

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 21, 2021

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

THE ENTRANCE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE
TEMPLE

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy *Feast of
the Entrance of the
Theotokos into the Temple*

Wed. 24 NO BIBLE STUDY

Sat. 27 6:00pm Great Vespers

Sun. 28 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: Monday to Saturday (fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Sunday and Saturday. Wine and oil is allowed on Tuesday and Thursday.)

**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 4
(Feast)**

*The most pure Temple of the Savior;
the precious Chamber and Virgin;
the sacred Treasure of the glory of
God,
is presented today to the house of the
Lord.
She brings with her the grace of the
Spirit,
therefore, the angels of God praise
her:
“Truly this woman is the abode of
Heaven!”*

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

Church Lectionary

Today

Galatians 6:11-18

Hebrews 9:1-7

Luke 12:16-21

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Monday

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Luke 17:20-25

Tuesday

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Luke 17:26-37

Wednesday

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Luke 18:15-17, 26-30

Thursday

1 Thessalonians 2:9-14

Luke 18:31-34

Friday

1 Thessalonians 2:14-19

Luke 19:12-28

Saturday

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Luke 10:19-21

Reading the Bible in a Year

Nov 21: Romans 10-12

Nov 22: Romans 13-16

Nov 23: 1 Corinthians 1-3

Nov 24: 1 Corinthians 4-6

Nov 25: 1 Corinthians 7-9

Nov 26: 1 Corinthians 10-12

Nov 27: 1 Corinthians 13-16

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.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EVENTS

Children's Word

November

21 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
*Feast of the Entrance of
the Theotokos into the
Temple*
24 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
27 – 6:00pm Vespers
28 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

This Week:

Next Week: Rubis Family

December

01 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
03 – 6:00pm Fun Night
04 – 6:00pm Vespers
05 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
08 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

Flower Donation

***This week's flowers were
donated by:
Ss. Peter & Paul***

Entering the temple

When you look around your church, do you see other kids too? Jesus invites all the kids to be close to Him. And church is a special place where we can worship all together—young people and old people, and everyone in between. Today, we celebrate a very special feastday of our Church. It's the day we remember when the Holy Theotokos, the Mother of God, went into the Temple. She went there so she could be close to God. She went there so she could spend time praying, and focusing on her Heavenly Father. That's why you come to church, too, right? Today's epistle reading tells us what a

Let my prayer arise as incense before Thee

From Old Testament times believers have burned incense as an offering when worshiping God. The ancient temple in Jerusalem even had priests whose sole duty was to keep the censer burning twenty-four hours a day.

Ancient pagan kings were often escorted with large fans of peacock feathers and burning incense when entering their palaces. Early Christians took both these symbols for their worship in recognition of Christ as their Sovereign King and Lord. To this day the Orthodox Church uses incense in most of her services, and large circular fans, reminiscent of the peacock fans of ancient times, are held over the Gospel book during the proclamation of God's word during celebrations of the Divine Liturgy.

As a young man attending my very first Orthodox Liturgy, I was struck by the use of incense. The words of the Psalmist King David, "Let my prayer arise as incense before Thee...", is chanted during every celebration of Vespers during the censuring of the temple. During every service where there is a great censuring of the whole church, the priest (or deacon) censures the frescoes and icons as windows into eternity, as the incense wafts upward as an offering of the people of God.

The people are also censured by the priest in recognition of their having been created in the image and likeness of their Creator God. Incense is so central in Christian worship that it is even used in the worship of the domestic church, where the family gathers in prayer around their own icons, reading the scriptures together, and offering their family prayers to the Lord.

"Let my prayer arise as incense before Thee." Psalm 141:2

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

special place the Temple is. It's God's house, just as our church is God's house!

Did you know we have a special prayer we can say every time we enter this holy church? Here it is—maybe you can try to remember it!

I will come into Your house in the greatness of Your mercy: and in fear I will worship toward Your holy temple. Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; make Your way straight before me, that with a clear mind I may glorify You forever, One Divine Power worshiped in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SAINT ALEXANDER NEVSKY A HOLY WARRIOR

Can saints fight? Sometimes, we might think saints are people who never ever fight or even argue! But our Church has many, many saints who were warriors. You might have heard of Saint George or Saint Menas or Saint Theodore or Saint Wenceslas, or many more. These special saints were close to God and they trusted God to help them fight.

Saint Alexander Nevsky grew up in Russia 700 years ago. He was a prince, and the son of a prince and princess. His parents raised him to be a warrior and a fighter, but they also raised him to have a strong faith in God and to love Him with all his heart.

