

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 25, 2020

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: GREATMARTYR DEMETRIUS,
MARCIAN AND MARTYRIUS THE NOTARIES, OF CONSTANTINOPL
TONE 3

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 28 7:15pm Bible Study via Google
Sun. 01 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 3
(St. Demetrius)

*The world has found thee to be a great defense against tribulation and a vanquisher of heathens, O Passion-bearer.
As thou didst bolster the courage of Nestor,
who then humbled the arrogance of Lyaïos in battle,
Holy Demetrius, entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy!*

Kontakion - Tone 3
(Resurrection)

*On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.*

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

Galatians 1:11-19
Luke 16:19-31

Monday

2 Timothy 2:1-10
John 15:17-16:2
Philippians 4:10-23
Luke 10:22-24

Tuesday

Colossians 1:1-2, 7-11
Luke 11:1-10

Wednesday

Colossians 1:18-23
Luke 11:9-13

Thursday

Colossians 1:24-29
Luke 11:14-23

Friday

Colossians 2:1-7
Luke 11:23-26

Saturday

2 Corinthians 3:12-18
Luke 8:16-21

Reading the Bible in a Year

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
Oct 31: Luke 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



When you throw a nail into a fire, it gets hot and starts to glow like fire. In the same way you, when you listen to divine teachings and live accordingly, will become like God.

-St. Symeon of Daibabe



October/November Events

October

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

18 – 7:15pm Bible Study

22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

25 – 7:15pm Bible Study

29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Children's Word

The Apostles teach us!

How did you hear about God? Did your parents tell you stories from the Bible? Did your godparent tell you something? Did you listen to our priest? Does your church school class talk about God? Maybe you learned about the Lord from all of these!

Saint Paul tells us today in the epistle how he learned about God. He writes, "I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ." Saint Paul learned about God because God showed Himself to Him! Isn't that special? He learned about God from God Himself! That is what makes an apostle so special. Saint Paul learned about Christ from Jesus Christ Himself!

Apostles are special to us, and this is one big reason why. You know, in our Orthodox Church, we hold something called Apostolic Tradition. That means we have teachings that were handed down to us from the Apostles. The Apostles heard these teachings from Jesus, and they handed down those same teachings to others, who handed it down to others, and so on, all the way to us!

We hold this Apostolic Tradition like a treasure, because the Apostles held Jesus's words like a treasure too!

SAINT STEPHEN OF SERBIA A WARRIOR SAINT

Did you know we have warrior saints in our Orthodox Church? Sometimes we hear stories of gentle saints, who wouldn't hurt a little ant or a spider. But did you know that we also have strong, brave warriors, too?

Saint Stephen of Serbia was a brave warrior king saint. His father was a king, his brother was a king, and his son was a king. During Saint Stephen's time, lots of armies were attacking his land. Saint Stephen led his own army to fight back. This saint wasn't fighting to get money or land. He was fighting to defend the Orthodox Christian people. He wanted his people to be free to worship in our true faith.

Saint Stephen was a very strong leader, and he won so many battles. He thanked God for helping him. He built more than 40 churches to show his thanks to God. He built hospitals for poor people, and he paid for the poor to stay there. He helped the poor and gave them what they needed. Stephen was a powerful king who could have had anything that he wanted. But sometimes he would dress as a poor person to show that fancy clothes didn't mean anything to him.

We can pray to Saint Stephen to help us be strong Orthodox Christians, too!

We celebrate Saint Stephen on Friday, October 30th.

Galatians 1:11-19 (Epistle)

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

2 Timothy 2:1-10 (Epistle, St. Demetrius)

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Luke 16:19-31 (Gospel)

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.'"

John 15:17-16:2 (Gospel, St. Demetrius)

These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.' But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

The Still Small Voice of God

Metropolitan Tikhon - July 20, 2020

My Beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord,
Christ is in our midst!

It seems fitting today to say a few words about the Prophet Elijah and the still small voice of God in our lives. The Prophet Elijah, whose memory we celebrate today, lived in tumultuous times. The people of Israel had rejected God and turned to idols, and their reigning government violently persecuted the Holy Prophet. Fleeing to the desert to seek refuge, the Lord asked him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah responded: "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the people of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thy altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away." In response, the Lord commanded Elijah to stand on the mountain before Him. After showing the prophet a great wind, a mighty earthquake, and fire, God finally spoke to Elijah in "a still, small voice."

Through this account, the example is given to us of how we, as the Body of Christ, should reveal God to the world through our words. When we perceive that our society has reverted from Christianity to idolatry, and when we sense that some levels of government in our society are treating Christians unfairly, our task as the Church is not to manifest God through tempestuous outrage, earth-quaking tirades, or emotionally-fired speech. Neither, as Elijah was tempted to do, should we give in to self-pitying or defeatism. Rather, as the Church it is our task to manifest God's presence through a still, small voice.

