

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 20, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	4:00pm	Lenten Vespers
Wed. 23	7:00pm	Presanctified
Thu. 24	7:00pm	Vesperal Liturgy
		<i>Feast of Annunciation</i>
Sat. 26	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 27	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
		<i>Sunday School/ Adult Education</i>
	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. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Friday.)

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 7:26-8:2

John 10:9-16

Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Mark 2:1-12

Monday

Isaiah 8:13-9:7

Genesis 6:9-22

Proverbs 8:1-21

Tuesday

Isaiah 9:9-10:4

Genesis 7:1-15

Proverbs 8:32-9:11

Wednesday

Isaiah 10:12-20

Genesis 7:6-9

Proverbs 9:12-18

Thursday

Genesis 28:10-17

Ezekiel 43:27-44:4

Proverbs 9:1-11

Friday

Hebrews 2:11-18

Luke 1:24-38

Saturday

Hebrews 2:11-18

Luke 1:24-38

Hebrews 10:32-38

Mark 2:14-17

Reading the Bible in a Year

Mar 20: 2 Kings 1-4

Mar 21: 2 Kings 5-8

Mar 22: 2 Kings 9-12

Mar 23: 2 Kings 13-16

Mar 24: 2 Kings 17-20

Mar 25: 2 Kings 21-25

Mar 26: 3 Kings 1-4

MARCH/APRIL EVENTS

March

20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
4:00pm Lenten Vespers (away)
23 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot Luck & Lenten Study
24 – 7:00pm Vespersal Liturgy
Feast of Annunciation
26 – 6:00pm Vespers
27 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School/ Adult Education
4:00pm Lenten Vespers (away)

30 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot Luck & Lenten Study

April

02 – 6:00pm Vespers
03 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School/ Adult Education
4:00pm Lenten Vespers (away)
06 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot Luck & Lenten Study
07 – 7:00pm Canon of St. Andrew

Coffee Hour

Murianka Memorial

Flower Donation

Tina Murianka

Children's Word

“That’s too bad!”

Has anybody ever told you something sad? Maybe a friend hurt her foot playing sports. Maybe your father had a flat tire coming home from work. Maybe a classmate told you he is having trouble with an assignment.

When you hear something sad, you might say something like, “Oh, that’s too bad!” and then you start thinking about something else. Sometimes we don’t try too hard to feel sorry for the person or even to do something about it!

But in today’s Gospel reading, we hear about some friends who really felt sorry for their friend. Their friend was paralyzed; he couldn’t walk. But this group of friends didn’t just say, “That’s too bad!” and start thinking about other things. They felt sorry. They tried to do something about it. They knew that Jesus was healing lots of people, and when He came to their town, they brought their paralyzed friend to Him. They even put him through the roof so he could get through to Him!

This Lent, let’s really try to feel for others. It’s easy to say, “Oh that’s too bad” and move on. But the best thing is for us to really try to help, just like the friends in the story today. God wants us to look out for each other! And the best way to do that is to ask God to help us, just like the friends did, too!

THE ANNUNCIATION

THE BEGINNING OF OUR SALVATION

Do you know how many Christmas songs there are? Almost 10,000 songs! And every year, people write even more. We love Christmas because we celebrate how our Lord Jesus Christ came to earth for us. Our God became man.

This week, we celebrate again how our God became a man. We remember the special news that the angel Gabriel gave Mary, the Theotokos. The angel told her she would have a baby, Jesus. He would be called the Son of the Most High. His kingdom would last forever! The Annunciation is such a great feast in our Church, but do you know any Annunciation songs? Do you ever hear Annunciation songs on the radio? No, we never do!

We can start to learn the special song for this feastday. It starts, “Today marks the crowning of our salvation.” On the Annunciation, we celebrate how Jesus is already here on earth, He is already with His mother, the Theotokos. On Christmas, we celebrate Jesus’s birthday, but this week, we celebrate how Jesus is already here, growing in His mother.

