

# 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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May 15, 2022

## SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Today ..... 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
Wed. 18 ..... 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
Sun. 22 ..... 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.*

### Troparion – Tone 3 (Pentecostarion)

*By Thy divine intercession, O  
Lord,  
as Thou didst raise up the  
Paralytic of old,  
so raise up my soul, paralyzed by  
sins and thoughtless acts;  
so that being saved I may sing to  
Thee:  
“Glory to Thy power, O  
compassionate Christ!”*

**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

Acts 9:32-42  
John 5:1-15

#### Monday

Acts 10:1-16  
John 6:56-69

#### Tuesday

Acts 10:21-33  
John 7:1-13

#### Wednesday

Acts 14:6-18  
John 7:14-30

#### Thursday

Acts 10:34-43  
John 8:12-20

#### Friday

Acts 10:44-11:10  
John 8:21-30

#### Saturday

Acts 26:1-5, 12-20  
John 10:1-9  
Acts 12:1-11  
John 8:31-42

### Reading the Bible in a Year

May 15: Psalms 65-68  
May 16: Psalms 69-72  
May 17: Psalms 73-76  
May 18: Psalms 77-80  
May 19: Psalms 81-84  
May 20: Psalms 85-88  
May 21: Psalms 89-92

## MAY/JUNE EVENTS

### May

15 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
18 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
21 – 6:00pm Vespers  
22 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
25 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
28 – 6:00pm Vespers  
29 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

### June

01 – 7:15pm Vespers Liturgy  
*Feast of Ascension*  
04 – 6:00pm Vespers  
05 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

08 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
11 – 6:00pm Vespers  
12 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
*Pentecost*  
15 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
18 – 6:00pm Vespers  
19 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
22 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet  
25 – 6:00pm Vespers  
26 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy  
29 – 7:15pm Bible Study with  
GoogleMeet

## Coffee Hour

This week's coffee hour is  
provided by:  
Tina Murianka

## Flower Donation

This week's flowers were  
donated by:  
Tina Murianka

Fr. Nicholas is planning on being away from May 19-24. If there is a pastoral emergency, Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk from St. Stephen Cathedral on Verree Rd. can be called at 215-745-3232. Fr. Nicholas can still be reached via his cell phone (860-861-7468) if needed.

## Children's Word

### **“I have no one...”**

You have friends, don't you? You have somebody who will listen to you if you have a problem. You have somebody who will try to help, don't you? We all should!

Today is the third Sunday after Pascha (Easter). That's the day we hear about the paralyzed man, the man who had been sick for 38 years! Jesus saw this man, and he had compassion on him. He felt sorry for him and wanted to help. “Do you want to be healed?” Yes, of course the man wanted to be healed! But the poor man said, “I have no one...” to help me get healed. This man had nobody to help him. What a sad situation he was in!

Then we hear about how our Lord did help him. He told him to get up and walk, and he did! He had compassion. Jesus really thought about this man, and how he needed help!

Let's always remember how our Lord has compassion on all of us. He wants to help us. Let's remember too that even if we feel sad, or if we feel like things aren't going right, we never have to say, “I have no one to help...” like the man in the Gospel today. Our Lord is always ready to help us! He loves each one of us, and we can always say, “I have Someone to help me!”

### SAINT VUKASIN THE HOLY NEW MARTYR

Have you ever heard somebody say, “History repeats itself”? You might hear that if something happens now that sounds a lot like something that happened many years ago.

Saint Vukasin was an Orthodox Christian man who lived in Klepci, which is in present day Bosnia-Herzegovina (just across the Adriatic Sea from Italy). He lived during World War II, and we really don't know too much about his life. We know a lot about the end of his life though, and we know why he is called a saint of our Church!

Once, Vukasin and some of his family members were snatched up by the authorities because they were Serbian and Orthodox. They were told to say great things about the evil leader and to give up their faith. Vukasin wouldn't do it. Then, a soldier began to hurt Vukasin, again and again, because Vukasin wouldn't give up. The soldier was cruel and horrible. Vukasin wouldn't give in. He was even killed for his faith.

Later on, the soldier told about the evil things he had done. He confessed to a doctor, because he felt awful guilt, and he was really going crazy thinking about what he had done. We know about Vukasin's faith because of what this soldier confessed!

“History repeats itself” when we read the lives of the saints! We hear their painful stories and we see their strong faith. God gives them strength, and the amazing reward! May we have their same strong faith too! We celebrate Saint Vukasin on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Acts 9:32-42

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

### John 5:1-15

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

## A Prayer for the Week

**O Lord of Mercy, You are true in all Your ways. And being in communion with You is the only true source of life. You did not make us for death. But You granted that this good mixture of body and soul would be dissolved in death so that we would not live forever sinning. You bring all things that harm us to an end, and You give us Yourself as the true food that truly nourishes us and gives us life. Help me, O Lord to learn to nourish my soul with You all the days of my life. Amen**



***"Cheerfulness consists in not regarding things as our own, but as entrusted to us by God for the benefit of our fellow-servants. It consists in scattering them abroad generously with joy and magnanimity, not reluctantly or under compulsion."***

*-St. Symeon the New Theologian*

## Cemetery Blessings

Due to a variety of factors, the blessing of the graves was pushed back. The following is the schedule of cemetery blessings:

05/15 – Oakland at 1pm

05/29 – Lawnview at 1pm

05/30 – Fernwood

06/05 – Magnolia at 1pm

06/12 – Forrest Hills at 2pm

Other cemeteries will be visited by request



# The Living Bread

May 13, 2022 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Christ is risen!

