

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 13, 2022

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM,
ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 16 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
Fri. 18 6:00pm Fun Night
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 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 6 (St. John)

*Having received divine grace from
heaven,
with thy mouth thou dost teach all
men to worship one God in Trinity.
All-blessed and venerable John
Chrysostom,
we worthily praise thee, for thou art
our teacher, revealing things divine.*

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 7:26-8:2
John 10:9-16
Galatians 6:11-18
Luke 10:25-37

Monday

1 Corinthians 4:9-16
John 1:43-51
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5
Luke 14:12-15

Tuesday

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10
Luke 14:25-35

Wednesday

1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Matthew 9:9-13
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Luke 15:1-10

Thursday

1 Thessalonians 2:9-14
Luke 16:1-9

Friday

1 Thessalonians 2:14-19
Luke 16:15-18, 17:1-4

Saturday

2 Corinthians 8:1-5
Luke 9:57-62

Reading the Bible in a Year

Nov 13: Acts 13-15
Nov 14: Acts 16-18
Nov 15: Acts 19-21
Nov 16: Acts 22-24
Nov 17: Acts 25-28
Nov 18: Romans 1-3
Nov 19: Romans 4-6

Flower Donation

This week's flowers were
donated by:
Tina Murianka

Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is
provided by:
Tish Desloges

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November

- 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, I struggle with staying attentive to my spiritual life. I will do it for a while and then I get tired or distracted or even rebellious and then I stumble. Please forgive me and give me the strength to grow every day so I can live awake instead of stumbling in the darkness. Amen

Children's Word

Jesus Christ is God!

Do you have a friend who isn't a Christian? Maybe you have a classmate or a teammate who doesn't believe what you do, or who might not even believe in God at all!

Sometimes we hear people say nice things about Jesus. People might say, "He was a good teacher." Or they might say, "He helped a lot of people." "He was a nice man." Those things are all true, right? But the most important thing is that Jesus Christ is God! That is the real truth. And that's what we Christians believe.

Today, we hear the Gospel reading about the Good Samaritan. Do you remember how that story starts? A man came to Jesus and he wanted to test Him. He starts off and calls Jesus "Teacher." But then he says, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" In other words, "How can I live forever?"

Our Lord Jesus Christ was a Teacher, but He is more! Jesus Christ is our God! Only God can tell us how we can inherit eternal life. Only God can tell us how to live forever with Him in heaven. Only God can show us the way.

If somebody tells you, "Jesus was a nice man," or "Jesus was a good teacher," you can tell him, "Yes, He was! But Jesus Christ is God!"

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 SAINT WHO GOT IN TROUBLE SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Nobody likes getting in trouble. Do you? At home or at school, or anywhere else, you might get punished for it, or you might at least get embarrassed.

Today we celebrate one of the best saints of our Church. Saint John Chrysostom was a saint who didn't mind getting in trouble. That's because he was used to it. He also knew it was more important to speak the truth and get in trouble with the rulers, than to keep quiet and live in peace.

Saint John wrote many sermons, and lots of times he talked about how we Christians have to help the poor. He built hospitals for poor, sick people, and special kitchens for poor, hungry people. In the great city of Constantinople (where he was the archbishop), the emperor and empress didn't seem to care so much about the poor. They grew richer and richer, and they ignored the poor people in the city. Saint John spoke out against the rulers, and he got in big trouble for it.

The empress Eudoxia had a big, expensive statue of herself built, and Saint John spoke out against that too...and he got in even more trouble for that. He was sent away into exile, away from the city, where he couldn't serve as archbishop. He later died there.

Saint John had lots of people who loved him (and he still does!). He told them not to think of the bad things that happened to him, but to think of the rewards he won in the contest—and that's life with Jesus Christ forever! We celebrate St. John's feastday today, November 13th.

Galatians 6:11-18

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.

Hebrews 7:26-8:2

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two

denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

John 10:9-16

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.



