

# 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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## SUNDAY OF THE HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

Today ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
4:00pm Lenten Vespers  
Wed. 11 ..... 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
Sat. 14 ..... 6:00pm Vespers  
Sun. 15 ..... 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:** Every day (fasting from meat, fish, and eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

### Troparion – Tone 2 (Pentecostarion)

*The noble Joseph,  
when he had taken down Thy  
most pure Body from the Tree,  
wrapped it in fine linen and  
anointed it with spices,  
and placed it in a new tomb.  
But Thou didst arise on the third  
day, O Lord,  
granting the world great mercy.*

### Troparion – Tone 2 (Pentecostarion)

*Thou didst command the  
Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ  
God.  
By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst  
stop the lamentation of Eve, the  
first mother.  
Thou didst command them to  
preach to Thine Apostles:  
“The Savior is risen from the  
tomb!”*

**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

1 John 1:1-7  
John 19:25-27; 21:24-25  
Acts 6:1-7  
Mark 15:43-16:8

#### Monday

Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60  
John 4:46-54

#### Tuesday

1 Corinthians 4:9-16  
Matthew 13:54-58  
Acts 8:5-17  
John 6:27-33

#### Wednesday

Hebrews 7:26-8:2  
Matthew 5:14-19  
Acts 8:18-25  
John 6:35-39

#### Thursday

Acts 8:26-39  
John 6:40-44

#### Friday

Acts 8:40-9:19  
John 6:48-54

#### Saturday

Acts 9:20-31  
John 15:17-16:2

### Reading the Bible in a Year

May 08: Psalms 37-40  
May 09: Psalms 41-44  
May 10: Psalms 45-48  
May 11: Psalms 49-52  
May 12: Psalms 53-56  
May 13: Psalms 57-60  
May 14: Psalms 61-64

## MAY/JUNE EVENTS

### May

08 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
11 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
14 – 6:00pm Vespers  
15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
18 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
21 – 6:00pm Vespers  
22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
25 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
28 – 6:00pm Vespers  
29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

### June

01 – 7:15pm Vespersal Liturgy  
*Feast of Ascension*  
04 – 6:00pm Vespers  
05 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
08 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
11 – 6:00pm Vespers  
12 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
*Pentecost*  
15 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
18 – 6:00pm Vespers  
19 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

## Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is provided by Ophelia Petrosyan

### Cemetery Blessings

Due to a variety of factors, the blessing of the graves was pushed back. The following is the schedule of cemetery blessings:

05/15 – Oakland at 1pm

05/29 – Lawnview at 1pm

05/30 – Fernwood

06/05 – Magnolia at 1pm

06/12 – Forrest Hills at 2pm

Other cemeteries will be visited by request

## A Prayer for the Week

**O Lord of Mercy, You have conquered death in all its ugly manifestations. You love Your creation and You refused to allow us to remain enslaved by mortality. Thank You for this undiluted love. I confess, O Lord when I contemplate this love, it is a terror to me because it is unrelenting and inescapable. Your love draws me to repentance and away from the darkness of my own selfish desires. Grant me, O Lord, Your strength to love You with all my life and love my neighbor as myself! Amen**

## Children's Word

### **Sadness to joy**

Have you ever visited the grave of a friend or a relative? Maybe you brought some flowers to put there, or maybe you visited to say a prayer.

Today we remember a group of women who woke up early one morning to visit the grave of somebody they loved very much, our Lord, Jesus Christ. They brought bottles of myrrh so that they could give the tomb a sweet smell. On the way, they were sad and worried. They knew a big stone lay across the tomb, and they wouldn't be able to get inside. But when they got to the tomb, they were amazed! The huge stone was rolled away, and an angel was inside!

"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen!" said the angel. Later, we see how their sadness turned into joy! Sometimes, we might think about what God has planned for us, how He opened heaven for us so that we can be with Him forever. In heaven, there is no pain or suffering. When we think about that, our sadness will turn to joy too!

The angel told the women to tell everybody the good news. We can also tell people the good news when we say, "Christ is risen!"

Today, we remember the love these women had for their Lord. And we know we can try to follow their example too!

### **SAINT CHRISTOPHER WE CAN ALL CARRY CHRIST!**

Do you have a name that means something? Maybe you have looked up the meaning of your name. The name "Sarah" means "princess." The name "Philip" means "lover of horses."

Tomorrow, we celebrate Saint Christopher, whose name means "The one who carried Christ." In the icon, you can see a young Jesus on Saint Christopher's shoulder. St. Christopher was a big, strong man, and one story about him says that he would carry people back and forth across a river. Once, he even carried Christ on his shoulder, and he wanted to become Christian after that.

