try to remember this verse during the epistle, and also in our day. Can you say it to yourself sometime after church too? Sometimes we might let our minds wander in church (and in school!) but each word we hear at church is special and valuable.

FIRM IN HER FAITH SAINT OLYMPIAS THE DEACON
Do you have a deacon in your church? You might see him helping the priest or bishop with the prayers, or with Holy Communion. "Deacon" means somebody who serves, and that is just what he does.

Today, we celebrate the nameday of Saint Olympias. She was a deaconess, a woman deacon. (You probably haven't seen one of those in your church. That's because there are just a few in the world today.)

Saint Olympias grew up in a very rich family, but when she was older, her parents gave her all the family money. She gave that money away—to the poor, to orphans, and to widows. So, as a deaconess, she really served the people. She was very close to another saint, Saint John Chrysostom. Later in her life, some people were jealous of Saint Olympias, and she got in trouble for something she didn't do. She was sent to prison. Saint John Chrysostom wrote letters to her there, and we still have some of these today.

Saint Olympias was a real deacon. She spent her life serving the needy, and as the Bible tells us, when we serve the needy, we serve God, too!

We remember St. Olympias today, July 25th.

What Do You Allow to Program You?

July 23, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

The old computer coder adage is “Garbage in – Garbage out.” It meant that if the computer programmer got his code wrong, then it just stands to reason that the program wouldn’t work properly.

What is true for computer programming is true for all of life. That’s why the Faith teaches us to actively pursue the ability to discern!

The gift of discernment, the wisdom to see clearly, only comes when we have been properly prepared to be wise! That’s not going to happen by accident. It isn’t going to happen overnight. And it isn’t going to happen without attention and effort. Becoming wise means being willing to be taught, being aware of yourself enough to know you need to be taught, and being humble enough and patient enough to put the effort in to become the “good soil” that grows the healthiest life!

Look at our Gospel Lesson today in Matthew 13:3-9:

The Lord said this parable, “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away. Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Notice first The Sower is just doing what sowers do; he’s planting seeds. And why? Because he expects and wants a harvest. He wants the seeds he plants to grow, to produce, and to thrive. This is the desire of the sower. Whether we are identifying the sower as God or even ourselves as we “sow” the talents, the time, and the resources of our lives into our living; both God and we desire to see the “seeds” we plant grow and produce. This makes perfect sense since we are created in God’s image. Of course, we and our Creator will desire the same thing!

Next notice, the seeds fall on all kinds of ground. Just like God offers His good “seed;” His love and life to everyone no matter who they are; we also interact with all kinds of people and we share our lives with folks who appreciate it and folks who don’t. The investment God makes in His world is meant to reveal just what kind of person you are. He shares Himself with you and me to educate us about whether our hearts are prepared to grow the love He gives freely to everyone. God does this, not for His benefit; He knows what kind of “soil” you are. No, God does this to teach me, if I am willing to learn, who I really am. And my own life is invested in others and I discover who is willing to share my life and who isn’t. Wisdom demands the development of discernment to see where the best “soil” is to produce the most abundant life!

Finally, God knows what He wants to produce in our lives so that we will be healthy and prepared to enjoy His life forever. If you are willing to be prepared to have “good soil” in your life by the disciplined and focused attention of proper priorities, the purposeful practice of the disciplines of the Faith, and humble confession of your constant need for God’s work in your life through repentance and confession, you will be able to be that “good soil” where the “seed” of God’s love, His Word, finds a hospitable home to grow and produce the “fruit” of the Spirit that makes a person “like Christ.” Plus, you will also learn the path of discernment in your own life to tell where the “good soil” is around you to invest your life well in others!

Today, what are you allowing to “program” your life? Do you understand that the whole purpose of the Way of the Faith is to make your life that “good soil” so that the Life of God can grow within you forever? Lying at your feet is the treasure of timeless faith with all the spiritual and physical tools necessary to make your life that “good soil.” The liturgy, the prayers, the Church Year, the Holy Scriptures, the wisdom of the Faith, all act as God’s “soil preparation” so you will be wise and discerning in your life, waiting for you to be Orthodox on Purpose!

