

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 17, 2021

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7TH
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 20 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
Sat. 23 9:00am Divine Liturgy
Memorial Saturday
Sun. 24 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.)

**Troparion – Tone 8
(Ressurrection)**

*Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!*

**Kontakion – Tone 4
(Prophet Hosea)**

*Illumined by the Spirit, thy heart was a vessel of illustrious prophecy, seeing far-off things as though they were present.
Therefore, we venerate thee, glorious prophet Hosea.*

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 8:5-15

Monday

Colossians 4:5-9, 14, 18
Luke 10:16-21
Ephesians 4:25-32
Luke 9:18-22

Tuesday

Ephesians 5:20-26
Luke 9:23-27

Wednesday

Ephesians 5:25-33
Luke 9:44-50

Thursday

Ephesians 5:33-6:9
Luke 9:49-56

Friday

Ephesians 6:18-24
Luke 10:1-15

Saturday

Matthew 13:54-58
John 5:24-30
1 Corinthians 15:39-45
Luke 7:1-10

Reading the Bible in a Year

Oct 17: Matthew 19-21
Oct 18: Matthew 22-24
Oct 19: Matthew 25-28
Oct 20: Mark 1-3
Oct 21: Mark 4-6
Oct 22: Mark 7-9
Oct 23: Mark 10-12

Children's Word

Let your faith grow!

Have you ever tried to grow a plant? If you wanted it to live, you had to put it in a sunny spot, give it good dirt, water it, and take care of it.

Today's Gospel reading tells us about how a farmer tried to grow his plants too. It tells about how some seeds grew up to be strong plants. Other ones started out ok, but died out after a while. Other ones didn't grow at all because those seeds were planted in the wrong spot.

Jesus tells us this story because He wants us to get our faith to grow! Just like a little seed, our faith and our love for God can start off small, but then it can grow bigger and better every day.

When you get baptized, that's like a little seed just starting off. But you grow up, and you have to take care of that seed. You have to take care of your faith! You can go to church with your family. You can read stories from the Bible, and also stories about saints of our Church. You can think about other people and help them. You can go to Sunday School and learn with your friends. You can receive the special sacraments, like Holy Communion and Holy Confession.

Sometimes people think all you need is a little seed. They think all you need is to be baptized. But you have to take care of that seed, and help it grow bigger and stronger. What can you do to help grow your faith and love for God?

SAINT JOHN OF KRONSTADT: A FAMOUS SAINT

Have you ever seen somebody famous? Really famous? Today is the feastday of a saint who was really, really famous when he was alive. Thousands of people would visit him each day. When he travelled around, huge crowds of people would gather around his horse carriage! But why? Did he have a huge mansion? Was he good at basketball? Did he star in all the popular movies? No! The people loved Saint John because he was a holy man.

Saint John was born almost 200 years ago, in Russia. He served as a priest in Kronstadt—that's near the great city of Saint Petersburg. He helped many, many people during his lifetime. Princesses talked about all the miracles that came from him. When he was dying, the tsar (the king) of Russia called Saint John to him to give him Holy Communion.

But Saint John especially helped the poor. Lots of times, people would give Saint John money to give to the poor. Saint John would not even look at the money or count it! He would take it and stuff it in his pocket. Then, the next beggar he saw would get the money!

Saint John gave lots of great advice, especially about how to pray. Saint John knew he had a lot of followers, but he wasn't trying to be famous. He was just following Christ, and he was helping others follow Christ too! We celebrate St. John on Tuesday, October 19th

An Invitation to be God's children

We have been praying most of our lives, but do we ever think about what that means? Have we ever thought how incredible it is that our Creator God has invited us to speak with Him at any time? That the Lord of the Universe has given us the right to speak with Him, to ask for help, to seek His mercy?

There is no greater honor given to humanity than the gift of being able to approach our God in prayer, any hour of the day or night, in every circumstance. In every season we can speak to Him. We can call upon God in our joy or in our anger, and from the depths of despair, we can speak to Him.