We don't know if this is a true story, or just a legend, or maybe that the story really meant that Christopher carried Christ in his heart after his baptism. We know that part is true, for sure. Christopher was a pagan, who worshiped false gods. The biography of Christopher says that he was a very ugly man. His face was something nobody even wanted to look at. But after Christopher chose to become a Christian, he was baptized, and his whole appearance changed. He was gentle, and humble, and had a sweet face. Everyone around him knew that Christopher had changed. Later, Christopher even was martyred because he wouldn't give up his strong faith.

We can try to follow St. Christopher's example. Always remember that when you became a Christian, you changed too! And you carry Christ in your heart too! We celebrate Saint Christopher on Monday, May 9th.

**Acts 6:1-7**

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

**1 John 1:1-7**

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life – the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us – that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.



***"Cheerfulness consists in not regarding things as our own, but as entrusted to us by God for the benefit of our fellow-servants. It consists in scattering them abroad generously with joy and magnanimity, not reluctantly or under compulsion."***

-St. Symeon the New Theologian

**Mark 15:43-16:8**

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**John 19:25-27; 21:24-25**

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

# The Profound Terror of Real Love

May 3, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Christ is risen!

“Love is love” is a popular saying nowadays. When I was young, I remember the first time I heard the old euphemism of “making love.” Then there’s “all we need is love.” The list goes on and on. Most of the popular songs we sing are about love in one way or another. But the greatest line about love ever uttered is “For God so loved the world...”

It’s obvious we humans think a lot about love. And, as with most profound and powerful realities, getting love wrong has disastrous consequences personally and for society. Take a few of the phrases mentioned above. Most of them equate physical intimacy with love. And, to be sure, that is certainly one aspect of human love. But we humans have discovered the powerful truth that love has many manifestations. I happen to love key lime pie! But that love is very different (or it most certainly should be) from the love I have for my daughter or my mother or my best friend.

When love gets confused or misunderstood, love, like all gifts that remind us of God, becomes a caustic weapon that destroys instead of healing us. Love may be “a many splendid thing”, but love is also as dangerous as it is beautiful.

Look at our lesson today in John 3:16-21

*The Lord said to his disciples: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God.”*

What a familiar passage. Frankly, I think this was the first Bible verse I memorized as a kid in Sunday School. And, if I remember correctly, the pictures my Sunday School teacher was showing us wee lads and lassies were of a sweet Lord Jesus sitting under a beautiful tree with flowers all around and children in His lap and standing around Him. And we sang “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.” I love this passage, but I’ve come to understand this passage in a much more mature way, and that mature understanding has made this passage much more terrifying! Ready to grow up?

First, notice this passage has everything to do with life and death. The introduction of the amazing truth that God loves the world is meant to save us from destruction. It isn’t meant to comfort us in a way that makes us at ease, but to rouse us to the reality of just what is at stake here. Whoever believes in Him will not perish, but those who don’t will perish and will be condemned. Oh, not by God, of course. No, the condemnation will be completely self-inflicted by those who misunderstand just what love is!

Notice, “he who does not believe is condemned already.” In fact, it is the misunderstanding of love, the misunderstanding about what God’s love is supposed to wake us up to, that mires us in the delusion of a too-small definition of love. Gripped by delusion, we reduce love to affection or a feeling of comfort, or a physical release, and when we do, we see this delusion lock us in the slavery of passions never fulfilled and always craving more! We reduce the terrifying warning of the truth that God loves us, to some silly and childish sentiment that actually prevents us from knowing true love! We condemn ourselves.

Second, the love of God, true love, is as different as light and dark. In fact, notice that God’s love that is supposed to free us from confusion and condemnation is contrasted with men “loving” darkness rather than light. And we “love” darkness BECAUSE our deeds are evil! What a powerful and terrible contrast between the love of God that sets us free and gives us life, to the false “love” of darkness that only feeds our narcissism and reduces love to the selfish lust that destroys us and our society. This sick and parasitic ideology destroys lives all the while we scream “I’m just living my truth” or “love is love.” True love never helps others stay sick and enslaved. True love rouses us to escape the darkness and flee the condemnation that always plagues those gripped by false love!

Today, our world is lulled into a dangerous delusion by a false notion of love. We Orthodox are directed to see love, not as an emotion or a feeling, but a Person. God IS Love and Jesus Christ is God! Let’s love others around us more than our own comfort or reputation and love them by both showing and declaring the true love that sets us free rather than the false love that only feeds our slavery and addictions to destruction. Being Orthodox on Purpose means embracing this terrifying love of God!

