

Ss. 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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September 4, 2022

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: HIEROMARTYR BABYLAS, BISHOP OF ANTIOCH, HOLY PROPHET AND GOD-SEER MOSES

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Wed. 07 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy
Nativity of the Theotokos
Fri. 09 6:00pm Fun Night
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: Wednesday and Friday (fasting from meat, fish, and eggs, dairy, wine and oil as you are able.)

Troparion – Tone 3 (Resurrection)

*Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength
with His arm.
He has trampled down death by
death.
He has become the first born of the
dead.
He has delivered us from the depths
of hell,
and has granted to the world
great mercy.*

Kontakion – Tone 2 (Prophet Moses)

*The choir of prophets rejoices
with Moses and Aaron today,
for the fulfillment of their
prophecy is in our midst:
the Cross, by which Thou hast
saved us, shines forth today.
By their prayers, O Christ God,
have mercy on us!*

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

1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Matthew 19:16-26

Monday

2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 3:6-12

Tuesday

2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5
Mark 3:13-19

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 9:12-10:7
Mark 3:20-27

Thursday

2 Corinthians 10:7-18
Mark 3:28-35
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Friday

2 Corinthians 11:5-21
Mark 4:1-9

Saturday

1 Corinthians 2:6-9
Matthew 22:15-22

Reading the Bible in a Year

Sept 04: Wis Sol 17-19
Sept 05: Wis Sir 1-4
Sept 06: Wis Sir 5-8
Sept 07: Wis Sir 9-12
Sept 08: Wis Sir 13-16
Sept 09: Wis Sir 17-20
Sept 10: Wis Sir 21-24

Flower Donation

This week's flowers were
donated by:
Tina Murianka

Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is
provided by:
Bacon & Krimetz families

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September

04 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
07 – 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy
Nativity of the Theotokos
09 – 6:00pm Fun Night
11 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
13 – 7:00pm Vespers Liturgy
Exaltation of the Cross
14 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
18 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
21 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
25 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
28 – 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet



"Watch yourself with all diligence, lest the enemy steals near and robs you, depriving you of this great treasure, which is inner peace and stillness of soul. The enemy strives to destroy the peace of the soul, because he knows that when the soul is in turmoil it is more easily led to evil. But you must guard your peace."

-Lorenzo Scupoli (*Unseen Warfare*)



In Confession We Humble Ourselves Before Another Person

It is only out of delusion we believe we do not need others to see, understand, and treat our spiritual sickness. Anyone who believes that he alone can cure his spiritual diseases has isolated himself from a Mystery of the Church and will come to ruin. Only with the help of others are we saved, for within the Christian faith, salvation comes not in a self-focused void, but in the collective nature that is the Church. The Mystery of Confession, established by Our Lord, is a clear sign of the biblical truth that we need the Church, and we need the Mystery of Confession.

In confession we do not simply regret past evil but recognize the darkened vision of our own condition, in which sin, by separating us from God, has reduced us to a divided, autonomous existence, depriving us of both our natural glory and our true freedom. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

The Sacrament of Confession is important because on it constitutes the cure of spiritual illness.

Since the goal of the Christian life is transformation in Christ, ridding ourselves of the corrupt and diseased fallen self, it must begin with the death of the ego. We humble ourselves before the priest, when we confess our sins, for it is not just that Christ hears us. Christ hears us because of our act of humility in baring our souls in front of another person. Thus, Scripture establishes confession, recounts Christ's gift of authority to the Apostles and their successors to bestow forgiveness to penitents, and exhorts us to confess even to one another (James 5:16), since through one another we achieve humility and, mystically, this joins us to Christ.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, You mean every moment of my life to be for my good, even the tragic and the difficult. Those difficult moments are "redeemed" for my good as I love and trust You for the outcome. And when the outcome looks like "defeat" Your love turns it inside out and further forms the character of Christ within me. Please help me to see this reality even when I am in pain or fearful. Then, even those moments become a place where I learn to know and love You more! Amen.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Matthew 19:16-26

Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ “ The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Children's Word

Can we be perfect?

Do you know what a perfectionist is? A perfectionist is somebody who tries to be perfect. He has to have everything to be just right. Today, in the Gospel reading, we hear about somebody who wanted to be perfect, but he had trouble being perfect. Don't we all have trouble with that?

A man came up to Jesus and asked Him, “What good thing must I do to have eternal life?” Really, he wanted to know how he could be with God in heaven forever. This man knew he had to do good things. He followed the rules of the Ten Commandments. He tried to do what the Bible said to do.

“I have done all those!” the man told Jesus. So Christ told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all that you have and give to the poor.” This made the man sad because he had lots of things. How would he reach his goal now?

