

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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June 12, 2022

HOLY PENTECOST – FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 15 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
Sun. 19 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: Fast-free week! Blessed Feast!

Troparion – Tone 8 (Feast)

*Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God,
Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit,
and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net.
O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!*

Kontakion – Tone 8 (Feast)

*When the Most High came down and confused the tongues,
He divided the nations;
but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity.
Therefore, with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.*

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

Acts 2:1-11
John 7:37-52, 8:12

Monday

Ephesians 5:9-19
Matthew 18:10-20

Tuesday

Romans 1:1-7, 13-17
Matthew 4:25-5:13

Wednesday

Romans 1:18-27
Matthew 5:20-26

Thursday

Romans 1:28-2:9
Matthew 5:27-32

Friday

Romans 2:14-29
Matthew 5:33-41

Saturday

Romans 2:14-29
Matthew 5:33-41

Reading the Bible in a Year

June 12: Proverbs 25-28
June 13: Proverbs 29-31
June 14: Eccl 1-4
June 15: Eccl 5-8
June 16: Eccl 9-12
June 17: Song 1-4
June 18: Song 5-8

JUNE EVENTS

June

12 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Pentecost
15 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
19 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
22 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
26 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul
Education Sunday
29 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

July

01 – 6:00pm Fun Night
03 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
06 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
10 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
13 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
17 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
20 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
24 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is
provided by:

Flower Donation

This week's flowers were
donated by:
Tina Murianka

Cemetery Blessings

Due to a the forecast of
thunderstorms for today,
the blessing of the graves
at Forrest Hills Cemetery
will be moved to next
Sunday, June 19 at
2:00pm. We will be having
a memorial for those
buried there immediately
following Divine Liturgy,
so if you have loved-ones
buried there, please get Fr.
Nicholas their names.
email:

frnicholas490@aol.com

call or text:

860-861-7468



*In spite of our sinfulness, in spite of the
darkness surrounding our souls, the Grace of
the Holy Spirit, conferred by baptism in the
name of the Father and the Son and the Holy
Spirit, still shines in our hearts with the
inextinguishable light of Christ ... and when
the sinner turns to the way of repentance the
light smooths away every trace of the sins
committed, clothing the former sinner in the
garments of incorruption, spun of the Grace
of the Holy Spirit. It is this acquisition of the
Holy Spirit about which I have been speaking.*

-St. Seraphim of Sarov



A Prayer for the Week

O Lord of Mercy, grant me the ability to see the joy and beauty in living life gratefully. Help me escape the bitterness and delusion of only focusing on what I don't have. Grant me to escape the temptation of being enslaved to the despondency of a life lived blindly to Your grace and mercy. Give me the wisdom and the patience to stay faithful so that I cross the finish line of my life filled with Your life and the anticipation of eternity at Your side! Amen.

Acts 2:1-11

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

John 7:37-52, 8:12

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." Nikodemos (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Children's Word

God keeps His promises!

"I promise!" you say. I promise I'll clean up my room, after I go to my friend's house. I promise I'll never pick on my brother again. I promise I'll be home by dinnertime. Do you keep your promises? When you say you'll do something, do you do it? Well, God does. Our Lord always keeps His promises!

Today we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost! That's the day we remember how the Holy Spirit came to help Christ's Apostles, and how the Holy Spirit came to help the whole world. How? Well, the Holy Spirit is God, and He is in the world with us right now. Since we have the Holy Spirit with us, we have God with us!

When Jesus was on earth, He promised His followers something. He promised that God the Father would send the Holy Spirit, to be with us forever. And today we remember how God kept His promise. Today, we read in the Acts of the Apostles how God gave the Holy Spirit to His people. We have the Holy Spirit with us today.

But did you know that our Lord made another promise, that we hear about in the Bible? He promised that we would see Him again. He promised that He would come to earth again someday. Just remember that...because we know that God keeps His promises!

A MOTHER'S PRAYER SAINTS MONICA AND AUGUSTINE

Do your parents ask you a lot of questions? Maybe they ask you how you did on a test, or if you brushed your teeth, or who you sat with at lunch, or what you played at a friend's house. Why do they ask so many questions? Probably because they love you, and they want you to do the right thing!

This week we celebrate a saint (Monica) who sure loved her son (Augustine) too. Saint Augustine was brilliantly smart. We can still read his writings, and we will grow closer to our Lord if we really pay attention to them. But Saint Augustine was not always close to God. His mother was a strong Christian, and she had one goal: to help her children be strong Christians too. Sadly, her son Augustine started off on the right foot, but he made some bad choices in his life. He went down the wrong path, doing some really awful things. His whole life became full of sins. Even more, he didn't believe what we believe as Christians, and had some strange ideas in his faith.

