

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 28, 2021

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

MONK-MARTYR AND CONFESSOR STEPHEN THE NEW

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 01 7:15pm Bible Study
via GoogleMeet
Fri . 03 6:00pm Fun Night
Sat. 04 **NO VESPERS**
Sun. 05 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 6 (Resurrection)

*The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin,
granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,
glory to Thee.*

Kontakion – Tone 8 (St. Stephen the New)

*Lovers of the feasts, from the heart with hymns let us praise in faith
God-like Stephen, the lover of the Trinity,
for he honored the fair icon of the Master and of His Mother.
Now let us rejoice together and cry out to him with love:
“Rejoice, ever-glorious Father!”*

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 13:10-17

Monday

1 Thessalonians 2:20-3:8
Luke 19:37-44

Tuesday

1 Corinthians 4:9-16
John 1:35-51
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 19:45-48

Wednesday

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Luke 20:1-8

Thursday

1 Thessalonians 5:1-8
Luke 20:9-18

Friday

1 Thessalonians 5:9-13, 24-28
Luke 20:19-26

Saturday

Hebrews 13:7-16
Luke 12:32-40
2 Corinthians 11:1-6
Luke 12:32-40

Reading the Bible in a Year

Nov 28: 2 Corinthians 1-3
Nov 29: 2 Corinthians 4-6
Nov 30: 2 Corinthians 7-9
Dec 01: 2 Corinthians 10-13
Dec 02: Galatians 1-3
Dec 03: Galatians 4-6
Dec 04: Ephesians 1-3

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EVENTS

November

28 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

December

01 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

03 – 6:00pm Fun Night

04 – **NO VESPERS**

05 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

08 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

11 – 6:00pm Vespers

12 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

15 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

18 – 6:00pm Vespers

19 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

22 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet

24 – 6:00pm Compline & Matins

25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy *for the
Nativity of Our Lord*

26 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

This Week: Rubis Family

Next Week:

Flower Donation

***This week's flowers were
donated by:***

Thanksgiving Day 2021

*"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy
name, O Most High" (Ps 91/92:1).*

To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox
Church in America,

Dear Beloved Children in the Lord,

On the civil holiday of Thanksgiving Day, celebrated in the United States today and last month (October 11) in Canada, we are reminded that a Christian is characterized by gratitude. Indeed, it is impossible to imagine a pious heart without thanksgiving to our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. Gratitude is so deeply rooted in our life in Christ that the central act of our worship of the Holy Trinity bears its name—Eucharist, thanksgiving.

Each week the Holy Spirit gathers us to offer this humble appreciation to God for our salvation. We do this in the Holy Anaphora not only by elevating bread and wine to receive as our Lord's most-pure Body and precious Blood, but also by elevating our hearts with grateful hands and saying "we lift them up unto the Lord." This vision of gratitude is not just for the Sunday Divine Liturgy, but for every day which God may give us. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we are able to perpetually offer "a mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise" as we walk in His commandments.

On this national day of Thanksgiving, as you come together with friends and family to celebrate, I pray that you do so remembering first and foremost the immeasurable gifts our Lord has bestowed on us. First amongst these gifts is the gift of salvation in Christ. In recognition of the mercies of God towards you, I ask you to be merciful to others. Most especially, open your table to the poor, outcast, lonely, and afflicted. In so doing, you will have Christ Himself as your guest (cf. Mt 25:31-46).

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving Day.

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, Please help me become an Imitator of You. I've imitated others in my life that weren't You and it always ends up costing me dearly. But how can I become like You when my life is so easily distracted from spending time with You in prayer and worship? Please forgive my inattentiveness and give me the grace to seek You with all my heart. I truly desire to be like You, Lord. Help me in my weakness. Amen

Fasting for the right reasons

The Lord condemned the Pharisee, not because he fasted, but because his motivation was based on pride. The Pharisee wished to be seen by men, and he had no fear of God. He dared to stand before the Lord in pride and arrogance, while the Publican stood afar off, beating his breast, begging for the Lord's mercy. Whereas the Publican saw his sins, and repented, the Pharisee stood before the Lord in arrogance, thinking he was better than other men. He did not desire to commune with God, but to be honored by men.

As we who observe the Old Calendar begin the Dormition Fast, let us imitate the Publican, who saw himself as the worst of sinners, and who begged God's forgiveness. Let us keep the fast, not to be seen by others, but to make way for the Lord. Let us shun meat, dairy, and fish, because we love God, and desire to be drawn closer to Him, emptying ourselves of earthly pleasures.

Let us embrace the Fast as an opportunity for self-limitation, abstinence and self-emptying. Let us bear the cross in self-crucifixion, dying to self as we put on Christ. We dare not think we are Christians if we refuse to fast, for bearing our cross is the only way we can be true followers of Christ.

