

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (4:7–13)

Brethren, to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:12–17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

On the Meaning of Christ's Baptism

Wishing to save humanity that had gone astray,
you did not think it unworthy for you
to be clothed in the form of a servant;
for it was proper for you as Master and God
to take upon yourself human nature for our sake.
Being baptized in the flesh, O Redeemer,
you made us worthy of forgiveness.
This is why we cry out to you:
"O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to you!"
— *Vespers hymn, Theophany of the Lord*

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

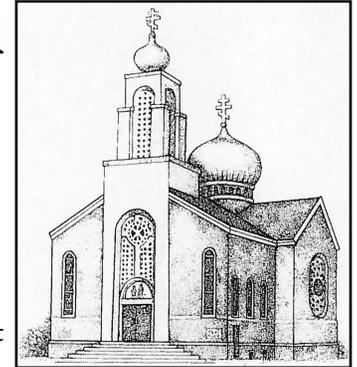
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

Fr. Joshua Mosher, Pastor

203-237-4539 priest@sspeterpaul.org

Donna Leonowich, Parish Council President

203-887-5155



29th Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 4
Sunday after the Theophany
January 9, 2022

Martyr Polyeuktos of Melitēné in Armenia (259). Hieromartyr Philip, Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia (1570). Prophet Shemaiah (2[4] Kings 12:22—10th c. B.C.).

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.

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) for details.

Saturday, Jan. 8	Great Vespers, followed by Confession	5 PM
Sunday, Jan. 9	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	At the end of the service, we will install all those elected to parish office at the Annual Meeting	
	Brotherhood Meeting after coffee hour	
Wednesday, Jan. 12	Parish Council	6:30 PM
Saturday, Jan. 15	Great Vespers, followed by Confession	5 PM
Sunday, Jan. 16 <i>Sanctity of Life</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Saturday, Jan. 22	Great Vespers, followed by Confession	5 PM
Sunday, Jan. 23	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.

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.

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.

The cross is lit today by Fr. Michael and M. Lydia Westerberg for Fr. Joshua, M. Jenny and their family, for the parish council and all the faithful of SS. Peter & Paul parish. May God grant you many years!

The cross was lit on Jan. 5, the eve of Theophany, by M. Lydia to commemorate the 47th anniversary of **Fr. Michael Westerberg’s ordination** to the Holy Priesthood. May God grant him many years!

We Ask Your Prayers

For those celebrating birthdays: Lanah Brigid Phillips & Theodora Boris on Jan 12. Sierra Ann Stankiewicz on Jan. 13.

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)

Jill (Zadar)

Paul (Leonowich)

Robert (Muthersbaugh)

Margaret

Irene

Veronica

Marian

Svetlana

Cyprian and Dana

Nicole and Naaman

Helen and Helene

For Our Shut-Ins:

Yvonne (Rutcho)

Jennie (Padick)

Anna (Belejack)

Margaret (Savchik)

Ann (Kreshik)

To share news in the bulletin, or to add someone to our prayer list, please contact Fr. Joshua: 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 4 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen, //
granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 1 **Troparion** *(Feast)*

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,
and called You His beloved Son;
and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself //
and have enlightened the world, glory to You.

Tone 4 **Troparion** *(Apostles Peter and Paul)*

O 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!

Tone 4 **Troparion** *(St. Polyeuctus)*

Your holy martyr Polyeuctus, O Lord,
through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from You,
our God.
For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. //
Through his intercession, save our souls!

Tone 4 **Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their
chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master, //
He has risen on the third day!

Tone 2 **Kontakion** – **Apostles Peter and Paul**

O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest
and to the enjoyment of Your blessings
the two divinely inspired preachers, the leaders of the Apostles,
for You have accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling
sacrifice, //
for You alone know what lies in the hearts of men.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 2 **Kontakion** *(St. Polyeuctus)*

When the Savior bowed His head in the Jordan,
the heads of the dragons were crushed; //
when Polyeuctus was beheaded, the deceiver was put to shame.
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 **Kontakion** *(Feast)*

Today You have shone forth to the world, O Lord,
and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us. Knowing
You, we sing Your praises:
“You have come and revealed Yourself, //
O unapproachable Light.”

Prokeimenon in the First Tone *(Sunday After)*

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on You!
(Ps. 32:22)
v: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*

Alleluia

v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will
proclaim Your truth from generation to generation. *(Ps. 88:1–2)*
v: For You have said: Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be
prepared in the heavens. *(Ps. 88:3)*