

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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September 6, 2020

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,
THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND
EVER-VIRGIN MARY
TONE 4

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Celebration of the
*Feast of the Nativity
of the Theotokos*

Wed. 09 7:15pm Bible Study via Google

Sun. 13 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Celebration of the
*Feast of the Exultation
of the Precious Cross*

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 Sunday to Saturday.(fasting from meat, fish, eggs, dairy, oil, wine and hard spirits as you are able.) Fish, wine and oil allowed on Saturday and Thursday.

**Troparion – Tone 4
(Resurrection)**

*When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous
message of Thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,
granting the world great mercy!”*

**Kontakion – Tone 4
(Nativity of the Theotokos)**

*By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin,
Joachim and Anna are freed from
barrenness,
Adam and Eve — from the
corruption of death.
And we, thy people, freed from the
guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to
thee:
“The barren woman gives birth to
the Theotokos, the nourisher of our
Life.”*

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

Church Lectionary

Today

1 Corinthians 16:13-24
Matthew 21:33-42

Monday

2 Corinthians 12:10-19
Mark 4:10-23

Tuesday

2 Corinthians 12:20-13:2
Mark 4:24-34
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 13:3-14
Mark 4:35-41

Thursday

Galatians 1:1-10, 20-2:5
Mark 5:1-20

Friday

Galatians 2:6-10
Mark 5:22-24, 35-6:1

Saturday

1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 23:1-12

Reading the Bible in a Year

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
Sept 11: Wis Sir 25-28
Sept 12: Wis Sir 29-32

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.

As a help to those who wish to worship, but cannot gather in the church, we stream the Divine Liturgy on our YouTube channel. You can look up the channel at YouTube.com. We are

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church of Philadelphia or you can follow the link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpqQHigwM5deWD2Se8_MVhw

Liturgy is at 10:00am every Sunday. If the livestream has not begun, you will have to refresh your browser until it gives you a notice that we are live.

If you would like to attend services on feast days when we cannot hold services, I recommend watching the streamed services from Transfiguration Monastery located at

<http://www.orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org/>

They have a calendar that has their service schedule on it and the services can be viewed via their online chapel.



Let them push you, but do not push; Let them crucify you, but do not crucify. Let them insult, but do not insult. Let them slander, but do not slander. Be meek, and do not be zealous in evil.

-St. Isaac the Syrian



September

September/October Events

06 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Celebration of the
*Feast of the Nativity of
the Theotokos*

08 – *Feast of the Nativity of the
Theotokos*

09 – 7:15pm Bible Study
13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Celebration of the
*Feast of the Exultation
of the Precious Cross*

14 - *Feast of the Exultation of the
Precious Cross*

16 – 7:15pm Bible Study
20 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
23 – 7:15pm Bible Study
27 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy
30 – 7:15pm Bible Study

Children's Word

Our Christian friends

How did you meet your friends? Do you have friends from school and sports and from camp? Do you have friends from church and from your neighborhood? Our friends are special to us because we have something in common with them. We take care of each other.

In today's epistle reading, Saint Paul writes about his friends too. He writes to the Christians in Corinth, "I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours...Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings."

Saint Paul had a hard job to do. He traveled all over, telling people the good news of Jesus Christ. It was hard, because sometimes people didn't want to hear him, and they hurt him and made fun of him. It was tiring work too! But Saint Paul knew it was the job God wanted him to do. Saint Paul writes about how his friends made things easier for him. "They refreshed my spirit." His friends lifted him up when things were hard.

It's good for all of us to have Christian friends. Why? Because things might be hard for us sometimes as Christians. It is good to have good Christian friends who love God and who love us! We can say, like Saint Paul did, "They refreshed my

spirit." Even Saint Paul needed these kinds of strong and faithful friends, and he was one strong person, too!

SAINT EUPHROSYNOS THE COOK

Do you have chores? Do you help wash the dishes? Walk your dog? Maybe you vacuum the house each week or help with the laundry? If we each have a job to do in our homes, we can get it all done more quickly.

