

# 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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October 3, 2021

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

HIEROMARTYR DIONYSIUS THE AREOPAGITE, BISHOP OF ATHENS

Today ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. 06 ..... 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
Fri. 08 ..... 6:00pm Fun Night  
Sun. 10 ..... 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, eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able. Wine and oil are allowed on Friday.)

**Troparion – Tone 6  
(Ressurrection)**

*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. Dionysius)**

*As a disciple of the Apostle caught up to the third heaven,  
thou didst spiritually enter the gate of heaven, O Dionysius.  
Thou wast enriched with understanding of ineffable mysteries and didst enlighten those who sat in the darkness of ignorance.  
Therefore we cry to thee: "Rejoice, universal 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

2 Corinthians 4:6-15  
Luke 6:31-36

### Monday

Galatians 4:28-5:10  
Luke 6:24-30

### Tuesday

Galatians 5:11-21  
Luke 6:37-45

### Wednesday

Hebrews 7:26-8:2  
John 10:9-16  
Galatians 6:2-10  
Luke 6:46-7:1

### Thursday

Ephesians 1:1-9  
Luke 7:17-30

### Friday

Ephesians 1:7-17  
Luke 7:31-35

### Saturday

Hebrews 7:26-8:2  
John 10:9-16  
1 Corinthians 10:23-28  
Luke 5:27-32

## Reading the Bible in a Year

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  
Oct 09: 4 Macc 10-14

## Building our endurance and confidence

*"Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise (Hebrews 10:35-36)"*

When we find ourselves caught up in what we want, or what we think we need, we become despondent that things are not going the way we'd hoped. Disappointed, we start to wonder why God has failed to give us that which we've so sought after, that thing, or situation, that became the dominate theme of our prayers. Caught up in trying to reach a goal, and failing, we forget that it may not have been God's will for us from the very beginning. Relying on our own notion of what we need, we end up disappointed, or even disillusioned, and we blame God. Much of what we think we need is born from our own immaturity, for as we've focused on what we think we need, we fail to quietly surrender to the will of God, and fail to trust in the knowledge that God knows what we really need. We fail during such times to trust God, and surrender to His will for us. We forget that God knows what we really need, and fail to consider the

long term good. When we quit struggling against the will of God, we find the grace sufficient to prayerfully enduring our trials, knowing that God gives us that which is salvific. Like a loving earthly father, our God allows us to endure that which will make us strong, and He will lead us to victory over our fallen nature. Prayerfully enduring trials will, in God's time, make us stronger, and we will become more faithful children of the Most High. This kind of faithful living leads us to know the truth of the words, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28)." When we trust God, those moments of disappointment make sense, and the bigger picture is clearly set before us.

With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

### A Prayer for the Week

**Dear Lord, You said we had to become like a little child to be saved. But You also called us to grow up into full maturity in You through Your Apostles. We struggle discerning how to live this way and I find myself struggling with immaturity and selfish choices and being stuck in a childish spiritual life. Please help me finally grow up and become mature in You. Amen.**



### OCTOBER EVENTS

***For Christians above all men are forbidden to correct the stumblings of sinners by force . . . it is necessary to make a man better not by force but by persuasion. We neither have authority granted us by law to restrain sinners, nor, if it were, should we know how to use it, since God gives the crown to those who are kept from evil, not by force, but by choice.***

-St. John Chrysostom



#### October

3 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
6 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet  
8 – 6:00pm Fun Night  
10 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
13 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet

#### Coffee Hour

**This Week:** Donna Bacon

**Next Week:** Hot Dog Sunday

#### Flower Donation

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

At 10am on Saturday, October 9, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Bethlehem PA will be presenting the film

### **The Great Martyr Saint Queen Ketevan of Georgia:**

Her Life, Martyrdom, and the Remarkable Discovery of Her Holy Relics

We will learn about the courageous faith of St Ketevan, and the film will be introduced by our own Niko Chocheli. The Church is located at 1607 W. Union Boulevard, Bethlehem, PA 18018, and a carpool can be arranged if needed.

## 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

## 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.

## Children's Word

### **God never forgets us!**

Have your parents ever forgotten to pick you up from something? Or maybe they were just a little late? Maybe you started to wonder if they would ever come.