Monica, his mother, prayed for many, many years. She never gave up on her son. She prayed to God that he would turn back to our one, true God with his beliefs and with his actions. Finally, she knew that God had heard her prayer. But it took many more years before Augustine turned back on the right path.

Sometimes the prayers of mothers and fathers are the strongest ones! God heard Saint Monica, and today we can learn from her and from her son, Augustine, who is now a saint of our Church! We celebrate Saints Augustine and Monica on Wed., June 15th.

The Cosmic Power of Gratitude

June 8, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

“All is gift.” This phrase captures both the simple and profound message that embodies the mystery of living a Eucharistic life. You may ask “What does that mean?” And I understand. We moderns are far removed from a world where mystery and wonder and story dominated our human society. And we are impoverished by this reduction of true mystery in our lives.

Although, I will say that our modern world is slowly being re-enchanted because the younger generation is seeing the bankruptcy of mere materialistic life. This means we Orthodox have a window of evangelistic opportunity IF we embrace a normal Orthodox life that is defined by the centrality of the Eucharist. Living a Eucharistic Life is all about not denying the truth that what we don't see is as real as what we do see!

Eucharistic life is a life lived on the firm foundation of true gratitude, a life lived in a thankful way; a life lived free of bitterness, false expectations, and slavery to passions. Interested?

Look at our Lesson today in Ephesians 2:4-10:

BRETHREN, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

St. Paul wants to make it clear to the Ephesians that their renewed life of faith and their eternal life is due to God's mercy and grace. They haven't “earned” God's mercy. It's a gift! And a gift is just that: a gift! You see one of the great threats to the Christian life in the earliest days of the Church was a false notion that you had to obey the law of Moses along with your faith in Christ to receive salvation. The people who taught this false message were called “Judaizers” because they said you had to become Jewish before you could be Christian. These folks were disturbed by all the Gentiles coming to faith in Christ and they wanted to make sure these Gentiles adopted their Jewish practices. St. Paul, a Jew himself and a former teacher of the Law, rejected this message and emphasized that this new life won for us by Jesus was a gift to the whole world; for everyone!

And Paul emphasizes this precisely so that no one could boast that they earned their salvation! Because that leads to one of the most deadly spiritual illnesses that the Fathers called “prelest” or spiritual pride. Over and over again the Fathers warn us against such an illness that deludes us into believing we have somehow “achieved” great spiritual power or strength by our own efforts as if God now is “obligated” to treat us well because we've “earned” His favor. The Christian message says with St. Paul “I am the chiefest of sinners” and allows us no place to put our confidence in our own efforts to “get God to be good to us.” God IS good to us even when we are against, or as is more often the case, dismissive of, Him! God loved us even when we were “dead” in our spiritual lives!

So, our motivation to follow Him changes from the narcissistic “what's in this for me” mentality that leads to prelest, to the loving and grateful Eucharistic motivation of thankfulness that He has given me His salvation. I live as I do from gratitude, not from expectation!

Today, what are you doing in your life to keep this new life of Faith at the top of your priorities? Are you constantly aware of His Gift to you? Do you know how to live a Eucharistic life? You have been given all things as a Gift. Living grateful, Eucharistically is being Orthodox on Purpose!

Деяния 2:1-11

При наступлении дня Пятидесятницы все они были единодушно вместе. И внезапно сделался шум с неба, как бы от несущегося сильного ветра, и наполнил весь дом, где они находились. И явились им разделяющиеся языки, как бы огненные, и почили по одному на каждом из них. И исполнились все Духа Святаго, и начали говорить на иных языках, как Дух давал им провещевать. В Иерусалиме же находились Иудеи, люди набожные, из всякого народа под небом. Когда сделался этот шум, собрался народ, и пришел в смятение, ибо каждый слышал их говорящих его наречием. И все изумлялись и дивились, говоря между собою: сии говорящие не все ли Галилеяне? Как же мы слышим каждый собственное наречие, в котором родились. Парфяне, и Мидяне, и Еламиты, и жители Месопотамии, Иудеи и Каппадокии, Понта и Асии, Фригии и Памфилии, Египта и частей Ливии, прилежащих к Киринее, и пришедшие из Рима, Иудеи и прозелиты, критяне и аравитяне, слышим их нашими языками говорящих о великих [делах] Божиих?

