

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 11, 2022

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS
AFTERFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS
VEN. THEODORA OF ALEXANDRIA

Today 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Tue. 13 7:00pm Vespertal Liturgy
Exaltation of the Cross
Wed. 14 7:15pm Bible Study with
GoogleMeet
Sun. 18 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 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 (Feast of the 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.”*

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 6:11-18
John 3:13-17
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

Wednesday

2 Corinthians 13:3-14
Mark 4:35-41
1 Corinthians 1:18-24
John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

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 11: Wis Sir 25-28
Sept 12: Wis Sir 29-32
Sept 13: Wis Sir 33-36
Sept 14: Wis Sir 37-40
Sept 15: Wis Sir 41-44
Sept 16: Wis Sir 45-48
Sept 17: Wis Sir 49-51

Flower Donation

This week's flowers were
donated by:

Tina Murianka

Sunday September 25 is Education Sunday. Please make sure that your children attend so that they can be blessed for the coming school year at Divine Liturgy. All teachers are also welcome to come for the blessing as well.

Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is
provided by:

***Tina Murianka in
Memory of
Martha Murianka***

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September

11 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

13 – 7:00pm Vesperal 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

Children's Word

Sign your name!

Have you ever written your name on something you were very proud of? Maybe you finished writing a story or drawing a great picture, and you were proud to sign your name on it. You might have wanted everybody to know it was your work.

Many years ago, America was just becoming a new country. The leaders had to sign the Declaration of Independence, to show that they really believed that America should break away from England. They knew it was a big deal, and the leaders had to put all their hearts into it. The first one to sign was John Hancock. He signed his name really big so that everybody could see it. He wanted everyone to know he believed America should be free.

Today, in the Epistle, we hear something a little funny. Saint Paul writes in his letter, "See with what large letters I am writing to you." Why was he writing with such big letters? Well, because he really believed what he was writing. He was proud to be a Christian.

We can always learn from Saint Paul, but we can learn from John Hancock here too! When we are proud to be Christians, we really want to show it! When we really believe, we want everybody to know. Always remember it's ok for others to know you are a Christian!

SAINT MIRIN OF PAISLEY, SCOTLAND

Can you imagine visiting a king or queen and having to ask for something? Or maybe even your mayor? Or your principal? You'd be nervous, wouldn't you?

Saint Mirin grew up in Ireland, 1500 years ago! At that time, Ireland was not a Christian land. Instead, most of the Irish people were pagan, and they worshipped many (false) gods. They didn't yet know about our one true God.

Saint Mirin was a monk at a monastery in Ireland, but he knew that God wanted him to share the Christian faith with others. (Did you know God wants all of us to do that, too?) Saint Mirin had to visit the High King of Ireland, and tell him his plan. The king knew Mirin was coming, and he refused to let him in. So, Mirin waited...and prayed. It turned out that the king had horrible pains during this time, and after three days, he let Mirin visit him. He let Mirin go on to Scotland, so he could preach the good news of Jesus Christ to the people there.

Saint Mirin ended up in Paisley, Scotland (near Glasgow). He built the first church there, and later on, a big beautiful church and abbey were built there. You can see it if you visit! Some people in Scotland might not know about this special saint who helped bring Christianity to their land, but now you do! And you can follow his brave example as you share your faith with others too. We celebrate St. Mirin on Thursday, Sept. 15th.

A Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, You know my name, my real name. You know me better than I know myself. The truth is there are parts of me that I simply can't or don't see. You see me. You love me. Give me the grace to hear You call my name and reveal to me what my own "one thing needful" is right now in my life. Thank You for caring so much for me. Amen

1 Corinthians 16:13-24

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.

Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Matthew 21:33-42

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 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’?”

John 3:13-17

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.



"There is one antidote for evil passions: the purification of our souls which takes place through the mystery of godliness. The chief act of faith in this mystery is to look to Him who suffered the passion for us. The cross is the passion, so that whoever looks to it? is not harmed by the poison of desire. To look to the cross means to render one's whole life dead and crucified to the world."

-St. Gregory of Nyssa



Lord, Don't You Care?

September 8, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

It was painful to watch. He was spiraling down into the abyss of human fear and addiction, and he was my friend. I watched as he struggled but still stumbled and I heard the desperation in his voice when he called me and asked that most human and most understandable question when you are trapped in a dark place, "Father, does God even care about me?"

No wonder St. Paul commands us to "weep with those who weep." (Romans 12:15).

