

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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March 27, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT VENERATION OF THE CROSS

Today	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
		<i>Sunday School/ Adult Education</i>
	4:00pm	Lenten Vespers
Wed. 30	7:00pm	Presanctified
Sat. 02	6:00pm	Vespers
Sun. 03	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 7 (Resurrection)

*By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy
death.
To the thief Thou didst open
Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst
change weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy
disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,
granting the world great mercy.*

Kontakion – Tone 8 (Sunday of the Cross)

*Now the flaming sword no longer
guards the gates of Eden;
it has been mysteriously
quenched by the wood of the
Cross.
The sting of death and the
victory of hell have been
vanquished;
for Thou, O my Savior, hast
come and cried to those in hell:
“Enter again into Paradise!”*

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 4:14-5:6
Mark 8:34-9:1

Monday

Isaiah 14:24-32
Genesis 8:21-9:7
Proverbs 11:19-12:6

Tuesday

Isaiah 25:1-9
Genesis 9:8-17
Proverbs 12:8-22

Wednesday

Isaiah 26:21-27:9
Genesis 9:18-10:1
Proverbs 12:23-13:9

Thursday

Isaiah 28:14-22
Genesis 10:32-11:9
Proverbs 13:19-14:6
Hebrews 7:26-8:2
John 10:9-16

Friday

Isaiah 29:13-23
Genesis 12:1-7
Proverbs 14:15-26

Saturday

1 Corinthians 15:47-57
John 5:24-30
Hebrews 6:9-12
Mark 7:31-37

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

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
4:00pm Lenten Vespers (away)
06 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot Luck & Lenten Study

08 – 6:00pm *Fun Night*
09 – 6:00pm Vespers
10 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
4:00pm Lenten Vespers (away)
13 – 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
Pot Luck & Lenten Study
16 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Lazarus Saturday
6:00pm Vespers
17 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Palm Sunday

Coffee Hour

Dimitri & Dali Vashakidze
& Family

Flower Donation

Ss. Peter & Paul



"There is one antidote for evil passions: the purification of our souls which takes place through the mystery of godliness. The chief act of faith in this mystery is to look to Him who suffered the passion for us. The cross is the passion, so that whoever looks to it is not harmed by the poison of desire. To look to the cross means to render one's whole life dead and crucified to the world."

-St. Gregory of Nyssa



To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,
Dear Beloved Children in the Lord,

I greet you on this Feast of the Annunciation!

Today we celebrate "the revelation of the eternal mystery" as "the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin" (Festal Troparion). With deep thankfulness, we look to God for our salvation, which begins this day. We also give thanks to the Mother of God, because if she had not accepted the Archangel Gabriel's message, she could not have played her critical part in Christ's redemption of mankind from the tyranny of sin and death.

Today, then, is a feast of the victory of the cooperation between the human will and the will of God Himself. The Most Holy Theotokos achieved this victory not through the exercise of power or by clinging to worldly desires. Rather, the Lord's victory came through her pious consent to the providential will of God and His loving care for all of humanity. In her humility, she chose to lay down all her own desires, her own plans, and her own will. She consistently "has chosen the good portion" (Lk 10:42) and found freedom in relinquishing her own autonomy to the limitless love of God. And so, through her, we now see revealed "the mystery hidden from all eternity" (cf. Col 1:26).

She gives us all hope that we too can make the choice to follow our Lord even into difficult, uncomfortable places. She is our inspiration to do the will of God in all circumstances: by turning the other cheek to an angry coworker, caring for a family member with a disability, or living faithfully in the countless other situations we find ourselves in every day.

Sometimes Christ asks us to do hard, even terrifying, things, like facing the reality of an addiction or refusing an abortion in the face of an unplanned pregnancy. Yet, even then, we can take comfort in abandoning our own will to the incomparable depths of the will of God, trusting ourselves to His compassionate mercy.

The Theotokos emptied herself and became overflowing with the Holy Spirit—all because of her words, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). May she inspire us all to greater depths of love and faith in God, as we sing on this day, "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!"

I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

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 4:14-5:6

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek";

Mark 8:34-9:1

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, Your wisdom always proves to be solid and stable. But all too often I find myself trusting in my own strength or the strength of perceived "power" to guide and sustain my life. And I always have to relearn the lesson of my foolishness the hard way. Please forgive me Lord and give me the attentiveness to trust in You for the foundation of my life. Amen

Children's Word

Have confidence in Christ!

Do you have somebody you ask for help? Maybe your parents or your teacher, or a coach or priest? Maybe you ask a big brother or sister for help a lot. You're not shy to ask for help, are you?