We can learn this one Annunciation hymn, because this is a big day! God wants to save all of us, and this is the beginning of His plan! We celebrate the Annunciation on Friday, March 25th.

Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

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 10 – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt	Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church 2101 S 28th St, Philadelphia, PA 19145

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 (Epistle)

And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Hebrews 7:26-8:2 (Epistle, Saint)

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

A Prayer for the Week

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk. (Prostration)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Your servant. (Prostration)
Yes, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (Prostration)

Mark 2:1-12 (Gospel)

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

John 10:9-16 (Gospel, Saint)

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.



"Let us cut sin out of our heart, and we will find within us the kingdom of heaven."

- St. Philotheos of Sinai



God Doesn't Hate You!

March 17, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

All the sins and mistakes of all the people in the world who have ever lived all combined together and multiplied by a thousand plus ten can NEVER overpower God's love and peace!

Individually, our sins can never overpower Him. Collectively, our sins cannot exhaust Him. If that were remotely possible, He would not be God. Taking this further, if you think for one second that God "can't" forgive you and that you have sinned so much that not even God Himself can redeem you, then you're worshipping an idol and not the God of the Church or the Scriptures. And your arrogance and pride have reached a level that you believe yourself so powerful that your sins overcome God's mercy. Dearest, that is delusion at the highest level. You just ain't that powerful.

Look at our lesson today in Proverbs 6:3-20:

Then do this, my son, and save yourself, for you have come into your neighbor's power: go, hasten, and importune your neighbor. Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber; save yourself like a gazelle from the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer or ruler, she prepares her food in summer, and gathers her sustenance in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a vagabond, and want like an armed man. A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, winks with his eyes, scrapes with his feet, points with his finger, with perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord; therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.

There are six things which the LORD hates, seven which are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and a man who sows discord among brothers. My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

Notice what God hates. It isn't you, but that which keeps you from Him!

- Haughty Eyes
- A Lying Tongue
- Shedding Innocent Blood
- Conniving Wicked Plans
- Fast Choosing Evil
- A False Witness
- Causing Discord and Division

Each item the writer mentions is how someone misuses the faculties the Lord has given us all. From eyes to tongue to hands to heart to feet to mind, and even our human ability to influence; all misused to selfish ends. God hates these things. Do you know why He hates them? He hates them because these things destroy persons God loves. He doesn't hate them because they "offend" Him. How childish. No, He hates these things because of the destructive power they wield in the lives of people He created and for whom He died and rose again.

Every item in the list describes a choice, an action, or an attitude that breaks harmony, peace, violates love, and destroys relationships! This list reveals God's deepest desire that we are in intimate connection with Him and each other. Whatever builds communion is from God. Whatever breaks communion, God hates that! Not YOU!

Today, are you gripped with the narcissistic lie that God "can't" forgive you? Are you trapped in behaviors that are self-destructive? Falling for that old slander against God that He is "angry" with you or is "disappointed in you" is all a trick of the evil one to keep you a slave. God is too humble to be angered by petty human sins. No, He hates what He hates because what He hates hurts you, and He loves you so very much. Even more than you, yourself, know how to love. Let's abandon the prideful notion of a God Who hates people and embrace the Orthodox understanding of our God Who hates what hurts people and desires only that we be Orthodox on Purpose!

К Евреям 1:10-2:3

И: в начале Ты, Господи, основал землю, и небеса--дело рук Твоих; они погибнут, а Ты пребываешь; и все обветшают, как риза, и как одежду свернешь их, и изменятся; но Ты тот же, и лета Твои не кончатся. Кому когда из Ангелов сказал [Бог]: седи одесную Меня, доколе положу врагов Твоих в подножие ног Твоих? Не все ли они суть служебные духи, посылаемые на служение для тех, которые имеют наследовать спасение? Посему мы должны быть особенно внимательны к слышанному, чтобы не отпасть. Ибо, если через Ангелов возвещенное слово было твердо, и всякое преступление и непослушание получало праведное воздаяние, то как мы избежим, вознерадев о толиком спасении, которое, быв сначала проповедано Господом, в нас утвердилось слышавшими [от Него],