The truth is when someone is in that place it simply isn't helpful to say "Of course, God cares. He's allowing this to teach you and to actually help you." Don't say that to someone even if you believe it's true. Just be with them and journey through that dark place with them, encouraging them to keep moving. God always cares, dear ones. And He usually cares THROUGH you!

Look at our familiar Gospel Lesson today in Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28:

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Jesus had a special relationship with Mary and Martha and their brother, Lazarus (yes, THAT Lazarus). And He would often stay in their home when He was traveling nearby. On this occasion, His popularity had grown to the point that when those in the village heard He was there, they came running. And the house filled up quickly with people who wanted to hear this Preacher from Nazareth.

Martha, being the oldest sister, started immediately doing what good hostesses do when the house is full of guests; she started serving. Her younger sister wanted to hear what Jesus was saying so she went and sat down by His feet to listen. Not sure just where Lazarus was, but I'm sure he was close by. Finally, after trying to take care of everybody else, Martha asked the question "Lord, do you not care..." And Jesus responded to this precious woman with exactly what she needed for her spiritual formation, correction, and benefit.

Jesus doesn't answer Martha's question directly. But He DOES prove He cares by going to the heart of Martha's spiritual need at that moment.

First, He lovingly says her name. Jesus wants Martha to know He sees her, He knows her, and He loves her. Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, knows who you are and where you are. Jesus lovingly says her name because He wants her to know He knows! The truth is one of the sweetest sounds any person hears is their name said with love and affection. We all long for that and we seek it. God knows this because He made us for communion with Him, so He calls us by name! God cares!

Next, Jesus names the very heart of her spiritual condition. "You are anxious and troubled about many things..." In moments of our lives where we are struggling, it becomes vital we know how to actually name the challenges we face. Is it fear? Is it envy? Is it worry? What is the name of the condition that is feeding our spiritual struggles? Jesus goes directly to the heart of Martha and gives her the insight she needs to let go of that which is making her doubt God's love and care. When we serve out of our love and freedom, we aren't noticing who isn't helping us. We are content with our service. But when we impose expectations on others to "do like I do" we fall into the trap of envy and anger. A dangerous place for a sister. God cares!

Finally, Jesus refocuses Martha toward her path to wholeness. The Lord calls Martha to the wisdom of the freedom God grants us to discern our own lives and not judge others. "There is only one thing needful." Jesus reorients Martha's vision away from what she doesn't have and to what she already has; an opportunity to choose rightly in life! If I am going to get over the spiritual illnesses that enslave me to a life poorly and inattentively lived, I am going to have to listen for course corrections from the Lord. God cares!

Today, do you need a moment to stop and listen for the course correction from the Holy Spirit? God knows you by name and He knows what is best to heal your life and make you like Himself through grace. Right now, stop. Pray. Realize God knows you better than you know yourself, and BE 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 Галатам 6:11-18

Видите, как много написал я вам своею рукою. Желаящие хвалиться по плоти принуждают вас обрезываться только для того, чтобы не быть гонимыми за крест Христов, ибо и сами обрезывающиеся не соблюдают закона, но хотят, чтобы вы обрезывались, дабы похвалиться в вашей плоти. А я не желаю хвалиться, разве только крестом Господа нашего Иисуса Христа, которым для меня мир распят, и я для мира. Ибо во Христе Иисусе ничего не значит ни обрезание, ни необрезание, а новая тварь. Тем, которые поступают по сему правилу, мир им и милость, и Израилю Божию. Впрочем никто не отягощай меня, ибо я ношу язвы Господа Иисуса на теле моем. Благодать Господа нашего Иисуса Христа со духом вашим, братия. Аминь.

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 Иоанна 3:13-17

Никто не восходил на небо, как только сшедший с небес Сын Человеческий, сущий на небесах. И как Моисей вознес змию в пустыне, так должно вознесу быть Сыну Человеческому, дабы всякий, верующий в Него, не погиб, но имел жизнь вечную. Ибо так возлюбил Бог мир, что отдал Сына Своего Единородного, дабы всякий верующий в Него, не погиб, но имел жизнь вечную. Ибо не послал Бог Сына Своего в мир, чтобы судить мир, но чтобы мир спасен был чрез Него.