Today's epistle reading tells us not to be shy to ask for help...from our Lord, Jesus Christ! The epistle says that Christ can "sympathize with our weaknesses." He understands our problems. So, "let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Let's have confidence in our Lord! Don't be shy to ask Him for help. We can pray and ask for help when we are sick or if we know somebody else who is sick. We can pray and ask for help when we are scared about something. We can pray and ask for help when we're having trouble at school or with something at home. We can pray and ask for help if we have a bad habit we want to get rid of. We can pray and ask for help if we don't know what to do.

The Bible tells us that God can "sympathize with our weaknesses." Jesus understands what is going on, because Jesus became a person too! So, let's have confidence in Christ. Don't be shy to ask for help, just like we're not shy to ask for help from our parents or our teachers. God wants us to "draw near" to Him—come close to Him and ask for help!

SAINT EUBOULA THE MOTHER OF SAINT PANTELEIMON

Have you ever heard your parents introduce themselves as your mom or your dad? "Hi, I'm Sophia's mother" or "Hi, I'm Paul's father," they might say to your friends or to your teacher at school.

This week, we celebrate a saint we might only know as "Saint Panteleimon's mother." But that's still a wonderful thing! You remember that Saint Panteleimon is one of our best "healer saints." He was a doctor, but he was also a strong Christian. He died for his faith because he wouldn't give up his love for God.

Saint Euboula was Panteleimon's mother. She was a strong Christian too, and she taught her son to love God, even when he was just a little baby. Sadly, Euboula died when her son was young, and her husband (Panteleimon's father) wasn't a Christian. Later on, he sent their son off to learn how to become a doctor. Panteleimon forgot or ignored his Christian faith. When he was still in school, another saint, Hermolaos, reminded him of what he learned as a little boy from his mother. He told Panteleimon that the real healer is God!

Panteleimon turned back to the faith he first learned from his mother, Saint Euboula. He became an even stronger Christian, and even later a martyr.

We celebrate St. Euboula on Wednesday, March 30th.

Lean Upon The Lord

March 23, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Jesus warned His disciples that there would be “wars and rumors of wars” in human history and the temptation would be for humans to abandon hope and be crushed by despair. If Jesus said that 20 centuries ago, why are we surprised to see the histrionics of today’s society that has put their trust in their own intellects and the accumulation of political power?

The truth is we are always an inattentive moment away from abandoning wisdom and trust in God for the slippery slope of pride and unwarranted self-confidence. It’s happened before. It’s happening now. And it will happen in the future until Kingdom come!

Look at our lesson in Isaiah 10:12-20

When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem he will punish the arrogant boasting of the king of Assyria and his haughty pride. For he says: “By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I have removed the boundaries of peoples, and have plundered their treasures; like a bull I have brought down those who sat on thrones. My hand has found like a nest the wealth of the peoples; and as men gather eggs that have been forsaken so I have gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved a wing, or opened the mouth, or chirped.” Shall the axe vaunt itself over him who hews with it, or the saw magnify itself against him who wields it? As if a rod should wield him who lifts it, or as if a staff should lift him who is not wood! Therefore the Lord, the LORD of hosts, will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire. The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame; and it will burn and devour his thorns and briers in one day. The glory of his forest and of his fruitful land the LORD will destroy, both soul and body, and it will be as when a sick man wastes away. The remnant of the trees of his forest will be so few that a child can write them down. In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean upon him that smote them, but will lean upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

St. Isaiah continues his ministry to the kingdom of Judah and the unfaithful kingdom of Israel to the north by reminding them that God always starts “cleaning house” with His own people. And yes, the reality that the “chosen” people are being made to bear the consequences of their unfaithfulness is bitter and a hard lesson. But this bitterness is sweet when we consider the outcome of discipline now, instead of at the Last Judgement.

Isaiah comforts God’s people by telling them that their time of discipline will be followed by God correcting the powerful kingdom of Assyria. Listen to that pride king claiming he has “removed the boundaries of peoples.” This haughty ruler is claiming he is the one who is powerful and wise as he praises himself. The northern kingdom fell for that arrogance and allied themselves to this pagan king. Their unfaithfulness and failure to lean on God instead of trusting temporary power are about to be abundantly clear.

You see, all human strength has a limit. All arrogant claims run their course and the end of their “talent” and authority usually ends in humiliation.

But those who lean on God have a “power” and a strength that is eternal. How foolish it is to trade the eternal for the temporary! Isaiah describes this foolishness perfectly when he asks “Shall the axe vaunt itself over him who hews with it, or the saw magnify itself against him who wields it?” Putting our trust in the axe instead of Him Who wields the axe is the very definition of shortsightedness!

God promises the Faithful that they will come through this cleansing discipline and will burn brightly again. But only if they learn the lesson of leaning on Him rather than falling into the temptation to trust temporary power. We fall into the same trap when we trust politicians or earthly powers to bring about righteousness, and then we have to deal with the humiliation of seeing the failure of our foolish choices.