In today's epistle, Saint Paul writes about how hard it is to be a Christian! He tells how the Christians are hurt, confused, and struck down. In other places, Saint Paul writes how he was beaten up, he was shipwrecked, people even threw stones at him and put him in prison, he was hungry and hurt. Things weren't easy for Saint Paul as he preached about our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Saint Paul tells us today, "we are persecuted, but not forsaken." People hurt the apostles, and lots of times, it was just because they were Christians! But still, they were "not forsaken." Saint Paul knew that God hadn't forsaken them. God hadn't forgotten about them!

Always remember, God never forgets about us! Our problems aren't even close to the problems Saint Paul had, but remember what he said. Even if people make fun of you for praying or fasting or being a Christian. Even if things are hard to stick up for what's right. God never forgets about us. He never forsakes us. Saint Paul knew that, and we should know it too!

### SAINT EVDOKIMOS OF VATOPEDI

If you have ever been to Arlington Cemetery in Washington, DC, or even to Syntagma Square in Athens, Greece, you probably saw the memorial tomb for the unknown soldier. A soldier is buried there, and we don't even know who it is! We remember him anyway because of his love for his country.

In our holy Orthodox Church, we have many saints. We know lots of their names and their stories, too. But some of them, we don't know anything about. There are hundreds and even thousands of saints we haven't even heard of! God knows about them though, and that's the most important thing, because God is rewarding them in heaven!

On Tuesday we celebrate the nameday of a saint who is still kind of unknown to us. We don't know when he lived. We don't know his real name. We don't know what he did in his life. We do know that 150 years ago, another monk found his body buried from long ago. The monks of Vatopedi Monastery decided to call him, "Evdokimos." When he died, he was holding an icon of the Theotokos and Christ, so that means he knew when he was going to die. People pray to Saint Evdokimos now, and many people have been healed because of his prayers. So even though he was unknown for a long time, God is letting us get to know him now! We celebrate St. Evdokimos on Tuesday, October 5th.

# The Slavery of a Perpetual Adolescence

September 29, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

It's amazing how perspectives change as you get older.

When I was a kid in elementary school, we boys were absolutely convinced that the girls had cooties! Of course, we had no idea what "cooties" were, but if the girls had them then that meant we needed to be as far away from them as we possibly could! What was really nice was that, at that time, my initials were CP, and all the fellas decided that CP stood for "cootie protector!" That meant that if any of the boys were touched by a girl at recess then all they had to do was come and touch me and I was the "cure" for "cooties." I was very popular on the playground!

Of course, a few years later, as we boys became teenagers, those same fellas were desperate for the attention of those same females! It's amazing what a difference a few years make in your perspective!

And that's true of the spiritual life as well. When we commit to a spiritually mature life, our perspectives change, and grow up! That makes such a difference and is so necessary if we are to avoid the mistakes and the spiritual slavery of an immature Christian faith.

Look at our Lesson today in Luke 5:33-39:

*At that time, the Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Why do the disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink?" And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." He told them a parable also: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it upon an old garment; if he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'"*

While the initial question Jesus deals with is from those who seem to be stuck in their "old" ways was about fasting, if you look at the beginning of Luke 5 you'll see why these Pharisees are so upset. It's because Jesus does something that really bothers the "establishment;" He chooses a "publican" (a Jewish collaborator and tax-collector with the occupying Roman authorities) as one of His disciples! Talk about letting the "undesirables" in! And this immediately had these religious people want to start passively-aggressively question Jesus about religious behavior! Sounds familiar, doesn't it? It seems to be the pattern of some to question the devotion and piety of those who are having deeper insights into the faith that causes those so satisfied with the "elementary" ways to fear for their future.

The Lord plainly deals with the sickness of an atrophied faith and His warning is plain. Trying to mend a patch of clothing that has worn out with new cloth isn't wise and will always result in disaster. You have to have the courage to embrace the new and better and more mature way to keep your relationship with God fresh and whole. Now the Lord isn't saying the old is useless; not at all. He is saying that now that He has arrived, the Messiah, the New Israel, the tutoring system of the old way is completed and the path of salvation is now open to the whole world!