I Korinthianëve 16:13-24

Rrini zgjuar, qëndroni në besë; bëhuni burra, e forcohuni. Gjithë punët tuaja le të bëhen me dashuri. Edhe ju lutem, o vëllezër, e njihni shtëpinë e Stefanait, se është fryti i parë i Akaisë, edhe se ia kanë kushtuar veten shërbimit të shenjtëve; të ulni kryet edhe ju ndaj të këtillëve, edhe ndaj çdo njeriu që bashkëpunon me ne dhe mundohet. Edhe gëzohem për ardhjen e Stefanait dhe të Furtunatit e të Akaikut, sepse këta mbushën mungesën tuaj; sepse prehën shpirtin tim dhe tuajin. Di juani pra të këtillëve. Ju përshëndesin kishat e Azisë. Ju përshëndesin në Zotin Akila dhe Priskila bashkë me kishën që është në shtëpinë e tyre. Ju përshëndesin gjithë vëllezërit. Përshëndetni njëri-tjetrin me puthje të shenjtë. Përshëndetja u shkrua me dorën time, të Pavlit. Nëse ndonjë nuk e do Zotin Jisu Krisht, qoftë i mallkuar. Maran-Atha*. Hiri i Zotit Jisu Krisht qoftë me ju. Dashuria ime qoftë me të gjithë ju në Jisu Krishtin. Amin.

Galatianëve 6:11-18

Shikoni me çfarë shkronjash të mëdha ju shkrova me dorën time. Sa duan të duken të mirë në mish, këta ju detyrojnë të rrethpriteni, vetëm që të mos përndiqen për kryqin e Krishtit. Sepse as ata që rrethpriten s'e ruajnë ligjin, por duan të rrethpriteni ju, që të mburren në mish tuaj. Por për mua qoftë larg të mburrem, veç për kryqin e Zotit tonë Jisu Krisht, me anë të të cilit bota është kryqëzuar tek unë, edhe unë tek bota. Sepse në Krishtin Jisu as rrethprerja ka fuqi, as parrethprerja, por krijimi i ri. Edhe për të gjithë sa ecin sipas këtij rregulli, paqe e përdëllim qoftë mbi ta, dhe mbi Izraelin e Perëndisë. Tani e tutje askush le të mos më shqetësojë; sepse unë mbaj shenjat e Zotit Jisu në trupin tim. Hiri i Zotit tonë Jisu Krisht qoftë bashkë me frymën tuaj, o vëllezër. Amin.

Mattheut 21:33-42

Dëgjoni një tjetër paravoli: Një njeri ishte zot shtëpie, i cili mbolli një vresht dhe e thuri me gardh, edhe gërmoi në të një tirë, edhe ndërtoi një parg; edhe ua dha atë me qira bujqve e iku në vend tjetër. Edhe kur u afrua koha e të vjelave, dërgoi shërbëtorët e tij te bujqit, që të marrin frytet e tij. Edhe bujqit i zunë shërbëtorët e tij, e njërin e rrahën, e tjetrin e vranë, edhe tjetrin e vranë me gurë. Përsëri dërgoi të tjerë shërbëtorë, më tepër se të parët, por ashtu ua bënë edhe atyre. Edhe pastaj dërgoi të birin tek ata, duke thënë: Do të kenë turp nga im bir. Po bujqit kur panë të birin, i thanë njëri-tjetrit: Ky është trashëgimtari. Ejani ta vrasim dhe të përvetësojmë trashëgimin e tij. Edhe si e zunë, e nxorën jashtë vreshtit edhe e vranë. Kur të vijë i zoti i vreshtit, ç'do t'u bëjë atyre bujqve? I thonë: Të këqijtë si mos më keq do t'i shfarosë, edhe vreshtin do t'ua japë me qira bujqve të tjerë, të cilët do t'ia japin frytet në kohët e tyre. Jisui u thotë atyre: Kurrë s'keni lexuar në shkronjat: "Guri, që flakën tej ndërtesit, ky u bë kreu i qoshes; prej Zotit u bë kjo, edhe është e çuditshme në sytë tanë"?

Joanit 3:13-17

Edhe asnjë s'është ngjitur në qiell, veç ai që ka zbritur nga qielli, i Biri i njeriut, që është në qiell. Edhe sikurse Moisiu ngriti lart gjarpërin në shkretëtirë, kështu duhet të ngrihet lart edhe Biri i njeriut; që kushdo që beson në atë të mos të humbasë, por të ketë jetë të përjetshme. Sepse Perëndia aq e deshi botën, sa dha Birin e tij të vetëmlindurin, që të mos humbasë kushdo që t'i besojë atij, po të ketë jetë të përjetshme. Sepse Perëndia nuk e dërgoi të Birin në botë që të gjykojë botën, po që të shpëtojë bota me anë të tij.