



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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January 15, 2023 – Venerable Paul of Thebes

Troparion – Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

Troparion – Tone 4

O God of our Fathers, always act with kindness towards us; take not Thy mercy from us, but guide our lives in peace // through the prayers of the venerable Paul and John!

Kontakion – Tone 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion – Tone 2

Longing for poverty in imitation of Christ, thou didst abandon thy parents' wealth, O wise Father John; grasping the Gospel in thy hands, thou didst follow Christ God, // unceasingly praying for us all.

Kontakion – Tone 3

Today we gather and praise thee with hymns as an unwaning ray of the spiritual Sun; for thou dost shine on those in the darkness of ignorance, leading all mankind to the heights, // venerable Paul, adornment of Thebes and firm foundation of the fathers and ascetics.

Prokeimenon – Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!

V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

January 6 – Venerable Paul of Thebes

Saint Paul of Thebes was born in Egypt around 227 in the Thebaid of Egypt. Left orphaned, he suffered many things from a greedy relative over his inheritance. During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Decius (249-251), Saint Paul learned of his brother-in-law's insidious plan to deliver him into the hands of the persecutors, and so he fled the city and fled into the wilderness.

Settling into a mountain cave, Saint Paul dwelt there for ninety-one years, praying incessantly to God both day and night. He sustained himself on dates and bread, which a raven brought him, and he clothed himself with palm leaves.

Saint Anthony the Great (January 17), who also lived as an ascetic in the Thebaid desert, had a revelation from God concerning Saint Paul. Saint Anthony thought that there was no other desert dweller such as he. Then God said to him, "Anthony, there is a servant of God more excellent than you, and you should go and see him."

Saint Anthony went into the desert and came to Saint Paul's cave. Falling to the ground before the entrance to the cave, he asked to be admitted. The Elders introduced themselves, and then embraced one another. They conversed through the night, and Saint Anthony revealed how he had been led there by God. Saint Paul disclosed to Saint Anthony that for sixty years a bird had brought him half a loaf of bread each day. Now the Lord had sent a double portion in honor of Saint Anthony's visit. The next morning, Saint Paul spoke to Anthony of his approaching death, and instructed him to bury him. He also asked Saint Anthony to return to his monastery and bring back the cloak he had received from Saint Athanasius. He did not really need a garment, but wished to depart from his body while Saint Anthony was absent.

As he was returning with the cloak, Saint Anthony beheld the soul of Saint Paul surrounded by angels, prophets, and apostles, shining like the sun and ascending to God. He entered the cave and found Abba Paul on his knees with his arms outstretched. Saint Anthony mourned for him, and wrapped him in the cloak. He wondered how he would bury the body, for he had not remembered to bring a shovel. Two lions came running from the wilderness and dug a grave with their claws.

Saint Anthony buried the holy Elder, and took his garment of palm leaves, then he returned to his own monastery. Saint Anthony kept this garb as a precious inheritance, and wore it only twice a year, on Pascha and Pentecost.

Saint Paul of Thebes died in the year 341, when he was 113 years old. He did not establish a single monastery, but soon after his end there were many imitators of his life, and they filled the desert with monasteries. Saint Paul is honored as the first desert-dweller and hermit.

In the twelfth century Saint Paul's relics were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the Peribleptos Monastery of the Mother of God, on orders of the Emperor Manuel (1143-1180). Later, they were taken to Venice, and finally to Hungary, at Ofa. Part of his head is in Rome.

Saint Paul of Thebes, whose Life was written by Saint Jerome, is not to be confused with Saint Paul the Simple (October 4).

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For 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." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Service Schedule for the week of January 15

Sunday January 15 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday January 21 – 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday January 22 – 9:45 AM HOURS, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Pork Dinner Sale & Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Upcoming Holy Days

Wednesday February 1 – Forefeast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya

Thursday February 2 – Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Monday February 27 – Beginning of Great Lent

Weekly Giving

January 8 – 65 adults, 15 youth, \$5,452

Parish Announcements

There will be 40-day Panikhida today after Divine Liturgy for Valentina Tarassov. Memory Eternal

There will be a FOCA Club Meeting today during Coffee Hour.