In a monastery, monks or nuns have chores too. On Friday, we celebrate the nameday of Saint Euphrosynos. St. Euphrosynos was a monk who had an important chore to do in his monastery—He was the cook! He always did his chore humbly and without complaining. Saint Euphrosynos was a holy man and was very close to God.

We don't know much about St. Euphrosynos, but there is one story about him that you might have heard. A priest in this saint's monastery asked God to show him a little bit of what heaven was like. And soon, this priest had a dream. He dreamed he was in a beautiful garden, in heaven! Who did he see there but Euphrosynos, the monastery's cook! The saint asked the priest if he could give him something, and the priest asked for some delicious looking apples. When the priest woke up, he still had the apples!

Some people keep an icon of Saint Euphrosynos in their kitchens. You can pray to him for help with cooking, or even for help with your chores!

We celebrate Saint Euphrosynos on Friday, Sept. 11th

1 Corinthians 16:13-24 (Epistle)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Philippians 2:5-11 (Epistle, Theotokos)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



Matthew 21:33-42 (Gospel)

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?’ They said to Him, ‘He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Gospel, Theotokos)

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.’ And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’ And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, ‘Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!’ But He said, ‘More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!’

Is Powerlessness REALLY The Problem?

September 2, 2020 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

What confuses me most about today's societal chaos is the whole idea of "empowerment." It strikes me as so very misplaced and wrongheaded.

Now, don't get me wrong, I understand the motivation of wanting to correct a feeling of powerlessness. I'm just convinced that the current method being championed by those who keep on insisting they are defenders of the powerless are simply wrong. Their methods don't, in the end, address powerlessness or injustice. They just change the names of the victims of power.

This is especially true in light of the most universe changing exercise of power ever; the Person of Jesus Christ. His display of power is to become powerless, to "empty" Himself of His power and use His embraced weakness as the truly powerful weapon against the power of death! I guess that's why I am so averse to the notion of "power" as either a religious affirmation or a political goal.

It is never about power or strength. It's always about redemption and love.

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

Brethren, we know that everything works for good with those who love God, 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? It is 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.

This passage is so very familiar to me. Growing up, I heard countless sermons about this passage and they always seemed to focus on Jesus having the "power" to make me a success no matter my circumstances.

And yet, that isn't St. Paul's focus at all. St. Paul wants us to focus on reality, and reality is that God has always intended to make you like Himself THROUGH relationship, and NOTHING can stop that reality IF you wake up to it.

And how is this likeness achieved? Not through God overpowering you or forcing you, but through encouraging you to wake up to the reality that He became weak FOR YOU! God accomplishes His eternal purpose for you by entering into this broken world and not condemning it but redeeming it.

Notice the list of things St. Paul lists that CANNOT separate us from His love. Tribulation? No. Distress? No. Persecution? No. Famine? No. Nakedness? No. Peril? No. Sword? No. Death? No. Life? No. Angels? No. Principalities? No. Things Present? No. Things to Come? No. Powers? No. Height? No. Depth? No. Anything Else? No. In each of these, it would be easy to feel we are powerless against such foes. But Paul reminds us that Jesus has entered as weak SO THAT He might destroy the false powers with His weakness, not His strength. In fact, His voluntary weakness is actually REAL POWER!

So today, are you feeling powerless? Know this, in this very place where you feel most vulnerable, God is there ready to transform your weakness into peace. He has redeemed this broken place by His love and He is there to make impotent every enemy that you have! It isn't about empowerment. It's about being Orthodox on Purpose!

1-е Коринфянам 16:13-24

Бодрствуйте, стойте в вере, будьте мужественны, тверды. Все у вас да будет с любовью. Прошу вас, братия (вы знаете семейство Стефаново, что оно есть начаток Ахаии и что они посвятили себя на служение святым), будьте и вы почтительны к таковым и ко всякому содействующему и трудящемуся. Я рад прибытию Стефана, Фортуната и Ахаика: они восполнили для меня отсутствие ваше, ибо они мой и ваш дух успокоили. Почитайте таковых. Приветствуют вас церкви Асийские; приветствуют вас усердно в Господе Акила и Прискилла с домашнею их церковью. Приветствуют вас все братия. Приветствуйте друг друга святым целованием. Мое, Павлово, приветствие собственноручно. Кто не любит Господа Иисуса Христа, анафема, маран-афа. Благодать Господа нашего Иисуса Христа с вами, и любовь моя со всеми вами во Христе Иисусе. Аминь.