Let us embrace the fast, knowing, "fasting appears gloomy until one steps into its arena. But begin and you will see what light it brings after darkness, what freedom from bonds, what release after a burdensome life... (Saint Theophan the Recluse)."

Finally, let us be mindful that, "fasts and vigils, the study of Scripture, renouncing possessions and everything worldly are not in themselves perfection, as we have said; they are its tools. For perfection is not to be found in them; it is acquired through them. It is useless, therefore, to boast of our fasting, vigils, poverty, and reading of Scripture when we have not achieved the love of God and our fellow men. Whoever has achieved love has God within himself and his intellect is always with God (St John Cassian)."

Love in Christ

Abbot Tryphon

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;



"Adam became so proud that he wished to become God and died for his pride; the Son of God humbled Himself unto death, and gave life to the fallen. O abyss of humility! Adam and Eve lost themselves through gluttony, the Lord fasted and died for them, in order to give them life. They were disobedient, Christ fulfilled obedience."

St. John of Kronstadt



Children's Word

Just passing the test?

Let's say you have a test at school next week. What do you do? You study, don't you? You study a lot! You don't want to just pass with a 70 percent... you'd like to get an A, wouldn't you?

Today, in the Gospel reading, a man asks Jesus how he can get into Heaven. He says he has already followed the rules in the 10 Commandments. That's great! But then comes a hard thing for him. Jesus told him, "then sell all that you have and give it to the poor." The man was so sad, because he was very rich! He didn't know if he could make it to Heaven after all!

We all want to go to Heaven, and we all want to be with God forever, don't we? So let's think of it like a test at school. We want to pass with flying colors! We want to get an A! The man in the story today wanted to do just enough to pass.

God wants us to always try our hardest to love Him and to love our neighbors. We can read stories about the saints of our Church, and we find that they loved God so much that they did even more than just passing the test! They helped their neighbor more, they gave to the poor more, they fasted more, they read the Bible more, they forgave more, they loved more. We can all do a little more, can't we?

BRAVE SAINT JOHN FROM DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Do you listen to the news? Even if you listen just a little bit, you have heard about Damascus, in the country of Syria. Christians have lived in Syria for many, many years. Saint Peter even told the people there about the Good News of Jesus Christ!

On Saturday, we will celebrate the feastday of a saint from Damascus, in Syria. Saint John lived 1300 years ago. He was a super smart boy who was interested in all kinds of things. He followed his father, and became kind of like a judge. At that time, the emperor made a law against icons. He made it illegal to have icons in public places.

Saint John knew this was wrong, and he knew he had to say something! Saint John knew icons were a part of the Christian faith, so he wrote something to show the emperor why he was wrong. The emperor, of course, did not like this and punished Saint John by cutting off his hand. But in a miracle, God restored his hand so he could finish his work.

Saint John went on to write lots of hymns that we still use in our church today—especially around Easter, Christmas, and even at funerals. Let's pray to Saint John—He can ask God to bring peace to Damascus and Syria and the Middle East. We celebrate St. John from Damascus on Sat., December 4th.

Imitators Of Christ!

November 23, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

“Early is on time. On Time is late. Late is unacceptable!” These were my words, but they were coming out of my daughter’s mouth! She was giving a friend of her’s a hard time about being late to dance practice. We don’t “do” “Greek time” or “Country time” or any other ethnic excuse for being late in our house. That’s not how we treat other people or ourselves.

Needless to say, I was so proud! But then I got concerned. What other words and ways is my daughter copying from me?

You cannot avoid passing on your deepest practices and habits to your children. You are the greatest influence on their lives and what you truly believe will be passed on to them. Yeah, I know. It bothers me too! But there is also all the good you pass on as well. Please don’t forget that. Besides, the scriptural principle of becoming “like” Christ is at the heart of a Faith that survives from one generation to the next! Look at our lesson today in 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10:

Brethren, you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit; so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us what a welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

St. Paul is writing to the Church in Thessaloniki (by the way, this is one of my favorite places in Greece!) and this community is very devout. It is made up of mainly Gentile converts to the Christian Faith, pagans who have enthusiastically left their ancestral religion and embraced the Christian Faith.

But notice please how St. Paul phrases their faithfulness. It’s pretty striking.

