The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (4:14–5:6)

Brethren: seeing that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (8:34–9:1)

The Lord said: "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

Fr. Joshua Mosher, Pastor

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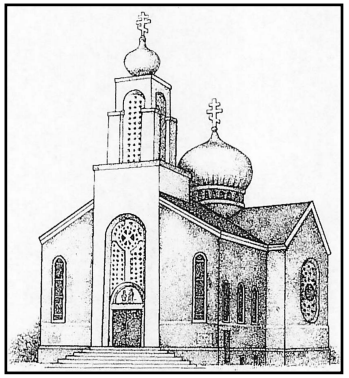


Second Sunday of Lent—Tone 7 Veneration of the Cross March 19, 2023	Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria, and those with them at Rome: Claudius, Hilaria, Jason, Maurus, Diodorus the Presbyter, and Marianus the Deacon (283).

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

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

Please feel free to follow along with a Divine Liturgy book from the table at the glass doors. For these Sundays during Great Lent, we are using the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

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 (called "antidoron," this blessed bread 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, March 18	Vigil, followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, March 19 *Veneration of the Cross*	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in CT (FORCC) Vespers at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport	4 PM
Wednesdays	Morning worship	8:15 AM
Wednesdays	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Supper	6 PM
Friday, March 24	Vigil for the Annunciation	6 PM
Saturday, March 25	Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation	9:30 AM
	We commemorate the Annunciation, when Archangel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would bear in the flesh the Son of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Come, rejoice!	
Saturday, March 25	Vigil, followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, March 26	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Leave-taking of the Annunciation	Deanery Mission Vespers Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, 34 Fairview Ave, Terryville	4 PM
Tuesday, March 28	Foundation in Orthodox Christianity Session 5: Church History Over-Simplified https://tinyurl.com/sspp-zoom	6 PM
Thurs., March 30	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts for St. Innocent, Enlightener of the Aleuts, Apostle to North America	6 PM
Friday, March 31	Akathist Service to the Theotokos	6 PM
Saturday, April 1	Parish Clean-Up Day Join us us to ready our church for Pascha, inside and out!	9 AM–Noon
Friday, April 7	End of Great Lent	

Thank you to everyone who took time to fill out the **Parish Effectiveness Survey** last month. We are still waiting to learn final participation numbers and, of course, the survey results. We will share as we learn more.

We are planning to assemble Easter baskets filled with fun and necessary items and distribute them to eight families in need on Saturday, April 8. All of this is made possible by your support of the Charity Fund. Please give generously this Lent!

The flowers decorating the Cross are offered by Helen Husenita in memory of the **departed members of the Husenita and Levchuk families** and for the health of the **living members of these families**. They are also offered by Sarah Massaro **in memory of Edith, Rufus and Paul Nichols**.

The cross is lit by the Barone & Leonowich families for the health of **Paul Leonowich & Joe Barone** on their birthday. May God grant them many years!

We Ask Your Prayers

For all those who have as their heavenly patron the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (Annunciation, March 25).

For those celebrating birthdays: Joe Barone & Paul Leonowich on March 22.

For the Sick & Suffering:

Archpriest Andrew (Tregubov)
William (Waas)—family of Sarah Massaro
Corey (Knap)—nephew of Valentina Knap, recovering from a serious accident
William (Weidmann)—husband of Adrian, suffering from a chronic immune condition similar to multiple sclerosis
Steven (Cardillo)—local Neighborhood Association organizer

Gregory (Mankevich)	Christopher (Sullivan)
Anita (Propheter)	Rosemary (Delaney)
Irene	Lorraine
Jacob	Katelyn
Crystal	Victoria
Bruce and Stacia	Cyprian and Dana
Nicole and Naaman	Helen and Helene

For Our Shut-Ins:

Yvonne (Rutcho)	Jennie (Padick)	
Margaret (Savchik)	Ann (Kreshik)	Jill (Zadar)

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 7 Troparion *(Resurrection)*
By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion *(Veneration of the Cross)*
O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross,//
preserve Your habitation!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Cross)*
Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;
it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross.
The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;
for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell://
"Enter again into Paradise!"

In the place of the Trisagion we sing:
Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master,
and Your holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone ***(Veneration of the Cross)***
O Lord, save Your people / and bless Your inheritance! *(Ps 27/28:9)*

v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!
(Ps 27/28:1)

Alleluia

v: Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!
(Ps 73/74:2)
v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth! *(Ps 73/74:12)*

(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 light of Your countenance has shone on us, O Lord. *(Ps. 4:7a)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

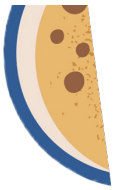
SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Blessing Bags

Sunday, March 26

We are called to love our neighbors and care for them. The Lord said: “As you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me” (Matt. 25).

We are assembling 30 blessing bags that may be given to people in need. The bags will include a few necessities and comforts for someone who is in distress, lost their home or otherwise in need of support.

We plan to assemble bags on Sunday, March 26, after coffee hour. There are opportunities to help with finalizing the item list, purchases, assembly, writing a simple message of love on a card, and distribution of the bags. Our Parish Charity Fund covers the costs. Donations to the Charity Fund are always welcome!

Want to participate? Questions?
Contact Timur Yarovinsky
tel. 203-859-4525
email timur.yarovinsky@gmail.com