

Ss. 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 31, 2022

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FOREFEAST OF THE PROCESSION OF THE HONORABLE AND
LIFEGIVING CROSS, RIGHTEOUS EUDOCIMUS OF CAPPADOCIA

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 03 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
Fri. 05 6:00pm Fun Night
Sat. 06 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Feast of the Transfiguration
Sun. 31 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: Every day (fasting from meat, fish, and eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

Troparion – Tone 6 (Resurrection)

*The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin,
granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,
glory to Thee.*

Kontakion – Tone 3 (St. Eudocimus)

*Today thine honored memory
has assembled us at the holy shrine
of thy sacred relics;
all then who approach and venerate
them
are rescued from the evil malice of
demons
and are swiftly delivered from
various diseases, blessed
Eudocimus.*

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

Romans 15:1-7
Matthew 9:27-35

Monday

Hebrews 2:11-18
John 5:1-4
1 Corinthians 9:13-18
Matthew 16:1-6

Tuesday

1 Corinthians 10:5-12
Matthew 16:6-12

Wednesday

1 Corinthians 10:12-22
Matthew 16:20-24

Thursday

1 Corinthians 10:28-11:7
Matthew 16:24-28

Friday

1 Corinthians 11:8-22
Matthew 17:10-18

Saturday

Romans 13:1-10
Matthew 12:30-37
2 Peter 1:10-19
Matthew 17:1-9

Reading the Bible in a Year

Aug 01: Daniel 5-8
Aug 02: Daniel 9-12
Aug 03: Hosea 1-5
Aug 04: Hosea 6-9
Aug 05: Hosea 10-14
Aug 06: Joel
Aug 07: Amos 1-4

JULY/AUGUST EVENTS

July

03 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

August

03 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

05 – 6:00pm Fun Night

06 – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast of the Transfiguration

07 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Education Sunday

08-13 *Rally*

10 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Feast of the Dormition

16-18 *Vacation Bible School*

21 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is
provided by:
The Spause Family

Flower Donation

This week's flowers were
donated by:
Tina Murianka

Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

Jesus Christ called for a thorough conversion of our heart and mind, and a complete turning away from the old man (our fallen nature). The main act that begins this conversion is metanoia, which means thorough change of mind. This happens when we become aware that we have sinned, and that we are in need of God's forgiveness, and resolve, with His help, to submit to Him.

Sometimes we see a synonymous use of two words, penance and confession. When going to confession, a priest sometimes gives a penance, which is a spiritual discipline that can aid in our journey to God. We are given guidelines that can lead to spiritual growth, and change of heart.

These penances are often in the form of disciplines that are meant to help increase the time spent in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These three disciplines help us deepen our relationship with Christ, and aid in the Acquisition of the Holy Spirit.

We may be asked to do akathist hymns, where we seek the aid of saints, or the Holy Virgin, as we struggle to go deeper in our spiritual quest. The priest will give certain prayers as penance because the person needs a jump start to enter into a complete prayer life. When this happens, hinged together as it is with absolution, the medicine becomes a joyful communion with the Most High God.

We might be given extra periods of fasting, that in depriving ourselves of food, we are able to see deeper into our hearts, and, with God's help, be ridden of the dirt and grime that resides within us. Other times we might be asked to perform acts of charity, or increase our almsgiving, as a way of moving beyond ourselves, and focusing on the needs of others.

Disciplines that focus on increased prayer, fasting and almsgiving, along with immersing ourselves in the Holy Scriptures, help us in our continued quest to live a life in total submission to Christ. These three categories of discipline aid us in the Acquisition of the Holy Spirit, and help us to live our life for Christ.

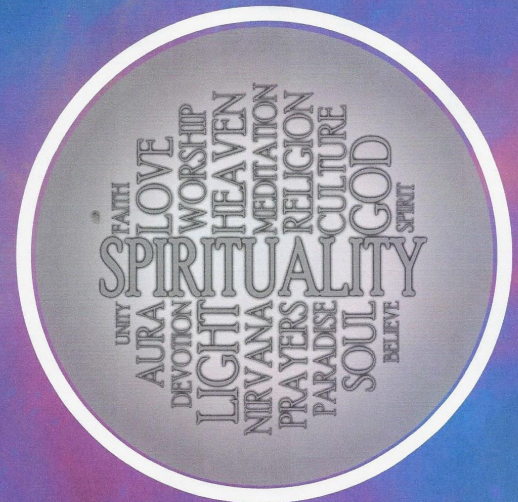
Prayer, fasting and almsgiving, are not ends in themselves, but are exercises which help in spiritual warfare against the demons who would bring us down. These disciplines are aids that help us in our attempt to repent, and to have a thorough change of mind (metanoia). And this repentance does not mean that we must feel sad, but that we strive to put off all pride and selfishness, and replace the ego with love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, kindness, meekness and self control.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

Weighing Life's Choices

Science & Technology Meet Spirituality

Dr. Gayle E. Woloschak - guest speaker



New Skete Monastery

Annual Pilgrimage

August 05, 2022

5 pm live audio of Vigil of Transfiguration
7 pm Zoom presentation by Dr. Woloschak

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, You are the True Light that enlightens all the universe. And You give us Yourself and that lights us up and keeps us from stumbling in the darkness of our blindness to Your love. Please help me embrace the reality that having Your Light within me is meant to be shared with those around me. Help me stay free from the short-sighted choice to try to hide Your light in my life. Because, Lord, I know if I hide Your light, I risk losing Your light. Amen.

