

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (20:16–18, 28–36)

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you. Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (17:1–13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

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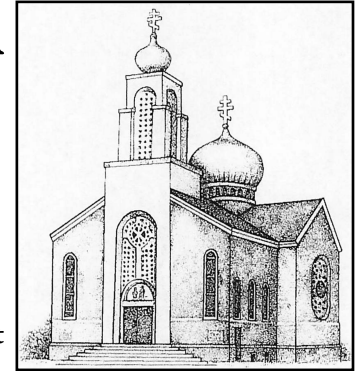
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7th Sunday of Pascha—Tone 6
Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council
After-feast of the Ascension
May 28, 2023

St. Niketas, Bishop of Chalcedon (9th c.). St. Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene (1st c.). Martyr Heliconis of Thessalonica (244). Hieromartyr Helladius, Bishop in the East (6th–7th 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.

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, May 27	Evening Worship, Supper & Fellowship	5 PM
	All are welcome to enjoy supper and fellowship together after our evening worship. Bring a friend!	
Sunday, May 28 <i>1st Ecumenical Council</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Tuesday, May 30	Foundation in Orthodox Christianity Online Session 10: Running the Race	6 PM
Saturday, June 3	Pentecost Vigil	5 PM
Sunday, June 4 <i>Holy Pentecost</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM

Pentecost is the fiftieth day from Pascha, and is itself one of the great feasts in the Church, celebrating when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, renewing and empowering them to preach the Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ to all peoples throughout the world.

“Kneeling Vespers” of Pentecost follows

This is the first time we kneel to pray since the Lord’s Resurrection. We will pray for the departed and for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit would give us the power to live holy lives, according to the example of the Apostles.

Saturday, June 10	Vespers at All Saints, Hartford	5 PM
	We are invited to celebrate the eve of All Saints’ patronal feast. There is a supper afterward.	
Sunday, June 17	Vespers at Christ the Savior, Southbury	6 PM

Fr. Joshua is participating in the baptism of Miroslav, son of Maria Leivas, in Southbury, and we will be joining in their Vespers service as well.

Please be mindful of **roadwork around the church** throughout the next few months, on weekdays and some Saturdays. It should always be possible to reach the church, but we might need extra time to park on other streets and walk. The roads and parking lot should always be open on Sundays.

Application forms are now available for **Diocesan Youth Rally, Aug. 7–12**. Children aged 9–17 are encouraged to attend this high-quality camp run by the Diocese of New England at the St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, New Hampshire. Many adults from our parish serve as Rally Staff, and parish youth have been blessed by the experience. Rally volunteers Tim Tassmer, Elias and Ephraim Mosher would be glad to answer questions.

We Ask Your Prayers

For the departed who have served in the defense of this land: memory eternal!

Many years to all those celebrating anniversaries: Peter & Theodora Boris on May 23. Joseph & Jennifer Uliase on May 24. Fr. Joshua & M. Jennifer Anne Mosher on May 25. Daniel & Beverly Veronick on May 26.

Many years to all those celebrating birthdays: Alexander Mankevich on May 22. Andrea Rodgers & M. Jennifer Anne Mosher on May 23. Annabell Sousa (May 28). Yola Kallestinova (May 29).

For the Sick & Suffering:

Mka. Evelyn (Kreta)—broke her wrist

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) Helen (Olsen)

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 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, //
glory to You.

Tone 4 Troparion (Ascension)

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that You are the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world!

Tone 8 Troparion (Fathers)

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!
You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.
Through them You have guided us to the true Faith. //
O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

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

Tone 8 Kontakion (Fathers)

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one
Faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, //
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

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

Tone 4 Kontakion (Ascension)

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united earth to
heaven:
You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
not being parted from those who love You,
but remaining with them and crying: //
"I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Your
Name forever! (*Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3*)

Verse: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (*v. 4*)

Alleluia

Verse: The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the
rising of the sun to its setting. (*Ps. 49:1*)

Verse: Gather to Me My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by
sacrifice! (*Ps. 49:6*)

(*Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing:*)

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth
to heaven!

We the faithful, with one accord, magnify you, the Mother of God,
who, beyond reason and understanding,
ineffably gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*)
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps. 32:1*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Notes on the Week

"Now I come to you [the Father], and these things I speak in the world, that they
may have my joy fulfilled in themselves." These words of our Lord Jesus Christ
conclude our Gospel reading today, which is a powerful prayer to the Father for
his apostles, and for the whole Church. St. Gregory the Theologian explains how
the Lord speaks on our behalf:

"Appealing" does not imply here, as it does in popular parlance, a desire for legal
satisfaction — there is something humiliating in the idea. No, it means represent-
ing us in his role of mediator.... "For there is one God, and one mediator between
God and men, the Man, Jesus Christ" (Eph. 1:13–14). Even at this moment he
is, as man, making representation for my salvation, until he makes me divine by
the power of his incarnate humanity. "As man," I say, because he still has with him
the body he assumed, though he is no longer "regarded as flesh" (1 Cor. 6:19–20)
— meaning the bodily experiences, which, sin aside, are ours and his. This is the
Advocate we have in Jesus — not a slave who falls prostrate before the Father on
our behalf. Get rid of what is really a slavish suspicion, unworthy of the Spirit. It
is not in God to make that demand nor in the Son to submit to it; the thought is
unjust to God. No, it is by what he suffered as man that he persuades us, as Word
and Encourager, to endure. That, for me, is the meaning of his "advocacy."

— St. Gregory the Theologian, *Fourth Theological Oration*, 14.