

**The Reading from the 2nd Epistle of  
the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (4:5–8)**

My son Timothy, be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark  
(1:1–8)**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.” “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**Saints Peter & Paul  
Orthodox Church**

Meriden, Connecticut

website: [sspeterpaul.org](http://sspeterpaul.org)

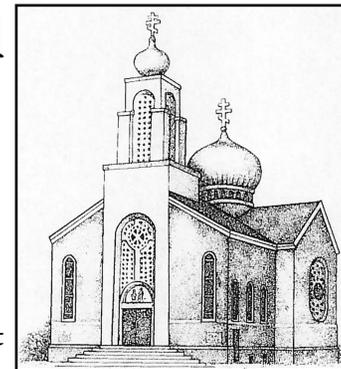
*A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

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28th Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 3  
Sunday before the Theophany  
January 2, 2022

Repose of Ven. Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov (1833). St. Sylvester, Pope of Rome (335). Ven. Sylvester of the Kiev Caves (12th c.). Righteous Juliana of Lazarévsk (Múrom—1604).

**Welcome!**

We rejoice that we are able to draw near to our God in faith and love. As we continue to reopen, please be understanding and patient with the parish and with each other. We ask that you follow all government directives: [portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Reopen-CT](http://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Reopen-CT).

Please sign up to attend services: <https://sspeterpaul.org/signup>. Once you are on our attendance list, we do not need you to sign up again, but we do ask that you check your name off the list as you enter. For those who need to continue distancing, we have reserved the left-hand side of the church with distancing markings. The right side and the choir area allows for households to stand closer together.

Following state directives, you are free to handle items in church according to your own judgment. This includes service books, papers, candles and icons. We still follow COVID measures surrounding the distribution of Holy Communion, but please be prepared: we will revert to the traditional norms of Orthodox practice in coming weeks.

## Upcoming Events in Parish Life

We invite anyone to participate in our services online. Visit our website ([sspeterpaul.org](http://sspeterpaul.org)) for details.

Saturday, Jan. 1	Great Vespers, followed by Confession	5 PM
Sunday, Jan. 2	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	We will bless pledges of support for 2022 at the conclusion of the service.	
Wed., Jan 5	Eve of the Theophany of the Lord: Great Vespers, Great Blessing of Water	6 PM
Thursday, Jan. 6	Divine Liturgy of the Theophany of the Lord	9:30 AM

**The Feast of the Theophany** (“manifestation as God”) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ celebrates that, when our Lord was baptized in the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended upon him and the Father proclaimed that Jesus was his Only-Begotten Son. Though in America it is overshadowed by Christmas, the Theophany is at least as important to us as Christians. As part of the feast, we have the Great Blessing of Water, which recalls all the ways God has worked salvation through water, culminating in the Lord’s baptism—which points to his descent into death and rising on the third day.

Saturday, Jan. 1	Great Vespers, followed by Confession	5 PM
Sunday, Jan. 2	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM

All are welcome to **take home holy water** from the Great Blessing of Water on Theophany. Afterward, the dispenser will be placed at the back of the church for your use. You may bring your own bottles or purchase a small holy water bottle from the cabinet downstairs.

Please remember that, if conditions force **church service or event cancellations**, announcements will be posted on WFSB (channel 3) and WNBC/WVIT (channel 30), as well as on our website: [sspeterpaul.org](http://sspeterpaul.org).

With the Theophany and the Blessing of Water, in January, we enter the **season of house blessings**. Our homes need this spiritual “spring cleaning” each year to free them from the remembrance of sin and fill them with the presence of the Holy Spirit. All that is required is that you prepare a list of the living and departed that you wish to commemorate, and set up a candle and bowl of holy water before an icon. (Fr. Joshua brings holy water, too, in case anyone needs more.) Please sign up for a time on the sheets provided at the candle desk, or contact Fr. Joshua if none of the times are convenient.

The cross is lit today by Linda Craig in memory of her parents **Anna Mae and Frederick O. Beckmann**. May their memory be eternal!

And also by Alexandra Mathiasen in memory of **the departed members of the Boris and Mathiasen families**. May their memory be eternal!

### We Ask Your Prayers

**Many years to all those who have as their heavenly patron the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John (Jan. 7).**

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Amy Stankiewicz on Jan. 7.

For Priest James Parnell, deployed with his company to East Africa until 2022.

**For those suffering from the coronavirus, physicians, nurses and all working in hospitals and public health.**

**For the Sick & Suffering:**

William (Derrig)—cousin of Sarah Massaro

Corey (Knap)—nephew of Valentina Knap, recovering from a serious accident

Alexander (Mankevich)—Alzheimer’s Disease

William (Weidmann)—husband of Adrian, suffering from a chronic immune condition similar to multiple sclerosis

Adrian (Weidmann)—healing after breaking her leg

Robert (Hodges)	Patricia (McFarland)	Robert (Muthersbaugh)
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Jill (Zadar)	Paul (Leonowich)	Margaret	Irene
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Veronica	Marian	Svetlana
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Cyprian and Dana	Nicole and Naaman	Helen and Helene
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**For Our Shut-Ins:**

Yvonne (Rutcho)	Jennie (Padick)	Anna (Belejack)
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Margaret (Savchik)	Ann (Kreshik)
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To share news in the bulletin, or to add someone to our prayer list, please contact Fr. Joshua: [priest@sspeterpaul.org](mailto:priest@sspeterpaul.org) or 203-237-4539.

If you would like to commemorate loved ones by lighting the cross in church, please contact Alexia Tassmer: 203-284-0856.

## Hymns of the Day

### **Tone 3**      **Troparion**      *(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 the  
world//  
great mercy.

### **Tone 4**      **Troparion**      *(Forefeast)*

Prepare, O Zebulon,  
and adorn yourself, O Naphtali!  
River Jordan, cease flowing,  
and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized!  
Adam, rejoice with our first Mother,  
and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in Paradise;  
for having seen you naked,  
He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment.//  
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

### **Tone 4**      **Troparion**      *(St. Seraphim)*

You loved Christ from your youth, O blessed one,  
and, longing to work for Him alone, you struggled in the wilderness in  
constant prayer and labor.  
With penitent heart and great love for Christ you were favored by the  
Mother of God.  
Therefore we cry to you://  
“Save us by your prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father!”

### **Tone 3**      **Kontakion**      *(Resurrection)*

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,  
leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//  
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

### **Tone 2**      **Kontakion**      *(St. Seraphim)*

Forsaking the beauty as well as the corruption of this world,  
you settled in the monastery of Sarón, O Saint.  
There you lived an angelic life,  
becoming for many the way to salvation.  
Therefore, Christ has glorified you, O Father Seraphim,  
enriching you with abundant healing and miracles.//  
So we cry to you: Save us by your prayers, venerable Seraphim, our  
father!  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### **Tone 3**      **Kontakion**      *(Forefeast)*

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:  
“Do not be afraid to baptize Me.//  
For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

### **Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone (Sunday Before)**

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance!      *(Ps. 27:9a)*

*v:* To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!      *(Ps. 27:1a)*

### **Tone 7 Prokeimenon (St. Seraphim)**

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.      *(Ps. 115:6)*

### **Alleluia**

*v:* O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Your  
countenance upon us, and have mercy on us.      *(Ps. 66:1)*

*v:* That we may know Your way upon the earth, and Your salvation among all  
the nations.      *(Ps. 66:2)*

### **Tone 6**

*v:* Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His  
commandments.      *(Ps. 111:1)*

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
*(Ps. 148:1)*

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear  
evil tidings.      *(Ps. 111:6)*