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for House Blessing. If you would like Father to bless your home, please sign up and Father will contact you to schedule an appointment.

The Ladies Altar Society will be selling pork dinners to go next Sunday, January 22. The dinner will include pork, potato, and vegetable. The cost is \$10/each. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Daria Hall on Sunday January 29, 2023. Please plan on being in attendance.

The FOCA Club will sell soup during Coffee Hour before the Annual Parish Meeting on January 29.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church for a FOCA Club Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday February 12 in Daria Hall. The cost is \$10 for breakfast with a Mimosa drink, \$7 without a Mimosa drink, and free for children 5 and under. There will be no Coffee Hour that day.

Please remember to clean up and remove holiday decorations at the parish cemeteries. Per the Cemetery By-Laws, holiday decorations are to be removed three weeks after the holiday. Thank you for your cooperation.

Gallons of spring water are needed for Coffee Hour. Please bring your donation of water to Daria Hall. The water is used for tea and coffee. Thank you!

Catechism classes are being held every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM in the church basement through March 16. Classes will be taught on a rotating schedule by Father Volodymyr, John Cassar, Herman Meyer, and Alan Berck. Everyone is invited to attend, but classes are mandatory for those wishing to convert to Orthodoxy. Classes will be finished before Pascha, at which time the Catechumens will schedule services to become Orthodox.

Please remember to sign-up for on-line giving, if you are interested. See a member of the Parish Council if you have any questions!

Youth and adults of the parish are invited to Bible Study classes during Coffee Hour. The classes are taught by Alan Berck.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Cezar Mateiescu – January 15

Nicholas Cassar – January 18

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

If you do not see your birthday listed above during your birthday week, please let Darice know and she will add it to the schedule!

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Please remember the Coffee Hour Helpers do not normally bring any refreshments for Coffee Hour, but are there to assist in setting up for Coffee Hour. The host/hostess is responsible for bringing whatever refreshments they wish to serve – if desserts are needed please let the Helper know ahead of time as there are desserts in the freezer that can be used. Host/Hostess is responsible for setting up in the morning starting at **9:00 AM**, with guidance from the Helper, and for cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing and drying dishes, and taking out the trash. If you have any questions please contact Melody Stavisky, Alla Strauss, or the Helper assigned to your Coffee Hour date. Thank you!

Jan. 15 Melody Stavisky, Nina Laushell
Jan. 22 Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun, Nancy Mitsos
Jan. 29 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alla Strauss
Feb. 5 Anna Brasowski, Francine Brady
Feb. 12 FOCA Club - Breakfast Fundraiser
Feb. 19 Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Darice Keyes
Feb. 26 **NO MEAT** Sami Bachir, Awet Tesfa
March 5 **FAST** Matthew & Nana Barrett, Darice Keyes
Mar. 12 **FAST** Awet Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa
Mar. 19 **FAST** Alan & Mimi Berck, Francine & Herman
Mar. 26 **FAST** John Cassar, Nina Laushell
April 2 **FAST** Anne Cheslock, Nancy Mitsos
April 9 **FAST** Francine Brady, Herman Meyer, Alla Strauss
April 16 **PASCHA** – No Coffee Hour
April 23 Madeleine Sekulich, Mark McDevitt, Nancy Mitsos
April 30 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Awet Tesfa
May 7 Betty Kavchok, Nancy Mitsos
May 14 Nina Schmidt, Alla Strauss
May 21 Aftan Chowansky, Nina Laushell
May 28 Christina DiDonato, Francine Brady & Herman Meyer
June 4 Darice Keyes, Nancy Mitsos
June 11 Bill & Margie DiCicco, Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
June 18 **FAST** Timothy & Valeria Srock, Awet Tesfa
June 25 **FAST** Alla & Perry Strauss, Christine Waite
July 2 Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Melody Stavisky