

# 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 24, 2021

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

MARTYR ARETHAS AND 4,299 MARTYRS WITH HIM

Today ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. 27 ..... 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
Sun. 31 ..... 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 1  
(Ressurrection)**

*When the stone had been sealed by  
the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Thy  
most pure body,  
Thou didst rise on the third day, O  
Savior,  
granting life to the world.  
The powers of heaven therefore cried  
to Thee, O Giver of Life:  
“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O  
Christ!  
Glory to Thy Kingdom!  
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou  
Who lovest mankind!”*

**Kontakion – Tone 4  
(St. Arethas)**

*Today the radiant feast of the  
passion-bearers Arethas and  
his companions  
comes to us as a herald of joy;  
as we celebrate it, we glorify  
the Lord on high.*

**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 24: Mark 13-16  
Oct 25: Luke 1-3  
Oct 26: Luke 4-6  
Oct 27: Luke 7-9  
Oct 28: Luke 10-12  
Oct 29: Luke 13-15  
Oct 30: Luke 16-18

## Those occasions when we mature into spiritual adulthood

There are those times in our lives when God seems distant, even absent from us. These are usually times when our faith seems weak and we struggle to believe God really cares for us, or perhaps we begin to question whether God even exists. In Western Christian tradition these moments are often referred to as the dark night of the soul. God seems as though He's far removed from us and we struggle with our faith.

In such moments it is good to remember that God is closer to us than our own breath and we only feel He's absent. God uses such periods in our life as a way to make us work at the relationship. As we struggle, we grow stronger. When God seems to withdraw Himself it is something like the parent who stands his toddler on his feet and moves a few feet away, encouraging the child to take his first steps, alone. The parent is prepared to reach out, should the child fall, but letting the child take that first step is necessary for the child's development.

Each time we are forced to work at this relationship, God's grace builds us up, making it possible for us to mature in the faith. Spiritual growth can not happen unless we feel the need for God, since the Lord will not force Himself on us. The awareness of God's presence in our lives comes with struggle, and as long as we do our part, God's grace flows abundantly.

Love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon

### Our Annual Parish General Meeting

is scheduled to be held today 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](mailto:frnicholas490@aol.com)

with the subject line:

Parish General ZOOM Meeting

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

### OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EVENTS

#### October

24 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
*Annual General  
Parish Meeting*  
27 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
31 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

#### November

03 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
07 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
10 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
13 – 3:00pm Ethnic Festival  
6:00pm Vespers  
14 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

### Coffee Hour

**This Week:** Parish Meeting  
followed by Lunch

**Next Week:**

### Flower Donation

*This week's flowers were donated  
by:*

The Schaeffer family

### A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, Your scriptures declare that You have not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). So You call us to boldly offer Your Good News to everyone around us, not fearing how they will react to it. Help me today to see that everyone around me needs You as much as I need you and help me to love them enough to show them the way to You! Amen!



***Both the Emperor's commands  
and yours (person in  
authority) must be obeyed if  
they are not contrary to the  
God of heaven. If they are,  
they must not only not be  
obeyed; they must be resisted.***

-St. Euphemia



## 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

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 16:19-31

There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

## Children's Word

### A cheerful giver

Imagine you have a bag of candy, your favorite kind. Let's say a friend comes along, and you happily share with him or her. But now let's say you have a bag of candy, and your parents force you to share with somebody. It doesn't feel so good, does it?

Saint Paul tells us in the epistle today, "God loves a cheerful giver." God knows a cheerful giver is somebody who chooses to give. Nobody forces him to do it. Nobody takes money or candy or clothes away from him. A cheerful giver shares his money or his candy or his clothes because he wants to do that!

But then Saint Paul tells us another part about sharing our things with people who don't have much. Saint Paul tells us that when we share, God will share even more with us! God gives seed to the farmer and bread for food and He will "supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness." So, when we share, God will make sure to bless us even more!

