

# 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 22, 2020

24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE INTO THE TEMPLE, APOSTLES OF THE SEVENTY PHILEMON AND ARCHIPPUS, MARTYR APPHIA, WIFE OF PHILEMON AND EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES, AND ONESIMUS, DISCIPLE OF ST. PAUL  
TONE 7

Today ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
*Annual Parish Meeting*  
Sun. 29 ..... 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 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 4  
(Feast)**

*Today is the prelude of the good will of God,  
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.  
The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,  
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.  
Let us rejoice and sing to her:  
“Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation!”*

**Kontakion – Tone 7  
(Resurrection)**

*The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:  
“The Savior has come to those in faith;  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”*

**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 2:14-22  
Luke 12:16-21

### Monday

2 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Luke 17:20-25

### Tuesday

2 Thessalonians 1:10-2:2  
Luke 17:26-37

### Wednesday

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12  
Luke 18:15-17, 26-30

### Thursday

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5  
Luke 18:31-34

### Friday

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18  
Luke 19:12-28

### Saturday

Galatians 1:3-10  
Luke 10:19-21

## Reading the Bible in a Year

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  
Nov 28: 2 Corinthians 1-3

***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.***

## **November/December Events**

### **November**

22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

***Entrance of the Theotokos***

***Annual Parish Meeting***

29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

### **December**

02 – 7:15pm Bible Study

06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

***Lord strengthen my will today through repentance and discernment to understand the purpose of my life is meant to prepare me for life with You forever, and help me escape the deadly false delusions of false expectations. Instead, Holy Lord Who loves mankind, grant me to see You and You alone as my only goal and true joy! Give me Your grace to fast and pray this Winter Lent to grow in my faith. Amen.***

## **Children's Word**

**Eat, drink, and be merry?**

What would you do if you had years of free time? Yes, years. Not just a few hours a day, but years! Nothing to do. No need to work. Would you relax, have parties with your friends, or goof off? Or would you spend your time in a different way?

In today's Gospel lesson, a man faced that question. He stored up enough food to live for many years. What did he choose to do? "Eat, drink, and be merry," he said. In other words, he decided to take it easy, have parties, and enjoy himself. He didn't feel like working. Now he had lots of free time, and he planned to have some fun! But in this Gospel reading, God wants us to know that there is more to life than having fun! As Christians, we must always try harder and harder to improve ourselves. We must always work at being more like our Lord, Jesus Christ.

What do you do with the few hours of free time you have? Think about how much time you spend playing video games, watching TV, or looking on your computer or phone. Then think about how many minutes you spend praying, or reading something that will help you, or helping another person. How does it compare? God wants us to spend our time in the right way.

SAINT NICHOLAS OF METSOVO RICH TOWARD GOD

Saint Nicholas Day is coming! Well, yes, in two weeks we celebrate our good friend, Saint Nicholas of Myra. But we have other Nicholas saints too! St. Nicholas of Japan, St. Nicholas Planas, St. Nicholas the tsar of Russia, St. Nikolai Velimirovitch, and so many more!

On Saturday, we will celebrate another Saint Nicholas—not one you sing about in Christmas carols and who is dressed in red. But this Saint Nicholas loved God very much, and even gave his life to show his love for our one, true God.

This St. Nicholas lived in Metsovo, which is in the northern part of Greece. He came from a poor family, and he worked hard in a bakery so he could take care of his family. One day some richer people got to know Nicholas, and they helped him with many things. They persuaded Nicholas to give up his faith in Christ and to become Muslim. So, St. Nicholas did. Later, Nicholas felt so sorry for denying Christ. He told everybody, "I was born a Christian, I am a Christian, and a Christian I wish to die."

The rulers didn't want Nicholas to believe in Jesus Christ. Sadly, Nicholas was killed for his strong faith, but now he is a saint in heaven. In the Gospel today, we hear about how we should be "rich toward God." Do you see how Saint Nicholas gives us his great example of being "rich toward God"? We celebrate St. Nicholas on Saturday, Nov. 28th.

### **Ephesians 2:14-22 (Epistle)**

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

### **Hebrews 9:1-7 (Epistle, Theotokos)**

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;

### **Luke 12:16-21 (Gospel)**

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 (Gospel, Theotokos)**

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!"



