

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (11:33–12:2)

Brethren, through faith the saints subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (10:32–33, 37–38; 19:27–30)

The Lord said to his disciples, “Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.” Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

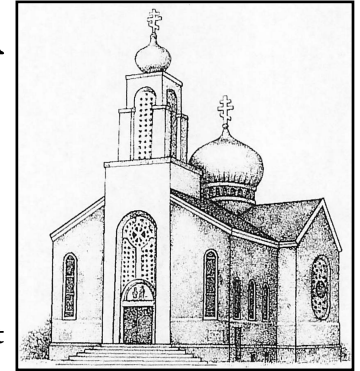
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

Fr. Joshua Mosher, Pastor

203-237-4539 priest@sspeterpaul.org

Donna Leonowich, Parish Council President

203-887-5155 president@sspeterpaul.org



1st Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 8

All Saints

June 11, 2023

Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas (1st c.). Ven. Barnabas, Abbot of Vetluga (1445). Hieromartyr Metrophanes (Chang Tzi-tzung), first Chinese priest, and the martyrs of the Boxer Rising in China (1900)

Glory to Jesus Christ!

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, June 10	Great Vespers at All Saints, 205 Scarborough Street, Hartford	5 PM
	We are invited to celebrate the eve of All Saints' patronal feast. There is a supper afterward.	
Sunday, June 11 <i>All Saints</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Monday, June 12	Apostles Fast until June 28	
On this Monday, we begin the Apostles' Fast , a season of reflection and preparation for the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, June 29.		
Wednesdays	Morning Worship	8:15 AM
Wed., June 14	Parish Council	6:30 PM
Saturday, 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.		
Sunday, June 18 <i>All Saints of America</i>	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Akathist Service at All Saints of America, 313 Twin Lakes Rd, Salisbury	4 PM
Sunday, June 25	Exploring Orthodoxy after Coffee Hour	Noon
	On Sunday afternoons starting June 25, we will take about 30 minutes for a short exploration of Orthodoxy. Each week, we will take a topic of your choosing. On June 25, we will begin with a tour of our church, walking through the design and iconography.	
Wed., June 28	Vigil followed by a supper celebrating our parish feast	6 PM
Thurs., June 29	Divine Liturgy—Apostles Peter & Paul	9:30 AM

We have 16 Blessing Bags for parishioners to share the love of Christ with those in urgent need. The Lord commands us to feed, clothe, and comfort “the least of these my brethren.” Our parish has used the resources of our Charity Fund to fill Blessing Bags with necessities and kindnesses meant for those who are in real distress. All are invited to claim bags, either to give to a person or family they already know is in crisis, or to keep with them to give to someone they meet, where giving money is inappropriate. It is our vision that we would make more Blessing Bags over time, so your ongoing support of the Charity Fund is always welcome!

Be aware that our **Charity Fund** is intended to assist those within the parish, as well as those in the wider community. If you or a loved one needs support, please speak with Fr. Joshua, Donna Leonowich or Alexia Tassmer.

The cross it lit in celebration of the anniversary of Donna and Paul Leonowich. May God grant them many years!

We Ask Your Prayers

For Jill Boris Zadar, who peacefully fell asleep in the Lord on June 7. No funeral arrangements have been set as yet. Condolences may be sent to John Boris, 1503 Oakview Drive McLean, VA 22101-4142. Memory eternal!

For Kelso Tassmer, who has as his heavenly patron St. Jonah, Metropolitan of Moscow (June 15).

For those celebrating birthdays: Anne Kreshik (6/17).

For the Sick & Suffering:

Mka. Evelyn (Kreta)—broke her wrist, needing additional surgery
 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 Bruce and Stacia
 Cyprian and Dana Nicole and Naaman Helen and Helene

For Our Shut-Ins:

Yvonne (Rutcho) Jennie (Padick)
 Margaret (Savchik) Ann (Kreshik) 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.

