

# 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 14, 2021

## SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

### FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

TONE 7

Today ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. 17 ..... 7:15pm Presanctified Liturgy  
& Potluck w/ Lenten  
Study  
Sun. 21 ..... 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:** Strict fast every day (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.)

**Troparion - Tone 4**  
**(from the Lenten Triodion)**

*O God of our Fathers,  
always act with kindness towards  
us:  
take not Thy mercy from us,  
but guide our lives in peace,  
through the prayers of Thy  
saints!*

**Troparion - Tone 8**  
**(from the Lenten Triodion)**

*Thou hast glorified the company  
of God-bearing fathers who  
enlighten the world  
as preachers of godliness and  
silencers of impiety.  
At their prayers, keep all who  
praise and magnify Thee, in  
perfect peace,  
that they may sing to Thee:  
"Alleluia!"*

**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 13:11-14:4  
Matthew 6:14-21

#### Monday

Isaiah 1:1-20  
Genesis 1:1-13  
Proverbs 1:1-20

#### Tuesday

Isaiah 1:19-2:4  
Genesis 1:14-23  
Proverbs 1:20-33

#### Wednesday

Isaiah 2:3-11  
Genesis 1:24-2:3  
Proverbs 2:1-22

#### Thursday

Isaiah 2:11-21  
Genesis 2:4-19  
Proverbs 3:1-18

#### Friday

Isaiah 3:1-15  
Genesis 2:20-3:20  
Proverbs 3:19-34

#### Saturday

2 Timothy 2:1-10  
John 15:17-16:2  
Hebrews 1:1-12  
Mark 2:23-3:5

### Reading the Bible in a Year

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  
Mar 20: 2 Kings 1-4

**Understand two thoughts, and fear them. One says, "You are a saint," the other, "You won't be saved." Both of these thoughts are from the enemy, and there is no truth in them.**

**But think this way: I am a great sinner, but the Lord is merciful. He loves people very much, and He will forgive my sins.**

-St. Silouan the Athonite

**The lenten journey and the banishment of hell**

One of my favorite authors as a young man was Thomas Merton, the famous Trappist monk. In the introduction to his work *New Seeds of Contemplation* he wrote: "Hell was where no one has anything in common with anyone else except the fact that they all hate one another and cannot get away from each other and from themselves."

This very much fits with the Orthodox view of hell as being in the presence of God for all eternity, and hating it. For the one who has never loved and who is consumed in his own ego and his own passions, being with God for all eternity will be to him, hell. Without love, we cannot experience the Fire of God without being burned.

The Lenten journey is the perfect time to reconnect with God's love by strengthening love within our own heart. By reaching out with an ever expanding love and charity for everyone around us, be they

**Health of the Parish**



\$15,000.00

\$12,700

\$10,000.00

\$5,000.00

family members, fellow believers in the parish, or strangers on the street, loving others becomes our Lenten goal. As love increases, hate and anger decrease. As Christ increases in our own heart, the power of hate and sin decreases around us, and hell is banished.

**A grateful heart is fertile ground**

When you strive to interact with members of your family, with friends, coworkers, and all others, with respect, humility, and dignity, you lay the groundwork for the abundance of Grace needed to quicken your heart for the things of God. The soil is prepared for the planting of seeds that allow you to respond to God's grace, for a grateful heart is fertile ground for the things of God.

When you open your heart to others, with gratitude, the path is prepared for a relationship with Jesus Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit will fill you with the power to live a life that is transformed by God's Grace. You will be filled with heartfelt gratitude for all God's gifts, and inner peace will be yours.

The preparation for sowing the seeds of the love of God, begins with responsive gratitude. The Apostle Paul writes, "Remember, it is not you that holds up the root, but the root that holds you up (Rom. 11:18)." Any relationship with God, must begin with a grateful heart, and is cultivated by kindness, and goodwill towards others. When you are grateful you respond toward God and others by enacting other virtues.

The constant and cultivated feeling of deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for others, quickens the soul to feel the inner need to freely and thankfully respond to God's invitation to commune with Him.

With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

**March/April Events**

**March**

- 14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy *Forgiveness Sunday*
- 17 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew followed by pot-luck and Lenten study
- 21 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 25 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy followed by pot-luck and Lenten study
- 28 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

**April**

- 03 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy followed by pot-luck and Lenten study

**A Prayer for Use During the Week**

**Dear Lord, as we begin our Lenten journey, please help me see my own sins and not judge my brother. Help me to finally understand that I really won't be able to help anyone around me until I start embracing my deep need for repentance. I need Your forgiveness Lord, and You will always give it to me IF I will be awake enough about my own brokenness to humbly ask. But I look around me and allow myself to be distracted by judging others and ignoring my own faults. Please forgive me, Lord, and help me to seek forgiveness of those around me, especially those closest to me. Amen.**

## Children's Word

### **Romans 13:11-14:4 (Epistle)**

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

### **Matthew 6:14-21 (Gospel)**

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### **Moths and rust**

Have you ever seen a little moth flying around inside your house? Maybe you thought it was just a harmless little bug, but those little moths are after something. Those little moths lay eggs, and their larvae eat your clothes! Maybe you have even seen a little hole in a sweater. The little larvae go crazy for wool, and sometimes they can just ruin your nice clothes!