Sometimes it's tempting to keep our things to ourselves. It's tempting for grownups to do that too! But Saint Paul tells us that "God loves a cheerful giver" and when we give to the poor, God will even multiply what we have. That's because God is a cheerful giver too!

**SAINT TABITHA WE STILL REMEMBER HER GOOD WORKS!**

Have you ever read a biography? You know, a book or story about a real person who lived. Maybe it told about all the great things he or she did. How the person helped win a war, or how he invented something important, or beat a world record in sports. We remember these special people in lots of different ways. Tomorrow we remember a saint we hear about in the Bible. Saint Tabitha lived 2,000 years ago. Some people might think she didn't do anything very important. Some people might think a biography about her is kind of boring! What did Saint Tabitha do? She sewed. She made things out of cloth. And what did she do with them? She helped the poor. She gave her things away to help others.

We remember Saint Tabitha two thousand years later, because she loved the poor, and she loved to help them. In the Bible, we can read about how Saint Tabitha died, and how everyone was so sad because she had helped people so much. They told Saint Peter about Tabitha, and he did an amazing thing, with God's help and power. Tabitha was dead, but Saint Peter raised her back to life!

Let's remember Saint Tabitha tomorrow, and let's think about how she is an example for all of us! We celebrate St. Tabitha on Monday, October 25th.

# We Need The Lord

October 22, 2021 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Several years ago there was a song that was popular on Christian radio stations that still strikes me as a powerful reminder of a central truth: People Need the Lord.

“Every day they pass me by, I can see it in their eyes. Empty people filled with care. Headed who knows where. On they go through private pain. Living fear to fear. Laughter hides their silent cries, only Jesus hears.

People need the Lord, People need the Lord. At the end of broken dreams, He’s the open door. People need the Lord, People need the Lord. When will we realize that we must give our lives for People Need the Lord.”

During an earlier period in my life, I thought that this undeniable truth could be satisfied simply by “getting people saved” but now this reality screams a deeper imperative. People do need the Lord, but the sickness of the human soul will not be remedied by the easy “magic” of a momentary emotional stir. No, the truth is People do need the Lord, but the illness is so deep, they need Him in His fullness. They need Him in His wholeness. They need Him in His visible, identifiable, tangible, and embraceable Body. People need the Lord in His Church!

Look at our Gospel Lesson today in Luke 10:1-15. We won’t quote the whole passage but please notice this section:

*At that time, the Lord appointed seventy other disciples, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.*

The Lord makes it clear over and over again, setting precedent after precedent, that sending those who have received His life out to share that which they have received from Him to others is simply plain to all honest believers. One cannot hide from the history of the Faith as well. Normal Orthodoxy has always been a missionary faith, always, no exceptions, ever! The Faith is simply not the normal Orthodox faith if it is hoarded and hidden. It just isn’t. Over and over again we’ve witnessed and experienced the debilitating effect of an ingrown mentality on the spiritual health of the Body of Christ. Without the vivifying element of our communities being spiritually healthy enough to “gestate” and bring to maturity new disciples of the Lord, our communities wither and fade away. It’s not conjecture, dear ones; it’s an observable phenomenon.

To be sure, the Lord warns us we are lambs in the midst of wolves. There will be those voices of fear and shortsightedness that will call us away from this central reality of His Church. They will use harsh and even soothing words to lull us into the stupor of smaller visions. They will cry that we must “protect” this or that smaller vision of the Faith over the clear command of our Lord to “make disciples of every nation.” And they will be wrong. They lack what we Orthodox Christians can never lack if we are to be purposeful Orthodox: loving our neighbor as ourselves. How can we, in good conscience, withhold such spiritual healing; spiritual food, from so many who are starving for Christ all around us? What answer will we give the King on That Day to His wisdom and life freely enjoyed by us and then selfishly hoarded by us while others whom the Lord loves grope in the spiritual desert of chaos and confusion?