God knows we can't be perfect. Only God is perfect! But at least we know how to be perfect. How? By putting God first. When we put God first, we put money and toys and food and games and everything else after Him! We can try to be perfect. God sees how we try, and He helps us to try even harder.

SAINT MOSES A HOLY PROPHET OF GOD

One of the first Bible stories your parents told you was probably about Moses the Prophet. Do you remember hearing about the little baby whose mother put him in a basket in the river? The Pharaoh's daughter found him? That was Moses!

Do you remember the story of a man who climbed up a big mountain, where God gave him two tablets—the Ten Commandments? That was Moses!

Moses is a very important saint in our Church. He lived many, many years before Jesus Christ lived on earth. God chose Moses to do things for Him. God chose Moses to help the Jewish people trust God—and not the idols. God chose Moses to help the Jewish people find freedom in a new place. God chose Moses to help the people know more about Him.

God has a special plan for each one of us. Some people have big huge tasks, like the Prophet Moses. Some of us have little ones. But the important thing is that we all try to listen to what God wants from us— and to do it!

We can find something to learn from the saints, whether they lived hundreds and hundreds of years ago, or whether they lived during our own lifetime. We celebrate Moses the Prophet today, Sept. 4th.

Knowing God And Knowing Myself

September 2, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

I read this quote from St. Paisios and my heart both leapt for joy and sank into despair: “Completely have trust in God, leave everything in His hands, and believe that His love will act for your own benefit.”

What joy and what an awesome invitation.

But I can't accept this invitation to trust God if I don't spend the time to get to know Him. How can I trust someone I don't know? St. Paisios is truly free to leave everything in God's hands BECAUSE he knows and loves God. This wisdom he shares with us is the product of a disciplined life of getting to know God. Now you may think “But father, he's a monk and a saint, and I am neither.” It is a profound mistake to believe this knowledge of God is only for the few. You were made to know God. You were made with the ability to know Him and to know Him so well that you come to love Him. And when you purposefully embrace this truth, you will see the wisdom of the Faith in being the perfect training place to live a life where you KNOW that “in everything God works for good with those who love him...”

Look at our Lesson today in Romans 8:28-39:

Brethren, we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

St. Paul insists that “we KNOW (emphasis mine) that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.” Paul is writing to the Church in Rome in anticipation of him coming to visit and work with the Roman Church. This Church is made up of both Jews and Gentiles and is extremely influential since it is the Church formed in the capital of the Empire. St. Paul has been encouraging these Roman Christians to stay faithful and to deal with their proximity to power in a Christian way, especially since the Christians were a minority and a persecuted minority at that.

St. Paul gives these Roman Christians, and, by extension, us as well, three powerful insights to prove his insistence that we can KNOW God is at work in everything in our lives for good!

First, St. Paul tells us that God will work good from everything in our lives BECAUSE we who love Him are meant to be LIKE Him! Some have tried to make this verse say that God “predestined” some to be saved. But the verse is building on St. Paul's sure knowledge that God is at work for good in our lives because His Purpose is to make us like Himself! And being like Him is what we need above all things.

Next, St. Paul reminds us that God is “for us.” God has no ulterior motives. He wants us to achieve our true purpose to be like Him. And if He's on our side, we KNOW nothing in our lives can destroy us if we stay focused on His Purpose for us!

Finally, St. Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from God. There is no power stronger than His Purpose for us. Nothing external, no problem, no power, no persecution is stronger than His love for us. The only thing that can separate us from Him is our own self-will focused on comfort and ease rather than His Purpose for our lives to be made Like Him!

Today, do you KNOW that everything in your life is meant and intended for the good of making you like Christ? Nothing is stronger than God's purpose for you if you will KNOW this in every circumstance. Do this and you will understand why you are called to be Orthodox on Purpose!

1-е Коринфянам 15:1-11

Напоминаю вам, братия, Евангелие, которое я благовествовал вам, которое вы и приняли, в котором и утвердились, которым и спасаетесь, если преподанное удерживаете так, как я благовествовал вам, если только не тщетно уверовали. Ибо я первоначально преподал вам, что и [сам] принял, [то] [есть], что Христос умер за грехи наши, по Писанию, и что Он погребен был, и что воскрес в третий день, по Писанию, и что явился Кифе, потом двенадцати; потом явился более нежели пятистам братьев в одно время, из которых большая часть доныне в живых, а некоторые и почили; потом явился Иакову, также всем Апостолам; а после всех явился и мне, как некоему извергу. Ибо я наименьший из Апостолов, и недостойн называться Апостолом, потому что гнал церковь Божию. Но благодатию Божиею есмь то, что есмь; и благодать Его во мне не была тщетна, но я более всех их потрудился: не я, впрочем, а благодать Божия, которая со мною. Итак я ли, они ли, мы так проповедуем, и вы так уверовали.