God's still small voice is not condescending, it is not insulting, it does not seek to harm. It is not profane, rude, or violent.

Rather, God's still small voice is still, because it is balanced and considerate. It is small, because it is humble and often rejected.

But it is nevertheless a voice! And indeed, when we have words to say that glorify God and manifest Truth to the world, then indeed, we should open our mouth, and the Spirit will inspire us to be the heralds of God's love. Engaging with one another by remote and online means more than ever in these months, in the midst of forceful and loud storms in society, let us first allow the Lord to speak to us in a still small voice, through engaging with Him in prayer, silence, and contemplation. Then, let us allow Him to speak through us, through whatever physical or media means we are using, to be the vehicles of His still small voice. Through the use of kind words, through the use of considerate speech, through the use of reason - logos - rather than emotion, we fulfill our role as Christ's Church to be God's voice.

The Church will always be "small" in the world's eyes; appearing foolish or irrelevant. Yet we know the truth hidden to the world: Our Church's authentic voice is the most rational and true voice in the world. This paradox exists because our wisdom does not belong to the world, as Saint Paul says: "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God" (1 Corinthians 3:18-19). Our wisdom is found in the paradox of Christ on the Cross: His death appeared foolish, it appeared irrelevant, but in reality, it was the most important historical event that has ever happened. It ushered in the new Creation, bringing about the Resurrection of all. His death and resurrection, indeed, are the vivid manifestation of God's still small voice: by appearances small and despised, but in reality, Truth and Life-giving.

So, let us follow the Divine command, and "be still, and know that I Am God" (Psalm 45/46:10). And by our living as still and small men and women of prayer in the midst of the tumults of the world, our great and mighty Lord will paradoxically be manifested to the world through us.

May the Holy Prophet Elijah intercede for us so that we might all humbly transmit the still small voice of our almighty, all-powerful, and all-loving God so that the world might come to know He Who Is.

К Галатам 1:11-19

Возвещаю вам, братия, что Евангелие, которое я благовествовал, не есть человеческое, ибо и я принял его и научился не от человека, но через откровение Иисуса Христа. Вы слышали о моем прежнем образе жизни в Иудействе, что я жестоко гнал Церковь Божию, и опустошал ее, и преуспевал в Иудействе более многих сверстников в роде моем, будучи неумеренным ревнителем отеческих моих преданий. Когда же Бог, избравший меня от утробы матери моей и призвавший благодатью Своею, благоволил открыть во мне Сына Своего, чтобы я благовествовал Его язычникам, --я не стал тогда же советоваться с плотью и кровью, и не пошел в Иерусалим к предшествовавшим мне Апостолам, а пошел в Аравию, и опять возвратился в Дамаск. Потом, спустя три года, ходил я в Иерусалим видеться с Петром и пробыл у него дней пятнадцать. Другого же из Апостолов я не видел [никого], кроме Иакова, брата Господня.

2-е Тимофею 2:1-10

Итак укрепляйся, сын мой, в благодати Христом Иисусом, и что слышал от меня при многих свидетелях, то передай верным людям, которые были бы способны и других научить. Итак переноси страдания, как добрый воин Иисуса Христа. Никакой воин не связывает себя делами житейскими, чтобы угодить военачальнику. Если же кто и подвизается, не увенчивается, если незаконно будет подвизаться. Трудящемуся земледельцу первому должно вкусить от плодов. Разумей, что я говорю. Да даст тебе Господь разумение во всем. Помни Господа Иисуса Христа от семени Давидова, воскресшего из мертвых, по благовествованию моему, за которое я страдаю даже до уз, как злодей; но для слова Божия нет уз. Посему я все терплю ради избранных, дабы и они получили спасение во Христе Иисусе с вечною славою.

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 струпях и желал напитаться 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! умилосердись 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.

От Иоанна 15:17-16:2

Сие завещаю вам, да любите друг друга. Если мир вас ненавидит, знайте, что Меня прежде вас возненавидел. Если бы вы были от мира, то мир любил бы свое; а как вы не от мира, но Я избрал вас от мира, потому ненавидит вас мир. Помните слово, которое Я сказал вам: раб не больше господина своего. Если Меня гнали, будут гнать и вас; если Мое слово соблюдали, будут соблюдать и ваше. Но все то сделают вам за имя Мое, потому что не знают Пославшего Меня. Если бы Я не пришел и не говорил им, то не имели бы греха; а теперь не имеют извинения во грехе своем. Ненавидящий Меня ненавидит и Отца моего. Если бы Я не сотворил между ними дел, каких никто другой не делал, то не имели бы греха; а теперь и видели, и возненавидели и Меня и Отца Моего. Но да сбудется слово, написанное в законе их: возненавидели Меня напрасно. Когда же придет Утешитель, Которого Я пошлю вам от Отца, Дух истины, Который от Отца исходит, Он будет свидетельствовать о Мне; а также и вы будете свидетельствовать, потому что вы сначала со Мною. Сие сказал Я вам, чтобы вы не соблазнились. Изгонят вас из синагог; даже наступает время, когда всякий, убивающий вас, будет думать, что он тем служит Богу.