### **Деяния 6:1-7**

В эти дни, когда умножились ученики, произошел у Еллинистов ропот на Евреев за то, что вдовицы их пренебрегаемы были в ежедневном раздаянии потребностей. Тогда двенадцать [Апостолов], созвав множество учеников, сказали: нехорошо нам, оставив слово Божие, пещись о столах. Итак, братия, выберите из среды себя семь человек изведанных, исполненных Святаго Духа и мудрости; их поставим на эту службу, а мы постоянно пребудем в молитве и служении слова. И угодно было это предложение всему собранию; и избрали Стефана, мужа, исполненного веры и Духа Святаго, и Филиппа, и Прохора, и Никанора, и Тимона, и Пармена, и Николая Антиохийца, обращенного из язычников; их поставили перед Апостолами, и [сии], помолившись, возложили на них руки. И слово Божие росло, и число учеников весьма умножалось в Иерусалиме; и из священников очень многие покорились вере.

### **1-е Иоанна 1:1-7**

О том, что было от начала, что мы слышали, что видели своими очами, что рассматривали и что осязали руки наши, о Слове жизни, – ибо жизнь явилась, и мы видели и свидетельствуем, и возвещаем вам сию вечную жизнь, которая была у Отца и явилась нам, – о том, что мы видели и слышали, возвещаем вам, чтобы и вы имели общение с нами: а наше общение--с Отцем и Сыном Его, Иисусом Христом. И сие пишем вам, чтобы радость ваша была совершенна. И вот благовестие, которое мы слышали от Него и возвещаем вам: Бог есть свет, и нет в Нем никакой тьмы. Если мы говорим, что имеем общение с Ним, а ходим во тьме, то мы лжем и не поступаем по истине; если же ходим во свете, подобно как Он во свете, то имеем общение друг с другом, и Кровь Иисуса Христа, Сына Его, очищает нас от всякого греха.

### **От Марка 15:43-16:8**

пришел Иосиф из Аримафеи, знаменитый член совета, который и сам ожидал Царствия Божия, осмелился войти к Пилату, и просил тела Иисусова. Пилат удивился, что Он уже умер, и, призвав сотника, спросил его, давно ли умер? И, узнав от сотника, отдал тело Иосифу. Он, купив плащаницу и сняв Его, обвил плащаницею, и положил Его во гробе, который был высечен в скале, и привалил камень к двери гроба. Мария же Магдалина и Мария Иосиева смотрели, где Его полагали. По прошествии субботы Мария Магдалина и Мария Иаковлева и Саломия купили ароматы, чтобы идти помазать Его. И весьма рано, в первый [день] недели, приходят ко гробу, при восходе солнца, и говорят между собою: кто отвалит нам камень от двери гроба? И, взглянув, видят, что камень отвален; а он был весьма велик. И, войдя во гроб, увидели юношу, сидящего на правой стороне, облеченного в белую одежду; и ужаснулись. Он же говорит им: не ужасайтесь. Иисуса ищите Назарянина, распятого; Он воскрес, Его нет здесь. Вот место, где Он был положен. Но идите, скажите ученикам Его и Петру, что Он предваряет вас в Галилее; там Его увидите, как Он сказал вам. И, выйдя, побежали от гроба; их объял трепет и ужас, и никому ничего не сказали, потому что боялись.

### **От Иоанна 19:25-27, 21:24-25**

При кресте Иисуса стояли Матерь Его и сестра Матери Его, Мария Клеопова, и Мария Магдалина. Иисус, увидев Матерь и ученика тут стоящего, которого любил, говорит Матери Своей: Жено! се, сын Твой. Потом говорит ученику: се, Матерь твоя! И с этого времени ученик сей взял Ее к себе. Сей ученик и свидетельствует о сем, и написал сие; и знаем, что истинно свидетельство его. Многое и другое сотворил Иисус; но, если бы писать о том подробно, то, думаю, и самому миру не вместить бы написанных книг. Аминь.

### **Veprat e Apostujve 6:1-7**

Edhe në ato ditë kur po shumoheshin nxënësit, u bë një ankim prej Greqishtarëve kundër Hebrenjve, se të vejat e tyre po liheshin pas dore në shërbimin e përditshëm. Atëherë të dymbëdhjetët thërritën grupin e nxënësve, e thanë: Nuk është e pëlqyeshme për ne të lëmë fjalën e Perëndisë, e të shërbejmë nëpër tryezat. Mendohuni pra, o vëllezër, e zgjidhni prej jush shtatë burra me dëshmi të mirë e të mbushur me Frymë të Shenjtë e me urtësi, të cilët t'i vëmë në këtë punë. Kurse ne do të qëndrojmë në falje e në shërbesën e fjalës. Edhe kjo fjalë u pëlqye përpara të gjithë grupit; dhe zgjodhën Stefanin, burrë plot me besim e me Frymë të Shenjtë, edhe Filipin e Prohorin e Nikanorin e Timonin e Parmenain, edhe Nikollën që ishte prozelit nga Antiokia; të cilët i vunë përpara apostujve; edhe pasi u lutën, vunë duart mbi ta. Edhe fjala e Perëndisë shtohet, edhe numri i nxënësve shumohet fort në Jerusalem; edhe një shumicë e madhe nga priftërinjtë dëgjonin besimin.

