

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 11, 2020

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, COMMEMORATION OF THE
HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
TONE 1

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 14 7:15pm Bible Study via Google
Sun. 18 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 8
(Fathers)

*Thou art most glorious, O Christ
our God,
Who hast established the Holy
Fathers as lights on the earth.
Through them Thou hast guided
us to the True Faith.
O greatly compassionate One,
glory to Thee!*

Kontakion – Tone 1
(Resurrection)

*As God, Thou didst rise from the
tomb in glory,
raising the world with Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as
God, for death has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from
bondage and cries to Thee:
“Thou art the Giver of
Resurrection to all, O Christ!”*

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 9:6-11
Luke 7:11-16

Monday

Philippians 1:1-7
Luke 7:36-50

Tuesday

Philippians 1:8-14
Luke 8:1-3

Wednesday

Philippians 1:12-20
Luke 8:22-25

Thursday

Philippians 1:20-27
Luke 9:7-11

Friday

Philippians 1:27-2:4
Luke 9:12-18

Saturday

1 Corinthians 15:58-16:3
Luke 6:1-10

Reading the Bible in a Year

Oct 11: Matthew 1-3
Oct 12: Matthew 4-6
Oct 13: Matthew 7-9
Oct 14: Matthew 10-12
Oct 15: Matthew 13-15
Oct 16: Matthew 16-18
Oct 17: Matthew 19-21

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 1. If you would like to attend and take part, you may do so by coming to Church or via an online meeting forum from your own home. If you plan on taking part, please let Fr. Nicholas know as soon as possible, as well as whether you wish to attend live or over the internet so we can make sure as many people as possible can participate. Please email Father Nick at: frnicholas490@aol.com with the subject line: Parish Annual Meeting

How To Teach Children The Love of God

Children learn love of God from their parents. Every Orthodox parent wants their children to grow up attending Sunday Liturgies and staying active in the life of the Church throughout their lives, yet many parents don't demonstrate the importance of having a relationship with God in front of their children. If you do not make God important, then neither will your child.

Children observe their parents. They see hypocrisy and know when you are not following through with the teachings of the Church during the week. They hear when you take the Lord's name in vain. They observe when you don't make prayer central to your day. They notice if you only speak of God on a Sunday morning.

Making the sign of the cross, lighting candles, and burning incense only on Sundays teaches your children to compartmentalize their own faith, thus leaving them defenseless in a world filled with temptations and distractions from things that are of a spiritual nature. If you do not demonstrate the importance of prayer before your children, you will leave them defenseless in a world that hates Christ. Your children need to pray with you, read the Scriptures with you, be taught the Faith by you.

If you do not make your home a domestic church, your children will be lost to Christ, and Orthodoxy will not be lived out beyond your own grave, in the future generations of your family.

You men must be particularly careful in how you demonstrate your Orthodox faith to your children. Statistically, if a man is strong in his faith and strong in his witness to that faith by frequent church attendance, children will remain in the Church. Men need to take that leading role in their families as being men of God, demonstrating in their own masculine way that God is central in their lives. If you leave the instruction of the faith to your wives, you will be held accountable before the throne of God. It is not enough that your wife and children go to church. If you are not giving witness to Christ in your life, all will be lost to the next generations.



”Does any one who has divine knowledge and spiritual understanding not recognize that [iconoclasm] is a ruse of the devil? For he does not want his defeat and shame to be spread abroad, nor the glory of God and his saints to be recorded.”

- St. John of Damascus



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 Sunday 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 9:6-11 (Epistle)

But this I say: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Luke 7:11-16 (Gospel)

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

October/November Events

October

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

(St. Demetrius Memorial)

28 – 7:15pm Bible Study

November

1 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Annual Parish Meeting

4 – 7:15pm Bible Study

8 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

11 – 7:15pm Bible Study

15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Children's Word

Growing strong roots

Have you ever looked at a tree, after it has fallen down? Sometimes we forget how deep the roots of a tree are. One tree expert says that they can grow as much as 20 feet below ground! That's taller than your house! We don't see the roots underground. But roots are so important, aren't they? They keep the whole tree standing up. Without strong roots, a tree would fall over, just like that. Today we hear the Gospel story about the person who plants seeds. Then we hear about what happens to these seeds. Let's think about some of these seeds—the ones that fall on rock. Those ones are those who, "when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away." Sometimes when we are in church, or in church school, or with our church friends, we are happy to listen. We are happy to hear about God, and are ready to do what God tells us! But then when we are tempted to do something wrong, we forget about all that, and we fall away from God. Do you remember about the roots? We have to have strong roots to stand up, and not fall over! We can grow strong roots by practicing good works. We can grow strong roots by praying to God as much as we can. We can grow strong roots by staying close to Christ and His Church.

