

# 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!*

Rev. Nicholas Dellermann (*Rector*) (860) 861-7468 - Very Rev. H Gregory DuDash - Very Rev. Dennis Rhodes

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November 15, 2020

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: HOLY MARTYRS AND  
CONFESSORS GURIAS, SAMONAS, AND ABIBUS, OF EDESSA  
TONE 6

Today ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. 18 ..... 7:15pm Bible Study via Google  
Sun. 22 ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
*Annual Parish Meeting*

**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 all week (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.) Fish, wine and oil are allowed Sunday and Saturday. Wine and oil are also allowed on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

**Troparion – Tone 5  
(Martyrs)**

*O Christ our God, Thou hast granted us the miracles of Thy holy martyrs Gúrias, Samónas, and Abíbus, as a stronghold and protection. Through their prayers, strengthen those in authority in ev'ry good deed, for Thou alone art merciful and lovest mankind!*

**Kontakion – Tone 6  
(Resurrection)**

*When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.*

**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

Ephesians 2:4-10  
Luke 10:25-37

### Monday

1 Corinthians 4:9-16  
Matthew 9:9-13  
1 Thessalonians 2:20-3:8  
Luke 14:12-15

### Tuesday

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 14:25-35

### Wednesday

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12  
Luke 15:1-10

### Thursday

1 Thessalonians 5:1-8  
Luke 16:1-9

### Friday

1 Thessalonians 5:9-13, 24-28  
Luke 16:15-18, 17:1-4

### Saturday

2 Corinthians 11:1-6  
Luke 9:57-62  
Hebrews 9:1-7  
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

## Reading the Bible in a Year

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  
Nov 20: Romans 7-9  
Nov 21: Romans 10-12

*We are beginning to prepare the 2020 community Christmas card. To be included, please see Jim Schaeffer or send a donation of \$10 or more designated "Christmas Card" to the church.*

**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](mailto:frnicholas490@aol.com) with the subject line: Parish Annual Meeting**

Tish Desloges is making Thanksgiving Gossards. They can be ordered in full or half pan, but if you want only half, please find someone who wants the other half to split with. Full pans are \$40 and half pans are \$20. All orders must be in by next Friday, the 20th. She will be bringing them to church for pick up on Sunday, the 22nd. You can order by calling Tish directly (215-778-9919) or emailing her at: [tdesloges@comcast.net](mailto:tdesloges@comcast.net)



***"Always remember that at the Last Judgement we are judged for loving Him, or failing to love Him, in the least person."***

*- Archbishop Anastasios of Albania*



### November/December Events

#### November

15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
18 – 7:15pm Bible Study  
22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
***Entrance of the Theotokos***  
***Annual Parish Meeting***  
25 – 7:15pm Bible Study  
29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

#### December

02 – 7:15pm Bible Study  
06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

## **Ephesians 2:4-10 (Epistle)**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

## **Luke 10:25-37 (Gospel)**

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."

## **Children's Word**

### **God is rich in mercy!**

Have you ever wondered what you'd do if you won a million dollars...or more? Would you keep most of it for yourself? Would you buy yourself lots of things you've always wanted? Or maybe, would you share some of it with others?

In today's epistle reading, Saint Paul tells us how rich God is. God is rich in mercy and love! Saint Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy and love, but He shares this love for us. Even though we have done all kinds of things that are wrong, God shares His love, and He "made us alive together with Christ, and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

God is rich in love and mercy, but He didn't just keep it to Himself! He shared it with us so that one day, "He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." God is so rich with love, that there's no way to measure it. He will show us this love when we are with our Lord one day!

Did you know? We need God to share His mercy with us, because we can't save ourselves. We can do all kinds of nice things for people and all kinds of holy things at church. But we can't win a place in heaven. Only God can do that for us. He gives this place in heaven to us as a gift. Let's thank God that He shared His love and mercy with us!

### **BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS... SAINT MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST**

Sometimes, in magazines, you might see pictures of movie stars or models or athletes...BEFORE they were famous. Sometimes they look kind of funny, with hair from the 70s or with clothes you'd never wear today! But now they're famous, so it doesn't even matter!

Did you ever wonder what saints were like... before they were famous? Or before they were saints? Tomorrow we celebrate Saint Matthew. Saint Matthew was one of the special helpers of our Lord Jesus Christ. He spent lots of his life telling people about God. He even wrote one of the books of the Bible.

But in the Gospel we read on his feastday, we hear about what he was like before he was Jesus's helper, before he followed Christ. We hear in the Gospel that Saint Matthew was a tax collector. In those days, tax collectors were big sinners because they would keep some of the taxes for themselves! People did not like these men. But our Lord trusted Matthew to become His special helper, His disciple.

So, we read what Saint Matthew was like before he was famous, and before God called him to be His helper. God calls all of us to be His helpers and His followers! When we know the beautiful example of Saint Matthew, we can know God loves and trusts us to turn to Him too!

We celebrate St. Matthew tomorrow, Nov. 16th.

# The Beatitudes

November 9, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

“Attitude determines Altitude!” Yes, I know this is a trite, self-help phrase, but it also happens to be true. The person who finds a way to find the positive and the helpful in any situation will always have a life oriented toward joy. And that person who seems to find the dark cloud in every silver lining will always be the one who’s attitude is weighed down with despondency.

Of course, the father of the Church knew this and that’s why they often warned each other of the powerful delusion that despondency brings. It’s all too easy to focus on the negative and expect the worst. But that is not the Way of Faith in Christ!

