

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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November 8, 2020

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL
MICHAEL AND THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS

TONE 5

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 11 7:15pm Bible Study via Google
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: Strict fast Wednesday and Friday.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.)

**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 2
(Bodiless Powers)**

*Commanders of God's armies
and ministers of the divine glory,
princes of the bodiless angels
and guides of mankind;
ask for what is good for us, and for
great mercy,
O Supreme Commanders of the
Bodiless Hosts.*

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 6:11-18
Luke 8:41-56

Monday

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5
Luke 12:13-15, 22-31

Tuesday

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10
Luke 12:42-48

Wednesday

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Luke 12:48-59

Thursday

1 Thessalonians 2:9-14
Luke 13:1-9

Friday

Hebrews 7:26-8:2
John 10:9-16
1 Thessalonians 2:14-19
Luke 13:31-35

Saturday

1 Corinthians 4:9-16
John 1:43-51
2 Corinthians 8:1-5
Luke 9:37-43

Reading the Bible in a Year

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
Nov 13: Acts 13-15
Nov 14: Acts 16-18

Our Annual Parish Meeting Has been pushed back to Sunday, November 22. If you would like to attend and take part, you may do so by coming to Church or via an online meeting forum from your own home. If you plan on taking part, please let Fr. Nicholas know as soon as possible, as well as whether you wish to attend live or over the internet so we can make sure as many people as possible can participate. Please email Father Nick at: frnicholas490@aol.com with the subject line: Parish Annual Meeting

The Ancient Faith that is Orthodoxy is too precious to be hidden from others

There are people who insist on holding on to resentment, often inventing situations in their minds that never happened, justifying their bad behavior by putting the blame on others. They always see themselves as the abused party.

Such behavior betrays a deep spiritual and psychological illness, one that is not easily healed. Such people feel empowered by making other people uncomfortable, and normal attempts at rapprochement often end in failure, for such people are always looking for ways to continue their control over others. Their illness is difficult to heal, for their pride and deep seated sense of superiority makes repentance difficult, for they simply don't see themselves as having a problem.

The cure for the illness of the soul is to be found in the life of the Church, where Her sacred mysteries (the sacraments), Her scriptures, and Her divine services, are the source for the healing that the heart so craves. We must remember the Church's teaching that we can only forgive others if we have Christ in us, for it is Christ Who gives us the power to forgive. Since God forgives us, we, too, can forgive.

One of the Desert Fathers tells the story of a young monk who came to his elder, complaining that he'd been wronged by one of his brothers, and following the holy tradition of the desert, had gone to the one who had wronged him, asking for forgiveness. The erring brother refused, so the wronged brother wanted to know what he should do in response. The elder told the young monk that he had walked away justified in the eyes of God, and that there was nothing left for him to do, except to pray for his erring brother.

This true story from the Desert Fathers makes clear that we must always be quick to forgive others, even if they were at fault, and not remember the wrong done to us. We dare not depend on the other person cooperating in the reconciliation, for we must remember that their repentance is not required. We will be held accountable only for our own response.

Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



“Have confidence in the compassion of our Creator. Reflect well on what you are now doing, and keep before you the things you have done. Lift up your eyes to the overflowing compassion of heaven, and while He waits for you, draw near in tears to our merciful Judge. Having before your mind that He is a Just Judge, do not take your sins lightly; and having also in mind that He is compassionate, do not despair. The God-Man gives man confidence before God.”

- St. Gregory the Great



November Events

November

8 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

11 – 7:15pm Bible Study

15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

18 – 7:15pm Bible Study

22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Annual Parish Meeting

25 – 7:15pm Bible Study

29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Galatians 6:11-18 (Epistle)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Luke 8:41-56 (Gospel)

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

Laughing at God?

Has anybody ever laughed at you? Not with you, but at you? Sure! We all do things that are silly. But today in the Gospel reading, we hear about some people who laughed at our Lord, Jesus Christ! Can you imagine?

A man named Jairus rushed to find Jesus because his daughter was so sick. On the way to the man's house, Jesus told them that the girl would get better. But when Jesus got to the house, He found the family very sad. "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping," our Lord told them. Then they laughed at Jesus, because they knew that she was dead. They laughed, because they didn't believe Him! Christ healed the girl anyway, and she even got up and had dinner.