Today, People Need the Lord. They need to see Him. They need to hear Him. They need to be embraced by Him. And Christ has made it plain that we, His Church, are His continued Physical presence in the earth; His arms, His feet, His voice. Jesus Christ, today, this very moment, is still asking us to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into His harvest. Today you will interact with someone so ready to come to the healing home of His Church; His Body. Are you willing to be the visible presence of the Lord to someone today? You can be. The truth is, you must be, because today People Need the Lord! That’s normal Orthodoxy.

## **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 16:19-31**

Некоторый человек был богат, одевался в порфиру и виссон и каждый день пиршествовал блистательно. Был также некоторый нищий, именем Лазарь, который лежал у ворот его в струпьях и желал напиться крошками, падающими со стола богача, и псы, приходя, лизали струпья его. Умер нищий и отнесен был Ангелами на лоно Авраамово. Умер и богач, и похоронили его. И в аде, будучи в муках, он поднял глаза свои, увидел вдали Авраама и Лазаря на лоне его и, возопив, сказал: отче Аврааме! умилисердись надо мною и пошли Лазаря, чтобы омочил конец перста своего в воде и прохладил язык мой, ибо я мучаюсь в пламени сем. Но Авраам сказал: чадо! вспомни, что ты получил уже доброе твое в жизни твоей, а Лазарь--злое; ныне же он здесь утешается, а ты страдаешь; и сверх всего того между нами и вами утверждена великая пропасть, так что хотящие перейти отсюда к вам не могут, также и оттуда к нам не переходят. Тогда сказал он: так прошу тебя, отче, пошли его в дом отца моего, ибо у меня пять братьев; пусть он засвидетельствует им, чтобы и они не пришли в это место мучения. Авраам сказал ему: у них есть Моисей и пророки; пусть слушают их. Он же сказал: нет, отче Аврааме, но если кто из мертвых придет к ним, покаются. Тогда [Авраам] сказал ему: если Моисея и пророков не слушают, то если бы кто и из мертвых воскрес, не поверят.

## **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 16:19-31**

Por atje ishte një njeri i pasur, që vishej me të purpurta dhe me rroba të çmueshme prej liri dhe për ditë e kalonte shkëlqyeshëm. Atje ishte edhe një lypës, i quajtur Llazar, që rrinte para derës së tij, dhe trupin e kishte plot me plagë të pezmatuara, dhe dëshironte të ngopej me thërrimet që binin nga tryeza e pasanikut; madje edhe qentë vinin e ia lëpinin plagët. Por ndodhi që lypësi vdiq dhe engjëjt e çuan në gji të Abrahamit; vdiq edhe pasaniku dhe e varrosën. Dhe, duke pasur mundime në ferr, i çoi sytë dhe pa nga larg Abrahamin dhe Llazarin në gji të tij. Atëherë ai bërtiti dhe tha: "O atë Abraham, ki mëshirë për mua, dhe dërgoje Llazarin të lagë majën e gishtit të vet në ujë që të më freskojë gjuhën, sepse po vuaj tmerrësisht në këtë flakë. Por Abrahami thoshte: "O bir, kujto se ti i ke marrë të mirat e tua gjatë jetës sate, kurse Llazari të këqijat; tashti, përkundrazi, ai po përdëllehet dhe ti vuan. Dhe, veç të gjithave, midis nesh dhe jush është një humnerë e madhe, kështu që ata që do të donin të kalonin që këtej tek ju nuk mundin; po ashtu askush nuk mund të kalojë që andej te ne". Por ai i tha: "Atëherë, o atë, të lutem ta dërgosh atë te shtëpia e tim eti, sepse unë kam pesë vëllezër e le t'i paralajmërojë rreptësisht që të mos vijnë edhe ata në këtë vend mundimesh". Abrahami u përgjigj: "Kanë Moisiun dhe profetët, le t'i dëgjojnë ata". Ai tha: "Jo, o atë Abraham, por nëse dikush nga të vdekurit do të shkojë tek ata, do të pendohen". Atëherë ai i tha: "Nëse ata nuk e dëgjojnë Moisiun dhe profetët, nuk do të binden edhe në se dikush ringjallet prej të vdekurish"."