

For the Paschal Liturgy (early morning):

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (1:1–17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

For Paschal Vespers (at noon):

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (20:19–25)

The same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

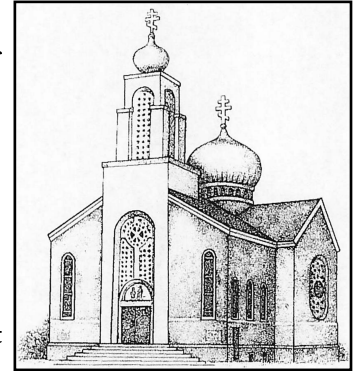
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

Fr. Joshua Mosher, Pastor

203-237-4539 priest@sspeterpaul.org

Donna Leonowich, Parish Council President

203-887-5155 president@sspeterpaul.org



Holy Pascha

The Resurrection of Our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ

April 16, 2023

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.

Please feel free to follow along with a Divine Liturgy book from the table at the glass doors. For this Sunday and most of the year, we are using the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

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, April 15	Nocturn before Paschal Service	11:30 PM
Sunday, April 16	Paschal Matins and Liturgy	Midnight
	Blessing of baskets, fellowship follows	
	Paschal Vespers	Noon
Monday, April 17	Bright Monday Divine Liturgy, with procession and four Resurrection Gospel readings	9:30 AM
Tuesday–Friday	Bright Week Vespers	6 PM
Saturday, April 22	Vigil followed by Confession	6 PM
Sunday, April 23 <i>St. Thomas Sunday</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Blessing of Graves (weather permitting)	11:30 AM
Sunday, April 30	Blessing of Graves rain date	

Notes on the Week

We call the present Feast “Pascha,” which in Hebrew means “Passover.” For this is the day on which God from the beginning brought the world out of non-existence. On this same day he also made the people of Israel pass over the Red Sea and snatched them from the hands of Pharaoh. Again it was on this day that he came down from heaven and dwelt in the womb of the Virgin. And now he has snatched the whole of humanity from the vaults of Hades and made it pass upwards to heaven and brought it to its ancient dignity of incorruption.... And so we, rejoicing exceedingly, celebrate the Resurrection with splendor.... Likewise, to demonstrate the abolition of the enmity and the union with God and the Angels, we give one another the customary kiss.

Understand how the Lord’s Resurrection was on the third day like this. Thursday evening and Friday make one day. Friday night and the whole of the Saturday make another full day; so this is the second day. Saturday night and the morning of Sunday (for the whole is understood from the part) make another full day; so that is the third day.

—*From the Synaxarion of the Menaion*

Christ is risen! Indeed, he is risen! This is the Day of Resurrection! We celebrate the Feast of Feasts not only with Pascha Sunday, but the entirety of the coming Bright Week. **For this week, there is no fasting.**

We also honor the Resurrection (literally, when our Lord “stood up again”) by **standing to pray**—neither kneeling nor making prostrations—until Vespers of Pentecost. In our prayers, **we also do not begin with “O Heavenly King”**—the hymn to the Holy Spirit—until Pentecost. Rather, we celebrate the Resurrection, with the Paschal Troparion three times: **“Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!”**

Dn. Mark Roosien will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, May 6, at Holy Ghost Church, Bridgeport. They are planning a luncheon afterward, and so need to know how many plan to attend. **Please let Fr. Joshua know if you plan to attend and stay for the luncheon, so that he can RVSP by April 30..**

We Ask Your Prayers

For those celebrating birthdays: Summer Zina Rose Stankiewicz (April 9).

For the Sick & Suffering:

Archpriest Andrew (Tregubov)
 Matushka Deborah (Belonick)—suffered a serious fall
 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) Mary Jane (Rodgers)
 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.