That was a very serious thing to laugh at! People might laugh at you sometimes, even when you are being serious. Maybe when you bow your head to pray at lunchtime, or if you make the sign of Cross before a test, or when you ride in a friend's car. But always remember to be strong. Know that our loving and powerful Lord is with you, just as He was with the young girl in the Gospel story today!

SAINT PHILIP THE APOSTLE HE BROUGHT OTHERS TO CHRIST!

Have you ever introduced one of your friends to another friend? This week we celebrate the feastday of one of the apostles, Saint Philip. We hear about Saint Philip a few times in the Gospel. The first time we hear about him is when Jesus told Philip, "Follow me." Then, Philip told his friend Nathaniel the special Person he had met. So, Philip introduced his friend to his friend, our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Saint Philip spent a few years following Christ, while our Lord was preaching and healing people on earth. Then, he spent the rest of his life following Christ, too. He introduced more people to his friend and teacher, Jesus Christ, too.

Our Church tells us that Saint Philip lived in Galilee (where Jesus was from) after Jesus went up to heaven. He told people about Christ there. He also healed many people, with the power of God. One time, a baby had died, and Saint Philip prayed to God and raised the little child up.

Saint Philip introduced strangers to Christ, too! He went to Greece and told people who believed in idols about Christ. Many people became Christian because of him. Finally, the saint was crucified on a cross, because the governor did not want to believe. We celebrate Saint Philip on Saturday, Nov. 14th.

Hard Words to Hear

November 4, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

I was in my first round of theology school when I came across the phrase for the first time: “The Hard Sayings of Jesus.” As I read the article that was meant to explain the difficult passages in the Gospel where Jesus said things like “Unless you love me more than your family, you can’t be my disciple” or “It is better to cut off your hand or pluck out your eye than go into hell with an intact body.” OK, I had to admit it, these were hard sayings.

But what did I expect from a serious Christian life, constant rescue out of the consequences of my choices? I had to come to the very stark conclusion that seriously following Jesus meant a confrontation with my undisciplined desires.

Look at our lesson today in Colossians 3:17-25; 4:1:

Brethren, whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

St. Paul is offering these Christians in Colossae an invitation to take seriously their commitment to the Christian life. And this invitation is an invitation to focused and attentive labor.

But not just any labor. This is the labor of love in relationships. And that makes perfect sense because we are created in God’s Image to be made into His likeness and that means we were made for relationship. You see, God knows Himself eternally as Persons in Communion and this means we will know ourselves in the same way. In communion; in relationships, we will be confronted with our true selves and we will be invited to repent BECAUSE of the work we do in relationships, OR we will remain strangers to our true selves if we stay inattentive to the relationships around us.

Paul covers the whole gambit of our daily relationships: Wives and Husbands, Children and Parents, and even the (inconvenient and now unthinkable) relationships between “slaves” and “masters.”

But he prefaces his remarks to wives and husbands, to children and parents, to slaves and masters with this key phrase: “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

All actions, all thoughts, all words (spoken and unspoken) are to be done as if you were doing all this in the “name of the Lord.” This meant to these early Christians something very powerful and specific. You see, they were formed by having kings and leaders that exercised authority on behalf of the Emperor. If these leaders were telling you to do something or demanding you pay this or that tax, it was as if the Emperor himself was giving you this command. So when they hear St. Paul say this about Jesus, they knew what he meant. He means that our words, thoughts, and actions should be motivated by the truth that we are followers of Jesus Christ and our actions are motivated by the reality that people will get to know what Jesus is like from watching how we live! WOW!

But there’s one more part to this; the power of learning how to “give thanks.” Let’s face it, looking at the above paragraph, you and I have to confront the reality we can’t really do that. I don’t want people thinking Jesus is like me when I’m short tempered or selfish or acting like a clown. So what’s the key to taking seriously the power of relationships to change me and my motivations? The key is gratitude! Being grateful to God and staying attentive to gratitude is the key to staying attentive to the work of relationships! If I can cultivate gratitude, I’ll stay attentive to how my actions affect others!

Today, are you a grateful person who is attentive to the relationships around you? The key to a Purposeful Orthodox life starts there!