Saint Alexander spent his young life fighting. That's because Russia was being attacked from all sides. Alexander's job was to protect his home. In one enemy attack, things looked hopeless. But before he sent the soldiers to fight, Alexander prayed. He told his soldiers, "The enemy is stronger, but God is on our side." With God's help, they were able to win the battle.

Sometimes it is hard to imagine saints fighting and hurting other people. But Saint Alexander Nevsky had a peacefulness in his heart, because he trusted God in all things. Sometimes he knew he had to fight sometimes, but other times he tried to work with the enemy in peace.

Saint Alexander is a hero to the Russian Orthodox people, and to our Church! He reminds us to trust God in all things, in war and in peace.

We celebrate St. Alexander on Tues., November 23rd.

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 9:1-7

Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;



***"When you see your
brother, you see the Lord
your God."***

-Abba Apollo



Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, I lose my temper. I get angry. I even imagine doing violence against those who I think are my enemies. All of this rage is hiding from the true object that requires my violence – my own soul. But I love being “comfortably numb.” And in my inattentiveness to the spiritual labor, I must do within myself through prayer, fasting, and generosity, I turn that violence outward towards others deepening my own slavery to my selfish ways. Forgive me Lord, and have mercy on me and direct my energies to the war I should be fighting within! Amen.

Salvation IS Violence!

November 19, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Our modern world seems to run on violence. And it seems that every day the news is of more violence there and more violence here. From college campuses arguing over speech and “safe zones” and “trigger warnings” to the very real violence of terrorism all meant to disrupt and destroy. And can we even talk about what seems to be “perpetual war” in hotspots around the world where our soldiers are sent to fight? Lord, have mercy!

But the Scriptures mention another violence that is required to enter into the Kingdom of God. Yes, violence. But this violence has to do with the violence of honesty, repentance, and the spiritual struggle or “asceticism” of purposeful Christian discipline. Especially at this time of year, we desperately need some spiritual “violence” to fight the prevailing spirit of the day, if not for our own souls then the souls of those who follow us!

Look at our Gospel Lesson today in Luke 16:15-18; 17:1-4:

The Lord said to the Jews who came to him, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God. The law and the prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and every one enters it violently. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than for one dot of the law to become void. Every one who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.”

And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come; but woe to him by whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung round his neck and he were cast into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Take heed to yourselves; if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him; and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, and says, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

Our Lord Jesus calls us to reality when He reminds us that “temptations to sin are sure to come.” That means the heart of “fighting” temptation is first to not be surprised by them! The truth is we live in a world where it’s easy to sin and hard to do right. We live in a world where we are constantly tempted to compromise relationships, wisdom, and truth, all in the name of “getting along.” And yet, even when we compromise, it seems those who want us to water down the Faith are never satisfied. No, we give them this, and they demand more from us, more compromise, more accommodation, more “get with the times.” Of course, we can never change enough to satisfy the demands of this modern world. They won’t be happy till we capitulate all together!

And that leads to the next reality check of our Lord’s words to us today! The Lord says “everyone enters it (the Kingdom) violently.” To be sure, this isn’t violence against others, but violence against our own weaknesses and sin. No wonder the Lord follows these provocative words with clear examples of this “violent” path to the Kingdom. He confronts our spiritual poverty in relationships and our not being satisfied with our own sins. No, we want others to join us in our sin! This “violent” wisdom of serious commitment, honest confession, and humble obedience seems to those who only desire their own comfort to be a “violence” against “what comes naturally.” Then the Lord doubles down on His “violent” path by insisting that we take responsibility for our brothers by loving them enough to help them see the destructiveness of rebellion and then to forgive them every time they ask!

Today, are you brave enough to enter God’s Kingdom “violently?” Are you willing to accept the words of your baptism as a newly illumined member of the Lord’s Church as having been enrolled in the Kingdom of God and called to keep your baptismal garment “spotless?” If so, know this will take a “violent” embrace of wisdom, repentance, spiritual struggle, and faithfulness when all around you is tempting you to give up or give in. Entering the Kingdom of God takes someone willing to 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 9:1-7

И первый завет имел постановление о Богослужении и святилище земное: ибо устроена была скиния первая, в которой был светильник, и трапеза, и предложение хлебов, и которая называется 'святое'. За вторую же завесою была скиния, называемая 'Святое-святых', имевшая золотую кадильницу и обложенный со всех сторон золотом ковчег завета, где были золотой сосуд с манною, жезл Ааронов расцветший и скрижали завета, а над ним херувимы славы, осеняющие очистилище; о чем не нужно теперь говорить подробно. При таком устройстве, в первую скинию всегда входят священники совершать Богослужение; а во вторую--однажды в год один только первосвященник, не без крови, которую приносит за себя и за грехи неведения народа.