От Матфея 19:16-26

И вот, некто, подойдя, сказал Ему: Учитель благий! что сделать мне доброго, чтобы иметь жизнь вечную? Он же сказал ему: что ты называешь Меня благим? Никто не благ, как только один Бог. Если же хочешь войти в жизнь [вечную], соблюди заповеди. Говорит Ему: какие? Иисус же сказал: не убивай; не прелюбодействуй; не кради; не лжесвидетельствуй; почитай отца и мать; и: люби ближнего твоего, как самого себя. Юноша говорит Ему: всё это сохранил я от юности моей; чего еще недостает мне? Иисус сказал ему: если хочешь быть совершенным, пойди, продай имение твое и раздай нищим; и будешь иметь сокровище на небесах; и приходи и следуй за Мною. Услышав слово сие, юноша отошел с печалью, потому что у него было большое имение. Иисус же сказал ученикам Своим: истинно говорю вам, что трудно богатому войти в Царство Небесное; и еще говорю вам: удобнее верблюду пройти сквозь игольные уши, нежели богатому войти в Царство Божие. Услышав это, ученики Его весьма изумились и сказали: так кто же может спастись? А Иисус, возрев, сказал им: человеку это невозможно, Богу же всё возможно.

I Korinthianëve 15:1-11

Edhe tani, o vëllezër, ju tregoj ungjillin që ju ungjillëzova, të cilin edhe e morët, në të cilin edhe qëndroni. Me anë të tij edhe shpëtoni, po ta mbani atë, siç jua ungjillëzova, veç në besuat më kot. Sepse ju dhashë më përpara atë që mora edhe unë, se Krishti vdiq për mëkatet tona, sipas Shkrimeve; edhe se u varros, edhe se u ngjall të tretën ditë, sipas Shkrimeve; edhe se iu duk Kefait, pastaj të Dymbëdhjetëve. Pastaj iu duk më tepër se mbi pesëqind vëllezërve njëherësh, prej të cilëve më të shumtët rrojnë deri sot, por disa kanë fjetur. Pastaj iu duk Jakovit, pastaj gjithë apostujve. Edhe më në fund nga të gjithë m'u shfaq edhe mua, si një të dështuari. Sepse unë jam më i vogli i apostujve, edhe s'jam i denjë të quhem apostull, sepse përdoqa Kishën e Perëndisë. Po me hirin e Perëndisë jam ai që jam; edhe hiri i atij që është tek unë nuk u bë i kotë, por u mundova më tepër se ata të gjithë; edhe jo unë, po hiri i Perëndisë që është bashkë me mua. Qoftë unë pra, qoftë ata, kështu predikojmë dhe kështu besuat.

Mattheut 19:16-26

Edhe ja tek i erdhi pranë njëri, e i tha: Mësues i mirë, ç'të mirë të bëj që të kem jetë të pasosur? Edhe ai i tha: Pse më thua i mirë? Asnjë s'është i mirë, veç një, Perëndia. Po nëse do të hysh në jetë, ruaj urdhërimet. I thotë: Cilat? Edhe Jisui i tha: "Mos vrit; mos shkel kurorën; mos vidh; mos jep dëshmi të rreme; ndero atin dhe nënën"; edhe "Të duash të afërmin tënd si veten tënde". Djaloshi i thotë: Të gjitha këto i kam ruajtur që në rininë time, çfarë më mungon tjetër? Jisui i tha: Në do të bëhesh i përsosur, shko e shit pasurinë tënde, edhe jepua të varfërve; edhe do të kesh thesar në qiell, edhe eja e ndiqmë pas. Por djaloshi kur dëgjoji këtë fjalë, iku me keqardhje, sepse kishte shumë prona. Edhe Jisui u tha nxënësve të tij: Me të vërtetë po ju them juve, se një i pasur mezi do të hyjë në mbretërinë e qiejve. Edhe përsëri po ju them juve: Më lehtë është të shkojë gamilja nëpër vrimën e gjilpërës, se të hyjë i pasuri në mbretërinë e Perëndisë. Edhe nxënësit e tij, kur dëgjuan, habiteshin fort e thoshin: Vallë, cili mund të shpëtojë? Po Jisui hodhi sytë mbi ta edhe u tha: Për njerëzit kjo është e pamundur, ndërsa për Perëndinë të gjitha janë të mundshme.