You may find yourself hampered by someone who sows tares of despondency. He tries to prevent you from climbing to such heights of holiness by discouraging you with various thoughts. For instance, he will tell you that it is impossible for you to be saved and to keep every single one of God's commandments while you live in this world. When this happens you should sit down in a solitary place by yourself, collect yourself, concentrate your thoughts and give good counsel to your soul, saying: "Why, my soul, are you dejected, and why do you trouble me? Put your hope in God, for I will give thanks to Him; for my salvation lies not in my actions but in God (cf. Ps. 42:5). Who will be vindicated by actions done according to the law (cf. Gal 2:16)? No living person will be vindicated before God (cf. Ps. 143:2). Yet by virtue of my faith in God I hope that in His ineffable mercy He will give me salvation. Get behind me, Satan (cf. Matt. 16:23). I worship the Lord my God (cf. Matt. 4:10) and serve Him from my youth; for He is able to save me simply through His mercy. Go away from me. The God who created me in His image and likeness will reduce you to impotence."

-St. Symeon the New Theologian



The Power of Being Attentive

November 9, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

St. John of Damaskos says: “Without attentiveness and watchfulness of the intellect we cannot be saved and rescued from the devil, who walks about ‘like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour’”

Sounds pretty serious. And yet, the virtue of attentiveness is so very difficult and elusive. I guess it’s so difficult because it is exhausting to think about having to stay attentive all the time. I get it. It’s discouraging. And yet, the Fathers often teach us that attentiveness and discernment are the greatest virtues to develop. But how do you do that? How can I increase my stamina to stay attentive, stay awake? After all, I remember what happened to the 5 foolish virgins when the Bridegroom arrived at night!

Look at our lesson today in Ephesians 5:8-19:

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

What powerful words from St. Paul to the Church at Ephesus! He makes 3 basic contrasts that reveal the way to stay attentive and discerning so you’ll know where the right path for your life lies!

The first contrast is between Light and Dark. Attentiveness is possible when I choose to live with the Light on! This is such a clear and consistent metaphor. When the Light is on, I can see where I should go. I only stumble when it’s dark. But the Dark actually means more than the danger of stumbling. The Dark is where the deeds I know I shouldn’t be doing are hidden. The power of “shameful” behavior has always been when I prefer no one finds out what I’m doing. Now imagine a culture that has lost the ability to recognize when a behavior or a choice is wrong, and they don’t even try to hide it any longer. This is when the darkness has become so powerful that it pretends to be “freedom” or “living my truth.” Once the Darkness has become this strong and delusion has overwhelmed attentiveness, a society is ripe for failure. If I’m ever going to be attentive, I’m going to have to stay in the Light!

The second contrast is between Fruitful and Unfruitful. St. Paul calls the “works of darkness” unfruitful. The old saying is “the proof is in the pudding.” Attentiveness is gained when I am willing to admit this behavior creates freedom and peace, but this other behavior creates addictions and destruction. If I am attentive, I will be able to tell when my choices are producing positive change and when my choices are merely feeding my passions and leading me to addictions and spiritual slavery. And as I exercise my will, my ability to choose, to choose that which creates inner peace and mastery of my passions, my ability to recognize good fruit from bad fruit grows. But if I just feed my passions, I won’t even be able to tell when my life slips into the slavery of addiction and narcissism.

The final contrast is between Life and Death. Attentiveness preserves more than my physical life. It preserves my spiritual life as well. Inattentiveness feeds both spiritual and physical death. As a practical example, look at the benefits of watching your diet and getting some physical exercise. There is no doctor on earth that won’t advise you to watch what you eat and get some physical exercise now and again. If this is true of your physical body, it’s also true for your spiritual health. Watching what you consume with your eyes and ears, and mind, and then exercising your spiritual disciplines through regular prayer, fasting, and generosity create spiritual life and freedom from the slavery of the passions.

Today, you and I are called to live attentive lives. It’s exhausting, I know. So, the Church gives us the gift of repentance and confession to exercise our spiritual growth and increase our attentiveness. It isn’t too late for you to turn and “wake up” to this free life of disciple and love for God. All you have to do is be Orthodox on Purpose!

К Галатам 6:11-18

Видите, как много написал я вам своею рукою. Желаящие 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.

