

## The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (15:11–32)

The Lord spoke this parable: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father.

But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, “Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

## Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

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

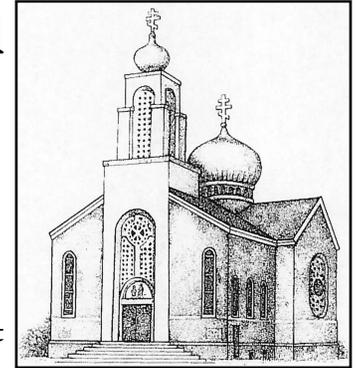
*A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

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203-887-5155



35th Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 2  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son  
February 20, 2022

St. Leo, Bishop of Catania in Sicily (ca. 780). Hieromartyr Sadoc (Sadoth), Bishop of Persia, and 128 Martyrs with him (342-344). St. Agathon, Pope of Rome (682).

### Welcome!

**W**e 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).

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.

Among our temporary responses to COVID has been the use of multiple spoons for the distribution of Holy Communion. Please be advised that we will return to normative Orthodox practice, using one spoon at Communion, starting Sunday, March 6. If you have questions or concerns, please speak with Fr. Joshua.

## Upcoming Events in Parish Life

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

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|--|---|---------|
| Saturday, Feb. 19                            | Great Vespers, followed by Confession   | 5 PM    |
| Sunday, Feb. 20<br><i>Prodigal Son</i>       | Divine Liturgy  | 9:30 AM |
|  | Having completed a fast-free week, on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, we begin increasing our efforts each week until the beginning of Great Lent. This week is the time to consume or freeze all remaining meat.   |         |
| Saturday, Feb. 26                            | Great Vespers, followed by Confession   | 5 PM    |
| Sunday, Feb. 27<br><i>Meatfare Sunday</i>    | Divine Liturgy  | 9:30 AM |
|  | <b>Meatfare Dinner on Feb. 27:</b> We are planning both a dinner and take-out for those who can't stay. Please let Donna Leonowich know whether you will participate: 203-887-5155. Donations are welcomed.   |         |
| Saturday, Feb. 26                            | Great Vespers, followed by Confession   | 5 PM    |
| Sunday, Feb. 27<br><i>Forgiveness Sunday</i> | Divine Liturgy, followed by Rite of Forgiveness   | 9:30 AM |
|  | After the Liturgy, we will celebrate abbreviated Forgiveness Vespers, which liturgically marks our movement into Great Lent. At the end, we will share in a <b>simplified version of the Rite of Forgiveness</b> . If there is anyone with whom you are not at peace, be sure to seek forgiveness personally as well. |         |
| Monday, Feb. 28                              | Great Lent begins   |         |

As we begin to gird ourselves for Great Lent, **we are blessed with the offerings of our Parish Bookstore**. We have stocked it with excellent and accessible resources to strengthen our spiritual lives. We have a few varieties of prayer books that were carefully chosen to be an encouragement to those

of different ages and experience. We also have picked out a few books that share the life and teaching of wise and holy people who understand contemporary struggles and show us the way. Before you leave today, take a close look at these offerings in the bookstore downstairs, and **consider claiming one for your own spiritual effort this Lent**.

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).

**The cross is lit today as an offering for the anniversary of M. Lydia Westerberg's 39th birthday.** May God grant her many years!  
**The cross is also lit today in loving memory of James Veronick.** May his memory be eternal!

## We Ask Your Prayers

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Veronica Tassmer (Feb. 13). Valentina Wigglesworth (Feb. 14). Kelso Tassmer (Feb. 15). Carina Weidmann and M. Lydia Westerberg (Feb. 17). Doctor Jacob Stankiewicz on Feb. 26.

For Al and Vera Mankevich, who celebrate their anniversary on Feb. 17.

**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

Judy (Zeuwalick)—Jen Sullivan's mother, suffering from a complicated operation

Gregory (Mankevich)                      Jill (Zadar)                      Paul (Leonowich)

Robert (Hodges)                      Patricia (McFarland)

Margaret                      Irene                      Maria

Veronica                      Cyprian and Dana

Nicole and Naaman                      Helen and Helene

### For Our Shut-Ins:

Yvonne (Rutcho)                      Jennie (Padick)

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](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 2 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead. And when from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, 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!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

### 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.  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### Tone 3 Kontakion *(Prodigal Son)*

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;  
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me.  
And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:  
“I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;  
receive me as a penitent, //  
and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

## Prokeimenon in the Second Tone *(Resurrection)*

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.  
*(Ps. 117:14)*

*v:* The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death. *(Ps. 117:18)*

## Alleluia

*v:* May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! *(Ps. 19:1)*

*v:* Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! *(Ps. 19:9)*

## Communion Hymn

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

## Notes on the Week

**T**oday is the second Pre-Lenten Sunday, the Prodigal Son. Last week warned us to flee the pride of the Pharisee, that sense of self-satisfaction and self-righteousness that makes it impossible for us to draw near to God. This week reminds us that our heavenly Father is eager to welcome us as soon as we come to our senses and return to him, no matter how far we have gone astray. Next Sunday is Meat-fare, the last day for eating meat until Pascha.