

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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November 6, 2022

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: ST. PAUL THE CONFESSOR,
ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Education Sunday
Wed. 09 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
Sun. 13 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, and eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

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 (St. Paul)

Paul, thou hast shone on the earth like a star of heavenly splendor; now thou dost enlighten the universal Church for which thou didst suffer, for thou didst lay down thy life, and thy blood cries out to the Lord like that of Zachariah and Abel.

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

Galatians 2:16-20
Luke 8:41-56

Monday

Colossians 2:13-20
Luke 12:13-15, 22-31

Tuesday

Hebrews 2:2-10
Luke 10:16-21
Colossians 2:20-3:3
Luke 12:42-48

Wednesday

Colossians 3:17-4:1
Luke 12:48-59

Thursday

Colossians 4:2-9
Luke 13:1-9

Friday

Colossians 4:10-18
Luke 13:31-35

Saturday

2 Corinthians 5:1-10
Luke 9:37-43

Reading the Bible in a Year

Nov 06: John 13-15
Nov 07: John 16-18
Nov 08: John 19-21
Nov 09: Acts 1-3
Nov 10: Acts 4-6
Nov 11: Acts 7-9
Nov 12: Acts 10-12

Flower Donation

This week's flowers were
donated by:
Tina Murianka

Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is
provided by:
Tina Murianka

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November

06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
09 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
16 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

18 – 6:00pm Fun Night

20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

*Feast of the Entrance of
the Theotokos into the
Temple*

24 - **Thanksgiving**

27 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

30 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, You love humanity. You grant us true freedom by setting the way of salvation through repentance. I confess, Lord, it is easy in this present world to take my Orthodox faith for granted. Too many of us fail to stay attentive to this spiritual treasure. When we fall into this spiritual blindness, You love us enough to share this treasure even with “strangers” to help wake us up to our treasure of Faith. Forgive me, Lord, for taking my faith for granted, and grant me strength to embrace repentance and faithfulness my whole life.

Amen

The Limits of Human Reason and the Knowledge of God

There is the seen, and there is the unseen, the material and the immaterial. That which is material can be scientifically examined and experienced, the immaterial can only be seen and experienced spiritually. These are two worlds that are only seemingly at odds with one another. If you attempt to examine that which is of a spiritual nature using a science that is by its very nature meant to explore the material realm, you will fail.

The things that are of God are far beyond the capabilities of our finite mind to comprehend. The divine can only be known through the nous, that place in the heart that is our true center. It, unlike the brain, is capable of knowledge that is beyond human comprehension, coming as it does from noetic knowledge.

When we try to apply words to the noetic form, we fail. We can no more explain God than we can explain quantum physics, since both are unseen. God is outside the realm of human intellectual understanding. The Eastern Church approaches things of God as holy mysteries, since God can only be known in His divine energies, not in His essence. If a scientist can believe in quantum physics, the unseen, why can he not believe in God Whom he has not seen? If we can believe in the concept of infinity, something that goes on and on without end, why can we not believe in God?

The science of the soul is noetic and can be examined and experienced only through the activation of the nous. The nous in Orthodox Christian theology is the “eye of the heart or soul”, the mind of the heart. God created us with the nous because the human intellect is not capable of knowing Him without it. The intellect alone can not know God, for human reasoning is limited to the things that are of a material nature. God is unknowable without His divine revelation, and only the nous can perceive this knowledge. God’s essence remains inaccessible without noetic knowledge. Science has its place, but only the heart can know God.

Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

PENNY PARTY 2022!

We are holding our annual Penny Party on Sunday, December 4 (Just in time for St. Nicholas Day.) If you would like to make a donation of a new/ unopened item to be raffled off, please talk to Tish Desloges. Sundays are always a good day to drop off donations, but you can contact Fr. Nicholas (860-861-7468) to arrange a drop-off during the week.

A soldier asked Abba Mius if God accepted repentance. After the old man had taught him many things he said, 'Tell me, my dear, if your cloak is torn, do you throw it away?' He replied, 'No, I mend it and use it again.' The old man said to him, 'If you are so careful about your cloak, will not God be equally careful about His creature?'

-Abba Mius



Galatians 2:16-20

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Luke 8:41-56

And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Children's Word

Do not trouble the teacher?

Have you ever had to ask for help for something again and again? Maybe you didn't know how to tie your shoes, and you asked your parents to tie them for you. You might have even gotten embarrassed because you still didn't know how to tie them.

Today's Gospel reading is a healing story of Jesus. We hear how our Lord healed two different people. One of them was a young girl who had died. Her father wanted Jesus to heal her, but sadly, she died before He did heal her. Another man told this poor father, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." He told him, it's over. Don't bother Jesus anymore.

Thankfully, Jesus heard this man! He wanted to heal the young girl, and He said, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well."

When we read this beautiful story in the Bible, let's always remember that we can keep asking God for help. Don't worry about troubling Him! He is ready to listen to our prayers, and He is ready to do something about them! God's power has no limits, so it's no "trouble" when we ask Him for something. We can always turn to Him. We can even turn to our Lord when things seem hopeless, like it did for this poor father in the story today.

