

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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March 13, 2022

MEATFARE SUNDAY – SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT REPOSE OF ST. RAPHAEL, BISHOP OF BROOKLYN

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers
	4:00pm	Lenten Vespers
Wed. 16	7:00pm	Presanctified
Sat. 19	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 20	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	4:00pm	Lenten Vespers

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 5 (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Kontakion – Tone 8 (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty. We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

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

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2
John 1:43-51

Monday

Isaiah 4:2-5:7
Genesis 3:21-4:7
Proverbs 3:34-4:22

Tuesday

Isaiah 5:7-16
Genesis 4:8-15
Proverbs 5:1-15

Wednesday

Isaiah 5:16-25
Genesis 4:16-26
Proverbs 5:15-6:3

Thursday

Isaiah 6:1-12
Genesis 5:1-24
Proverbs 6:3-20

Friday

Isaiah 7:1-15
Genesis 5:32-6:8
Proverbs 6:20-7:1

Saturday

Hebrews 3:12-16
Mark 1:35-44

Reading the Bible in a Year

Mar 13: 2 Samuel 17-20
Mar 14: 2 Samuel 21-24
Mar 15: 1 Kings 1-4
Mar 16: 1 Kings 5-8
Mar 17: 1 Kings 9-12
Mar 18: 1 Kings 13-17
Mar 19: 1 Kings 18-22

MARCH EVENTS

Coffee Hour

March

13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy <i>Icon Procession</i>	23 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy <i>Pot Luck & Lenten Study</i>
16 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy <i>Pot Luck & Lenten Study</i>	24 – 7:00pm Vespersal Liturgy <i>Feast of Annunciation</i>
19 – 6:00pm Vespers	26 – 6:00pm Vespers
20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy	27 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Flower Donation

A Prayer for the Week



Dear Lord, thank You for the life and remembrance with Your servant, St. John the Baptist. St. John offers me an example of someone who had doubts but also refused to forget what he knew and what he saw. And when he doubted, he asked! He didn't let his doubts make him forgetful of what he knew of You and Your plan for his life. Please help me learn these same lessons, Lord, so that doubt or fear won't drown out what I know of Your love and Your wisdom for my life. And then forgive me when I fail to remember. Amen

"... the more have been your trials, look for a more perfect reward from your just Judge. Do not take your present troubles ill. Do not lose hope. Yet a little while and your Helper will come to you and will not tarry."

- St. Basil the Great



A PRAYER FOR PEACE

We thank You, Master and Lover of mankind, King of the ages and giver of all good things, for destroying the dividing wall of enmity and granting peace to those who seek your mercy. We appeal to You to awaken the longing for a peaceful life in all those who are filled with hatred for their neighbors, thinking especially of those at war or preparing for war. Grant peace to your servants. Implant in them the fear of You and confirm in them love one for another. Extinguish every dispute and banish all temptations to disagreement. For You are our peace and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We pray, Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, [especially for the victims and all those in the struggle in Ukraine.

We pray for your peace and your mercy in the midst of the great suffering that people are now inflicting on each other. Accept the prayers of your Church, so that by your goodness peace may return to all peoples. Hear us and have mercy on us.

Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

March 13 – Orthodoxy Sunday	Holy Ghost Orthodox Church, 70 Holy Ghost Way, Phoenixville, PA 19460
March 20 – Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas	Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church 1406 Philadelphia Pike Wilmington, DE 19809
March 27 – Sunday of the Precious Cross	St. Stephen Cathedral Orthodox Church 8598 Verree Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19115
April 3 – Sunday of St. John Climacus	Descent of the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church 1323 Ashbourne Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027
April 14 – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt	Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church 2101 S 28th St, Philadelphia, PA 19145

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 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.

John 1:43-51

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Children's Word

Your hero ancestors

Have your parents told you stories of their childhood? Have they told you stories about your grandparents? Or maybe they've told you stories of your great-grandparents?

As Orthodox Christians, we also have ancestors of our Church who have made us who we are today! That's right. Ever since the time of Christ— and even before then— saints have struggled so hard to keep the faith. They have been tortured. They have been made fun of. They have even risked their lives to keep the faith and to tell others about it. The epistle today tells us about what lots of faithful people went through. When we read about the lives of the saints, we hear more of these brave heroes of our Church.

Today after the Divine Liturgy, you'll hear the priest proclaim our faith, "This is the faith of the Apostles. This is the faith of the Fathers. This is the faith of the Orthodox. This is the faith which has established the Universe."

Every day—but especially today, the Sunday of Orthodoxy—let's be proud of our Orthodox faith. Let's be thankful too that God gave it to us. Let's also be thankful of our hero ancestors who gave everything to keep our Orthodox faith! And...let's follow their brave examples!