Today, where are you trying to hold onto an immature spiritual life? Don't you know that your "addiction" to childish ways, small ways, limited ways, will always be too weak to hold the "new wine" of a purposeful and mature Orthodox Christian life? It's time to put this ever fresh, ever "new", ever "sweet wine" of the message of Jesus in the new "wineskins" of your life daring to embrace the fullness of this Orthodox Way. To be sure, this Orthodox Way is going to challenge some of our "old" understandings and we may feel nostalgia for that "old wine" but the path forward is with the "new wine" of a mature and expanded vision of God's love and purpose! Being Orthodox on Purpose isn't easy, but it's always worth it!

## **2-е Коринфянам 4:6-15**

потому что Бог, повелевший из тьмы воссиять свету, озарил наши сердца, дабы просветить [нас] познанием славы Божией в лице Иисуса Христа. Но сокровище сие мы носим в глиняных сосудах, чтобы преизбыточная сила была [приписываема] Богу, а не нам. Мы отовсюду притесняемы, но не стеснены; мы в отчаянных обстоятельствах, но не отчаиваемся; мы гонимы, но не оставлены; низлагаемы, но не погибаем. Всегда носим в теле мертвость Господа Иисуса, чтобы и жизнь Иисусова открылась в теле нашем. Ибо мы живые непрестанно предаемся на смерть ради Иисуса, чтобы и жизнь Иисусова открылась в смертной плоти нашей, так что смерть действует в нас, а жизнь в вас. Но, имея тот же дух веры, как написано: я веровал и потому говорил, и мы веруем, потому и говорим, зная, что Воскресивший Господа Иисуса воскресит через Иисуса и нас и поставит перед [Собою] с вами. Ибо всё для вас, дабы обилие благодати тем большую во многих произвело благодарность во славу Божию.

## **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.

## **2 e Korintasve 4:6-15**

sepse Perëndia që tha: “Le të ndriçojë drita në errësirë,” është i njëjti që shkëlqeu në zemrat tona për t’na ndriçuar në njohurinë e lavdisë së Perëndisë, në fytyrën e Jezu Krishtit. Dhe ne e kemi këtë thesar në enë prej balte që epërsia pashoqe e kësaj fuqie të jetë nga Perëndia dhe jo nga ne. Ne jemi të shtrënguar në çdo mënyrë, por nuk jemi të ngushtuaderi në fund; jemi ndërdyshas por jo të dëshpëruar; jemi të përndjekur por jo të braktisur; të rrëzuar, por jo të shkatëruar; kurdo ne e mbajmë në trupin tonë vdekjen e Zotit Jezus, që edhe jeta e Jezusit të shfaqet në trupin tonë. Ne që jetojmë, jemi vazhdimisht të dorëzuar në vdekje për Jezusin, që edhe jeta e Jezusit të shfaqet në mishin tonë të vdekshëm. Dhe kështu tek ne vepron vdekja, ndërsa në ju jeta. Por, duke pasur të njëjtën frymë besimi, sikurse është shkruar: “Unë besova, prandaj fola,” edhe ne besojmë, prandaj edhe flasim, duke ditur se ai që ringjalli Zotin Jezus, do të na ringjallë edhe ne nëpërmjet Jezusit dhe do të na paraqesë bashkë me ju. Sepse të gjitha këto gjëra janë për ju, që hiri, duke arritur me anë të shumë personave, të prodhojë falenderim me tepri për lavdi të Zotit.

## **Luka 6:31-36**

Por, ashtu siç dëshironi që t’ju bëjnë juve njerëzit, po ashtu bëni me ta. Por po t’i doni ata që ju duan, ç’meritë do të keni nga kjo? Sepse edhe mëkatarët i duan ata që i duan. Dhe nëse u bëni të mirë atyre që ju bëjnë të mirë, çfarë merite do të keni nga kjo? Të njëjtën gjë bëjnë edhe mëkatarët. Dhe nëse u jepni hua atyre që shpresoni t’ju kthejnë, çfarë merite do të keni nga kjo? Edhe mëkatarët u japin hua mëkatarëve, që t’u kthehet aq sa dhanë. Por ju t’i doni armiqtë tuaj, bëni të mirë dhe jepni hua pa pasur shpresë për asgjë, dhe shpërblimi juaj do të jetë i madh dhe ju do të jeni bijtë e Shumë të Lartit, sepse ai është mirëdashës me mos-mirënjohësit dhe të mbrapshtët. Jini të mëshirshëm, pra, sikurse edhe Ati juaj është i mëshirshëm.