HOLY ANGELS WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW CAN THEY HELP ME?

Did you know God has some special helpers? They're called angels! The word "angel" means messenger, because God sends them to give messages to us on earth!

Lots of people say they believe in angels— even people who don't believe in God. But we've all seen pictures of cute little angels flying around with little wings, playing the trumpet or harp. Let's find out what angels really are!

God has lots of different kinds of angels. They serve God. They follow Him and do things for Him. They don't have bodies like we do, and they are invisible. The different angels all have different jobs. Some try to help us to have more love for God. Some try to help us learn more about God. Some try to help us be better people—to remember God's rules and to do them. Archangels tell good news. Remember Gabriel, who told Mary she was going to have a baby? He is an archangel. Each one of us also has a guardian angel who protects us. You can pray to your guardian angel! Ask him to watch over you at school, at home, when you're playing and even sleeping! We celebrate all the angels Tuesday, November 8th.

To Be Truly Free

October 31, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

“Well, you should have known better!” Oh, how I hated hearing that from my mom. It was the tone in her voice as well as the words. You know the one. The tone communicated disappointment, disapproval, AND frustration all at the same time! Oh, I HATED it! But what made things worse was she was right! I SHOULD HAVE known better. In fact, I did know better, and yet, there I go again. Amazing. And here I was a “grown man” making the mistakes of a teenager! ARRGH!

There is all too often a disconnect between what I know and what I do. In spite of having good examples AND bad examples in my past, I catch myself making the same mistakes over and over again in spite of the clear wisdom I know. Why? And I suspect you may know exactly what I’m talking about, and maybe you’ve had the same experiences in your life to one degree or the other. St. Paul knew what I meant. Listen to his cry of frustration in his letter to the Romans “For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.” (Romans 7:15)

The truth is this disconnect goes to the heart of the Orthodox understanding of our human need for salvation, our struggle to be truly free. We have a broken will. And that broken will keeps us both aware of what we should be AND at the same time unable to become what we should be. What a horrible prison! The truth is most people “know” what they should do. Most people know what they shouldn’t do. And yet our weakened will hobble us from ever becoming what we know we should be. It is precisely this weakened will in humanity that makes us both our own worst enemy AND completely responsible for our actions. So, how do we escape this prison? How are we to be truly free?

Let’s look at our Gospel Lesson today in Luke 11:29-33:

At that time, when the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah became a sign to the men of Nineveh, so will the Son of man be to this generation. The queen of the South will arise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will arise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a bushel, but on a stand, that those who enter may see the light.”

Jesus is confronting an ever-growing crowd of people who are following Him and listening to Him and being physically healed by Him. It looks like the Lord misunderstood good public relations because He confronts the growing crowds and His growing popularity with a bit of a downer opening line of His sermon: “This generation is an evil generation...” Well, at least He got their attention.

The Freedom Christ offers me is the strength to struggle my whole life against delusion and selfishness. The Jewish people were blessed beyond measure by their unique relationship with the Creator and they squandered this gift. In doing so, their descent into evil and mere rule keeping tarnished their witness to the world. That’s why Jesus tells them that “the queen of the South” will judge that generation. This refers to the Queen of Sheba from 1 Kingdoms 10 where this stranger and Gentile queen sought God more than even those who had that special relationship with Him. Jesus tells them and us that just because you are born with a spiritual head start doesn’t guarantee you anything but the chance to treasure your spiritual advantage. If you take it for granted, the Lord will raise up even “outsiders” to embrace what you’ve let slip away through negligence.

Today, the path to true freedom runs through my willingness to be honest, and grateful! I have to regularly confront, through the wisdom of prayer, fasting, and generosity, my need for repentance. I have to have the courage to go to confession regularly so that I never allow the delusion of my own self-righteousness to enslave me to my passions. I MUST stop taking my faith for granted! Only by honest confession will I ever begin the journey to be Orthodox on Purpose.

К Галатам 2:16-20

однако же, узнав, что человек оправдывается не делами закона, а только верою в Иисуса Христа, и мы уверовали во Христа Иисуса, чтобы оправдаться верою во Христа, а не делами закона; ибо делами закона не оправдается никакая плоть. Если же, ища оправдания во Христе, мы и сами оказались грешниками, то неужели Христос есть слуга греха? Никак. Ибо если я снова созидаю, что разрушил, то сам себя делаю преступником. Законом я умер для закона, чтобы жить для Бога. Я сораспялся Христу, и уже не я живу, но живет во мне Христос. А что ныне живу во плоти, то живу верою в Сына Божия, возлюбившего меня и предавшего Себя за меня.

