

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (6:1–7)

In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (15:43–16:8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

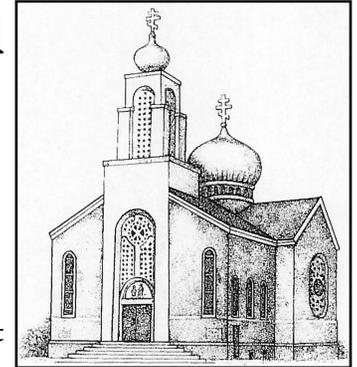
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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3rd Sunday of Pascha—Tone 2
Holy Myrrbearers
May 8, 2022

Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian (98–117). Ven. Arsenius the Great (449–450). Ven. Arseny the Lover-of-Labor (14th c.) and Pimen the Ascetic, of the Kiev Caves (12th c.).

Christ is Risen! Indeed he is risen!

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.

Upcoming Events in Parish Life

We invite anyone to participate in our services online. Visit our website (sspeterpaul.org) for details.

Saturday, May 7	Great Vespers, followed by Confessions	5 PM
Sunday, May 8 <i>Holy Myrrhbearers</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Wed., May 11	Weekday Matins	8 AM
	Parish Council	6:30 PM
Saturday, May 14	Great Vespers, followed by Confessions	5 PM
Sunday, May 15 <i>The Paralytic</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Informational Parish Meeting on the Proposed Bylaws	Noon
	FORCC Online Lecture by Prof. Bruce Beck: "Jesus Christ: The Gardener of Our Souls"— www.forcc.org for details	4 PM
Saturday, May 21	Great Vespers, followed by Confessions	5 PM
Sunday, May 22 <i>Samaritan Woman</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
May 25–June 7	Fr. Joshua vacationing out of state	
Thursday, June 9	Bylaws ballots counted	
Sunday, June 12	Result of Bylaws vote announced	

2022 Vacation Church School at Three Saints: July 11-15; Three Saints Park, 112 Miller Road, Bethany. Daily 9 AM to 4 PM with Family Night on Friday starting at 5 PM. Cost: \$40 per child. Join fellow Orthodox children for a week-long Vacation Church School for ages 5-15. Children pray, learn, sing, work, play and have fun together. This year's theme will be "The Life of Christ." For more information: Fr. Patrick Burns at 203-734-3988 or pnevematicmotives@gmail.com.

Fr. Joshua will be on vacation with his family from May 25 through June 7. This means there will be no services in Meriden for the weekends within that period, including the Feast of Ascension. If you need urgent pastoral care, please contact Fr. David Koles (860-573-0013).

Here are suggested parishes to visit May 25–June 7:

Holy Transfiguration, New Haven
(<https://www.holytransfigurationnh.org/>)

Three Saints, Ansonia
(<https://threesaintschurch.org/>)

Christ the Savior, Southbury
(<http://christsaviorchurch.org>)

We Ask Your Prayers

For the newly departed ever-memorable servant of God, His Eminence, Archbishop Paul—Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest, who fell asleep in the Lord on Pascha.

Many years to all those who have as their heavenly patron one of the Holy Myrrh-bearers (3rd Sunday of Pascha)

Many years to all our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, nuns and spiritual mothers.

For the Sick & Suffering:

William (Derrig)—cousin of Sarah Massaro

Pam (Wilson)—family of Sarah Massaro

Bill (Waas)—family of Sarah Massaro

Sue (Waas)—family 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

Steven (Cardillo)—local Neighborhood Association organizer

Gregory (Mankevich) Jill (Zadar)

Paul (Leonowich)

Margaret Irene

Maria Veronica

Cyprian and Dana Georgiy and Galina

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 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 destroyed 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 2 Troparion *(from the Pentecostarion)*

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But You rose on the third day, O Lord,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 2 Troparion *(St. John)*

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God,
hasten to deliver a defenseless people!
He Who allowed you to recline on His breast, receives you as you
bow before Him.
Implore Him, O John the Theologian,
to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens,// entreating
for us peace and great mercy!

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

Tone 2 Kontakion *(St. John)*

Who shall declare your greatness,
O virgin disciple,
for you pour forth wonders and are a source of healings,// and
pray for our souls as theologian and friend of Christ.

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

Tone 2 Kontakion *(from the Pentecostarion)*

You commanded the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.
By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the first mother.
You commanded them to preach to Your Apostles://
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance! *(Ps 27/28:9)*

Verse: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

(Ps 27/28:1)

Tone 8 Prokeimenon *(St. John)*

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the
ends of the universe. *(Ps. 18:4)*

Notes on the Week

Today we hear our last testimony of the Resurrection. After this commemoration of the Holy Myrrh-bearing Women, we will turn to other parts of the Gospel where our Lord teaches about the importance his Resurrection, but today we hear the earliest witness of its reality. Like last week, when it was so important that the Apostle Thomas feel the wounds in Christ’s risen body, today the discovery of the Resurrection leads directly and of necessity from attention to the Lord’s body.

In fact, this day commemorates not only the Myrrh-bearers as the first witnesses of the Lord’s rising from the grave, but also the righteous Joseph and Nicodemus, the first to bear witness to his burial in it. We need to be confirmed in the faith that Christ really and truly died in the body and was laid to rest in the tomb, before we can have faith in his Resurrection. On the other hand, the women became Equals-to-the-Apostles by going to that tomb expecting a truly dead body, and finding it empty instead. This is the Good News the Myrrh-bearers affirm with the Apostles, that the Son of God has suffered everything as a man in every way like ourselves except sin, and has broken the prison bars of the Grave.

For those women in the first hours of that new day, it was shocking news. “They trembled and were amazed.” Does the Good News amaze us? Is Pascha just another turn of the season? Imagine if we had gone to bless the graves, and found them open and empty, how we would have trembled then! And yet that is our hope: that on the Last Day, every tomb will surrender its dead, and we will all rise to stand before our Lord, our merciful judge. With the Myrrh-bearers, pay attention — with fear and trembling — to the witness of our Lord’s body. Christ is risen!