От Луки 12:16-21

И сказал им притчу: у одного богатого человека был хороший урожай в поле; и он рассуждал сам с собою: что мне делать? некуда мне собрать плодов моих? И сказал: вот что сделаю: сломаю житницы мои и построю большие, и соберу туда весь хлеб мой и всё добро мое, и скажу душе моей: душа! много добра лежит у тебя на многие годы: покойся, ешь, пей, веселись. Но Бог сказал ему: безумный! в сию ночь душу твою возьмут у тебя; кому же достанется то, что ты заготовил? Так [бывает с тем], кто собирает сокровища для себя, а не в Бога богатеет.

От Луки 10:38-42, 11:27-28

В продолжение пути их пришел Он в одно селение; здесь женщина, именем Марфа, приняла Его в дом свой; у неё была сестра, именем Мария, которая села у ног Иисуса и слушала слово Его. Марфа же заботилась о большом угощении и, подойдя, сказала: Господи! или Тебе нужды нет, что сестра моя одну меня оставила служить? скажи ей, чтобы помогла мне. Иисус же сказал ей в ответ: Марфа! Марфа! ты заботишься и суетишься о многом, а одно только нужно; Мария же избрала благую часть, которая не отнимется у неё. Когда же Он говорил это, одна женщина, возвысив голос из народа, сказала Ему: блаженно чрево, носившее Тебя, и сосцы, Тебя питавшие! А Он сказал: блаженны слышащие слово Божие и соблюдающие его.

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 9:1-7

Kishte pra edhe dhiata e parë rregulla adhurimi dhe shenjtëroren tokësore. Sepse u ndërdua tenda e parë, në të cilën ishte edhe kandileri, edhe tryeza, edhe paravënia e bukëve, tendë e cila quhet Shenjtërore. Edhe pas kurtinës së dytë ishte tenda që quhet Shenjtërore e Shenjtërore, e cila kishte një temianicë të artë, edhe arkën e dhiatës të mbuluar përreth nga të gjitha anët me ar, në të cilën ishte shtamba e artë që kishte mannën, edhe shkopi i Aronit që çeli sythe, edhe pllakat e dhiatës. Edhe përsipër asaj ishin Kerubimet e lavdisë që i bënë hije shlyesit; për të cilat nuk është tani nevoja të flasim hollësisht. Edhe duke qenë këto të ndërtuara kështu, në tendën e parë gjithnjë hyjnë priftërinjtë që bëjnë lutjet. Po në të dytën një herë në vit hyn vetëm kryepriifti, jo pa gjak, të cilin e blaton theror për veten e tij dhe për fajet e popullit, që i bëjnë nga padija.

Llukait 12:16-21

Edhe u tha atyre një paravoli, duke thënë: Toka e një njeriu të pasur dha shumë prodhim. Edhe ai mendohej me veten e tij, duke thënë: Ç'të bëj? Se s'kam ku të mbledh prodhimet e mia. Dhe tha: Këtë kam për të bërë, do të prish grunarët e mi dhe do t'i ndërtoj më të mëdhenj, edhe do të mbledh atje gjithë prodhimet e mia dhe të mirat e mia. Edhe do t'i them shpirtit tim: O shpirt, ke shumë të mira që gjenden për shumë vjet; prehu, ha, pi, edhe dëfre. Po Perëndia i tha: I marrë, këtë natë do të kërkojnë prej teje shpirtin tënd. Dhe të kujt do të jenë sa bërë gati? Kështu do të jetë ai që mbledh thesarë për veten e tij dhe nuk bëhet i pasur në Perëndinë.

Llukait 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Edhe ndodhi që kur ata po shkonin, ai hyri në një fshat; edhe një grua me emrin Marta, e priti atë në shtëpinë e saj. Edhe ajo kishte një motër që quhej Maria, e cila ndenji pranë këmbëve të Jisuit dhe dëgjonte fjalën e tij. Ndërsa Marta mundohej shumë duke shërbyer; edhe pastaj erdhi përpara tij, e tha: Zot, A nuk do të dish se ime motër më la vetëm të shërbej? Thuaji pra asaj të më ndihmojë. Edhe Jisui u përgjigj e i tha: Marta, Marta, kujdesesh e shqetësohesh për shumë punë. Po për një është nevojë, edhe Maria zgjodhi pjesën e mirë, e cila nuk do të merret prej saj. Edhe ndodhi që kur ai po thoshte këto, një grua prej turmës ngriti zërin e i tha atij: Lum barku që të ka mbajtur, edhe gjinjtë që ke thithur. Po ky tha: Por në të vërtetë, të lumur janë ata që dëgjojnë fjalën e Perëndisë dhe e ruajnë.