К Филиппийцам 2:5-11

Ибо в вас должны быть те же чувствования, какие и во Христе Иисусе: Он, будучи образом Божиим, не почитал хищением быть равным Богу; но уничижил Себя Самого, приняв образ раба, сделавшись подобным человекам и по виду став как человек; смирил Себя, быв послушным даже до смерти, и смерти крестной. Посему и Бог превознес Его и дал Ему имя выше всякого имени, дабы пред именем Иисуса преклонилось всякое колено небесных, земных и преисподних, и всякий язык исповедал, что Господь Иисус Христос в славу Бога Отца.

От Матфея 21:33-42

Выслушайте другую притчу: был некоторый хозяин дома, который насадил виноградник, обнес его оградой, выкопал в нем точило, построил башню и, отдав его виноградарям, отлучился. Когда же приблизилось время плодов, он послал своих слуг к виноградарям взять свои плоды; виноградари, схватив слуг его, иного прибили, иного убили, а иного побили камнями. Опять послал он других слуг, больше прежнего; и с ними поступили так же. Наконец, послал он к ним своего сына, говоря: постыдятся сына моего. Но виноградари, увидев сына, сказали друг другу: это наследник; пойдем, убьем его и завладеем наследством его. И, схватив его, вывели вон из виноградника и убили. Итак, когда придет хозяин виноградника, что сделает он с этими виноградарями? Говорят Ему: злодеев сих предаст злой смерти, а виноградник отдаст другим виноградарям, которые будут отдавать ему плоды во времена свои. Иисус говорит им: неужели вы никогда не читали в Писании: камень, который отвергли строители, тот самый сделался главою угла? Это от Господа, и есть дивно в очах наших?

От Луки 10:38-42, 11:27-28

В продолжение пути их пришел Он в одно селение; здесь женщина, именем Марфа, приняла Его в дом свой; у неё была сестра, именем Мария, которая села у ног Иисуса и слушала слово Его. Марфа же заботилась о большом угощении и, подойдя, сказала: Господи! или Тебе нужды нет, что сестра моя одну меня оставила служить? скажи ей, чтобы помогла мне. Иисус же сказал ей в ответ: Марфа! Марфа! ты заботишься и суетишься о многом, а одно только нужно; Мария же избрала благую часть, которая не отнимется у неё. Когда же Он говорил это, одна женщина, возвысив голос из народа, сказала Ему: блаженно чрево, носившее Тебя, и сосцы, Тебя питавшие! А Он сказал: блаженны слышащие слово Божие и соблюдающие его.

1 e Korintasve 16:13-24

Rrini zgjuar, qëndroni të palëkundshëm në besim, silluni si burrat, jini të fortë. Dhe çdo gjë që bëni, ta bëni me dashuri! Tani, o vëllezër (ju e njihni familjen e Stefanas që është fryti i parë i Akaisë dhe që i janë kushtuar shërbesës së shenjtorëve), ju bëj thirrje që t'u nënshtroheni edhe ju atyreve dhe kujtdo që punon dhe mundohet në punën tonë të përbashkët. Edhe gëzohem për ardhjen e Stefanas, të Fortunatit dhe të Akaikut, sepse ata e plotësuan mungesën tuaj, sepse e freskuan frymën tim dhe tuajin; prandaj nderoni njerëz të tillë. Kishat e Azisë ju përshëndesin; Akuila dhe Prishila, bashkë me kishën që është në shtëpi të tyre, ju përshëndesin shumë në Zotin. Të gjithë vëllezërit ju përshëndesin; përshëndetni njëri-tjetrin me një puthje të shenjtë. Të fala me shëndet me dorën time, të Palit. Nëse ndokush nuk e do Zotin Jezu Krisht, qoftë mallkuar! Maranatha a. Hiri i Zotit Jezu Krisht qoftë me ju. Dashuria ime qoftë me ju të gjithë në Krishtin Jezu. Amen.

