

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!

Rev. Nicholas Dellermann (*Rector*) (860) 861-7468 - Very Rev. H Gregory DuDash - Very Rev. Dennis Rhodes

fnicholas490@aol.com - <http://sspeterpaulphila.org/>

October 4, 2020

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, HIEROMARTYR HIEROTHEUS,
BISHOP OF ATHENS
TONE 8

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 07 7:15pm Bible Study via Google
Sun. 11 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 Wednesday and Friday.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.)

Troparion – Tone 1
(Hieromartyr Hierotheus)

*We the faithful all praise
Hierótheus, the disciple of Paul,
Hierarch of Athens,
the world's teacher and a
preacher of the Faith,
who revealed to us Christ's
Mysteries
and poured forth streams of
godly doctrine.
His life was well-pleasing to God,
Who is greatly merciful.*

Kontakion – Tone 8
(Resurrection)

*By rising from the tomb, Thou
didst raise the dead and
resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,
and the world celebrates Thy
rising from the dead, O greatly
Merciful One!*

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 6:16-7:1
Luke 6:31-36

Monday
Ephesians 4:25-32
Luke 6:24-30

Tuesday
Ephesians 5:20-26
Luke 6:37-45

Wednesday
Ephesians 5:25-33
Luke 6:46-7:1

Thursday
Ephesians 5:33-6:9
Luke 7:17-30

Friday
Ephesians 6:18-24
Luke 7:31-35

Saturday
1 Corinthians 15:39-45
Luke 5:27-32

Reading the Bible in a Year

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
Oct 10: 4 Macc 15-18

The collective human condition is one of alienation from God, due to the sinful nature of us all. Every problem in the world has its roots in this state of alienation. This would include the divisions within families, nations, religions, social classes, and all that keeps us apart. Only when we acquire peace, which comes with the acquisition of the Holy Spirit, can this alienation be dispelled. The root cause of this alienation can be found in the ego. It is the ego which sees itself as the center of everything, and sees self as all important, which caused the Fall of humankind. The cure of this spiritual illness, is in the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart. When we struggle against the ego, with the prayerful desire to be transformed by the Holy Spirit, we see that all our neighbors, including those who are of other faiths, nations, and races, are our brothers and sisters (our relatives.)

We see that money, the acquisition of “things,” our “social status,” and our “tribe,” are all part of our collective human condition of alienation from God. Even our alienation from the environment, which has resulted in the pollution of our planet, is related to our alienation from God. It is this same alienated state that is the root of our cruelty to animals, seeing them as “resources” to be used, and abused.

Our world is on the brink of disaster, and we refuse to notice, all because we are so centered on ourselves. If we wonder why there are divisions among peoples of the world, we need look no further than ourselves. When war breaks out with another country, we assume it is their fault, because, after all, “God is on our side.” We are like families, always wanting to put the blame on one relative, yet refusing to believe that it might be we who are in need of change.

The only way to end this alienation, is in true repentance. When we start to speak like the Holy Apostle Paul, and say, with true conviction, “I am the chief of sinners,” grace abounds, and God changes our hearts. Without the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart, for ourselves, it will always be about “them.”

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon



“Our Grief Over the death of our close ones would be inconsolable and boundless if the Lord had not given us eternal life. Our life would be meaningless if it ended with death. What benefit, then, would there be from virtue or good deeds? They would be right who say, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” But man was created for immortality...”

-St. John of Maximovich



If just the thought of tasty home-made delicacies from the Slavic, Caucasian, and Asian regions of Europe makes your mouth begin to water, then you will not want to miss our 1st ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL on Saturday 11 October 2020, sponsored by the Church of the Theotokos of the Life-giving Spring, in Northeast Philadelphia.

We will be serving those delicacies from 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00PM in an open and spacious wooded area right next to Pennypack Creek.

The address is 1705 Chestnut Lane, Philadelphia PA, 19115. (The entrance will be on the WEST side of Bustleton Avenue, just NORTH of Pennypack Creek.)

Food will be available for TAKE-OUT and EAT-IN.

Bring your masks, bring a friend, and bring your appetites! See you at the Food Festival!

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 (Epistle)

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Luke 6:31-36 (Gospel)

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.

October/November Events

October

4 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
7 - 7:15pm Bible Study
11 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
14 - 7:15pm Bible Study
18 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
21 - 7:15pm Bible Study
25 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
28 - 7:15pm Bible Study

November

1 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
4 - 7:15pm Bible Study
8 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy
11 - 7:15pm Bible Study
15 - 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Children's Word

Getting clean

Have you ever gotten really, really dirty? Maybe you played outside in the mud. Or maybe you ran around in the woods on a hot and sticky day. Well, after that, did you take a shower or a bath? It feels so good to get clean after being so dirty. Sometimes we might not even want to get clean, but afterwards, we feel great! Today, in the epistle reading, Saint Paul tells us about a different kind of clean. He tells us how God makes a promise to us. When we are clean on the inside, when our souls are clean, God says, "I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Saint Paul tells us, "Let us cleanse ourselves...and make holiness perfect in the fear of God." God makes this wonderful promise with us. We can get clean on the inside. We can try to do the right thing. We can try to love God and our neighbor so much. We can ask God to forgive us for the wrong things we have done. If we are clean on the inside, God will welcome us. He will be a loving father to us. God wants us to be clean on the inside! Just like when we take a nice, refreshing bath or shower for the outside of us, it feels so good to get clean on the inside too. And when we do, God promises us the best thing ever!