***"He has shown you, O mortal what is good; and what does the LORD require of you? but to do justice, to live kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."***

- Micah 6:8



# Is Your Life Chaste and Holy?

November 18, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

The word Holy means “set apart for a specific and exclusive use.” Something or someone who is holy is singularly dedicated to a single purpose and action. No wonder the Church gives us the gift of marriage as an icon of faithfulness and dedication to teach us about our true purpose in belonging only to Jesus.

Being faithful is the whole purpose of the Christian’s life. And the only way to be faithful is to love Jesus more than I love myself; more than I love my own comfort; more than I love even my own mother and father. Only that kind of singular love can help me avoid the temptations to unfaithfulness by dividing my loyalties and loving other “gods.”

So, how do we grow in faithfulness to Jesus?

Look at our lesson today in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12:

*Brethren, we beseech and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from unchastity; that each one of you know how to take a wife for himself in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the heathen who do not know God; that no man transgress, and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we solemnly forewarned you. For God has not called us for uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. But concerning the love of the brethren you have no need to have any one write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do love all the brethren throughout Macedonia. But we exhort you, brethren, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we charged you; so that you may command the respect of outsiders, and be dependent on nobody.*

The key to faithfulness is community! Look at how St. Paul teaches these Thessalonians how to be faithful – “Learned from us how you ought to live.” You are never going to grow in faithfulness by yourself. You absolutely need the Body of Christ, the Church, to learn what faithfulness looks like in an every day life. We learn how to be faithful by reading the lives of the saints; by rubbing shoulders with our brothers and sisters in our local parish; by developing a consistent relationship with a spiritual father in regular confession and allowing him to help us to stay focused on Christ.

We need each other. Period!

God’s will for you is to be “sanctified” made holy and pure by this lifestyle of faithfulness in participating in the life of the Church through prayer, liturgy, the Divine Mysteries, and making normal a purposeful Orthodox Way of living every day. And the only way to embrace this lifestyle is by learning how to be faithful to our spouse. The spiritual discipline of marriage is meant to teach you how to be faithful to God.

This gift of marriage between one man and one woman for one lifetime is designed to build the character of faithfulness; the habits of faithfulness that are necessary to successfully live a whole life dedicated to one person for one lifetime. It’s just impossible in this day and age to escape the caustic nature of our loss of the character of faithfulness and devotion in our modern life. And that is seen in our struggle with the whole concept of marriage. People think marriage is about making me happy, when it was designed to teach me to be faithful! In fact, the whole of the Orthodox Way of living is meant to reform your understanding of what a “normal” human life is supposed to be! This life is meant to help you escape the dead-end sentimentality that you are supposed to be “happy” or “comfortable” or “worry-free.” All these false notions only succeed in making you bitter or angry or disillusioned at how far short your own life is to these false expectations.

But a chaste and holy life reorients your expectations to the singular and disciplined wisdom of becoming by grace what Christ is by nature!

Today, is your life chaste and holy? Are you learning how to be faithful to Christ as a devoted wife is faithful to her husband? Being faithful and consistent is the whole purpose behind being Orthodox on Purpose.

### **К Ефесянам 2:14-22**

Ибо Он есть мир наш, соделавший из обоих одно и разрушивший стоявшую посреди преграду, упразднив вражду Плотию Своею, а закон заповедей учением, дабы из двух создать в Себе Самом одного нового человека, устрояя мир, и в одном теле примирить обоих с Богом посредством креста, убив вражду на нем. И, придя, благовествовал мир вам, дальним и близким, потому что через Него и те и другие имеем доступ к Отцу, в одном Духе. Итак вы уже не чужие и не пришельцы, но сограждане святым и свои Богу, быв утверждены на основании Апостолов и пророков, имея Самого Иисуса Христа краеугольным [камнем], на котором все здание, слагаясь стройно, возрастает в святой храм в Господе, на котором и вы устрояетесь в жилище Божие Духом.

### **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 второю 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.

