

# 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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May 30, 2021

## SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Today .....	10:00am	Divine Liturgy
	1:00pm	<i>Blessing of the Graves</i> - <i>Forrest Hills</i>
Mon. 31 .....	11:00am	<i>Blessing of the Graves</i> - <i>Fernwood</i>
Wed. 02 .....	7:15pm	Bible Study by Google Meet
Sun. 06 .....	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:** Wednesday and Friday (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, and dairy as you are able. Wine and oil are allowed)

**Troparion – Tone 4**  
**(Resurrection)**

*When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"*

**Kontakion – Tone 8**  
**(Pentecostarion)**

*The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith; she saw Thee, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly. She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!*

**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

Acts 11:19-26, 29-30  
John 4:5-42

#### Monday

Acts 12:12-17  
John 8:42-51

#### Tuesday

Acts 12:25-13:12  
John 8:51-59

#### Wednesday

Acts 13:13-24  
John 6:5-14

#### Thursday

Acts 14:20-27  
John 9:39-10:9

#### Friday

Acts 15:5-34  
John 10:17-28

#### Saturday

Acts 15:35-41  
John 10:27-38

### Reading the Bible in a Year

May 30: Psalms 125-128

May 31: Psalms 129-132

June 01: Psalms 133-136

June 02: Psalms 137-140

June 03: Psalms 141-144

June 04: Psalms 145-148

June 05: Psalms 149-150

## 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

## Children's Word

### **Thirsty for the Holy Spirit**

Try to imagine this. You're running around playing tag on a very hot summer day. You're hot and tired, so you head inside. What do you want? Well, water, of course! When you listen to the Gospel today, you'll hear that it's all about water, too! On a hot day in the hot sun, a woman from Samaria talks with Jesus. They talk about being thirsty, and they talk about how to find water. Jesus says, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. The water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Of course,

our Lord isn't really talking about water, like the kind of you drink! He is talking about the Holy Spirit, and He tells the woman that she can have the Holy Spirit too! Jesus invites the woman to have this water (which is really the Holy Spirit). He invites all of us to have the Holy Spirit too!

God wants us to be thirsty for the Holy Spirit—He wants us all to really want It. When we have this living water inside of us, we have God inside of us! And when we have God inside of us, we won't be thirsty for anything else.

***Love for Christ overflows into love for one's neighbor, love for truth, love for holiness, for the world, for purity, for everything divine, for everything deathless and eternal ... All these forms of love are natural manifestations of love for Christ. Christ is the God-man, and love for Him always means love for God and for man. When we love Christ God, we also love all that is divine, immortal and Christ-like in people. We can't truly love people if we do not love them for the sake of these causes. Any other love is pseudo-love, which is easily changed into lovelessness and hatredness toward people. True love for man comes from love for God, and love for God grows in accordance with the keeping of His commandments.***

-St. Justin Popovich

### **SAINT DOROTHEOS FATHER OF PALESTINE**

Have you ever wondered how we know so much about the saints who lived so long ago? On Saturday, we will celebrate the nameday of Saint Dorotheos of Palestine. He lived at the end of the sixth century, and died in 620. 620? Yes! That's almost 1400 years ago!

We still know things about St. Dorotheos because he really made a name for himself. He was a monk in Palestine, and he wrote many things to help people be better Christians. People told stories about him, and the stories spread even to us today. One story we know about St. Dorotheos is one that he told himself. He said that when he was a kid and he was learning to read, he had to work very hard at it because he wasn't very good at learning new things. When he took a book, he took it like somebody might go up to pat a wild animal—he was scared of it! But then things got easier for him, because he tried so hard, and God helped him, too.

When he was older, he decided to become a monk. He wanted to love God very much, and so he tried very, very hard to do this, just as hard as he tried when he learned to read. Saint Dorotheos tells us that things aren't always easy—even when we are trying to become good Christians. We have to work at it! Let's be like Saint Dorotheos. We'll try hard, because we know it's worth it! We celebrate Saint Dorotheos on Saturday, June 5th (OC: June 18th).

### May

30 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
1:00pm *Blessing of the Graves (Forrest Hills)*  
31 – 11:00am *Blessing of the Graves (Fernwood)*

### June

02 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet  
04 – 6:00pm Fun Night  
06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
09 – 7:00pm Vesperal Liturgy for *Feast of the Ascension*  
13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
16 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

### **Acts 11:19-26, 29-30**

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

### **John 4:5-42**

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He." And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ? Then they went out of the city and came to Him. In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

# Are You Tempted to Give Up?

May 25, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Christ is Risen!

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!

## **Деяния 9:32-42**

Случилось, что Петр, обходя всех, пришел и к святым, живущим в Лидде. Там нашел он одного человека, именем Энея, который восемь уже лет лежал в постели в расслаблении. Петр сказал ему: Эней! исцеляет тебя Иисус Христос; встань с постели твоей. И он тотчас встал. И видели его все, живущие в Лидде и в Сароне, которые и обратились к Господу. В Иоппии находилась одна ученица, именем Тавифа, что значит: 'серна'; она была исполнена добрых дел и творила много милостынь. Случилось в те дни, что она занемогла и умерла. Ее омыли и положили в горнице. А как Лидда была близ Иоппии, то ученики, услышав, что Петр находится там, послали к нему двух человек просить, чтобы он не замедлил придти к ним. Петр, встав, пошел с ними; и когда он прибыл, ввели его в горницу, и все вдовицы со слезами предстали перед ним, показывая рубашки и платья, какие делала Серна, живя с ними. Петр выслал всех вон и, преклонив колени, помолился, и, обратившись к телу, сказал: Тавифа! встань. И она открыла глаза свои и, увидев Петра, села. Он, подав ей руку, поднял ее, и, призвав святых и вдовиц, поставил ее перед ними живою. Это сделалось известным по всей Иоппии, и многие уверовали в Господа.