### **Joanit I 1:1-7**

Atë që ishte që në fillim, atë që kemi dëgjuar, atë që kemi parë me sytë tanë, atë që kemi vështruar, edhe duart tona e prekën, në lidhje me Fjalën e jetës, – edhe jeta u shfaq, edhe e pamë, edhe dëshmojmë, edhe ju lajmërojmë për jetën e përjetshme, që ishte tek Ati, edhe u shfaq ndër ne; atë që kemi parë dhe kemi dëgjuar, për atë ju lajmërojmë, që të keni edhe ju pjesëmarrje me ne; edhe pjesëmarrja jonë është me Atin dhe me Birin e tij Jisu Krisht. Edhe këto jua shkruajmë juve, që të jetë i plotë gëzimi juaj. Edhe ky është lajmi që kemi dëgjuar nga ai, edhe ju lajmërojmë ju, se Perëndia është dritë, edhe nuk ka asnjë errësirë tek ai. Në thënçim që kemi pjesëmarrje në të, edhe ecim në errësirë, gënjejmë, edhe nuk bëjmë të vërtetën. Por në ecshim në dritë, sikundër është ai në dritë, kemi pjesëmarrje me njëri-tjetrin, edhe gjaku i Jisu Krishtit, Birit të tij, na pastron nga çdo mëkat.

### **Markut 15:43-16:8**

erdhi Josifi që ishte nga Arimatea, anëtar i nderuar i këshillit, që edhe ai priste mbretërinë e Perëndisë; edhe guxoi e hyri tek Pilati dhe lypi trupin e Jisuit. Edhe Pilati u çudit, nëse tashmë kishte vdekur; edhe thirri pranë kryeqindësin, edhe e pyeti në ka kohë që ka vdekur. Edhe si mori vesh prej kryeqindësit, i fali trupin Josifit. Edhe ky bleu pëlhurë, edhe e zbriti, edhe e mbështolli me pëlhurën, edhe e vuri në një varr, që ishte latuar prej shkëmbi; edhe rrokullisi një gur në derën e varrit. Edhe Maria Magdalena, edhe Maria e Josiut, vinin re ku po vihet. Edhe si shkoi e shtuna, Maria Magdalena, edhe Maria e Jakovit, edhe Saloma, blenë erëra, që të vijnë e ta lyejnë. Edhe shumë herët në mëngjes, të parën ditë të javës, vijnë në varr, sapo lindi dielli. Edhe thoshin në mes tyre: Cili do të na rrokullisë gurin prej derës së varrit? Edhe kur hodhën sytë, shohin se guri ishte rrokullisur; sepse ishte fort i madh. Edhe si hynë në varr, panë një djalosh duke ndenjuri në të djathtë, të veshur me rroba të bardha; edhe u trembën. Po ai u thotë atyre: Mos u trembni; kërkoni Jisu Nazaretasin, që u kryqëzua. U ngjall, nuk është këtu. Ja vendi ku e vunë. Po shkoni, e u thoni nxënësve të tij dhe Pjetrit se shkon më përpara se ju në Galile. Atje do ta shihni, siç ju tha juve. Edhe ato dolën e ikën nga varri; sepse i kishte zënë tmerr e habi; edhe asnjëri s'i thanë gjë, sepse kishin frikë.

### **Joanit 19:25-27, 21:24-25**

Edhe pranë kryqit të Jisuit ishin duke ndenjuri e ëma dhe e motra e së ëmës së tij, Maria e Klopait, edhe Maria Magdalena. Jisui pra kur pa të ëmën dhe nxënësin që donte duke ndenjuri pranë, i thotë së ëmës: Grua, ja yt bir. Pastaj i thotë nxënësit: Ja jot ëmë. Edhe nxënësi që atëherë e mori në shtëpinë e tij. Ky është ai nxënësi që dëshmon për këto dhe që shkroi këto; edhe e dimë se dëshmia e tij është e vërtetë. Janë edhe shumë të tjera sa bëri Jisui, të cilat në u shkroftë një nga një, mendoj se as bota vetë nuk do t'i nxinte librat që kishin për t'u shkruar. Amin.