

## The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (5:9–19)

Brethren: the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

## The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:25–12)

At that time, great multitudes followed Jesus—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

## Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

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

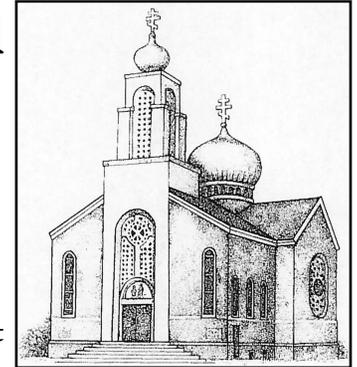
*A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

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Fourth Sunday of Lent—Tone 8  
St. John of *The Ladder*  
April 3, 2022

Ven. Nicetas the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion (824). Virgin-Martyr Theodosia of Tyre, and Martyr Irene (307–8). St. Illyricus of Mt. Myrsinon in the Peloponnesus.

## Welcome!

We welcome everyone who has come to this house of the Lord. We especially welcome all guest and newcomers.

Holy Communion is a solemn responsibility: Orthodox Christians who have prepared through Confession, prayer, and fasting may participate. At the end of the Liturgy, everyone is welcome to come forward for a blessing and to share in the blessed bread (this “antidoron” is used in our prayers but is not itself a sacrament). Afterward, please join us downstairs for fellowship and refreshment. We look forward to greeting you personally, and we are glad that you are here.

For the Sundays of Great Lent, we use the older, more extensive form of the Liturgy—the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. The rest of the year, we use the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. The Liturgy Books available at the doors of the church have both (as well as the Presanctified Liturgy we use on Wednesdays). You can find the Liturgy of St. Basil starting on page 101.

## 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, April 2	Great Vespers, followed by Confession	5 PM
Sunday, April 3	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
<i>St. John Climacus</i>	Deanery Mission Vespers Holy Transfiguration, 285 Alden Ave, New Haven	4 PM
Wed., April 6	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, followed by a Lenten Supper	6 PM
	<b>For the last two Wednesday suppers of Lent, April 6 &amp; 13, we need groups of volunteers from the parish.</b> Please speak with Donna Leonowich to coordinate our plans.	
Friday, April 8	Akathist to the Theotokos	6 PM
Saturday, April 9	Parish Clean-Up Day Join us us to ready our church for Holy Week and Pascha, inside and out!	9 AM– Noon
Saturday, April 9	Great Vespers, followed by Confession	5 PM
Sunday, April 10	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
<i>St. Mary of Egypt</i>	Holy Unction Service Three Saints, 26 Howard Ave, Ansonia	4 PM
	This service is devoted to prayer and anointing (unction) for the healing of our souls and bodies. As the Apostle James taught: “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” (James 5:14–15).	
Friday, April 15	Last Day of Great Lent	
Friday, April 15	Festal Matins—Eve of Raising of Lazarus	6 PM
Saturday, April 16	Divine Liturgy—Raising of Lazarus	9:30 AM
	Distribution of Neighborhood Baskets	Noon

There will be a **brief Special Parish Meeting immediately following the Liturgy next Sunday, April 10.** We will review emergency plumbing work on our apartment house in the last few days and consider further action.

**Great Lent ends on Friday, April 15!** Every member of this parish has a responsibility to participate in Holy Confession regularly, and **at least once during Great Lent.** Confession is available each Saturday and by appointment.

**We are planning to assemble Easter baskets filled with fun and necessary items and distribute them to ten families in need on Saturday, April 16.** All of this is made possible by your support of the Charity Fund.

### We Ask Your Prayers

**For the newly-illuminated child of God Laney Alexandra,** who was baptized yesterday at Holy Trinity, New Britain.

**For Henry Pannone, son of Rebecca and Michael, born on Tuesday afternoon,** weighing 7 pounds, 1 ounce.

**For those celebrating birthdays:** George Alecsandru (April 8). Summer Zina Rose Stankiewicz (April 9).

**For the Sick & Suffering:**

His Eminence, Archbishop Paul—Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest, who has been diagnosed with an incurable brain cancer  
 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  
 Judy (Zeuwalick)—Jen Sullivan’s mother, suffering from a complicated operation

Gregory (Mankevich)	Jill (Zadar)	Paul (Leonowich)
Robert (Hodges)	Patricia (McFarland)	Steven (Cardillo)
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 8 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!  
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, 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 1 Troparion *(St. John Climacus)*

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,  
you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.  
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer,  
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.  
Glory to Him Who gave you strength!  
Glory to Him Who granted you a crown!//  
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

### Tone 8 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.  
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//  
and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

### 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 4 Kontakion (St. John Climacus)

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence,  
to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe,//  
O our father and teacher John.

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

### Tone 4 Kontakion *(Steadfast Protectress)*

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

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! *(Ps. 75:10a)*  
v: In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. *(Ps. 75:1)*

### Tone 7 Prokeimenon (St. John Climacus)

Let the saints exult in glory; / let them sing for joy on their couches!  
*(Ps. 149:5)*

### Alleluia

v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God  
our Savior! *(Ps. 94:1)*  
v: Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful  
noise to Him with songs of praise! *(Ps. 94:2)*  
v: They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the  
courts of our God. *(Ps. 91:12)*

### *(Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing:)*

Hymn to the Theotokos  
All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace:  
the assembly of Angels and the race of men.  
O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,  
the glory of virgins,  
from whom God was incarnate and became a Child —  
our God before the ages.  
He made your body into a throne,  
and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens.  
All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. //  
Glory to you!

### 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)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!