He says these Thessalonians have become “imitators of us and of the Lord.” Wow, Paul makes it clear that part of the reason why these faithful are so devout is that they have imitated Paul And Jesus! Is this arrogance on Paul’s part? Is this some kind of hero worship or cult of personality? Not at all. You see, the Lord has established His Church to be filled with authentic fathers in the Faith. And, just like our physical children, our spiritual children imitate their “daddy!” Of course, that puts a lot of pressure on our spiritual fathers to do the same thing: Imitate our spiritual fathers as well! The truth is none of us are ever going to imitate Jesus well if we ignore the “icons” of Jesus all around us in the people who are called to lead us and father our communities. Orthodox Christianity is designed to be a community filled with humble servant-leaders that pass on their devotion to the spiritual children God gives us to form and shape in the Orthodox Way!

So, our willingness to humbly be fathered is absolutely necessary for us to ever be “like” Christ. You see, God became flesh for us in Jesus so that we would keep the miracle going in our own flesh. As we imitate Jesus, we teach others, as they imitate us to imitate Jesus! The real power here is that this means that the Christian Faith was never designed to be lived in isolation but in the community!

And as that humble and honest character is formed within us, we find ourselves becoming examples of the Faith to others! We become the ones who are imitated so that others can imitate Christ. Do you see how this works? No one gets to claim that they, alone, are “the” example. This wonderful pattern of imitation and example feeds humility, community, and true spiritual freedom for us all!

So, Today, are you imitating someone who imitates someone who imitates someone who imitates Jesus? Is your life an example of this humble and honest sense of community in the Church to others? This powerful and dependable pattern of faithfulness is guaranteed to be strong enough to survive from generation to generation and makes being Orthodox on Purpose a “family” affair!

К Ефесеянам 2:4-10

Бог, богатый милостью, по Своей великой любви, которую 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 13:10-17

В одной из синагог учил Он в субботу. Там была женщина, восемнадцать лет имевшая духа немощи: она была скорчена и не могла выпрямиться. Иисус, увидев ее, подозвал и сказал ей: женщина! ты освобождаешься от недуга твоего. И возложил на нее руки, и она тотчас выпрямилась и стала славить Бога. При этом начальник синагоги, негодуя, что Иисус исцелил в субботу, сказал народу: есть шесть дней, в которые должно делать; в те и приходите исцеляться, а не в день субботний. Господь сказал ему в ответ: лицемер! не отвязывает ли каждый из вас вола своего или осла от яслей в субботу и не ведет ли поить? сию же дочь Авраамову, которую связал сатана вот уже восемнадцать лет, не надлежало ли освободить от уз сих в день субботний? И когда говорил Он это, все противившиеся Ему стыдились; и весь народ радовался о всех славных делах Его.

Efesianeve 2:4-10

Por Perëndia, që është i pasur në përdëllim, për dashurinë e tij të shumtë me të cilën na deshi, edhe duke qenë të vdekur për fajet, na dha neve jetë bashkë me Krishtin; – nga hiri jeni të shpëtuar. Edhe na ngjalli bashkë, edhe na vuri të rrimë bashkë në vendet qiellore me anë të Krishtit Jisu, që të tregojë në jetët që vijnë pasurinë e tepërt të hirit të tij me anë të mirësisë që ka për ne me anë të Krishtit Jisu. Sepse nga hiri jeni të shpëtuar me anë të besimit; edhe kjo jo prej jush, po është dhurata e Perëndisë, jo prej veprash, që të mos mburret ndonjë. Sepse jemi krijesë e tij, të krijuar në Krishtin Jisu për vepra të mira, të cilat i parapërgatiti Perëndia, që të ecim në to.

Llukait 13:10-17

Edhe një të shtunë ishte duke mësuar në një sinagogë. Edhe ja ishte një grua që kishte frymë sëmundjeje tetëmbëdhjetë vjet, edhe ishte e kërrusur e nuk mundej fare të ngrihej drejt. Edhe Jisui kur e pa, e thirri dhe i tha: Grua, je e çliruar je prej sëmundjes sate. Edhe vuri duart mbi të, edhe ajo menjëherë u drejtua, dhe lavdëronte Perëndinë. Po i pari i sinagogës u përgjigj me zemërim, sepse Jisui e shëroi të shtunën, edhe i thoshte turmës: Gjashtë ditë janë, në të cilat duhet të punoni; ndër këto, pra, ejani e shërohuni e jo ditën e shtunë. Zoti atëherë u përgjigj e i tha: Hipokrit, gjithësecili prej jush të shtunën a nuk e zgjidh kaun e tij a gomarin nga grazhdi, edhe e sjell e i jep ujë? Edhe kjo që është bijë e Abrahamit, të cilën ja tek e pati lidhur satanai tetëmbëdhjetë vjet, a nuk duhej të zgjidhej prej kësaj lidhjeje ditën e shtunë? Edhe ndërsa ai po thoshte këto, gjithë kundërshtarët e tij turpëroheshin; edhe gjithë turma gëzohej për tërë punët e lavdërueshme që bëheshin prej tij.