От Луки 8:41-56

И вот, пришел человек, именем Иаир, который был начальником синагоги; и, пав к ногам Иисуса, просил Его войти к нему в дом, потому что у него была одна дочь, лет двенадцати, и та была при смерти. Когда же Он шел, народ теснил Его. И женщина, страдавшая кровотечением двенадцать лет, которая, издержав на врачей всё имение, ни одним не могла быть вылечена, подойдя сзади, коснулась края одежды Его; и тотчас течение крови у ней остановилось. И сказал Иисус: кто прикоснулся ко Мне? Когда же все отрицались, Петр сказал и бывшие с Ним: Наставник! народ окружает Тебя и теснит, --и Ты говоришь: кто прикоснулся ко Мне? Но Иисус сказал: прикоснулся ко Мне некто, ибо Я чувствовал силу, исшедшую из Меня. Женщина, видя, что она не утаилась, с трепетом подошла и, пав пред Ним, объявила Ему перед всем народом, по какой причине прикоснулась к Нему и как тотчас исцелилась. Он сказал ей: дерзай, дочь! вера твоя спасла тебя; иди с миром. Когда Он еще говорил это, приходит некто из дома начальника синагоги и говорит ему: дочь твоя умерла; не утруждай Учителя. Но Иисус, услышав это, сказал ему: не бойся, только веруй, и спасена будет. Придя же в дом, не позволил войти никому, кроме Петра, Иоанна и Иакова, и отца девицы, и матери. Все плакали и рыдали о ней. Но Он сказал: не плачьте; она не умерла, но спит. И смеялись над Ним, зная, что она умерла. Он же, выслав всех вон и взяв ее за руку, возгласил: девица! Встань. И возвратился дух ее; она тотчас встала, и Он велел дать ей есть. И удивились родители ее. Он же повелел им не сказывать никому о происшедшем.

Galatianeve 2:16-20

duke ditur se nuk drejtësohet njeriu prej veprash ligji, veçse me anë të besimit të Jisu Krishtit, edhe ne i besuam Krishtit Jisu, që të drejtësohemi prej besimit të Krishtit, dhe jo prej veprave të ligjit; sepse asnjë mish nuk do të drejtësohet prej veprave të ligjit. Po në qoftë se duke kërkuar të drejtësohemi në Krishtin, u gjetëm edhe ne mëkatarë, atëherë Krishti qenka shërbëtor i mëkatit? Larg qoftë! Sepse nëse ndërtoj përsëri ato që prisha, bëj veten time shkelës. Sepse unë me anë të ligjit vdiqa në ligj, që të rroj në Perëndinë. Bashkë me Krishtin u kryqëzova; edhe s'rroj më unë, po Krishti rron tek unë; edhe ajo që rroj unë tani në mish, rroj në besimin e Birit të Perëndisë, i cili më deshi edhe dha veten e tij për mua.

Llukait 8:41-56

Edhe ja tek erdhi një njeri që quhej Jair – dhe ky ishte i pari i sinagogës, – e ra ndër këmbët e Jisuit, e i lutej të hynte në shtëpinë e tij; sepse kishte një bijë të vetme, rreth dymbëdhjetë vjeç, edhe ajo po vdiste. Edhe ndërsa ai ishte duke shkuar, turmat po e shtrëngonin. Edhe një grua, që kishte rrjedhje gjaku që prej dymbëdhjetë vitesh, e cila kishte prishur gjithë pasurinë nëpër mjekët, po nuk mundi të shërohej as prej ndonjërit, u afrua nga prapa dhe preku cepin e rrobës së tij; edhe menjëherë u ndal rrjedhja e gjakut të saj. Edhe Jisui tha: Kush qe ai që më preku? Edhe ndërsa po mohonin të gjithë, Pjetri dhe ata që ishin bashkë me të thanë: Mjeshtër, turmat të shtypin e shtrëngojnë, edhe thua: Kush qe ai që më preku? Po Jisui tha: Dikush më preku, sepse unë kuptova se një fuqi doli prej meje. Edhe gruaja kur pa se nuk u fsheh, erdhi duke u dridhur, edhe i ra ndër këmbë, e i rrëfeu përpara gjithë popullit për çfarë shkaku e preku, edhe si u shërua përnjëherë. Edhe ai i tha asaj: Ki guxim, bijë, besimi yt të shpëtoi; shko në paqe. Edhe kur ai po fliste ende, vjen një njeri prej të parit të sinagogës e i thotë se jot bijë vdiq; mos e mundo mësuësin. Po Jisui kur dëgjoi, u përgjigj: Mos ki frikë; veç beso, edhe do të shpëtojë. Edhe si erdhi në shtëpi, nuk la asnjë të hynte brenda, përveç Pjetrit dhe Joanit dhe Jakovit, dhe të atit të vajzës dhe së ëmës. Edhe të gjithë po qanin e ulërinin për atë. Edhe ai tha: Mos qani; nuk vdiq, por po fle. Edhe e përqeshnin, duke ditur se vdiq. Po ai, si i nxori jashtë të gjithë, e kapi prej dore, dhe thirri duke thënë: O vashëz, ngrihu. Edhe asaj iu kthye fryma prapë, dhe u ngrit përnjëherë; edhe Jisui urdhëroi t'i jepnin asaj të hajë. Edhe prindërit e saj u habitën; po ai i porositi të mos i thonë njeriu se ç'u bë.