К Евреям 7:26-8:2

Таков и должен быть у нас Первосвященник: святой, непричастный злу, непорочный, отделенный от грешников и превознесенный выше небес, Который не имеет нужды ежедневно, как те первосвященники, приносить жертвы сперва за свои грехи, потом за грехи народа, ибо Он совершил это однажды, принеся [в жертву] Себя Самого. Ибо закон поставляет первосвященниками человек, имеющих немощи; а слово клятвенное, после закона, [поставило] Сына, на веки совершенного. Главное же в том, о чем говорим, есть то: мы имеем такого Первосвященника, Который воссел одесную престола величия на небесах и [есть] священнодействователь святилища и скинии истинной, которую воздвиг Господь, а не человек.

От Марка 2:1-12

Через [несколько] дней опять пришел Он в Капернаум; и слышно стало, что Он в доме. Тотчас собрались многие, так что уже и у дверей не было места; и Он говорил им слово. И пришли к Нему с расслабленным, которого несли четверо; и, не имея возможности приблизиться к Нему за многолюдством, раскрыли [кровлю] дома, где Он находился, и, прокопав ее, спустили постель, на которой лежал расслабленный. Иисус, видя веру их, говорит расслабленному: чадо! прощаются тебе грехи твои. Тут сидели некоторые из книжников и помышляли в сердцах своих: что Он так богохульствует? кто может прощать грехи, кроме одного Бога? Иисус, тотчас узнав духом Своим, что они так помышляют в себе, сказал им: для чего так помышляете в сердцах ваших? Что легче? сказать ли расслабленному: прощаются тебе грехи? или сказать: встань, возьми свою постель и ходи? Но чтобы вы знали, что Сын Человеческий имеет власть на земле прощать грехи, --говорит расслабленному: тебе говорю: встань, возьми постель твою и иди в дом твой. Он тотчас встал и, взяв постель, вышел перед всеми, так что все изумлялись и прославляли Бога, говоря: никогда ничего такого мы не видали.

От Иоанна 10:9-16

Я есмь дверь: кто войдет Мною, тот спасется, и войдет, и выйдет, и пажить найдет. Вор приходит только для того, чтобы украсть, убить и погубить. Я пришел для того, чтобы имели жизнь и имели с избытком. Я есмь пастырь добрый: пастырь добрый полагает жизнь свою за овец. А наемник, не пастырь, которому овцы не свои, видит приходящего волка, и оставляет овец, и бежит; и волк расхищает овец, и разгоняет их. А наемник бежит, потому что наемник, и нерадит об овцах. Я есмь пастырь добрый; и знаю Моих, и Мои знают Меня. Как Отец знает Меня, [так] и Я знаю Отца; и жизнь Мою полагаю за овец. Есть у Меня и другие овцы, которые не сего двора, и тех надлежит Мне привести: и они услышат голос Мой, и будет одно стадо и один Пастырь.

Hebrenjve 1:10-2:3

Edhe: “Ti në fillim, o Zot, themelove dhenë, edhe punë të duarve të tua janë qiejt. Ata do të prishen, po ti mbetesh; edhe të gjithë si rrobë do të vjetërohen, edhe si të veshur do t’i mbështjellësh ata, edhe do të ndërrohen; por ti je po ai, edhe vitet e tua nuk do të shterrojnë”. Edhe cilit prej engjëjve i tha ndonjëherë: “Rri në të djathtën time, deri sa të vë armiqtë e tu nënkëmbje të këmbëve të tua”? A nuk janë të gjithë frymëra shërbyese, që dërgohen për shërbesë për ata që kanë për të trashëguar shpëtim? Prandaj duhet ne më tepër t’ua vëmë veshin atyre që dëgjuam, se mos shkasim ndonjëherë. Sepse nëse doli e vërtetë fjala që u fol me anë të engjëjve, edhe çdo shkelje e mosdëgjim mori shpazim të drejtë,