THE HOLY THIEF GOD FORGIVES A SINNER!

Think back to Holy Week. Do you remember the story of Christ on the Cross? Do you remember how Christ was nailed to a Cross, along with two thieves? Even though our Lord was perfect, even though He hadn't done anything wrong, He was punished along with two awful thieves. But those two thieves were very different! One of them made fun of Jesus. The other one asked Jesus to forgive him. And our Lord did forgive him. He forgave that good thief, and gave him the best gift ever! Christ told the good thief, "Truly, today you will be with Me in paradise." One of our wonderful saints (Saint John of San Francisco) once wrote something about that good thief. He said that he must have looked at himself, and then he must have looked at Christ on the Cross. When the thief looked at himself, he remembered that he had done lots of wrong things. But when he looked at Christ, he knew that Christ was perfect. He knew that Christ had done nothing wrong. He compared himself to Jesus, and all he could do was ask Him to forgive him! We can do that too! When we think about Jesus, we know that He is perfect. When we think about ourselves, we know we have made lots of mistakes. Then, all we can do is ask God to forgive us! We celebrate the Good Thief tomorrow, October 12th.

Speak The Truth!

October 5, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

The great Russian writer Fyodor Dostoevsky rightly declared “Nothing in this world is harder than speaking the truth, nothing easier than flattery.” And truth has always been the cry of despots, prophets, and politicians with varying degrees of honesty. The whole of the 20th century was dominated by the bastardization of Truth so that whole societies were corrupted by the lies of men seeking power and control rather than service for the people.

Now it looks like the truth is under assault even in “the land of the Free, and the home of the Brave” as we are gripped by a popular ideology that insists that truth is designer based. We get asked “What is your truth.” And we are being told that “truth depends on your experiences.” Everything is relative and dependent on the ephemeral “what makes you happy?”

But for we Christians, we are invited to a deeper understanding of Truth that goes beyond a materialistic notion about being “correct” or merely scientific observation. For we Christians, Truth comes to us as a Person – Jesus Christ is truth. So, truth has everything to do with relationships, and that means Truth is much more complicated and demanding than having a correct opinion!

Look at our lesson today in Ephesians 4:25-32:

Brethren, putting away falsehood, let every one speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Notice that St. Paul begins telling the Ephesians first, “putting away falsehood.” Of course he means that putting away falsehood is a constant work. Escaping the falsehoods of this world and even our own hearts is a lifetime long labor that doesn’t lend itself to “quick fixes” or self help therapy. We have to confront falsehoods in our own hearts constantly so that we appreciate the power of speaking the truth with our neighbors.

Confronting falsehoods within and without our lives means maturing to the place where we can “be angry” and not sin. The truth is it isn’t a sin to be angry. Anger is a feeling, and feelings are real and must be confronted. But feelings are merely messengers from your heart to your head, bringing you information about your own life. The key to dealing with feelings is actually stepping away from merely reacting to our feelings and actually learning from our feelings about ourselves. Taking a moment to ask “Why am I feeling this now?” “Is this feeling actually about what’s going on or is this just a moment that reminds me of another time in my life?” Your feelings are “gifts” to you only when they are in their proper place as servants to your own self knowledge. When they become “masters” you always find yourself gripped by the false impressions feelings tend to leave that enslave your life to constant reaction instead of freedom.