К Галатам 6:11-18

Видите, как много написал я вам своею рукою. Желающие хвалиться по плоти принуждают вас обрезываться только для того, чтобы не быть гонимыми за крест Христов, ибо и сами обрезывающиеся не соблюдают закона, но хотят, чтобы вы обрезывались, дабы похвалиться в вашей плоти. А я не желаю хвалиться, разве только крестом Господа нашего Иисуса Христа, которым для меня мир распят, и я для мира. Ибо во Христе Иисусе ничего не значит ни обрезание, ни необрезание, а новая тварь. Тем, которые поступают по сему правилу, мир им и милость, и Израилю Божию. Впрочем никто не отягощай меня, ибо я ношу язвы Господа Иисуса на теле моем. Благодать Господа нашего Иисуса Христа со духом вашим, братия. Аминь.

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.

Galatasve 6:11-18

Shikoni me çfarë shkronjash të mëdha ju kam shkruar me dorën time! Të gjithë ata që duan të duken të mirë në mish, ju shtrëngojnë që të rrethpriteni vetëm që të mos përndiqeni për kryqin e Krishtit. Sepse as vetë ata që rrethpriten nuk e zbatojnë ligjin, por duan që ju të rrethpriteni, që ata të mburren në mishin tuaj. Sa për mua, mos ndodhtë kurrë që unë të mburrem me tjetër gjë, veç për kryqin e Zotit tonë Jezu Krisht, për të cilin bota është kryqëzuar tek unë edhe unë te bota. Sepse në Jezu Krishtin as rrethprerja, as parrethprerja s'kanë ndonjë vlerë, por krijesa e re. Dhe të gjithë ata që do të ecin sipas kësaj rregulle paçin paqe dhe mëshirë, e ashtu qoftë edhe për Izraelin e Perëndisë. Tash e tutje askush të mos më trazojë, sepse unë mbaj në trupin tim shenjat e Zotit Jezus. Vëllezër, hiri i Zotit tonë Jezu Krisht qoftë me frymën tuaj. Amen.

Luka 8:41-56

Dhe ja, erdhi një njeri me emër Jair, që ishte kryetari i sinagogës; ai i ra ndër këmbë Jezusit dhe iu lut të shkonte në shtëpinë e tij, sepse ai kishte një vajzë të vetme rreth dymbëdhjetë vjeçe, që ishte për vdekje. Ndërsa Jezusi po shkonte atje, turma po shtyhej përreth tij. Dhe një grua që kishte një fluks gjaku prej dymbëdhjetë vjetësh dhe kishte shpenzuar ndër mjekë gjithë pasurinë e saj, pa mundur që të shërohej nga njeri, iu afrua nga pas dhe i preku cepin e rrobës së tij dhe në atë çast iu pre fluksi i gjakut. Dhe Jezusi tha: “Kush më preku?.” Mbasi të gjithë e mohuan, Pjetri dhe ata që ishin me të, thanë: “Mësues, turmat po shtyhen dhe po të ndeshin dhe ti thua: "Kush më preku?."” Por Jezusi tha: “Dikush më preku, sepse e ndjeva që një fuqi doli prej meje.” Atëherë gruaja, duke parë se nuk mbeti e padiktuar, erdhi, duke u dridhur e tëra, dhe i ra ndër këmbë dhe i deklaroi në prani të gjithë popullit, përse e kishte prekur dhe si ishte shëruar në çast. Dhe ai i tha: “Merr zemër, bijë; besimi yt të shëroi; shko në paqe!” Ndërsa Jezusi vazhdonte të fliste, erdhi një nga shtëpia e kryetarit të sinagogës dhe i tha: “Vajza jote vdiq, mos e shqetëso Mësuesin.” Por Jezusi, mbasi i dëgjoi këto, i tha: “Mos druaj; ti vetëm beso dhe ajo do të shpëtojë.” Si arriti në shtëpi, nuk la asnjëri të hyjë, përveç Pjetrit, Gjonit dhe Jakobit, dhe atin e nënën e vajzës. Të gjithë qanin dhe mbajtën zi. Por ai tha: “Mos qani; ajo nuk ka vdekur, por po fle.” Dhe ata e përqeshnin; duke e ditur se kishte vdekur. Por ai, mbasi i nxori jashtë të gjithë, e kapi për dore dhe thirri duke thënë: “Vajzë, çohu!” Asaj iu kthye fryma e saj dhe menjëherë u çua; pastaj Jezusi urdhëroi që t'i jepnin të hante. Dhe prindërit e saj mbetën të habitur. Por Jezusi i porositi të mos i thonin kurrkujt ç'kishte ndodhur.