

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (2:10–16)

Brethren, glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:18–23, 25–5:12)

At that time, Jesus, while walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

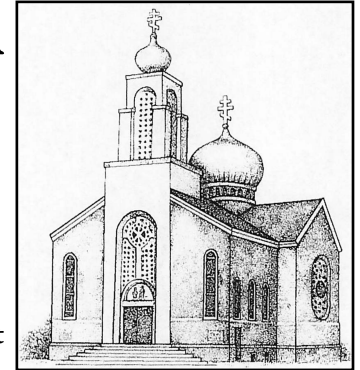
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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1st Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 1

All Saints of America

June 18, 2023

Martyr Leontius, and with him Martyrs Hypatius and Theodulus, at Tripoli in Syria (70–79). Ven. Leonty, Canonarch, of the Kiev Caves (14th c.). Ven. Leonty the Hagiorite (1605).

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 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
Wednesdays	Morning Worship	8:15 AM
Saturday, June 24	Panikhida for Helen Kasperovich	4:15 PM
	Parish Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, June 25 <i>Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Forerunner</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
Friday., June 30	Funeral of Jill Zadar	10 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.

We Ask Your Prayers

For all our fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, bishops, priests, deacons, monks and spiritual fathers.

For those who have as their heavenly patron the Martyr Inna (June 20) or St. Alban (June 21).

For those celebrating birthdays: Margaret Savchik (June 23).

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)	
Juliana (Helwig)	Douglas (Hedges)	
Irene	Lorraine	Jacob
Valeria	Juliana	
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.

On the Parish Survey Early This Year

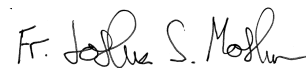
I apologize for the delay in making a formal report and response to the parish health survey sent to us by the Diocesan Strategic Planning Committee. Our parish made a great effort and did our part well, but many found the survey confusing and difficult to fill out. Nevertheless, Linda Craig, our parish coordinator, and the whole parish council waited with interest and growing impatience for the results. As of today, despite many requests, we still have received no report, and we are declaring this endeavor over.

We sincerely thank all of you for your serious efforts, and we do plan to engage in these important questions of parish health in the future, but we will not ask you to participate in any survey where the parish council does not immediately have access to raw anonymous data. There is always the possibility of mistakes and misjudgments along the way, but there is no excuse for a simple failure to receive any information after such intense efforts.

What we know in this particular case is that

1. we did not receive accurate descriptions of the survey we were to take;
2. the survey seems to have been set up incorrectly for our use;
3. the survey was not designed with the reality of the Diocese of New England in mind;
4. the diocese has since decided to abandon this survey altogether and create a new, much more streamlined and appropriate survey;
5. that we struggled to receive up-to-date news over these months;
6. and that the company contracted to process the survey results has still not shared our parish data with us or the diocese.

Given that the diocese has decided to replace this survey with an entirely new one, we have no expectation of receiving a report from our winter efforts. Again, I personally apologize for all the frustration that understandably ensued, and we will make sure to do better in any future endeavor.



Hymns of the Day

Tone 1 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Tone 8 Troparion (*All Saints of America*)

As the bountiful harvest of Your sowing of salvation,
the lands of North America offer to You, O Lord, all the saints
who have shone in them.
By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace, //
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Tone 1 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.
Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You: //
“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

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

Tone 3 Kontakion (*All Saints of America*)

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God
in the lands of North America
now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us.
With them the Angels glorify Him,
and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them; //
and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.

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

Tone 6 Kontakion — *Steadfast Protectress*

Prokeimenon in the First Tone

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us /as we have set our hope on You!
(Ps 32/33:22)

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!
(Ps 32/33:1)

The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone: (*All Saints of America*)

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints.
(Ps 115/116:15)

Alleluia

Verse: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.
(Ps 17/18:47)

Verse: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully
with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps 17/18:50)

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, O you righteous!
(Ps 31/32:11)

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 All Saints of North America

Today we celebrate the memory of all the saints who shone forth in North America, from St. Herman to St. Tikhon to holy ones known only to God. Among them is St. Nikolai of Zhicha, who was born in Serbia but served in America many years as a bishop and teacher. During the Second World War, he spoke openly in Serbia against the Nazis and was eventually imprisoned in the Dachau concentration camp. After the war, he taught in many seminaries, especially St. Tikhon's in Pennsylvania. He reposed at St. Savva Monastery in Illinois, but his relics have been transferred after the Cold War to his spiritual home in Chetinje Monastery, Serbia. We are blessed with books, homilies and prayers from this “Serbian Chrysostom.” Holy Father Nikolai, pray to God for us sinners!