К Римлянам 10:1-10

Братия! желание моего сердца и молитва к Богу об Израиле во спасение. Ибо свидетельствую им, что имеют ревность по Боге, но не по рассуждению. Ибо, не разумея праведности Божией и усиливаясь поставить собственную праведность, они не покорились праведности Божией, потому что конец закона-- Христос, к праведности всякого верующего. Моисей пишет о праведности от закона: исполнивший его человек жив будет им. А праведность от веры так говорит: не говори в сердце твоём: кто взойдет на небо? то есть Христа свести. Или кто сойдет в бездну? то есть Христа из мертвых возвести. Но что говорит Писание? Близко к тебе слово, в устах твоих и в сердце твоём, то есть слово веры, которое проповедуем. Ибо если устами твоими будешь исповедывать Иисуса Господом и сердцем твоим веровать, что Бог воскресил Его из мертвых, то спасешься, потому что сердцем веруют к праведности, а устами исповедуют ко спасению.

От Матфея 8:28-9:1

И когда Он прибыл на другой берег в страну Гергесинскую, Его встретили два бесноватые, вышедшие из гробов, весьма свирепые, так что никто не смел проходить тем путем. И вот, они закричали: что Тебе до нас, Иисус, Сын Божий? пришел Ты сюда прежде времени мучить нас. Вдали же от них паслось большое стадо свиней. И бесы просили Его: если выгонишь нас, то пошли нас в стадо свиней. И Он сказал им: идите. И они, выйдя, пошли в стадо свиное. И вот, всё стадо свиней бросилось с крутизны в море и погибло в воде. Пастухи же побежали и, придя в город, рассказали обо всем, и о том, что было с бесноватыми. И вот, весь город вышел навстречу Иисусу; и, увидев Его, просили, чтобы Он отошел от пределов их. Тогда Он, войдя в лодку, переправился [обратно] и прибыл в Свой город.

Romakëve 10:1-10

Vëllezër, dëshira e zemrës sime dhe lutja që i drejtoj Perëndisë për Izraelin është për shpëtim të tij. Sepse unë dëshmoj për ta se kanë zell për Perëndinë, por jo sipas njohurisë. Sepse duke mos njohur drejtësinë e Perëndisë dhe duke kërkuar të vendosin drejtësinë e vet, nuk iu nënshtruan drejtësisë së Perëndisë, sepse përfundimi i ligjit është Krishti, për shfajësimin e kujtdo që beson. Sepse Moisiu kështu e përshkruan drejtësinë që vjen nga ligji: “Njeriu që bën këto gjëra, do të rrojë me anë të tyre.” Por drejtësia që vjen nga besimi thotë kështu: “Mos thuaj në zemrën tënde: “Kush do të ngjitet në qiell?” Kjo do të thotë që të zbresë Krishti. Ose: “Kush do të zbresë në humnerë?” Kjo do të thotë që të sjellë lart Krishtin prej së vdekurish. Po ç’thotë, pra? “Fjala është pranë teje, në gojën tënde dhe në zemrën tënde.” Kjo është fjala e besimit, që ne predikojmë; sepse, po të rrëfesh me gojën tënde Zotin Jezus, dhe po të besosh në zemrën tënde se Perëndia e ngjalli prej së vdekurish, do të shpëtohesh. Sepse me zemër, njeriu beson në drejtësi dhe me gojë bëhet rrëfim për shpëtim,

Mateu 8:28-9:1

Dhe kur arriti në bregun tjetër, në krahinën e Gergesenasve, i dolën para dy të demonizuar, që kishin dalë nga varret, dhe ishin aq të tërbuar sa që askush nuk mund të kalonte në atë udhë. Dhe ja, ata filluan të bërtasin duke thënë: “Ç’është mes nesh dhe ty, Jezus, Biri i Perëndisë? Mos ke ardhur këtu të na mundosh para kohe?” Jo larg tyre një tufë e madhe derrash po kulloste. Dhe demonët iu lutën duke i thënë: “Në qoftë se na dëbon, na lejo të shkojmë në atë tufë derrash.” he ai u tha atyre: “Shkoni!” Kështu ata, pasi dolën, hynë në atë tufë derrash; dhe ja, gjithë ajo tufë u hodh nga gremina në det, dhe u mbyt në ujë. Dhe ata që i kullotnin ikën dhe, kur shkuan në qytet, i treguan të gjitha këto gjëra, duke përfshirë ngjarjen e të demonizuarve. Dhe ja, gjithë qyteti i doli para Jezusit; dhe, kur e panë, iu lutën që të largohej prej vendit të tyre. Dhe ai, pasi hipi në barkë, kaloi në bregun tjetër dhe erdhi në qytetin e vet.