К Евреям 7:26-8:2

Таков и должен быть у нас Первосвященник: святой, непричастный злу, непорочный, отделенный от грешников и превознесенный выше небес, Который не имеет нужды ежедневно, как те первосвященники, приносить жертвы сперва за свои грехи, потом за грехи народа, ибо Он совершил это однажды, принеся [в жертву] Себя Самого. Ибо закон поставляет первосвященниками человек, имеющих немощи; а слово клятвенное, после закона, [поставило] Сына, на веки совершенного. Главное же в том, о чем говорим, есть то: мы имеем такого Первосвященника, Который воссел одесную престола величия на небесах и [есть] священнодействователь святилища и скинии истинной, которую воздвиг Господь, а не человек.

От Луки 10:25-37

И вот, один законник встал и, искушая Его, сказал: Учитель! что мне делать, чтобы наследовать жизнь вечную? Он же сказал ему: в законе что написано? как читаешь? Он сказал в ответ: возлюби Господа Бога твоего всем сердцем твоим, и всею душою твоею, и всею крепостию твоею, и всем разумением твоим, и ближнего твоего, как самого себя. [Иисус] сказал ему: правильно ты отвечал; так поступай, и будешь жить. Но он, желая оправдать себя, сказал Иисусу: а кто мой ближний? На это сказал Иисус: некоторый человек шел из Иерусалима в Иерихон и попался разбойникам, которые сняли с него одежду, изранили его и ушли, оставив его едва живым. По случаю один священник шел тою дорогою и, увидев его, прошел мимо. Также и левит, быв на том месте, подошел, посмотрел и прошел мимо. Самарянин же некто, проезжая, нашел на него и, увидев его, сжалился и, подойдя, перевязал ему раны, возливая масло и вино; и, посадив его на своего осла, привез его в гостиницу и позаботился о нем; а на другой день, отъезжая, вынул два динария, дал содержателю гостиницы и сказал ему: позаботься о нем; и если издержишь что более, я, когда возвращусь, отдам тебе. Кто из этих троих, думаешь ты, был ближний попавшемуся разбойникам? Он сказал: оказавший ему милость. Тогда Иисус сказал ему: иди, и ты поступай так же.

От Иоанна 10:9-16

Я есмь дверь: кто войдет Мною, тот спасется, и войдет, и выйдет, и пажить найдет. Вор приходит только для того, чтобы украсть, убить и погубить. Я пришел для того, чтобы имели жизнь и имели с избытком. Я есмь пастырь добрый: пастырь добрый полагает жизнь свою за овец. А наемник, не пастырь, которому овцы не свои, видит приходящего волка, и оставляет овец, и бежит; и волк расхищает овец, и разгоняет их. А наемник бежит, потому что наемник, и нерадит об овцах. Я есмь пастырь добрый; и знаю Моих, и Мои знают Меня. Как Отец знает Меня, [так] и Я знаю Отца; и жизнь Мою полагаю за овец. Есть у Меня и другие овцы, которые не сего двора, и тех надлежит Мне привести: и они услышат голос Мой, и будет одно стадо и один Пастырь.

Galatianeve 6:11-18

Shikoni me çfarë shkronjash të mëdha ju shkrova me dorën time. Sa duan të duken të mirë në mish, këta ju detyrojnë të rrethpriteni, vetëm që të mos përndiqen për kryqin e Krishtit. Sepse as ata që rrethpriten s'e ruajnë ligjin, por duan të rrethpriteni ju, që të mburren në mish tuaj. Por për mua qoftë larg të mburrem, veç për kryqin e Zotit tonë Jisu Krisht, me anë të të cilit bota është kryqëzuar tek unë, edhe unë tek bota. Sepse në Krishtin Jisu as rrethprerja ka fuqi, as parrethprerja, por krijimi i ri. Edhe për të gjithë sa ecin sipas këtij rregulli, paqe e përdëllim qoftë mbi ta, dhe mbi Izraelin e Perëndisë. Tani e tutje askush le të mos më shqetësojë; sepse unë mbaj shenjat e Zotit Jisu në trupin tim. Hiri i Zotit tonë Jisu Krisht qoftë bashkë me frymën tuaj, o vëllezër. Amin.