Today, what are you leaning on? Is it solid and eternal, or is it the “wisp” of temporary power? Being Orthodox on Purpose means learning the lesson that leaning on God is the only wise choice for your life.

К Евреям 4:14-5:6

Итак, имея Первосвященника великого, прошедшего небеса, Иисуса Сына Божия, будем твердо держаться исповедания [нашего]. Ибо мы имеем не такого первосвященника, который не может сострадать нам в немощах наших, но Который, подобно [нам], искушен во всем, кроме греха. Посему да приступаем с дерзновением к престолу благодати, чтобы получить милость и обрести благодать для благовременной помощи. Ибо всякий первосвященник, из человеков избираемый, для человеков поставляется на служение Богу, чтобы приносить дары и жертвы за грехи, могущий снисходить невежествующим и заблуждающим, потому что и сам обложен немощью, и посему он должен как за народ, так и за себя приносить [жертвы] о грехах. И никто сам собою не приемлет этой чести, но призываемый Богом, как и Аарон. Так и Христос не Сам Себе присвоил славу быть первосвященником, но Тот, Кто сказал Ему: Ты Сын Мой, Я ныне родил Тебя; как и в другом [месте] говорит: Ты священник вовек по чину Мелхиседека.

От Марка 8:34-9:1

И, подозвав народ с учениками Своими, сказал им: кто хочет идти за Мною, отвергнись себя, и возьми крест свой, и следуй за Мною. Ибо кто хочет душу свою сберечь, тот потеряет ее, а кто потеряет душу свою ради Меня и Евангелия, тот сбережет ее. Ибо какая польза человеку, если он приобретет весь мир, а душе своей повредит? Или какой выкуп даст человек за душу свою? Ибо кто постыдится Меня и Моих слов в роде сем прелюбодейном и грешном, того постыдится и Сын Человеческий, когда приидет в славе Отца Своего со святыми Ангелами. И сказал им: истинно говорю вам: есть некоторые из стоящих здесь, которые не вкусят смерти, как уже увидят Царствие Божие, пришедшее в силе.

Hebrenjve 4:14-5:6

Duke pasur pra një kryepriift të madh që ka përshkuar qiejt, Jisuin, të Birin e Perëndisë, le të mbajmë rrëfimin tonë. Sepse s'kemi kryepriift që të mos mund t'i vijë keq për dobësitë tona, po një që u nga në të gjitha si ne, por pa mëkatuar. Le t'i afrohem pra me guxim fronit të hirit, që të marrim përdëllim dhe të gjejmë hir për ndihmë në kohë nevojë. Sepse çdo kryepriift që merret prej njerëzve, vihet për njerëzit në gjërat që kanë të bëjnë me Perëndinë, për të blatur dhurata dhe flijime për mëkatet; të cilit mund t'i vijë keq për ata që janë të paditur e të gënjer; sepse edhe ai vetë është veshur me dobësi. Edhe prandaj ka detyrë, si për popullin, kështu dhe për veten e tij, të blatoj theror për mëkatet. Edhe asnjë nuk e merr këtë nder prej vetes së tij, po ai që thirret nga Perëndia, si Aroni. Kështu edhe Krishti nuk e lavdëroi veten e tij që të bëhet kryepriift, po ai që i foli: "Ti je Biri im, unë sot të kam lindur". Sikurse edhe në tjetër vend thotë: "Ti je priift për gjithë jetën sipas urdhërit të Melkisedekut".

Markut 8:34-9:1

Edhe si thirri pranë turmën bashkë me nxënësit e tij, u tha atyre: Kush të dojë të vijë pas meje, le të mohojë veten e tij, edhe le të ngrejë kryqin e tij, edhe le të më vijë pas. Sepse kush të dojë të shpëtojë jetën e tij, do ta humbasë; po kush të humbasë jetën e tij për hirin tim dhe të ungjillit, ky do ta shpëtojë. Sepse ç'dobi do të ketë njeriu, në fitoftë gjithë botën, edhe të dëmtojë shpirtin e tij? Apo ç'do të japë njeriu në këmbim të shpirtit të tij? Sepse cilitdo që t'i vijë turp për mua dhe për fjalët e mia në këtë brez kurorëshkelës e mëkatar, edhe Birit të njeriut do t'i vijë turp për atë, kur të vijë në lavdinë e Atit të tij bashkë me engjëjt e shenjtë. Edhe u thoshte atyre: Me të vërtetë po ju them juve, se janë disa prej këtyre që rrinë këtu, që nuk do të ngjërojnë vdekje, deri sa të shohin mbretërinë e Perëndisë të ardhur me fuqi.