SAINT BENEDICT A MODEL FOR MONKS...AND ALL OF US

Has anybody ever said something about you that wasn't true? Maybe it was something little, like that you took an extra cookie (even though you didn't). What did you do? Did you argue and fight, or did you just walk away? Saint Benedict was a special and holy saint who had lies spread about him, but he quietly and peacefully walked away.

Saint Benedict grew up in the mountains of Italy. He was from a rich family and had faithful, Christian parents. When he was old enough, Benedict left home and lived in a cave way up in the mountains. He prayed there, and lived a very strict life with fasting and hard times. Faithful monks knew about Benedict and they wanted him to be their abbot (in charge of the monastery). Benedict made a kind of rule for monks that showed how they should spend their days, how they should pray, and how they should work. He followed the example of Saint Basil and other saints before him.

Benedict was a holy and very smart man. Sadly, some people knew this, and they were jealous of him. They spread lies about Benedict. Instead of arguing and clearing his name, Benedict just left and went back to a quiet and prayerful life alone. After a while, monks wanted him back. But again, people lied about him and Benedict left. Saint Benedict lived a long life and died peacefully.

Benedict gave a great example and rule for monks, but his humble and peaceful ways are really an example for all of us too! We remember St. Benedict tomorrow, March 14th.

Tempted To Give Up!

March 1, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Life can be discouraging at times. A wise man once told me this during a particularly discouraging time in my life: “Son, don’t quit when life is tough. You don’t throw your ticket away just because the train goes through a dark tunnel!” I still remember that today. And yet, there are dark times when the temptation to give up is very strong! In fact, during those times it seems that inner voice is saying “You really blew it. You trusted the wrong people. You depended on God and He let you down. You’ve been a real fool!” Yeah, I’ve heard those words in my own heart. But every time I’ve heard those words in my head, I remember that it’s always too early to give up! Look at our lesson today in Luke 7:17-30:

At that time, a report concerning Jesus spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. The disciples of John told him of all these things. And John, calling to him two of his disciples, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” In that hour he cured many of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many that were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at me.”

When the messengers of John had gone, he began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way before you.’ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” When they heard this all the people and the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John; but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

It was completely understandable. St. John the Baptizer was in jail and he knew he was going to die. The king was going to give his head to a young girl because her vindictive mother wanted John dead! And, here at the end of his life, this hero of faith, this last of the Old Testament Prophets, was wondering about whether he missed something.

So, he has his disciples ask Jesus “Are you the One or should we look for another?” The way Jesus answers these men who are about to see their teacher die shows such loving compassion and wisdom. He doesn’t scold them. He doesn’t correct them and He doesn’t disappoint them. He just directs them to reality. He tells them to tell John what they’ve seen and heard. They witnessed Him healing the sick and teaching the people about the Kingdom of God. Tell John that the blind (both physical and spiritual) see; tell John that the lame (both physical and spiritual) walk; the lepers (both spiritual and physical) are cleansed; the deaf (both physical and spiritual) hear, and the poor (both physical and spiritual) have Good News preached to them!

Perfect! Just say what you saw and heard!

Then the Lord makes sure the people know who it is that is about to die for his integrity and his prophetic ministry. St. John was a prophet indeed, but even as great as he was, the least in the Kingdom is greater than he. And this is because John dies before the Resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit. But John doesn’t miss it because the Lord goes to where John is and confirms everything John ever preached! I would have loved to see that reunion between the Lord and St. John after the Resurrection!

So, today, are you in a dark place in your life where you’re tempted to give up? Are you faced with the scary moment in life where you’re wondering if you’ve wasted your life? Take courage from the life of St. John and know that living Orthodox on Purpose means you are great in the Kingdom!

К Евреям 11:24-26, 11:32-12:2

Верую Моисей, придя в возраст, отказался называться сыном дочери фараоновой, и лучше захотел страдать с народом Божиим, нежели иметь временное греховное наслаждение, и поношение Христово почел большим для себя богатством, нежели Египетские сокровища; ибо он взирал на воздаяние. И что еще скажу? Недостанет мне времени, чтобы повествовать о Гедеоне, о Вараке, о Самсоне и Иеффае, о Давиде, Самуиле и (других) пророках, которые верую 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 козых 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 Иоанна 1:43-51