It is beyond our human understanding that we have been assured that our God is always listening to us, yet it is true. Our Creator even condescended to join His Divinity with our humanity, becoming incarnate in the flesh, that we might see His face. In Christ, He has revealed Himself to us, and invited us to commune with Him forever.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

A Prayer for the Week

O Lord of Glory, Uncreated, and beyond knowing, You make Yourself known to us because of Your immense power and love. You make me able to enter into communion with You, blessed Trinity, and to finally know the unknowable through love and faithfulness! And in this communion, You are not diminished and I am made able to become who You created me to be. Lord, what joy, what wonder, what sheer cosmic awe! I stand amazed at Your condescension and love for me, Your creature, made to be Your companion. Amen.

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

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 8:5-15

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock 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. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Our Annual Parish General Meeting

is scheduled to be held on Sunday, October 24, following Divine Liturgy.

We will be offering an online option through ZOOM as well. The Albanian Archdiocese has approved online attendance and voting as acceptable within our by-laws. If you would like to attend online, please send an email to Fr. Nicholas at:

frnicholas490@aol.com

with the subject line:

Parish General ZOOM Meeting

and a link will be sent out on Saturday, October 23.

Memorial Saturday

The Saturday before the celebration of St. Demetrius (October 26th) is traditionally held as a Memorial Saturday, also known as a Soul Saturday in some traditions. During Liturgy on Memorial Saturdays, the Litany for the Departed that is omitted on Sundays and Feast days is read and the names of those who have fallen asleep are prayed for by name. This year we will be making forms available to list the names of loved ones to be prayed for on the Memorial Saturday (October 23rd) at the candle desk, as well as being mailed and emailed to anyone on our lists. We also would like to invite anyone attending to bring pictures of their departed loved ones to the liturgy to be displayed and censed during the Memorial at the end of Liturgy. We do ask that people not send or drop off pictures, as we have no proper place for them to reside after the memorial.



Don't be troubled if you don't feel the love of God in yourself, but think about the Lord, that He is merciful, and guard yourself from sins, and the grace of God will teach you.

-St. Silouan the Athonite



Made Able!

October 13, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

I really like to write and I enjoy public speaking, but I had a hint of my tendency to wordiness when my first time in seminary produced a comment from one of my favorite professors. I had just finished a fairly intensive philosophy paper for his class and was really sweating the grade he would give me. Most everybody got their papers back quickly, but mine wasn't in the first batch handed out. And it wasn't in the second batch! Now I'm worried.

Finally, after sheepishly approaching my professor, he gave me my graded paper. While I was happy with the grade (it was an A) I still remember the comment he wrote on the front page: "Dear Mr. Powell, you remind me of a German theologian – why use two words when twelve would do just as nicely!" OK, doc, I get it!

But sometimes the ideas and concepts are so BIG, so cosmic, it just takes a flood of words to try to do the subject justice! Look at our lesson today in Ephesians 3:8-21:

BRETHREN, to me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confidence of access through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. For this reason I bow my knees before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with the fulness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Notice that this passage is just FOUR sentences! But just look at what's packed in there: Through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God is made known; God's Eternal Purpose was to do this; Paul's sufferings are not wasted but for the Church's benefit; BECAUSE Christ dwells in your heart through faith; Being Rooted and Grounded in LOVE you will have the POWER to COMPREHEND with all the saints the Breadth, the Length, the Height, and the Depth, and Know the Love of Christ which SURPASSES knowledge.

Amazing! Because of the Love of Christ, we become capable of knowing the unknowable! Love sets us free to expand beyond the borders of our limited creatureliness to become by grace what Christ is by nature! Huge! Cosmic! Mind-blowing!

Tell me honestly, are you getting this kind of spiritual development in your life? Were you aware of just how huge the spiritual journey you were on really was? This Orthodox Christian Way, with all its beauty, soaring architecture, mysterious liturgies, constantly involved and purposeful disciplines, are all meant to communicate to you this huge and vast faith you have at your disposal to expand your understanding and your own soul!

