

# 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!

Rev. Nicholas Dellermann (Rector) (860) 861-7468 - Very Rev. Dennis Rhodes

[fnicholas490@aol.com](mailto:fnicholas490@aol.com) - <http://sspeterpaulphila.org/>

October 2, 2022

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: HIEROMARTYR CYPRIAN,  
VIRGIN-MARTYR JUSTINA, AND MARTYR THEOCTIST, OF  
NICOMEDIA

Today ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. 05 ..... 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
Fri. 07 ..... 6:00pm Fun Night  
Sun. 09 ..... 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 6  
(Resurrection)**

*By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.  
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,  
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that Thou art risen,  
granting the world great mercy.*

**Kontakion – Tone 8  
(St. Cyprian)**

*Thou didst turn from the art of sorcery to the knowledge of God,  
and wast shown forth as a skillful healer for the world,  
Cyprian, inspired by God.  
Together with Justina thou grantest cures to those who honor thee;  
with her, pray to the Master Who loves mankind that He may save our souls!*

**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

2 Corinthians 6:1-10  
Luke 6:31-36

### Monday

Ephesians 1:22-2:3  
Luke 6:24-30

### Tuesday

Ephesians 2:19-3:7  
Luke 6:37-45

### Wednesday

Ephesians 3:8-21  
Luke 6:46-7:1

### Thursday

Hebrews 7:26-8:2  
John 10:9-16  
Ephesians 4:14-19  
Luke 7:17-30

### Friday

Ephesians 4:17-25  
Luke 7:31-35

### Saturday

1 Corinthians 14:20-25  
Luke 5:27-32

## Reading the Bible in a Year

Oct 02: 3 Macc 4-7  
Oct 03: 2 Esdras 1-4  
Oct 04: 2 Esdras 5-8  
Oct 05: 2 Esdras 9-12  
Oct 06: 2 Esdras 13-16  
Oct 07: 4 Macc 1-4  
Oct 08: 4 Macc 5-9

## Flower Donation

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

## Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is  
provided by:  
**Ladies' Society**

## OCTOBER EVENTS

### October

02 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
05 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
07 – 6:00pm Fun Night  
09 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy



***"We know that prayer in and of itself cannot save us, but carrying it out before God can. For when the Lord's eyes are upon us He sanctifies us, as the sun warms everything upon which it shines."***

- St. Gregory Palamas



## He Will Come Again In Glory

September 30, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Alexander Pope said, "Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed."

What a sad, cynical attitude. And yet, this just goes to show that it isn't having expectations that are wrong; it's having wrong expectations. So, the Church calls us to discipline our expectations by grounding them in reality, and reality is Jesus Christ! He is Real! And He promised us He would return! That's an expectation that can radically change your priorities and your choices! Proper expectations produce Proper Preparations!

And that is exactly why the Lord taught His Church that He will come again. No schemes, no hidden agendas, no "blood moons" or "gnostic" secrets to be revealed only to the ones "really in the know!" Just the power of expectation and wakefulness to keep us ready for His return, whether it is at our own mortal death, or at the Parousia, the Second Coming! Look at our Gospel Lesson this morning in Matthew 24:42-47:

*The Lord said, "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions."*

The power of not knowing when but knowing what will happen is the key to understanding the wisdom of the Church and Her teaching about the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus Christ is going to return, and that's all we need to know. The reason for this isn't so we will be ignorant, but because Christ is the object of our love and devotion. Whether His coming is preceded by "Great Tribulation" or the always present "antichrists" who have always tried to usurp the Lord's place in our hearts, or whether we meet the Lord in our own mortal appointment in death; we love Him and we desire to be with Him and us long to go to Him, and that motivates us to be watchful for Him. The point of the lack of specifics is a feature, not a bug! You are meant to learn how to desire Christ above all things and above all others. If you are going to be ready for the Coming of the Lord, this is the path!

This is the significant and profound difference between what the Church has always taught concerning the Second Coming and the multitude of sensationalistic counterfeits that scream for our attention in this day and age. In fact, the more sensational, the more proof that their lack of sobriety and peace shows their incompatibility with the timeless message of the Faith! So, don't be captured by "rapturemaina" and all the silly (and suspiciously complicated) popular "systems" being promoted by those only interested in capturing your attention. No matter how slick the presentation, the truth is better suited to make you ready for His coming again!

Today, are you motivated by love or fear? To be sure, fear may be the initial motivation for wakefulness. After all, most of us have alarm clocks to wake us in the morning. But the spiritually mature move quickly from the weak and unsustainable motivation of fear to the maturing and healing and sustainable motivation of love when they see just how lovely Christ and His message really is! The message of the Orthodox Faith isn't one of sensationalism or fear, but the awe-inspiring motivation of God's eternal and unchanging love for you and me. And being in love with Him means you will never be surprised by His return or your mortal appointment with death. You will be awake. No wonder it is precisely the LIFESTYLE and rhythm of worship, prayer, and practice that transforms our Christian faith from "something" we know to SOMEONE we love! This difference makes all the difference! It makes you Orthodox on Purpose!