Metropolitan Tikhon Announces Candidate for Bishop of New England

It is my joy to share with you the announcement from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, of **a superb candidate for bishop of New England: Fr. Benedict Churchill**. Fr. Benedict is currently priest of St. George Mission in South Carolina and also an editor of SVS Press. He is a retired manager at Xerox and a scuba instructor—so he has excellent administrative and leadership instincts and is in vigorous health. He met for two hours with the Diocesan Council last month and thoroughly impressed all of us. Our biggest regret is that we need to wait many months before he could possibly be elected and consecrated as our bishop.

As Metropolitan Tikhon's letter explains, he has decided, at the unanimous request of the Diocesan Council, to convene a Special Diocesan Assembly on Saturday, Oct. 28, limiting our Annual Diocesan Assembly to a one-day agenda on Friday, Oct. 27, at Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven. The sole purpose of the Special Assembly will be to vote whether to nominate Fr. Benedict for election by the Holy Synod.

(It is worth noting that the Holy Synod has already rigorously vetted this candidate and recommended him to our diocese.)

At our last Annual Parish Meeting, we elected Mary Jane Kubeck-Rodgers as our Assembly Delegate and Thomas Crosby as the Alternate. Mary Jane will be out of the country that week, so Tom and Fr. Joshua will represent the parish at both Assemblies in October.

The Holy Synod of Bishops next meets in November, when it would vote whether to elect Fr. Benedict, should our Diocese nominate him. They would then schedule his consecration as bishop and later his enthronement as Bishop of New England.

With love in Christ,



Prayer for the Calling Forth of a New Bishop

Again we pray that the Lord our God, in His mercy and providential care for us, will call forth for our Diocese of New England a true shepherd of wisdom and strength, blessing us with an Archpastor to care for the well-being of our Diocese, and to unite His faithful people in a zealous confession of the Orthodox faith, in loving service to one another, and a bright witness to the glory of His Holy Name.

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 (from the Pentecostarion)

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,
Your Church has been adorned with Your martyr's blood shed
throughout all the world.
She cries to You, O Christ God:
"Send down Your bounties on Your people,//
grant peace to Your habitation and great mercy to our souls!"
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 Kontakion (from the Pentecostarion)

The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs
as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.
By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation, in abiding
peace//
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps 75/76:11)

Verse: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.
(Ps 75/76:1)

The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone:

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. (Ps 67/68:35)

Alleluia

Verse: The righteous cried and the Lord heard them and delivered
them out of all their troubles. (Ps 33/34:18)

Verse: Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the Lord will deliver
them out of them all. (Ps 33/34:20)

Notes on the Week

Today we hear from the Apostle, regarding this Feast of All Saints: "all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us."

St. John Chrysostom explains: "They gained their victory so many ages ago, and have not yet received their reward. And you who are yet in the conflict, are you vexed? Do you also consider what a thing it is, and how great, that Abraham should be sitting, and the Apostle Paul, waiting till you have been perfected, that then they may be able to receive their reward? For the Savior has told them before that unless we also are present, He will not give it to them

"Do you see that we have the advantage of them? For 'God,' he says, 'has provided some better thing for us.' ... He appointed one time of crowning for all; and he that gained the victory so many years before, receives his crown with you. Do you see his tender carefulness?"

— *St. John Chrysostom, Homily 28 on the Epistle to the Hebrews*

O divine choir of martyrs,
you are the pillars of the Church and the fulfillment of the Gospel.
By your deeds you have fulfilled the Savior's words.
You have closed the gates of hell and defended the Church.
The shedding of your blood has dried up the libations poured out to idols.
Your sacrifice has nourished the body of the faithful.
Standing crowned before God, you amazed the Angels.//
Pray unceasingly to Him that our souls may be saved!

Come, all believers,
with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
let us praise the all-glorious memory of all the Saints,
blessing reverently the Baptist of our Savior,
the Apostles, Prophets, and Martyrs,
the Hierarchs, Teachers, and the Holy Ones,
the Ascetics, the Righteous, and the God-loving assembly of holy Women!
With one voice let us cry aloud:
"O Christ our God, supremely good,
by their intercessions, bestow peace upon Your Churches,
victory over enemies to those who love God,//
and on our souls great mercy!"
—*From Vespers of the Feast of All Saints*