Today, I want to challenge you to step to the edge of your comfort zone and peer into the vastness of just what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. I want you to seriously take some time today – as much as you can spare – to contemplate the message of our Orthodox Christian faith that God Himself has come among us to take us by the hand and bring us back to Himself. Contemplate the love, the concern, the eternal care our God has for you and for all the people you meet today. Think about the gift given to you today in the air you breathe, the life you live, the love you experience, and know all this is because of the grace and kindness of God in Christ even in the face of our thoughtlessness, our selfishness, and our lack of thankfulness. Embrace the cosmic invitation to be Orthodox on Purpose!

OCTOBER EVENTS

Coffee Hour

October

- 17 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
- 20 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet
- 23 – 9:00am Divine Liturgy *Memorial Saturday*
- 24 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Annual General Parish Meeting
- 27 – 7:15pm Bible Study with GoogleMeet
- 31 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

This Week: Maria's Family Memorial

Next Week: Parish Meeting followed by Lunch

Flower Donation

This week's flowers were donated by:

The Schaeffer family

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 8:5-15

вышел сеятель сеять семя свое, и когда он сеял, иное упало при дороге и было потоптано, и птицы небесные поклевали его; а иное упало на камень и, взойдя, засохло, потому что не имело влаги; а иное упало между тернием, и выросло терние и заглушило его; а иное упало на добрую землю и, взойдя, принесло плод сторичный. Сказав сие, возгласил: кто имеет уши слышать, да слышит! Ученики же Его спросили у Него: что бы значила притча сия? Он сказал: вам дано знать тайны Царствия Божия, а прочим в притчах, так что они видя не видят и слыша не понимают. Вот что значит притча сия: семя есть слово Божие; а упавшее при пути, это суть слушающие, к которым потом приходит диавол и уносит слово из сердца их, чтобы они не уверовали и не спаслись; а упавшее на камень, это те, которые, когда услышат слово, с радостью принимают, но которые не имеют корня, и временем веруют, а во время искушения отпадают; а упавшее в терние, это те, которые слушают слово, но, отходя, заботами, богатством и наслаждениями житейскими подавляются и не приносят плода; а упавшее на добрую землю, это те, которые, услышав слово, хранят его в добром и чистом сердце и приносят плод в терпении. Сказав это, Он возгласил: кто имеет уши слышать, да слышит!

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 8:5-15

“Një mbjellës doli të mbjellë farën e vet; dhe, ndërsa po mbillte, një pjesë ra gjatë rrugës, u shkel dhe zogjtë e qiellit e hëngrën. Një pjesë tjetër ra në gurishte dhe, sapo mbiu, u tha për mungesë vlage. Një pjesë tjetër ra ndër ferra; ferrat u rritën bashkë me të dhe ia zunë frymën. Kurse një pjesë ra në tokë të mirë, mbiu dhe dha fryt njëqindfish.” Si i tha këto gjëra, thirri: “Kush ka veshë për të dëgjuar, le të dëgjojë!” Atëherë dishepujt e vet e pyetën çfarë kuptimi kishte ajo shëmbëlltyrë. Dhe ai tha: “Juve ju është dhënë të njihni misteret e mbretërisë së Perëndisë; por të tjerëve me anë të shëmbëlltyrave, që ata, duke shikuar të mos shohin dhe, duke dëgjuar të mos kuptojnë. Ky është kuptimi i shëmbëlltyrës: fara është fjala e Perëndisë. Ata përgjatë rrugës janë ata që e dëgjojnë fjalën; por pastaj vjen djalli dhe ua merr fjalën nga zemra e tyre, që ata të mos besojnë dhe të mos shpëtojnë. Ata mbi gurishte janë ata që, kur dëgjojnë, e presin fjalën me gëzim; por ata nuk kanë rrënjë, besojnë për njëfarë kohe, por në momentin e sprovës tërhiqen. Pjesa që ka rënë ndër ferra janë ata që e dëgjuan fjalën; por, gjatë rrugës, ua zënë frymën shqetësimet, pasuritë dhe kënaqësitë e kësaj jete, dhe nuk arrijnë të piquen. Por pjesa që ra në tokë të mirë janë ata që, pasi e dëgjuan fjalën, e ruajnë në zemër të ndershme dhe të mirë dhe japin fryt me qëndrueshmëri.”