There is actually a mental health condition called thanatophobia – the fear of death. This phobia drives those who suffer from this malady to be afraid of doing anything. But, in reality, having anxiety about one's mortality is actually normal in us humans. Why do you think that is?

Could it be that a part of us instinctively understands we weren't made for mortality? We were made for life and not death. And yet, the fear of death drives much of our disordered passions. We fear not achieving this or that experience. What if I die before I get to (fill in the blank)? The fear of death shows up in our language – If they find this out about me, I'll just die! The fear of death shows up in big and small ways and all the in-between ways. And that fear drives us to selfishness that forms us into people who are filled with defenses against anything that reminds us of death!

But we weren't made for death!

Look at our lesson today in John 6:48-54:

*The Lord said to the Jews who believed in him: "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."*

*The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."*

It seems St. John spends a great deal of time sharing with us this significant moment in the ministry of Jesus. And for good reason. This moment when the Lord reveals His wisdom in sharing His life with us SO THAT our sickness of mortality will be cured becomes the central message of Good News for the Christian Faith.

Eating the flesh and drinking the blood of Jesus becomes the chief iconic message that both comforts and confronts us with our deepest need and God's eternal remedy. So much so that St. Ignatius calls the Eucharist "the medicine of immortality!"

And the Lord's words here to these Jews give us a hint at why God did what He did for the people of Israel so long ago. The Lord brought them from slavery in Egypt as an icon of how God liberates us all from the slavery of the fear of death. The Lord opened the Red Sea so that they crossed on dry ground as an icon of the Baptism of water that all of us pass through to begin our journey in sharing His life. The Lord fed them with miracle bread from heaven as an icon of Him sending His very Son in flesh from heaven to feed us with His life to trample down death by death.

All of this to set all of us free from the fear of death so that we would no longer live shortsighted lives terrified we were going to die!

And how does He give us His flesh and blood? In the bloodless sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist. He enters into death on the cross. He enters the tomb of the dead. And He resurrects His physical body from the tomb transfigured by His eternal life so that even physical barriers are no longer barriers to Him. And then He takes that very physical body, though changed, into the heavens to sit at the right hand of the Father. All for you!

Today, as we approach another Sunday where we will take the stuff of this creation and labor to form it into bread and wine and we take our labors and pray over these gifts as an offering of thanksgiving to God for His gift, and as God receives our gifts and then fills our gifts with Himself and gives our gifts back to us in the mystery of the Eucharist, we are invited to have our hearts and minds and eyes open to the eternal value of being Orthodox on Purpose!

## **Деяния 9:32-42**

Случилось, что Петр, обходя всех, пришел и к святым, живущим в Лидде. Там нашел он одного человека, именем Энея, который восемь уже лет лежал в постели в расслаблении. Петр сказал ему: Эней! исцеляет тебя Иисус Христос; встань с постели твоей. И он тотчас встал. И видели его все, живущие в Лидде и в Сароне, которые и обратились к Господу. В Иоппии находилась одна ученица, именем Тавифа, что значит: 'серна'; она была исполнена добрых дел и творила много милостынь. Случилось в те дни, что она занемогла и умерла. Ее омыли и положили в горнице. А как Лидда была близ Иоппии, то ученики, услышав, что Петр находится там, послали к нему двух человек просить, чтобы он не замедлил придти к ним. Петр, встав, пошел с ними; и когда он прибыл, ввели его в горницу, и все вдовицы со слезами предстали перед ним, показывая рубашки и платья, какие делала Серна, живя с ними. Петр выслал всех вон и, преклонив колени, помолился, и, обратившись к телу, сказал: Тавифа! встань. И она открыла глаза свои и, увидев Петра, села. Он, подав ей руку, поднял ее, и, призвав святых и вдовиц, поставил ее перед ними живою. Это сделалось известным по всей Иоппии, и многие уверовали в Господа.