Look at our lesson today in Matthew 4:25, 5:1-12

*At that time, great crowds followed Jesus from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan. Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.”*

Of course you know this passage well. You’ve heard the Beatitudes all your life and this passage is one we often hear talked about and recommended to us. In fact, I tend to hear this from even non-Christians who use it as a “weapon” against believers they want to accuse of hypocrisy or not living up to the teachings of Christ. Of course, these easy critics don’t live up to it either!

But the key to embracing the power of this wisdom from Jesus lies in the paradox of blessings He reveals to us. The “poor in spirit” are blessed. The ones who “mourn” are blessed. The “meek” are blessed. Those “who hunger and thirst for righteousness” are blessed. The “merciful” are blessed. The “pure in heart” are blessed. The “peacemakers” are blessed. And even the “persecuted” and those who are “reviled” and have “all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account” said about them are blessed.

Frankly, I’m not really wanting to be in most of these “blessed” groups!

And THAT’S the key! You see, when we live our purposeful and devoted lives to Christ in a society that are all gripped by the delusion of the temporary, we are bound to rub the world the “wrong” way. We love when they hate. We endure when they seek revenge. We grieve when they celebrate their deluded immorality. We who follow Jesus are simply never going to “fit in” with a world that is enslaved to the temporary. We just won’t; ever!

So, why does Jesus say we misfits are blessed?

Because being free from the slavery of the temporary means we can see all the pitfalls of life coming and we can be ready to avoid them because of the blessed discernment gifted to us by our closeness to Jesus Christ. Our embrace of the Eternal blesses us with insight, with patience, and with the strength to endure when others give up. That witness to an enslaved world offers those who want to be free a way out and to those who want to stay slaves a constant rebuke. Hey, no wonder they hate us!

So today, are you blessed with the insight and discernment to see troubles ahead of time, or do you find yourself blindsided by life’s setbacks and troubles? It may be time to inventory your spiritual priorities to determine if your living a blessed life informed by an attitude of loving dependence and confidence in the Lord Who wants you to be Orthodox on Purpose!

## **К Ефессянам 2:4-10**

Бог, богатый милостью, по Своей великой любви, которою возлюбил нас, и нас, мертвых по преступлениям, оживотворил со Христом, --благодатью вы спасены, – и воскресил с Ним, и посадил на небесах во Христе Иисусе, дабы явить в грядущих веках преизобильное богатство благодати Своей в благости к нам во Христе Иисусе. Ибо благодатью вы спасены через веру, и сие не от вас, Божий дар: не от дел, чтобы никто не хвалился. Ибо мы--Его творение, созданы во Христе Иисусе на добрые дела, которые Бог предназначил нам исполнять.

## **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.

## **Efesianëve 2:4-10**

Por Perëndia, që është i pasur në mëshirë, për shkak të dashurisë së tij të madhe me të cilën na deshi, edhe atëherë kur ishim të vdekur në fajë, na dha jetë me Krishtin (ju jeni të shpëtuar me anë të hirit), edhe na ringjalli me të, dhe me të na vuri të rrimë në vendet qiellore në Krishtin Jezus, për të treguar në epokat që do të vijne pasurinë e pamasë të hirit të tij, me anë të mirësisë ndaj nesh në Krishtin Jezus. Ju në fakt, jeni të shpëtuar me anë të hirit, nëpërmjet besimit, dhe kjo nuk vjen nga ju, po është dhurata e Perëndisë, jo nga vepra, që të mos mburret askush. Ne në fakt jemi vepra e tij, e krijuar në Krishtin Jezus për veprat e mira që Perëndia përgatiti që më parë, që ne të ecim në to.

## **Luka 10:25-37**

Atëherë ja, një doktor i ligjit u ngrit që ta vinte në provë dhe i tha: “Mësues, çfarë duhet të bëj që të trashëgoj jetën e përjetshme?” Dhe ai tha: “Çfarë është shkruar në ligj? Si e lexon?” Ai duke u përgjigjur tha: “Duaje Zotin, Perëndinë tënd, me gjithë zemrën tënde, me gjithë shpirtin tënd, me gjithë forcën tënde dhe me gjithë mendjen tënde, edhe të afërmin tënd porsì vetveten.” Jezusi i tha: “U përgjigje drejti; vepro kështu dhe do të rrosh.” Por ai, duke dashur të justifikonte veten, i tha Jezusit: “Po kush është i afërmi im?” Atëherë Jezusi u përgjigj dhe tha: “Një burr zbriste nga Jeruzalemi për në Jeriko dhe ra në duart e kusarëve, të cilët, mbasi e zhveshën dhe e bënë gjithë plagë, u larguan dhe e lanë gati të vdekur. Rastësisht një prift po zbriste nëpër të njëjtën rrugë dhe, mbasi e pa atë burrë, vazhdoi tutje, në anën tjetër. Po ashtu edhe një levit, kur arriti aty, erdhi dhe e pa dhe vazhdoi tutje, në anën tjetër. Por një Samaritan, që po udhëtonte, i kaloi afër, e pa dhe kishte dhembshuri. Dhe mbasi iu afrua, ia lidhi plagët duke ia larë me vaj dhe me verë; pastaj e vuri mbi kafshën e vet, e çoi në një han dhe u kujdesua për të. Dhe të nesërmen, para se të niset, nxori dy denarë dhe ia dha hanxhiut duke i thënë: "Kujdesu për të dhe ç'të shpenzosh më shumë, do të të jap kur të kthehem". Cili nga këta të tre, pra, të duket se qe i afërmi i atij që ra në duart e kusarëve?” Dhe ai tha: “Ai që u tregua i mëshirshëm ndaj tij.” Atëherë Jezusi i tha: “Shko dhe bëj kështu edhe ti.”