На другой день [Иисус] восхотел идти в Галилею, и находит Филиппа и говорит ему: иди за Мною. Филипп же был из Вифсаиды, из [одного] города с Андреем и Петром. Филипп находит Нафанаила и говорит ему: мы нашли Того, о Котором писали Моисей в законе и пророки, Иисуса, сына Иосифова, из Назарета. Но Нафанаил сказал ему: из Назарета может ли быть что доброе? Филипп говорит ему: пойди и посмотри. Иисус, увидев идущего к Нему Нафанаила, говорит о нем: вот подлинно Израильтянин, в котором нет лукавства. Нафанаил говорит Ему: почему Ты знаешь меня? Иисус сказал ему в ответ: прежде нежели позвал тебя Филипп, когда ты был под смоковницею, Я видел тебя. Нафанаил отвечал Ему: Равви! Ты Сын Божий, Ты Царь Израилев. Иисус сказал ему в ответ: ты веришь, потому что Я тебе сказал: Я видел тебя под смоковницею; увидишь больше сего. И говорит ему: истинно, истинно говорю вам: отныне будете видеть небо отверстым и Ангелов Божиих восходящих и нисходящих к Сыну Человеческому.

Hebrenjve 11:24-26, 32-12:2

Me anë të besimit Moisiu, si u bë i madh, mohoi të quhej i biri i së bijës së Faraonit; sepse zgjodhi më tepër të heqë keq bashkë me popullin e Perëndisë, se të ketë kënaqësi mëkati për pak kohë; duke numëruar poshtërimin e Krishtit për pasuri më të madhe se thesarët në Egjipt; sepse shikonte në shpërblimin. Edhe ç'të them më? Sepse nuk do të më arrijë koha të tregoj për Gedeonin, për Barakun e Samsonin, edhe Jeftanë, për Davidin e Samuilin dhe profetët, të cilët me anë të besimit mundën mbretëri, punuan drejtësi, fituan premtime, mbyllën gojë luanësh, shuan fuqinë e zjarrit, shpëtuan nga tehu i thikës, morën fuqi nga dobësitë, u bënë të fortë në luftë, thyen ushtritë e të huajve. Gra morën të vdekurit e tyre të ngjallur; edhe të tjerë u munduan, sepse nuk pranuan shpëtimin, që të fitonin një ngjallje më të mirë. Edhe të tjerë u provuan me të përqeshura e me të rrahura, po edhe me të lidhura e me burgime. U vranë me gurë, u sharruan më dysh, u nganë, vdiqën të vranë prej shpate; endeshin lart e poshtë veshur me lëkurë dhensh, e me lëkurë dhish, në nevojë, në shtrëngime, në keqtrajtime, ata për të cilët bota nuk ishte e denjë; – duke u endur nëpër shkretëtira e nëpër male e nëpër shpella e nëpër vrimat e dheut. Edhe këta të gjithë, ndonëse morën dëshmi të mirë me anë të besimit, nuk morën premtimin, sepse Perëndia pati urdhëruar që përpara një gjë më të mirë për ne, që të mos bëhen të përsosur pa ne. Prandaj dhe ne, të rrethuar prej një reje kaq të madhe dëshmitarësh, le të hedhim tej çdo barrë dhe mëkatin që na pushton lehtë, edhe me durim le të vrapojmë në rrugën që është përpara nesh, duke shikuar tek Jisui që është kryet dhe fundi i besimit, i cili për gëzimin që ishte përpara tij duroi kryqin, duke përbuzur turpin, edhe ndenji në të djathtë të fronit të Perëndisë.

Joanit 1:43-51

Edhe e pruri tek Jisui. Edhe Jisui hodhi sytë mbi të, edhe tha: Ti je Simoni, i biri i Jonait. Ti do të quhesh Qefa, që përkthehet Pjetër (gur). Të nesërmen Jisui deshi të dalë në Galile; edhe gjen Filipin e i thotë: Eja pas meje. Edhe Filipi ishte nga Betsaida, nga qyteti i Andreas dhe i Pjetrit. Filipi gjen Nathanailin, edhe i thotë: Kemi gjetur atë për të cilin shkroi Moisiu në ligj, edhe profetët, Jisuin, të birin e Josifit nga Nazareti. Edhe Nathanaili i tha: A mund të dalë ndonjë gjë e mirë nga Nazareti? Filipi thotë: Eja dhe shih. Jisui pa Nathanailin duke ardhur drejt tij, edhe thotë për të: Ja një Izraelit i vërtetë, tek i cili nuk ka gënjeshtër. Nathanaili i thotë: Nga më njeh? Jisui u përgjigj e i tha: Para se të të thërrasë Filipi, të pashë kur ishe nën fik. Nathanaili u përgjigj e i thotë: Rabbi, ti je Biri i Perëndisë, ti je mbreti i Izraelit. Jisui u përgjigj e i tha: Sepse të thashë që të pashë nën fik beson? Do të shohësh më të mëdha se këto.