## **От Иоанна 5:1-15**

После сего был праздник Иудейский, и пришел Иисус в Иерусалим. Есть же в Иерусалиме у Овечьих [ворот] купальня, называемая по-еврейски Вифезда, при которой было пять крытых ходов. В них лежало великое множество больных, слепых, хромых, иссохших, ожидающих движения воды, ибо Ангел Господень по временам сходил в купальню и возмущал воду, и кто первый входил [в нее] по возмущении воды, тот выздоравливал, какою бы ни был одержим болезнью. Тут был человек, находившийся в болезни тридцать восемь лет. Иисус, увидев его лежащего и узнав, что он лежит уже долгое время, говорит ему: хочешь ли быть здоров? Больной отвечал Ему: так, Господи; но не имею человека, который опустил бы меня в купальню, когда возмутится вода; когда же я прихожу, другой уже сходит прежде меня. Иисус говорит ему: встань, возьми постель твою и ходи. И он тотчас выздоровел, и взял постель свою и пошел. Было же это в день субботний. Посему Иудеи говорили исцеленному: сегодня суббота; не должно тебе брать постели. Он отвечал им: Кто меня исцелил, Тот мне сказал: возьми постель твою и ходи. Его спросили: кто Тот Человек, Который сказал тебе: возьми постель твою и ходи? Исцеленный же не знал, кто Он, ибо Иисус скрылся в народе, бывшем на том месте. Потом Иисус встретил его в храме и сказал ему: вот, ты выздоровел; не греши больше, чтобы не случилось с тобою чего хуже. Человек сей пошел и объявил Иудеям, что исцеливший его есть Иисус.

## **Veprat e Apostujve 9:32-42**

Edhe Pjetri, duke shkuar nëpër gjithë ato vende, zbriti edhe te shenjtët që ishin në Lidë. Edhe atje gjeti një njeri që e quanin Enea, i cili ishte i paralizuar e prej tetë vitesh i dergjur në shtrat. Edhe Pjetri i tha: Enea, Jisu Krishti të shëron. Ngrihu dhe shtro shtratin tënd. Edhe ai përnjëherë u ngrit. Edhe e panë atë gjithë ata që rrinin në Lidë e në Saron, edhe u kthyen në Zotin. Edhe në Jopë ishte një nxënëse që quhej Tavità, që e përkthyer do të thotë Sorkadhe; ajo ishte plot me punë të mira e me lëmosha që bënte. Edhe në ato ditë qëlloi të sëmuret e të vdesë; edhe si e lanë e vunë në një dhomë të sipërme. Edhe pasi Lida ishte afër Jopës, nxënësit, kur dëgjuan se Pjetri është në të, dërguan dy burra tek ai, duke iu lutur atij të mos përtojë të vijë deri tek ata. Edhe Pjetri u ngrit e shkoi bashkë me ta; sapo erdhi atë e ngjitën në dhomën e sipërme dhe i dolën përpara gjithë të vejat duke qarë e duke treguar këmishë e rroba, të cilat i bënte Sorkadhja, kur ishte bashkë me to. Po Pjetri, pasi i nxori të gjithë jashtë, u ul në gjunjë dhe u lut; edhe si u kthye nga trupi, tha: Tavità, ngrihu. E ajo hapi sytë e saj, edhe kur pa Pjetrin, u ngrit e ndenji. Edhe ai i dha dorën dhe e ngriti; edhe si thërriti shenjtërit e të vejat, e nxori përpara të gjallë. Edhe kjo u mor vesh nëpër gjithë Jopën; edhe shumë veta besuan në Zotin.

## **Joanit 5:1-15**

Pas këtyre ishte e kremtja e Judenjve; edhe Jisui u ngjit në Jerusalem. Edhe në Jerusalem afër portës së Dhenve është një pellg uji që quhet hebraisht Betesda, edhe ka pesë kamare. Në këto dergjej një shumicë e madhe të sëmuresh, të verbrish, të çalësh, të paralizuarish që pritinin lëvizjen e ujit. Sepse kohë pas kohe zbriste një engjëll në pellg dhe trazonte ujin; ai pra që të hynte i pari pas trazimit të ujit, shërohej prej çfarëdo sëmurdjeje që të kishte. Edhe atje ishte një njeri, që ishte i sëmurë tridhjetë e tetë vjet. Jisui kur e pa këtë se po dergjej, edhe mori vesh se tashmë prej shumë kohe ishte i sëmurë, i thotë: A do të shërohesh? I sëmuri iu përgjigj: Zot, s'kam njeri të më vërë në pellg kur trazohet uji; edhe kur vij unë, një tjetër zbret përpara meje. Jisui i thotë: Çohu, ngri shtratin tënd, edhe ec. Edhe përnjëherë njeriu u shërua, edhe ngriti shtratin e tij, edhe ecte. Edhe atë ditë ishte e shtunë. Judenjtë pra i thoshin atij që u shërua: Eshtë e shtunë. Nuk të lejohet të ngresh shtratin. Iu përgjigj atyre: Ai që më shëroi, ai më tha: Ngri shtratin tënd dhe ec. E pyetën pra: Cili është ai njeri që të tha: Ngri shtratin tënd dhe ec! Po ai që u shërua nuk e dinte cili është; sepse Jisui u shmang, se kishte shumë gjindje në atë vend. Pastaj Jisui e gjen atë në tempull, edhe i tha: Ja tek u shërove; mos mëkato më, që mos të të bëhet ndonjë gjë më e keqe. Njeriu pra shkoi dhe lajmëroi judenjtë se ai që e shëroi është Jisui.