HOMETOWN HEROES THE SAINTS OF CYPRUS

Do you watch sports? Do you have a favorite team? Sometimes you might hear about a sports player who is from your same town, or your same state. You might have a special pride for where you come from, and you'll cheer extra hard for him or her. Today is the first Sunday of October, and today we celebrate a special nameday. We remember all the saints of the island of Cyprus. (One person counted 240 saints, but another person counted 369 of them. There are probably even more!) The people in Cyprus have a special pride for their saints and wanted to celebrate them all together. Do you know about the saints from where you live? Do you know about the saints from your own country? Have you learned about the saints from where your ancestors lived? These are your hometown heroes! Maybe you have a special pride or love for them. Or maybe you can feel especially close to them and ask them to pray to God for you. Today, we remember the saints of Cyprus, but we can also think about our own special saints who lived near where we live! We celebrate the saints of Cyprus on the first Sunday in October!

Do You Know How To Stay Faithful?

September 28, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Our busy lives really do challenge us in keeping our priorities in the right order, don't they? We moderns are a complicated mishmash of schedules, opportunities, affluence, and "freedom." And that multiplication of events, desires, hopes, and advertisements don't seem to be slowing down. It seems that each new day brings a new barrage of invitations, exhortations, and marketing all meant to fill up every available moment of our day with "You just have to do this! It's got to be your number one priority!" or "You won't be truly happy/fulfilled/popular/relevant/up to date/ if you don't have/do/sign up for/attend/buy this _____!"

So, in light of our crazy (for the most part – self imposed) schedules, how do we develop an antidote for our own weaknesses to get distracted from the timeless priorities that lead us to real happiness and peace?

Look at our lesson today in 2 Corinthians 4:6-15:

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light 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 Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Here St. Paul offers the Corinthians 3 Invaluable Insights to stay faithful to timeless truths in the middle of the intoxicating world we live in.

- First, St. Paul reminds these Corinthians that God is God. Sounds simple enough. But I tend to be intoxicated by the "opportunities" to fill up my life with distractions when I forget that my life has but one overarching narrative and goal: to know God. Because knowing God reveals my true self and my true purpose in life. When I forget that God is God, I naturally (or unnaturally) slip into choices and behaviors that feed my selfishness rather than my true self, which was created to know God and be known by Him.
- Second, St. Paul tells the Corinthians they "need" God. He reminds them that part of our problem is when we forget that we hold this treasure of faith in "earthen vessels" (see 2 Corinthians 4:7). When I forget that my true life is a gift, my abilities are gifts, my world is a gift, I start forgetting my dependence on God for my very breath. That forgetfulness makes me ungrateful. And ingratitude intoxicates me into believing I am enough for myself. When that happens, well, cue crash and burn sound effect!
- Finally, St. Paul shows the Corinthians (and us) that God is enough! He reminds the Corinthians that since Christ has destroyed "death by death" then all our excuses, all our forgetfulness, all our distractions, are powerless to hold us. They only hold us now because we allow them to hold us. And that means the Resurrection of Christ offers us the path to a sober and faithful life.
- Today, do you know how to stay faithful? Our Orthodoxy invites us once again, lovingly, forcefully, and graciously toward the wake up call to "BE" faithful, and in being faithful, put an end to the chaos of undisciplined lives. In light of this gift of Faith, chaos is now self-inflicted. The freedom to live in the beauty of faithfulness and clarity is within your grasp. The choice remains yours, and yours alone. Choose in this moment to be Orthodox on Purpose!

2-е Коринфянам 6:16-7:1

Какая совместность храма Божия с идолами? Ибо вы храм Бога живаго, как сказал Бог: вселюсь в них и буду ходить [в них]; и буду их Богом, и они будут Моим народом. И потому выйдите из среды их и отделитесь, говорит Господь, и не прикасайтесь к нечистому; и Я прииму вас. И буду вам Отцем, и вы будете Моими сынами и дщерями, говорит Господь Вседержитель. Итак, возлюбленные, имея такие обетования, очистим себя от всякой скверны плоти и духа, совершая святыню в страхе Божиим.

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 6:16-7:1

Dhe çfarë marrëveshje ka tempulli i Perëndisë me idhujt? Sepse ju jeni tempulli i Perëndisë së gjallë, sikurse tha Perëndia: “Unë do të banoj në mes tyre, dhe do të ec ndër ta; do të jem Perëndia i tyre dhe ata do të jenë populli im.” Prandaj “dilni nga mesi i tyre dhe ndahuni prej tyre, thotë Zoti, dhe mos prekni asgjë të ndyrë, dhe unë do t’ju pranoj, dhe do të jem si një Atë për ju, dhe ju do të jeni për mua si bijtë e bijat, thotë Zoti i Plotfuqishëm.” Duke i pasur këto premtime, o të dashur, le ta pastrojmë veten nga çdo ndotje e mishit dhe e frymës dhe ta përfundojmë shenjtërimin tonë në druajtjen e Perëndisë.

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’jua 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.