Falsehood is overcome in your heart and life when you “speak the truth WITH” your neighbor. Isn’t that an interesting twist? And that is because truth is never reducible to merely gathering of facts. No, truth is all about relationships; your honest relationship with yourself, with those around you, and with Jesus Christ. How else can you truly live out the rest of this passage: stop stealing, work with your hands, no evil talk, don’t grieve the Holy Spirit, put away bitterness, wrath, anger, and malice, and be kind to one another. The only way to actually and consistently become the person who can live this way is the way of Truth. And Truth, dear one, is a Person – Jesus Christ. That means prioritizing your relationship with Jesus Christ in the Faith IS Truth. This communion with Christ and yourself and with others is the only lifestyle that can produce an authentic motivation for love and life that makes you like Jesus Christ.

Today, are you in love with Truth? Oh, it’s easy to be gripped with being “right” or “correct” but are you willing to submit all your thoughts and priorities to your relationship with Jesus Christ? Are you willing to be a person who is truly TruthFULL? Being Orthodox on Purpose means more than being correct; it means being in love with Him Who IS Truth!

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/faithencouraged/2020/10/speak-the-truth/>

2-е Коринфянам 9:6-11

При сем скажу: кто сеет скупо, тот скупо и пожнет; а кто сеет щедро, тот щедро и пожнет. Каждый [уделяй] по расположению сердца, не с огорчением и не с принуждением; ибо доброхотно дающего любит Бог. Бог же силен обогатить вас всякою благодатью, чтобы вы, всегда и во всем имея всякое довольство, были богаты на всякое доброе дело, как написано: расточил, раздал нищим; правда его пребывает в век. Дающий же семя сеющему и хлеб в пищу подаст обилие посеянному вами и умножит плоды правды вашей, так чтобы вы всем богаты были на всякую щедрость, которая через нас производит благодарение Богу.

От Луки 7:11-16

После сего Иисус пошел в город, называемый Наин; и с Ним шли многие из учеников Его и множество народа. Когда же Он приблизился к городским воротам, тут выносили умершего, единственного сына у матери, а она была вдова; и много народа шло с нею из города. Увидев ее, Господь сжалился над нею и сказал ей: не плачь. И, подойдя, прикоснулся к одру; несшие остановились, и Он сказал: юноша! тебе говорю, встань! Мертвый, поднявшись, сел и стал говорить; и отдал его [Иисус] матери его. И всех объял страх, и славилы Бога, говоря: великий пророк восстал между нами, и Бог посетил народ Свой.

2 e Korintasve 9:6-11

Dhe ju them këtë: Ai që mbjell me kursim, do të korrë po me kursim; dhe ai që mbjell dorëhapur edhe do të korrë dorëhapur. Secili le të veprojë ashtu si ka vendosur në zemrën, as me keqardhje as nga shtrëngimi, sepse Perëndia do një dhurues të gëzuar. Dhe Perëndia mund të bëjë që gjithë hiri të teprojë për ju, aq sa mbasi të keni gjithnjë mjaft në çdo gjë, t'ju tepërojë për çfarëdo pune të mirë, sikurse është shkruar: “Ai ndau, u ka dhënë të varfërve, drejtësia e tij mbetet në përjetësi.” Edhe ai që i jep farën mbjellësit dhe bukë për të ngrënë, ju dhëntë dhe e shumoftë farën tuaj, dhe i bëftë të rriten frytet e drejtësisë suaj; dhe atëherë do të pasuroheni për të qenë dorëdhënë, duke i sjellë nëpërmjet nesh falënderim Perëndisë.

Luka 7:11-16

Dhe të nesërmen ai shkoi në një qytet që quhej Nain; dhe bashkë me të shkonin shumë nga dishepujt e vet dhe një turmë e madhe. Dhe, kur iu afrua portës së qytetit, ja që po çonin për ta varrosur një të vdekur, djalin e vetëm të nënës së tij, që ishte e ve; dhe një turmë e madhe nga qyteti ishte me të. Posa e pa, Zoti pati dhemshuri për të dhe i tha: “Mos qaj!” U afrua, preku arkivolin, dhe ata që e bartnin u ndalën; atëherë ai tha: “Djalosh, unë të them, çohu!” Dhe i vdekuri u çua ndenjor dhe filloi të flasë. Dhe Jezusi ia dha së ëmës. Atëherë të gjithë u mrekulluan dhe lëvdonin Perëndinë duke thënë: “Midis nesh doli një profet i madh” dhe: “Perëndia e vizitoi popullin e vet.”