Romans 15:1-7

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Matthew 9:27-35

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.



"Adam became so proud that he wished to become God and died for his pride; the Son of God humbled Himself unto death, and gave life to the fallen. O abyss of humility! Adam and Eve lost themselves through gluttony, the Lord fasted and died for them, in order to give them life. They were disobedient, Christ fulfilled obedience."

-St. John of Kronstadt



Children's Word

Do you believe?

Have you ever said something you didn't really believe? Maybe your parents made you say you were sorry for something that you didn't really regret. Maybe you said something so you could get a treat or a special privilege.

In today's Gospel reading, our Lord Jesus Christ meets two blind men who wanted to be healed. These men followed Him, and they begged Him, "Have mercy on us!" Jesus had compassion on these poor men, and He wanted to help them. But first, He asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" And they answered, "Yes, Lord." One of our great Church Fathers, Saint John Chrysostom, wrote about this same Gospel reading that we hear today. He said that it was important for the two men to show they believed that Christ could do this. 1. He wanted to show their faith. 2. He wanted the men to participate in the good work too. And 3. He wanted to show that the blind men weren't just saying something to flatter Him or that they just wanted to get something out of Him.

It's important to believe before we ask for something! In our prayers, when we ask God for help, we want to show God we believe He can do it! And if we have trouble believing, our Lord can help us with that too.

JESUS WAS ALWAYS GOD! THE TRANSFIGURATION

Do you know when Jesus became God? That's a trick question, of course! Jesus was always God, and He always will be. The Bible even tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

This Saturday, we celebrate a great feastday of our Church. It's the Holy Transfiguration, the day that our Lord went up to the top of a mountain with some of His disciples. The Gospel reading says, "And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light."

The word, "transfigure" means change, or transform. Christ looked different to His disciples! They even fell to the ground because He looked so different!

Some people in history have said some things we don't believe as Orthodox Christians. Some people thought that before, Jesus wasn't God...then, at the Transfiguration, He was God. Some people thought He turned into God at His baptism. We don't believe that! We believe that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Jesus Christ was God before He was born, and He is God today.

The special feast of the Holy Transfiguration showed the disciples the glory of God. But we know that our Lord Jesus Christ always has that glory! And He always will! We celebrate this great feast on Saturday, Aug. 6th.

Normal Orthodoxy Produces Light

July 25, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

St. Porphyrios said “Do not fight to expel darkness from the chamber of your soul. Open a tiny window for the light to enter, and the darkness will disappear!”

What a contrast to our current cultural chaos where it seems all sides want to “fight” all the time. We are driven by our egos to “defend” this or that and, in the process, we become the very thing we hate. We “fight” like the evil one wants us to and this corrupts even our good intentions. It is better to be so attentive to Christ and His transforming power in my own life, that this shines above all our rhetoric and banishes the darkness of the slavery of immorality and division and ego. More light is produced by righteousness than by being “right!”

So, am I saying to ignore evil? Not in any way! I am saying that there is little lasting value in “defeating” your enemies and much more lasting value in loving your enemies, even the “enemies” within your own soul! But the key is to allow that love of your enemies to heap the hot coals of mercy and love on them rather than reducing everything to a debate and declared “winner.” It’s time to let the LIGHT shine!

Look at our lesson today in Luke 8:16-21:

The Lord said, “No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hid that shall not be made manifest, nor anything secret that shall not be known and come to light. Take heed then how you hear; for to him who has will more be given, and from him who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”

Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him for the crowd. And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.” But he said to them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

This passage is so familiar to us. And that may be the biggest problem for us. Familiarity many times allows us to assume we know more than we do!

But this passage has a powerful message for us today, especially as we celebrate the Feast of the Conception of the Theotokos. And that message is to put your light where it belongs! Put your light where it will do the job it was intended to do: Help others find their way!

There is something antiseptic about light. It illumines even uncomfortable truths within us and outside us. This Light that Jesus speaks of is that light lit by God in your life and my life. It is the inescapable reality that you and I are made in God’s image to become LIKE Him. And He is selfless, thinking of others and helping others. This Light is meant to be a help to everyone who sees it. This Light is not meant to hide, because if you put this Light under a basket or under a bed, it will go out, smothered by not fulfilling its purpose!