От Иоанна 7:37-52, 8:12

В последний же великий день праздника стоял Иисус и возгласил, говоря: кто жаждет, иди ко Мне и пей. Кто верует в Меня, у того, как сказано в Писании, из чрева потекут реки воды живой. Сие сказал Он о Духе, Которого имели принять верующие в Него: ибо еще не было на них Духа Святаго, потому что Иисус еще не был прославлен. Многие из народа, услышав сии слова, говорили: Он точно пророк. Другие говорили: это Христос. А иные говорили: разве из Галилеи Христос придет? Не сказано ли в Писании, что Христос придет от семени Давидова и из Вифлеема, из того места, откуда был Давид? Итак произошла о Нем распря в народе. Некоторые из них хотели схватить Его; но никто не наложил на Него рук. Итак служители возвратились к первосвященникам и фарисеям, и сии сказали им: для чего вы не привели Его? Служители отвечали: никогда человек не говорил так, как Этот Человек. Фарисеи сказали им: неужели и вы прельстились? Уверовал ли в Него кто из начальников, или из фарисеев? Но этот народ невежда в законе, проклят он. Никодим, приходивший к Нему ночью, будучи один из них, говорит им: судит ли закон наш человека, если прежде не выслушают его и не узнают, что он делает? На это сказали ему: и ты не из Галилеи ли? рассмотри и увидишь, что из Галилеи не приходит пророк. Опять говорил Иисус [к народу] и сказал им: Я свет миру; кто последует за Мною, тот не будет ходить во тьме, но будет иметь свет жизни.

Veprat e Apostujve 2:1-11

Edhe kur erdhi dita e Pendikostisë, ishin të gjithë me një zemër, në të njëjtin vend. Edhe papritur u bë një oshtimë nga qielli si e një ere që fryn me fuqi, edhe mbushi gjithë shtëpinë ku ishin duke ndenjur. Edhe u dukën mbi ta gjuhë porsì prej zjarri që ndaheshin, edhe ndenjën mbi gjithsecilin prej tyre. Edhe u mbushën të gjithë me Frymë të Shenjtë, e zunë të flisnin me gjuhë të tjera, sikundër Fryma u jepte të flisnin. Edhe po rrinin në Jerusalem Judenj, burra me frikë Perëndie prej çdo kombi nën qiell. Edhe kur u bë ky zë, u mblodh turma dhe u turbullua; sepse gjithsecili i dëgjonte ata duke folur në gjuhën e tij. Edhe të gjithë habiteshin e çuditeshin, duke i thënë njëri-tjetrit: Ja, a nuk janë Galileas të gjithë këta që flasin? Edhe si gjithsecili nga ne dëgjojnë në gjuhën tonë, në të cilën kemi lindur? Partë e Medë e Elamitë, edhe ata që rrinë në Mesopotami e në Jude e në Kapadoki, në Pont e në Azi, në Frigji e në Pamfili, në Egjipt e në anët e Libisë pranë Kirenës, edhe të ardhurit nga Roma, Judenj e prozelitë, Kretas e Arabë, i dëgjojmë ata duke folur në gjuhët tona madhëritë e Perëndisë.

Joanit 7:37-52, 8:12

Edhe ditën e fundit, ditën e madhe të së kremtes, Jisui qëndroi e thirri, duke thënë: Kush të ketë etje, le të vijë tek unë e le të pijë. Ai që më beson mua, siç tha Shkrimi, lumenj uji të gjallë do të rrjedhin nga barku i tij. Edhe këtë e tha për Frymën që kishin për të marrë ata që do t'i besonin; sepse ende s'ishte dhënë Fryma e Shenjtë; sepse Jisui ende s'ishte lavdëruar. Shumë pra, prej turmës kur dëgjuan këtë fjalë, thoshin: Ky është me të vërtetë profeti. Të tjerë thoshin: Ky është Krishti. Të tjerë thoshin: Mos vjen Krishti nga Galilea? A nuk tha Shkrimi se Krishti vjen nga fara e Davidit dhe nga fshati Betlehem, nga ku ishte Davidi? U bë pra një përçarje në turmë për të. Edhe disa prej tyre donin ta kapnin; po asnjë s'vuri duart mbi të. Erdhën pra shërbëtorët te kryepriiftërinjtë e te Farisenjtë, edhe ata u thanë atyre: Pse nuk e prutë? Shërbëtorët u përgjigjën: Kurrë s'ka folur njeri kështu, si ky njeri. Farisenjtë pra iu përgjigjën atyre: Mos u gënjet edhe ju? Mos i ka besuar atij ndonjë prej të parëve a prej Farisenjve? Po kjo turmë që s'di ligjin, janë të mallkuar. U thotë atyre Nikodhimi, ai që pati ardhur natën tek ai, i cili ishte një prej atyre: Mos e gzykon njeriun ligji ynë, pa e dëgjuar më parë atë, e pa marrë vesh se ç'bën? U përgjigjën e i thanë: Mos je edhe ti nga Galilea? Kërko e shih, se profet nga Galilea nuk është ngritur. Jisui pra, përsëri u foli atyre, duke thënë, Unë jam drita e botës. Ai që më vjen pas, nuk do të ecë në errësirë, por do të ketë dritën e jetës.