Filipianëve 2:5-11

Kini në ju po atë ndjenjë që ishte në Jezu Krishtin, i cili, edhe pse ishte në trajtë Perëndie, nuk e çmoi si një gjë ku të mbahej fort për të qenë barabar me Perëndinë, por e zbrazi veten e tij, duke marrë trajtë shërbëtori, e u bë i ngjashëm me njerëzit; dhe duke u gjetur nga pamja e jashtme posi njeri, e përuli vetveten duke u bërë i bindur deri në vdekje, deri në vdekje të kryqit. Prandaj edhe Perëndia e lartësoi madhërisht dhe i dha një emër që është përmbi çdo emër, që në emër të Jezusit të përkulet çdo gju i krijesave (ose gjërave) qiellore, tokësore dhe nëntokësore, dhe çdo gjuhë të rrëfejë se Jezu Krishti është Zot, për lavdi të Perëndisë Atë.

Mateu 21:33-42

“Dëgjoni një shëmbëlltyrë tjetër: Ishte një pronar shtëpie, i cili mbolli një vresht, e rrethoi me gardh, gërmoi një vend ku të shtrydhte rrushin, ndërtoi një kullë dhe, mbasi ua besoi disa vreshtarëve, u nis në një vend të huaj. Dhe kur erdhi koha e të vjelave, ai dërgoi shërbëtorët e vet te vreshtarët, për të marrë frutat e tij, por vreshtarët i kapën shërbëtorët e tij, njërin e rrahën, një tjetër e vranë dhe një tjetër e vranë me gurë. Përsëri, ai dërgoi shërbëtorë të tjerë, më shumë se të parët, dhe këta vreshtarët i trajtuan në të njëjtën mënyrë. Më në fund ai i dërgoi atyre birin e vet duke thënë: "Për djalin tim do të kenë respekt!". Por vreshtarët, kur e panë të birin, i thanë njeri tjetrit: "Ky është trashëgimtari; ejani, ta vrasim dhe marrim si pronë trashëgiminë e tij". Dhe e kapën, e nxorën jashtë nga vreshti dhe e vranë. Tani, kur të vijë i zoti i vreshtit, çfarë do t'u bëjë këtyre vreshtarëve?" Ata i thanë: "Ai do t'i vrasë keqas ata faqezinj dhe do t'ua besojë vreshtin vreshtarëve të tjerë, të cilët do t'i japin prodhimet në kohën e vet." Jezusi u tha atyre: "A nuk keni lexuar kurrë në Shkrimet: "Guri, që ndërtesit e nxorën të papërdorshëm, u bë guri i qoshes. Kjo është vepër e Zotit, dhe është e mrekullueshme në sytë tonë"?"

Luka 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Ndodhi që, ndërsa ata po udhëtonin, Jezusi hyri në një fshat; dhe një grua, që e kishte emrin Marta, e priti në shtëpinë e vet. Ajo kishte një motër që quhej Mari, e cila u ul te këmbët e Jezusit dhe dëgjonte fjalën e tij. Por Marta, që ishte krejt e zënë nga punët e shumta, iu afrua dhe i tha: "Zot, a nuk të intereson që ime motër më la vetëm të shërbej? I thuaj, pra, të më ndihmojë." Por Jezusi, duke u përgjigjur, i tha: "Martë, Martë, ti po shqetësohesh dhe kujdesesh për shumë gjëra; por vetëm një gjë është e nevojshme, dhe Maria zgjodhi pjesën më të mirë, që asaj nuk do t'i hiqet." Ndodhi që, ndërsa ai po thoshte këto gjëra, një grua nga turma e çoi zërin e saj dhe i tha: "Lum barku që të barti dhe gjinjtë që të mëndën." Por ai u tha: "Me tepër lum ata që e dëgjojnë fjalën e Perëndisë dhe e zbatojnë."