Then, no wonder Jesus reacts as He does to the news that His mother and brothers are here to see Him. His response reveals once again the purpose of the Light; to reveal and invite others to hear and obey and be set free from the darkness of self-centered delusion. Too many want to use Jesus’ response as an excuse to ignore the historical consistent veneration of the Lord’s mother. They want to say “See, Jesus doesn’t want us to praise His mother.” But falling for that too small notion is just another way that the evil one tempts us to “hide” the Light. When we fail to properly understand just WHY the Faith has, since its earliest days, called us to venerate the Theotokos and the saints, we “hide” the Good News that God’s grace can make us like Christ IF we embrace and live out His Word to us. We gain nothing by hiding the consistent witness of the Faith through the centuries with all its fullness and wisdom. We only retreat into the “too small” self-centered “me and Jesus got our own thing going” mentality that ends up doing the very opposite of what we think it will do!

Today, are you hiding the Light within you? Normal Orthodoxy gets out of the way of the Light of Christ so HE shines the darkness away! The Light is the Light of Jesus Christ and your life is meant to reflect and share that Light with everyone. It is the very reason for the disciplines of the Faith to polish and discipline and forms your life so that the Light shines from an Orthodox on Purpose life!

К Римлянам 15:1-7

Мы, сильные, должны сносить немощи бессильных и не себе угождать. Каждый из нас должен угождать ближнему, во благо, к назиданию. Ибо и Христос не Себе угождал, но, как написано: злословия злословящих Тебя пали на Меня. А все, что писано было прежде, написано нам в наставление, чтобы мы терпением и утешением из Писаний сохраняли надежду. Бог же терпения и утешения да дарует вам быть в единомыслии между собою, по [учению] Христа Иисуса, дабы вы единокорно, едиными устами славили Бога и Отца Господа нашего Иисуса Христа. Посему принимайте друг друга, как и Христос принял вас в славу Божию.

От Матфея 9:27-35

Когда Иисус шел оттуда, за Ним следовали двое слепых и кричали: помилуй нас, Иисус, сын Давидов! Когда же Он пришел в дом, слепые приступили к Нему. И говорит им Иисус: веруете ли, что Я могу это сделать? Они говорят Ему: ей, Господи! Тогда Он коснулся глаз их и сказал: по вере вашей да будет вам. И открылись глаза их; и Иисус строго сказал им: смотрите, чтобы никто не узнал. А они, выйдя, разгласили о Нем по всей земле той. Когда же те выходили, то привели к Нему человека немощного. И когда бес был изгнан, немой стал говорить. И народ, удивляясь, говорил: никогда не бывало такого явления в Израиле. А фарисеи говорили: Он изгоняет бесов силою князя бесовского. И ходил Иисус по всем городам и селениям, уча в синагогах их, проповедуя Евангелие Царствия и исцеляя всякую болезнь и всякую немощь в людях.

Romanëve 15:1-7

Edhe ne të fortët kemi detyrë të mbajmë dobësitë e të dobtëve, e jo t'i pëlqejmë vetes. Gjithsecili prej nesh le t'i pëlqejë të afërmit për të mirën që çon në ndërtim. Sepse edhe Krishti nuk pëlqeu vetveten, po siç është shkruar: "Sharjet e atyre që të shajnë ty ranë mbi mua". Sepse sa u shkruan më përpara, u shkruan për mësimin tonë, që të kemi shpresë me anë të durimit e të ngushëllimit të shkrimeve. Edhe Perëndia i durimit e i ngushëllimit ju dhëntë juve të keni të njëjtën mendje ndërmjet jush sipas Jisu Krishtit; që të lavdëroni njëzëri me një gojë Perëndinë dhe Atin e Zotit tonë Jisu Krisht. Lavdia botërore për Perëndinë Prandaj pranoni njëri-tjetrin, siç ju pranoi edhe Krishti për lavdi të Perëndisë.

Mattheut 9:27-35

Edhe duke ikur Jisui andej, i shkuan prapa dy të verbër, duke klithur e duke thënë: Përdëllena, o bir i Davidit. Edhe kur erdhi ai në shtëpi, erdhën pranë tij të verbërit, edhe Jisui u thotë atyre: Besoni se mund ta bëj këtë? Ata i thonë atij: Po, Zot. Atëherë preku sytë e tyre duke thënë: Sipas besimit tuaj u bëftë në ju. Edhe u hapën sytë e tyre. Edhe Jisui i porositi ata rreptësisht, duke thënë: Shikoni të mos e marrë vesh njeri. Po ata sa dolën e përhapën famën e tij nëpër gjithë atë dhe. Edhe kur po dilnin ata, ja tek i prunë atij një njeri shurdh të demonizuar. Edhe si u nxor demoni, foli i shurdhëri. Edhe turmat u çuditën, duke thënë se kurrë ndonjëherë nuk është parë kështu në Izrael. Por Farisenjtë thoshin: Me anë të të parit të demonëve i nxjerr demonët. Edhe Jisui shkante përqark nëpër gjithë qytetet e fshatrat, duke mësuar nëpër sinagogat e tyre dhe duke predikuar ungjillin e mbretërisë duke shëruar çdo sëmundje e çdo lëngatë në popull.