Galatasve 1:11-19

Tani, o vëllezër, po ju vë në dijeni se ungjilli që është shpallur nga unë, nuk është sipas njeriut, sepse unë nuk e kam marrë as e kam mësuar nga ndonjë njeri, por e kam marrë nëpërmjet një zbuluese nga Jezui Krishti. Sepse ju keni dëgjuar për sjelljen time të atëhershme në judaizëm, si e përndiqja me egërsi të madhe kishën e Perëndisë dhe e shkatërroja. Dhe si përparoj në judaizëm më tepër se shumë bashkëkohës të kombit tim, duke qenë jashtëzakonisht i zellshëm për traditat e etërve të mi. Po, kur i pëlqeu Perëndisë, që më kishte ndarë që nga barku i nënës dhe më thirri me anë të hirit të tij, që të zbulojë në mua Birin e tij, që unë t'ua shpall midis joçifutëve, unë nuk mora menjëherë këshill nga mish dhe gjak, as nuk u ngjita në Jeruzalem tek ata që ishin apostuj përpara meje, por shkova në Arabi dhe u ktheva përsëri në Damask. Pastaj, pas tre vjetësh, u ngjita në Jeruzalem për të takuar Pjetrin dhe ndenja me të pesëmbëdhjetë ditë. Dhe nuk pashë asnjë nga apostujt e tjerë, përveç Jakobit, vëllait të Zotit.

2 Timoteut 2:1-10

Ti, pra, biri im, forcohu në hirin që është në Krishtin Jezus; dhe ato që dëgjove nga unë përpara shumë dëshmitarëve, jepua njerëzve besnikë, që do të jenë të aftë të mësojnë edhe të tjerë. Ti, pra, duro pjesën tënde të vuajtjeve, si një ushtar i mirë i Jezui Krishtit. Sepse asnjë nga ata që shkojnë ushtarë nuk ngatërrohet me punërat e jetës, që t'i pëlqejë atij që e mori ushtar. Po ashtu, nëse dikush merr pjesë në gara, nuk kurorëzohet po të mos ketë luftuar sipas rregullave. Bujku që mundohet duhet ta marrë i pari pjesën e fryteve. Mendo për ato që të them, sepse Zoti do të të japë mend për të gjitha. Kujto që Jezui Krishti, nga fisi i Davidit, u ngjall së vdekuri sipas ungjillit tim, për të cilin unë po vuaj deri edhe në pranga posi keqbërës; por fjala e Perëndisë nuk lidhet në pranga. Prandaj unë i duroj të gjitha për shkak të të zgjedhurve, që ata të kenë shpëtimin që është në Krishtin Jezus, bashkë me lavdi të përgjeshme.

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 mundën; 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".

Gjoni 15:17-16:2

Këtë ju urdhëroj: ta doni njëri-tjetrin. Nëse bota ju urren, ta dini se më ka urreyer mua para jush. Po të ishit nga bota, bota do të donte të vetët; por sepse nuk jeni nga bota, por unë ju kam zgjedhur nga bota, prandaj bota ju urren. Kujtoni fjalën që ju thashë: "Shërbëtori nuk është më i madh se i zoti". Nëse më kanë përndjekur mua, do t'ju përndjekin edhe ju; nëse kanë zbatuar fjalën time, do të zbatojnë edhe tuajën. Të gjitha këto gjëra do t'ju bëjnë për shkak të emrit tim, sepse nuk e njohin atë që më ka dërguar. Po të mos kisha ardhur dhe të mos u kisha folur atyre, nuk do të kishin faj; por tani ata nuk kanë asnjë shfajësim për mëkatin e tyre. Kush më urren mua, urren edhe Atin tim. Po të mos kisha bërë në mes tyre vepra që askush tjetër nuk ka bërë, nuk do të kishin faj; por tani, përkundrazi, e kanë parë, dhe më kanë urreyer mua dhe Atin tim. Por kjo ndodhi që të përmbushet fjala e shkruar në ligjin e tyre: "Më kanë urreyer pa shkak". Por kur të vijë Ngushëlluesi, që do t'ju dërgoj prej Atit, Fryma e së vërtetës, që del nga Ati im, ai do të dëshmojë për mua. Edhe ju, gjithashtu, do të dëshmoni, sepse ishit me mua që nga fillimi." "Jua kam thënë këto gjëra, që të mos skandalizoheni. Do t'ju përjashtojnë nga sinagogat; madje po vjen ora kur, kushdo që t'ju vrasë, do të mendojë se i ka kryer një shërbim Perëndisë.