Ai në fakt, është paqja jonë, ai që ka bërë nga të dy popujt një dhe ka shembur murin e ndarjes, duke e prishur armiqësinë në mishin e tij, ligjin e urdhërimeve të përftuar nga porosi, për të krijuar në vetvete nga dy një njeri të ri, duke bërë paqen, dhe për t'i pajtuar të dy me Perëndinë në një trup të vetëm me anë të kryqit, mbasi vrau armiqësinë në vetvete. Dhe ai erdhi për t'ju shpallur paqen, juve që ishit larg dhe atyre që ishin afër, sepse përmes tij që të dy kemi hyrje tek Ati nëpër një Frymë të vetme. Ju, pra, nuk jeni më të huaj, as bujtës, por bashkëqytetarë të shenjtorëve dhe pjestarë të familjes së Perëndisë, të ndërtuar mbi themelin e apostujve dhe të profetëve, duke qënë Jezu Krishti vetë guri i qoshes, mbi të cilin gjithë ndërtesa, e lidhur mirë, rritet për të qënë një tempull i shenjtë në Zotin, në të cilin edhe ju jeni bashkëndërtuar për të qënë një banesë e Perëndisë në Frymë.

### **Hebrenjve 9:1-7**

Sigurisht edhe e para Besëlidhje kishte disa rregulla për shërbesën hyjnore dhe për shenjtëroren tokësore. Sepse u ndërtua një tabernakull i parë, në të cilin ishte shandani, tryeza dhe bukët e paraqitjes; ai quhet: "Vendi i shenjtë". Pas velit të dytë ishte tabernakulli, i quajtur "Vendi shumë i shenjtë" (Shenjtërorja e Shenjtërorëve), që përmbante një tymtore prej ari edhe arkën e Besëlidhjes, të mbuluar nga të gjitha anët me ar, në të cilën ishte një enë e artë me manë, shkopi i Aaronit që kishte buluar dhe rrasat e Besëlidhjes. Edhe sipër asaj ishin kerubinët e lavdisë që i bënë hije pajtuesit; për këto ne nuk do të flasim me hollësi tani. Duke qënë të vendosura kështu këto gjëra, priftërinjtë hynin vazhdimisht në tabernakulli i parë për të kryer shërbesën hyjnore; por në të dytin hynte vetëm kryepriifti një herë në vit, jo pa gjak, të cilin e ofronte për veten e tij dhe për mëkatet e popu-llit të kryera në padije.

### **Luka 12:16-21**

Dhe ai u tha atyre një shëmbëlltyrë: "Tokat e një pasaniku dhanë të korra të bollshme; dhe ai arsyetonte me vete duke thënë: "Ç'të bëj, sepse nuk kam vend ku t'i shtie të korrat e mia?". Dhe tha: "Këtë do të bëj: do të shemb hambarët e mia dhe do t'i bëj më të mëdhenj, ku do të shtie të gjitha të korrat dhe pasuritë e tjera, dhe pastaj do t'i them shpirtit tim: Shpirt, ti ke pasuri të shumta të shtëna për shumë vjet; pusho, ha, pi dhe gëzo". Por Perëndia i tha: "O i pamend, po atë natë shpirtin tënd do të ta kërkojnë dhe ato që përgatite të kujt do të jenë?". Kështu i ndodh atij që grumbullon thesare për vete dhe nuk është i pasur ndaj Perëndisë."

### **Luka 10:38-42, 11:27-28**

Ndodhi që, ndërsa ata po udhëtonin, Jezusi hyri në një fshat; dhe një grua, që e kishte emrin Marta, e priti në shtëpinë e vet. Ajo kishte një motër që quhej Mari, e cila u ul te këmbët e Jezusit dhe dëgjonte fjalën e tij. Por Marta, që ishte krejt e zënë nga punët e shumta, iu afrua dhe i tha: "Zot, a nuk të intereson që ime motër më la vetëm të shërbej? I thuaj, pra, të më ndihmojë." Por Jezusi, duke u përgjigjur, i tha: "Martë, Martë, ti po shqetësohesh dhe kujdesesh për shumë gjëra; por vetëm një gjë është e nevojshme, dhe Maria zgjodhi pjesën më të mirë, që asaj nuk do t'i hiqet." Ndodhi që, ndërsa ai po thoshte këto gjëra, një grua nga turma e çoi zërin e saj dhe i tha: "Lum barku që të barti dhe gjinjtë që të mëndën." Por ai u tha: "Me tepër lum ata që e dëgjojnë fjalën e Perëndisë dhe e zbatojnë."