Today's Gospel reading tells us about those little moths. Do you know why? Well, because those little moths remind us that things on earth don't last forever. Things here on earth can fall apart, they can die, they can get ruined, they can get stolen. Things on earth aren't for forever!

We can have fancy clothes here, but all these things can happen to them, and they can get completely ruined. We can love cars and sports and houses and money, but all these things can get destroyed. The Gospel tells us today, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Remember the little moths, and think about your treasure in heaven. We can put treasures in heaven when we help the poor and the needy. Can you make a plan this Lent? Can you put this kind of treasure in heaven for yourself?

### **SAINT MARIA OF PARIS WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM US?**

Not too long ago (70 years ago, which isn't too long) all sorts of awful things were happening in Europe. A terrible war was going on, and lots of people needed help, especially in big cities in Europe like Paris. An Orthodox nun named Maria lived in Paris, and she became a saint because of the life she led there.

Most monks and nuns live in monasteries, but Saint Maria did not want to live in a monastery. She lived in a house in downtown Paris. Since lots of people became very poor during the war, Maria tried to help them. In her house, she took care of lots and lots of people who had no food to eat, no bed to sleep in, and no friends to help them. But this brave woman was soon in trouble for doing all these things. She was sent away to a place where many people were hurt and even killed. Sadly, she was killed there, too.

We might think that this is a sad story, but in the end it is really a happy one, because now Saint Maria is a saint in heaven! And she is an example to us here on earth. She shows us that even when things are hard we can always try to be like our Lord, Jesus Christ—loving everybody and doing everything that we can to help others.

We celebrate St. Maria on Monday, March 18th.

# Your Looking At The Wrong Enemy!

March 11, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

So much conflict today is based on nothing more than finding out that someone agrees with someone else you disagree with! The friend of my enemy is my enemy. But what if all the conflicts in the world could be solved by admitting that the Source of all conflict FIRST starts within each of us?

What if the outward conflict is merely a reflection of our inner conflict?

Just look at our Lesson today in Jude 1:11-25:

*Beloved, woe to the ungodly, for they walk in the way of Cain, and abandon themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error, and perish in Korah's rebellion. These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they boldly carouse together, looking after themselves; waterless clouds, carried along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars for whom the nether gloom of darkness has been reserved for ever.*

*It was of these also that Enoch in the seventh generation from Adam prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with his holy myriads, to execute judgment on all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness which they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own passions, loud-mouthed boasters, flattering people to gain advantage.*

*But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; they said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who set up divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And convince some, who doubt; save some, by snatching them out of the fire; on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

*Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.*

St. Jude continues our education about the perennial war between the "ungodly" and themselves. Yes, you read that correctly. There is no war against God. How foolish. God is no one's enemy, though there are many who are His enemy, at least in their own minds. Actually, they war against themselves. That's the war that has been raging since the Garden of Eden. And God, Who did not start this fight, will end it!

Look at how Jude describes these foolish people:

- They walk in the way of Cain. This way is the way that led Cain to destruction. The path that only focuses on me rather than the humble willingness to follow timeless wisdom.
- They "abandon themselves" (isn't that a wonderful way to say that?) to Balaam's error. This is the error that led the prophet Balaam to accept money to prophesy against the People of God in the First Testament.
- They "perish in Korah's rebellion." Korah rebelled against Moses' authority in the First Testament along with 249 co-conspirators and was consumed by fire! St. Jude goes on to describe these people as "blemishes on your love feasts" (referring to the Eucharistic assembly), waterless clouds, fruitless trees, wild waves, and so on.

All to show that their rebellion against wisdom is empty and self-destructive, but brings no lasting harm to God or His plan for humanity!

Jude reminds the believers that this was all foretold. Scoffers would be where ever the Faith was practiced. And the natural result of these scoffers would be division, empty lives, and undisciplined passions. And the only response to these scoffers isn't an argument, but a focus on our own spiritual discipline through prayer and growing in our love for God. That is the only response that can ever hope to turn a scoffer away from his self-destruction towards God's mercy!

