

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday December 5—Bible Study 6:30 pm

Bible Study at Vivian Zimmerman's house

807 2nd St. NE - the large pale green house on the corner of 8th Ave and 2nd St. NE

Saturday December 8

Vespers 5 pm

Sunday December 9

Divine Liturgy 10 am

Saturday December 15 –BISMARCK

Divine Liturgy 11 am

THANK YOU



<http://www.stpeterorthodoxminot.org>

ST. PETER THE ALEUT ORTHODOX CHURCH



Father Stacey Richter

December 2, 2018

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27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prophet Habákkuk (Abbacum, Avakkum—6th c. B.C.). Ven. Afanásii (Athanasius) “the Resurrected One”, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—ca. 1176). Ven. Afanásii, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th c.). Martyr Myrope of Chios (ca. 251). Ss. John, Heraclemon, Andrew, and Theophilus, of Egypt (4th c.). St. Jesse, Bishop of Tsilkani in Georgia (6th c.). St. Stephen-Urosh, King of Serbia (1367)

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Welcome

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed in your time with us! Regarding participation in the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion is treated with the utmost respect and reverence in the Orthodox Church, and it is the rule that only practicing Orthodox Christians may receive it. Our non-Orthodox guests are welcome, however, to participate with us in any other way they may desire, and are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lords and in his mighty power.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

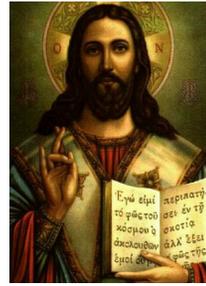
14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

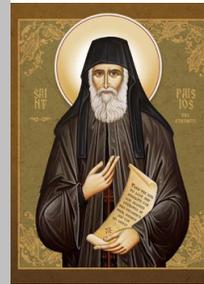
17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.



A Christian's desire for the Truth, the Word of God, must be avid. A believer must give the highest priority in his life to learning Bible facts and principles. There are many examples in the Bible of the great effort made by people of God to obtain truth.

John 14:6 "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me."



BIBLE STUDY

We are studying St. Paul's letter to the Romans. **Bring your Bible!** The epistle of St. Paul to the Romans is arguably one of the most important books ever written. We have no better systematic explanation of the **gospel** of Jesus Christ. It has also intensely influenced Church History. It was through studying Romans that Martin Luther rediscovered the Gospel, which the medieval Catholic Church had largely lost. This sparked the Protestant Reformation. Even in more recent history, Karl Barth's commentary on Romans is regarded as one of the most influential theological works of the twentieth century. Never old, the epistle to the Romans is a spiritual and theological gold mine!

The Armor of God and The Keys to the Kingdom

Studying the Epistle, Ephesians 6:10-18 and the Gospel Luke 18:18-27 today reminds me of a personal lesson that Saint Paisios gave to me in 1990 when I was a child. I asked of him many questions and received many answers and much guidance. Many of which that I may share and some that I may never repeat.

I asked him: "If I become rich, according to the Bible I will never be able to make it to Heaven because I am rich even though I am armed with the Word of God. That young rich man in the passage of Luke we never found out what happened so why would anyone sell everything they own?"

"My dearest, your question already answers your question. The riches you speak of are not the riches that the Lord speaks of. In essence, you must sell all possessions means you must understand that the things we have on earth, the shoes, the watch, the television are not worth anything for your soul. It's not about selling them -but freeing yourself from ever needing them to live and function. You are a sinner and will do many wrongs in your life. Remember It is the sinner, the rich man, that will then have to decide to forfeit worldly possessions-they are simply that possessions- and He says to shed them, they must no posses you."

I asked him to elaborate on being a sinner as he was considered a prophet because he was sainted and I wanted to know of my future

You hold the Word of God, as a shield and you ask questions about what your future beholds in order to excite yourself with the prospect of riches. You are young and still shedding teeth and I would expect that in this world filled with distractions that you would only aspire to attain them all and do not fault you... (He told me things I wish not to repeat at the moment)... I can tell you that when you begin to wear the Word of God as armor the keys to the Kingdom will be in your hand. When you have the keys to the Kingdom in your hand your voice will be your wealth and the ears that it befalls upon will line the path to your salvation in gold. It is when you begin to speak that you will be loathed by most for being the sinner that wears the Armor of God which is the most threatening to all, especially those that aspire to enter the Kingdom and assume they have done their part- Envy. It is at that point you will know you are in armor when earthly ailments will befall you and you will be standing none the less."

T R O P A R I O N

TONE 2

We celebrate the memory / of Your prophet Habakkuk, O Lord; / through him we beseech You: / "Save our souls."

K O N T A K I O N

TONE 8

Divinely eloquent Habakkuk, / you announced to the world the coming forth of God from the south, from the Virgin. / Standing on the divine watch, you received a report from the radiant angel: / "You proclaimed the Resurrection of Christ to the world!" / Therefore in gladness we cry out to you: / "Rejoice, splendid adornment of the prophets!



Christmas Schedule

Friday December 21 - 5:30 pm Royal Hours

Saturday December 22 - 5 pm Vespers

Sunday December 23 - 10 am Divine Liturgy

Monday December 24 - 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Vigil

Tuesday December 25 - 10 am Christmas Liturgy



LUKE 18:18-27

18 A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

19 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.

20 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’”

21 “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.

24 Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!

25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”



The Holy Martyr Myrope was born in the city of Ephesus at the beginning of the third century. She lost her father at an early age, and her mother raised her in the Christian Faith. Saint Myrope frequently visited the grave of the Martyr Hermione (September 4), daughter of the holy Apostle Philip, took myrrh from her relics, and healed the sick with it.

During the persecution by Decius (249-251), Myrope went with her mother to the island of Chios, where they spent their time in fasting and prayer. Once, by order of the cruel governor of the island, the soldier Isidore (May 14), a man of deep faith and great piety, was martyred. Saint Myrope secretly removed the body of the martyr and buried it. The soldiers, who had been ordered not to allow the Christians to take Isidore’s body, were sentenced to death.

Saint Myrope took pity on the condemned, and she told the soldiers and then the governor what she had done. At the trial she confessed herself a Christian. For this they gave her a fierce beating and then threw her in prison. At midnight, while she was praying, a light shone in the prison. Saint Isidore appeared surrounded by angels, and Saint Myrope surrendered her soul to God. The prison was immediately filled with a sweet fragrance. The pagan guard, trembling at the vision, told this to a priest. Later, he accepted Baptism and a martyr’s death for his confession of Christ.