Hebrenjve 7:26-8:2

Sepse i tillë kryepriift na duhej, i shenjtë, i pafajshëm, i papërlyer, i ndarë nga mëkatarët dhe i bërë më i lartë se qiejt; i cili nuk ka përditë nevojë, si ata kryepriiftërinjtë, të blatoj therorë më përpara për mëkatet e tij, dhe pastaj për ato të popullit; sepse këtë e bëri një herë e përgjithmonë, kur pruri theror veten e tij. Sepse ligji vë kryepriiftërinj njerëz që kanë dobësi; po fjala e betimit që u bë pas ligjit vuri Birin, i cili është i përsosur për gjithë jetën. Edhe përmbledhja e atyre që themi është kjo: Kemi një kryepriift të tillë, i cili ndenji në të djathtë të fronit të madhërisë në qiejt, edhe një shërbyes i shenjtërores dhe i tendës së vërtetë, të cilën e ngriti Zoti, e jo njeri.

Markut 2:1-12

Edhe pas disa ditësh përsëri hyri në Kapernaum; dhe u dëgjua se është në një shtëpi. Edhe përnjëherë u mblodhën shumë vetë, aq sa as vendet pranë derës s’i nxinin më; edhe ai u predikonte atyre fjalën. Edhe vijnë tek ai e sjellin një të paralizuar që e ngrinin katër vetë. Edhe pasi s’mund të afroreshin tek ai nga turma, zbuluan kulmin ku ishte ai, edhe si bënë një vrimë, zbritën shtratin, mbi të cilin dergjej i paralizuari. Edhe Jisui, kur pa besimin e tyre, i thotë të paralizuarit: Bir, t’u falën mëkatet e tua. Edhe ca nga shkruesit ishin atje duke ndenjtur, edhe duke menduar në zemrat e tyre: Ç’flet ky kështu blasfemira? Cili mund të falë mëkate, përveçse një, Perëndia? Edhe Jisui menjëherë si e mori vesh në shpirtin e tij se po mendohet kështu me veten e tyre, u tha atyre: Përse i mendoni këto në zemrat tuaja? Ç’është më lehtë t’i them të paralizuarit: T’u falën mëkatet, apo t’i them: Ngrihu, e merr shtratin tënd, edhe ec? Po që ta dini se i Biri i njeriut ka pushtet të falë mëkate mbi dhe, – i thotë të paralizuarit: Ty të them, ngrihu dhe merr shtratin tënd e shko në shtëpinë tënde. Edhe ai u ngrit menjëherë dhe mori shtratin, edhe doli përpara të gjithëve, aq sa të gjithë çuditeshin dhe lavdëronin Perëndinë, duke thënë se kurrë s’kemi parë kështu.

Joanit 10:9-16

Unë jam dera. Në hyftë ndonjë me anën time, do të shpëtojë, edhe do të hyjë, edhe do të dalë, edhe do të gjejë kullotë. Vjedhësi nuk vjen, veçse për të vjedhur e për të therur e për të prishur. Unë erdha që të kenë jetë, edhe ta kenë me të tepërt. Unë jam bari i mirë; bari i mirë vë jetën e tij për dhentë. Po ai që është rrogëtar, edhe që s’është bari, i cili nuk i ka dhentë të tijat, sheh ujkun duke ardhur, edhe lë dhentë e ikën, edhe ujku i rrëmben ato, edhe shpërndan dhentë. Edhe rrogëtari ikën, sepse është rrogëtar, edhe s’do t’ia dijë për dhentë. Unë jam bari i mirë, edhe njoh të miat, edhe njihem prej të miave. Siç më njeh Ati, edhe unë e njoh Atin; edhe vë jetën time për dhentë. Kam edhe të tjera dhen, të cilat s’janë prej këtij oborri; duhet t’i mbledh edhe ato; edhe do të dëgjojnë zërin tim; edhe do të bëhet një tufë, një bari.