Today, are you discouraged by the folks who make fun of people of faith? Or do you get angry when your faith is attacked? Don't. It doesn't help and only sinks you into the very mud that traps these misguided people. No, respond with tears of compassion and a redoubling of your focused discipline in the faith and you will show these people how to be Orthodox on purpose!

## **К Римлянам 13:11-14:4**

Так [поступайте], зная время, что наступил уже час пробудиться нам от сна. Ибо ныне ближе к нам спасение, нежели когда мы уверовали. Ночь прошла, а день приблизился: итак отвергнем дела тьмы и облечемся в оружия света. Как днем, будем вести себя благочинно, не [предаваясь] ни пиروваниям и пьянству, ни сладострастию и распутству, ни ссорам и зависти; но оденьтесь в Господа нашего Иисуса Христа, и попечения о плоти не превращайте в похоти. Немощного в вере принимайте без споров о мнениях. Ибо иной уверен, [что можно] есть все, а немощный ест овощи. Кто ест, не уничижай того, кто не ест; и кто не ест, не осуждай того, кто ест, потому что Бог принял его. Кто ты, осуждающий чужого раба? Перед своим Господом стоит он, или падает. И будет восстановлен, ибо силен Бог восстановить его.

## **От Матфея 6:14-21**

Ибо если вы будете прощать людям согрешения их, то простит и вам Отец ваш Небесный, а если не будете прощать людям согрешения их, то и Отец ваш не простит вам согрешений ваших. Также, когда поститесь, не будьте унылы, как лицемеры, ибо они принимают на себя мрачные лица, чтобы показаться людям постящимися. Истинно говорю вам, что они уже получают награду свою. А ты, когда постишься, помажь голову твою и умой лице твое, чтобы явиться постящимся не пред людьми, но пред Отцом твоим, Который втайне; и Отец твой, видящий тайное, воздаст тебе явно. Не собирайте себе сокровищ на земле, где моль и ржа истребляют и где воры подкапывают и крадут, но собирайте себе сокровища на небе, где ни моль, ни ржа не истребляют и где воры не подкапывают и не крадут, ибо где сокровища ваши, там будет и сердце ваше.

### **Romakëve 13:11-14:4**

Dhe këtë aq më shumë duhet të bëjmë, duke ditur kohën, sepse tanimë erdhi ora të zgjohemi nga gjumi, sepse shpëtimi ynë është më afër, se kur besuam. Nata u thye dhe dita u afrua; le të flakim, pra, veprat e errësirës dhe të veshim armët e dritës. Le të ecim me ndershmëri, si ditën, jo në orgji dhe në dehje, jo në imoralitet dhe sensualizëm, jo në grindje e në smirë. Por vishuni me Zotin Jezu Krisht dhe mos tregoni kujdes për mishin, që t'ia kënaqni lakmitë. Pranojeni atë që është i dobët në besim, pa e qortuar për mendimet. Dikush mendon se mund të hajë nga çdo gjë, ndërsa ai që është i dobët ha vetëm barishte. Ai që ha të mos e përbuzë atë që nuk ha, dhe ai që nuk ha të mos gjykojë atë që ha, sepse Perëndia e ka pranuar. Kush je ti që gjykon shërbyesin e tjetrit? A qëndron mbi këmbë ose rrëzohet, është punë e zotit të tij, por ai do të qëndrojë, sepse Perëndia është i zoti ta bëjë atë të qëndrojë në këmbë.

### **Mateu 6:14-21**

Sepse në qoftë se ju ua falni njerëzve gabimet e tyre, Ati juaj qiellor do t'juaj falë edhe juve; por në qoftë se ju nuk ua falni njerëzve gabimet e tyre, as Ati juaj nuk do t'ua falë juve gabimet tuaja. Dhe kur të agjëroni, mos u tregoni të pikëlluar si hipokritët; sepse ata shfytyrohen për t'u treguar njerëzve se agjërojnë; në të vërtetë ju them se ata tashmë e kanë marrë shpërblimin e tyre. Kurse ti, kur të agjërosh, vajose kokën dhe laje fytyrën, me qëllim që të mos u tregosh njerëzve se ti agjëron, por Atit tënd në fshehtësi; dhe Ati yt, i cili shikon në fshehtësi, do ta japë shpërblimin publikisht. Mos mblidhni për vete thesare mbi tokë, ku i brejnë tenja dhe ndryshku, dhe ku vjedhësit shpërthejnë dhe vjedhin, përkundrazi mblidhni për vete thesare në qiell, ku as tenja as ndryshku nuk prishin dhe ku vjedhësit nuk shpërthejnë dhe nuk vjedhin. Sepse ku është thesari juaj do të jetë edhe zemra juaj.