Hebrenjve 7:26-8:2

Sepse i tillë kryepriift na duhej, i shenjtë, i pafajshëm, i papërlyer, i ndarë nga mëkatarët dhe i bërë më i lartë se qiejt; i cili nuk ka përditë nevojë, si ata kryepriiftërinjtë, të blatoj therorë më përpara për mëkatet e tij, dhe pastaj për ato të popullit; sepse këtë e bëri një herë e përgjithmonë, kur pruri theror veten e tij. Sepse ligji vë kryepriiftërinj njerëz që kanë dobësi; po fjala e betimit që u bë pas ligjit vuri Birin, i cili është i përsosur për gjithë jetën. Edhe përmbledhja e atyre që themi është kjo: Kemi një kryepriift të tillë, i cili ndenji në të djathtë të fronit të madhërisë në qiejt, edhe një shërbyes i shenjtërores dhe i tendës së vërtetë, të cilën e ngriti Zoti, e jo njeri.

Llukait 10:25-37

Edhe ja tek u ngrit një mësues ligji, duke e ngarë atë, e duke thënë: Mësues, ç'të bëj, që të trashëgoj jetën e përjetshme? Edhe ai i tha, Ç'është shkruar në ligj; si lexon? Edhe ai u përgjigj e tha: "Të duash Zotin Perëndinë tënd me gjithë zemrën tënde dhe me gjithë shpirtin tënd dhe me gjithë fuqinë tënde dhe me gjithë mendjen tënde dhe të afërmin tënd si veten". Edhe ai i tha: U përgjigje drejt; bëj këtë, edhe do të rrosh. Po ai, duke dashur të nxjerrë veten e tij të drejtë, i tha Jisuit: E cili është i afërmi im? Edhe Jisui mori fjalën e tha: Një njeri zbriste nga Jerusalemi në Jeriko dhe ra në duar kusarësh, të cilët si e zhveshën dhe e bënë me plagë, ikën dhe e lanë gjysmë të vdekur. Edhe qëlloi të zbriste asaj udhe një priift; edhe kur e pa atë, shkoi nga ana tjetër. Kështu edhe një Levit, sa arriti në atë vend, erdhi e pa, dhe shkoi nga ana tjetër. Po një samaritan, duke udhëtuar, erdhi në këtë vend, edhe kur e pa, iu dhimbs, edhe erdhi pranë e i lidhi plagët, duke derdhur mbi to vaj e verë, edhe e hipi në kafshën e tij, dhe e solli në një bujtinë, e u kujdes për të. Edhe të nesërmen kur doli, nxori dy dinarë e ia dha bujtinarit, dhe i tha: Kujdesu për këtë njeri; dhe ç'të prishësh më tepër, unë, kur të kthehem, do të t'i jap. Cili nga këta të tre të duket se u bë i afërmi i atij që ra në duart e kusarëve? Edhe ai i tha: Ai që bëri përdëllim për të. Atëherë Jisuj i tha: Shko edhe ti bëj kështu.

Joanit 10:9-16

Vjedhësi nuk vjen, veçse për të vjedhur e për të therur e për të prishur. Unë erdha që të kenë jetë, edhe ta kenë me të tepërt. Unë jam bariu i mirë; bariu i mirë vë jetën e tij për dhentë. Po ai që është rrogëtar, edhe që s'është bari, i cili nuk i ka dhentë të tijat, sheh ujkun duke ardhur, edhe lë dhentë e ikën, edhe ujku i rrëmben ato, edhe shpërndan dhentë. Edhe rrogëtari ikën, sepse është rrogëtar, edhe s'do t'ia dijë për dhentë. Unë jam bariu i mirë, edhe njoh të miat, edhe njihem prej të miave. Siç më njeh Ati, edhe unë e njoh Atin; edhe vë jetën time për dhentë. Kam edhe të tjera dhen, të cilat s'janë prej këtij oborri; duhet t'i mbledh edhe ato; edhe do të dëgjojnë zërin tim; edhe do të bëhet një tufë, një bari.