## 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

## Luke 6:31-36

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

## A Prayer for the Week

**Oh Lord of mercy, Your promised return is such a temptation to speculation. But all that energy we use to speculate only serves to distance us from You. Please give me the grace to ignore this dead end and look only to embrace the Orthodox Way of life so that I will desire You above all things. Then, when You return, I won't be surprised at all. Amen.**

## Children's Word

### **The Golden Rule**

Have you ever heard somebody say to you, "Treat other people the way you would want to be treated"? Maybe your teacher told you that at school.

Sometimes people might say something, but they might not know where that saying came from! Those words are what we call the "Golden Rule," and they come from the Bible! Today, in the Gospel, we hear, "The Lord said, 'And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.'" Many people say these words, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Many people say these words, but they might not even know where they came from!

These special words come from God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is such a part of our lives that we might not even think about it. God's Word is so important, that it is said again and again. Sometimes, people who don't even read the Bible or are Christians will hear sayings like the "Golden Rule" and repeat them! That's because these sayings are full of God's wisdom! If people who don't even know about God's Word sometimes repeat phrases from God's Word, don't you think we, as Christians should talk about the Bible even more? We know these wise sayings come from our Lord!

### LISTENING TO SAINT PAUL ST. DIONYSIOS THE AREOPOGITE

Did you know you can walk where the saints once walked? You can do this all over the world—in Greece, in Russia, in Egypt,...even here in the United States. One very special saint lived at the same time as Saint Paul did, about 2,000 years ago! His name was Saint Dionysios. At first, he didn't believe in God. He believed in many of the Greek gods. But once, the philosophers in Athens invited Saint Paul to tell them about his God. St. Dionysios heard Saint Paul in a court called the Areopagus in Athens, Greece. St. Paul was giving a big, wonderful speech, and Dionysios listened. After that, he decided to believe in Jesus Christ! St. Dionysios believed in God so strongly that he even became a bishop.

If you go to Athens one day, you can visit the Areopagus. For many tourists, the Acropolis is the very first thing they want to see, but right near there, you can see where St. Dionysios first believed. That was the very spot where St. Dionysios listened to St. Paul—almost two thousand years ago! We celebrate St. Dionysios tomorrow, October 3rd.

# On A Level Place

September 28, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

One of the greatest consequences of our modern world is that we moderns have been convinced that egalitarianism and individualism have been elevated to the highest good. We insist on a definition of “freedom” that means “I want to do what I want to do!” But the problem is if I do what I want to do, my desires have to be disciplined and mature or what I want to do quickly becomes addiction rather than freedom.

We long for what only God can give us: everybody being equal and justice to be done. What we long for is a good desire, but how we achieve our desires is broken by our disconnection from our Creator. And, in fact, our current obsession with “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” are poisoned by the delusion of forcing language and mere revenge for real or imagined wrongs done by one group against another.

Look at our lesson today in Luke 6:17-23:

*At that time, Jesus stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on His disciples, and said: “Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven.”*

Jesus stands on a “level place” to teach the people those famous “Beatitudes.” He sees a cross-section of the local population who came to hear Him AND to heal their diseases. What drove these people to Christ was His reputation to heal, and they desired healing for their bodies. But what they found in Christ was Someone Who not only healed their physical brokenness but also He insisted they face and have healed their spiritual illnesses as well. And He confronts them with this challenge from “a level place.”

In other words, our human desire for justice or equality has to be found, not in a set of legislation or political philosophy, or ideology, but in the Person of Jesus Christ. He is our answer to injustice and inequality and brokenness. He is the Source of freedom that is true freedom and not the fantasy of freedom that is really just another slavery. If our society is going to escape the fractured tribalism of our day, we are going to have to bring society to Jesus Christ. That means we who say we follow Christ are going to have to get serious about being proactive disciples of Jesus.

And look what that means to you and me.

First, we have to stop looking for answers to our own brokenness or our society’s brokenness in other places that aren’t Jesus. We Orthodox have such a rich treasure house of spiritual insight and wisdom laid at our feet by the saints, the liturgy, and the spiritual disciplines of the Faith (like confession, generosity, and fasting) that if we simply have the courage to actively know these sources and be humble enough to embrace them and practice them, we will see our own lives healed at a level deep enough to affect all around us.

Next, we have to have our desires matured and disciplined. We have to escape the spirit of the age where we define freedom and equality in merely economic terms. This small-mindedness always devolves into fantasy, delusion, revenge, and a fractured society. It creates the “us vs. them” mentality that actually destroys freedom and just substitutes one tyranny with another. We who say we follow Christ have to become a “light” that shows the rest of society how to live, and that starts with the maturity and peace of our local parishes! Our parish communities are called to be the example of heaven on earth.