## **От Иоанна 5:1-15**

После сего был праздник Иудейский, и пришел Иисус в Иерусалим. Есть же в Иерусалиме у Овечьих [ворот] купальня, называемая по-еврейски Вифезда, при которой было пять крытых ходов. В них лежало великое множество больных, слепых, хромых, иссохших, ожидающих движения воды, ибо Ангел Господень по временам сходил в купальню и возмущал воду, и кто первый входил [в нее] по возмущении воды, тот выздоравливал, какою бы ни был одержим болезнью. Тут был человек, находившийся в болезни тридцать восемь лет. Иисус, увидев его лежащего и узнав, что он лежит уже долгое время, говорит ему: хочешь ли быть здоров? Больной отвечал Ему: так, Господи; но не имею человека, который опустит бы меня в купальню, когда возмутится вода; когда же я прихожу, другой уже сходит прежде меня. Иисус говорит ему: встань, возьми постель твою и ходи. И он тотчас выздоровел, и взял постель свою и пошел. Было же это в день субботний. Посему Иудеи говорили исцеленному: сегодня суббота; не должно тебе брать постели. Он отвечал им: Кто меня исцелил, Тот мне сказал: возьми постель твою и ходи. Его спросили: кто Тот Человек, Который сказал тебе: возьми постель твою и ходи? Исцеленный же не знал, кто Он, ибо Иисус скрылся в народе, бывшем на том месте. Потом Иисус встретил его в храме и сказал ему: вот, ты выздоровел; не греши больше, чтобы не случилось с тобою чего хуже. Человек сей пошел и объявил Иудеям, что исцеливший его есть Иисус.

## **Veprat e Apostujve 9:32-42**

Por ndodhi që, ndërsa Pjetri po e përshkonte gjithë vendin, erdhi edhe te shenjtorët që banonin në Lida. Aty ai gjeti një njeri me emër Enea, i cili tashmë prej tetë vjetësh dergjej në shtrat, sepse ishte i paralizuar. Pjetri i tha: “Enea, Jezusi, Krishti, të shëron; çohu dhe ndreqe shtratin.” Dhe ai u ngrit menjëherë. Dhe të gjithë banorët e Lidës dhe të Saronit e panë dhe u kthyen te Zoti. Por në Jopë ishte një dishepull me emër Tabitha, që do të thotë Gazelë; ajo bënte shumë vepra të mira dhe jepte shumë lëmoshë. Por në ato ditë ndodhi që ajo u sëmur dhe vdiq. Pasi e lanë, e vunë në një dhomë në katin e sipërm. Dhe, duke qenë se Lida është afër Jopës, dishepujt, kur morën vesh se Pjetri ndodhej atje, i dërguan dy burra që ta lutnin të vijë tek ata pa vonesë. Atëherë Pjetri u ngrit dhe u nis bashkë me ta. Sapo arriti, e çuan në dhomën lart; të gjitha gratë e veja i dolën atij duke qarë dhe i treguan tunikat dhe veshjet që kishte punuar Gazela, sa ishte bashkë me to. Atëherë Pjetri, mbasi i nxori jashtë të gjithë, u ngjunjësua dhe u lut. Pastaj iu kthye trupit dhe tha: “Tabitha, çohu!” Dhe ajo i hapi sytë dhe, si pa Pjetrin, u ngrit ndenjtur. Ai i dha dorën dhe e ndihmoi të ngrihet; dhe, si thirri shenjtorët dhe gratë e veja, ua tregoi të gjallë. Kjo u muar vesh në mbarë Jopën, dhe shumë veta besuan në Zotin.

## **Gjoni 5:1-15**

Pas këtyre ngjarjeve ishte një festë e Judenjve dhe Jezusi u ngjit në Jeruzalem. Në Jeruzalem, afër portës së dhenve, është një pellg që në hebraisht quhet Betesda, dhe ka pesë portikë. Nën to dergjeshin një numër i madh të lënguarish: të verbër, të çalë dhe të paralizuar, të cilët prisnin lëvizjen e ujit. Sepse një engjëll, kohë pas kohe, zbriste në pellg dhe e lëvizte ujin; dhe i pari që hynte, mbasi uji ishte lëvizur, shërohej nga çfarëdo sëmundje që të kishte. Aty ishte një njeri i lënguar prej tridhjetë e tetë vjetësh. Jezusi, duke e parë shtrirë dhe duke ditur se prej shumë kohe ishte në atë gjendje, i tha: “A dëshiron të shërohesh?” I lënguari u përgjigj: “Zot, unë s’kam njeri që, kur lëviz uji, të më fusë në pellg; dhe, ndërsa unë po shkoj, një tjetër zbrit para meje.” Jezusi i tha: “Çohu, merr vigun tënd dhe ec!” Njeriu u shërua në çast, mori vigun e tij dhe eci. Atë ditë ishte e shtunë. Prandaj Judenjtë i thanë atij që u shërua: “Është e shtunë; nuk është e ligjshme për ty të ngresh vigun tënd!” Ai iu përgjigj atyre: “Ai që më shëroi më tha: “Merre vigun tënd dhe ec!”” Atëherë ata e pyetën: “Kush është ai njeri që të tha: “Merre vigun tënd dhe ec”?” Por ai që ishte shëruar nuk e dinte kush ishte, sepse Jezusi ishte larguar për shkak të turmës që ishte në atë vend. Më vonë Jezusi e gjeti në tempull dhe i tha: “Ja, ti u shërove; mos mëkato më që të mos të të bëhet një gjë më e keqe.” Ai njeri shkoi dhe u tregoi Judenjve se Jezusi ishte ai që e shëroi.