Finally, we have to embrace a lifestyle of generosity and repentance. We cannot be examples to the world if we still maintain the prideful arrogance of exclusive communities that only belong to our ancestral tribes! That’s just one more delusory slavery that perpetuates the sickness of our human race. We have to become persons rather than individuals. We have to seek Him Who IS the True Human among us in His Church and invite all around us to become by grace what Christ is by nature. And that means we have to perpetually allow the Holy Spirit to confront us with our wrong thinking and subsequent wrong actions. We have to LIVE repentance and we have to SHARE that healing with everyone.

Today, are you willing to come to Christ “on a level place” and allow Him to heal you at your deepest brokenness? Are you humble enough to embrace timeless wisdom preserved for you and your children in this precious Orthodox Faith, and actively educate yourself through that wisdom? The whole world is waiting to see if you will be Orthodox on Purpose!

## **2-е Коринфянам 6:1-10**

Мы же, как споспешники, умоляем вас, чтобы благодать Божия не тщетно была принята вами. Ибо сказано: во время благоприятное Я услышал тебя и в день спасения помог тебе. Вот, теперь время благоприятное, вот, теперь день спасения. Мы никому ни в чем не полагаем преткновения, чтобы не было порицаемо служение, но во всем являем себя, как служители Божии, в великом терпении, в бедствиях, в нуждах, в тесных обстоятельствах, под ударами, в темницах, в изгнаниях, в трудах, в бдениях, в постах, в чистоте, в благоразумии, в великодушии, в благости, в Духе Святом, в нелицемерной любви, в слове истины, в силе Божией, с оружием правды в правой и левой руке, в чести и бесчестии, при порицаниях и похвалах: нас почитают обманщиками, но мы верны; мы неизвестны, но нас узнают; нас почитают умершими, но вот, мы живы; нас наказывают, но мы не умираем; нас огорчают, а мы всегда радуемся; мы нищи, но многих обогащаем; мы ничего не имеем, но всем обладаем.

## **От Луки 6:31-36**

И как хотите, чтобы с вами поступали люди, так и вы поступайте с ними. И если любите любящих вас, какая вам за то благодарность? ибо и грешники любящих их любят. И если делаете добро тем, которые вам делают добро, какая вам за то благодарность? ибо и грешники то же делают. И если займы даёте тем, от которых надеетесь получить обратно, какая вам за то благодарность? ибо и грешники дают займы грешникам, чтобы получить обратно столько же. Но вы любите врагов ваших, и благотворите, и займы давайте, не ожидая ничего; и будет вам награда великая, и будете сынами Всевышнего; ибо Он благ и к неблагодарным и злым. Итак, будьте милосерды, как и Отец ваш милосерд.

## **II Korinthianëve 6:1-10**

Edhe si bashkëpunëtorë me të, ju lutemi juve të mos e prisni më kot hirin e Perëndisë. Sepse thotë: “Në kohë të pëlqyer të dëgjova ty, edhe në ditë shpëtimi të ndihmova ty”; ja tani tek është kohë e pëlqyeshme; ja tani tek është ditë shpëtimi. Në asgjë nuk japim asnjë pengesë, që të mos qortohet shërbesa jonë. Por në çdo gjë e rekomandojmë veten tonë si shërbëtorë të Perëndisë, me shumë durim, në shtrëngime, në nevoja, në pikëllime, në rrahje, në burgje, në turbullira, në mundime, në pagjumësi, në agjërime; në pastërti, në urtësi, në zemërgjerësi, në mirësi, në Frymë të Shenjtë, në dashuri pa shtirje; në fjalë të së vërtetës, në fuqi të Perëndisë; me armët e drejtësisë në dorën e djathtë e në të majtën; në lavdi e në nderim, në emër të mirë e në emër të keq; porsimashtrues, po të vërtetë; porsimpanjohur, po të njohur mirë; porsimvdekur, po ja tek rrojmë; porsimmunduar, po jo të vrarë; porsimhidhëruar, po gjithnjë të gëzuar; porsimvobektë, po shumë veta pasurojmë; porsimskamës, po të gjitha i zotërojmë.

## **Llukait 6:31-36**

Edhe siç doni t’ju bëjnë juve njerëzit, edhe ju bëjuni atyre po ashtu. Edhe nëse doni ata që ju duan, çfarë hiri keni ju? Sepse edhe mëkatarët duan ata që i duan. Edhe nëse u bëni mirë atyre që ju bëjnë mirë juve, çfarë hiri keni ju? Sepse edhe mëkatarët po atë bëjnë. Edhe nëse u jepni hua atyre, prej të cilëve shpresoni t’i merrni prapë, çfarë hiri keni ju? Sepse edhe mëkatarët u japin hua mëkatarëve, që t’i marrin prapë po aq. Por duajini armiqtë tuaj, edhe bëni mirë, edhe jepni hua, pa pasur më ndonjë shpresë; edhe paga juaj do të jetë e shumtë, edhe do të jeni bijtë e të Lartit; sepse ai është i mirë me mosmirënjohësit dhe me të ligjtë. Bëhuni pra të dhembshur, sikurse dhe ati juaj është i dhembshur.