

**The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul
to the Romans (5:1–10)**

Brethren, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (6:22–33)

The Lord said, “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

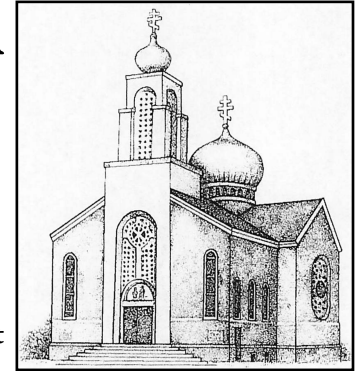
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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3rd Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 2
After-feast of the Nativity of Saint
John the Forerunner and Baptist
June 25, 2023

Virgin Martyr Febronia of Nisibis (ca. 304).
Ss. Peter and Fevronia, Wonderworkers of
Múrom (1228). St. Dionysios, the builder of
Prodromou Monastery on Mt. Athos
(1375). All Saints of Britain.

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 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
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.	
Wednesdays	Morning Worship	8:15 AM
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
Thurs., June 29	Funeral Vigil Service at Ferry's Funeral Home	6 PM
	Visiting hours with Jill's family at Ferry's Funeral Home	4–7 PM
Friday., June 30	Funeral of Jill Zadar	10 AM
Saturday, July 1	Parish Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, July 2	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Tuesday, July 11	Bible Study Online—2nd & 4th Tuesdays: the Gospel of Saint Mark	6:30 PM

Keep in touch with our parish via email and text messages. We have started up a convenient communication service that allows us to share upcoming events, important developments in parish life, and reflections on the Orthodox Christian Faith—without spam, we promise! You can choose to get updates from particular ministries you are interested in, and unsubscribe any time. Sign up today at <https://sspeterpaul.org/news.html>

The cross is lit in loving memory of **Jill Boris Zadar** by Alexandra Mathiasen. May her memory be eternal!

We Ask Your Prayers

For all those who have as their heavenly patron one of the saints of the British Isles (3rd Sunday after Pentecost), St. John the Forerunner and Baptist (June 24), or one of the Leaders of the Apostles, Peter & Paul (June 29).

For those celebrating birthdays: Jordan Novak on June 28. Elias Mosher on June 29.

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 Valerie
 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.

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.

F. John S. Mohr

Hymns of the Day

Tone 2 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 4 Troparion *(Forerunner)*

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,
although we cannot praise you worthily,
we honor you in love at your nativity,
for by it you ended your father’s silence and your mother’s
barrenness,//
proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

Tone 4 Troparion *(St. Febronia)*

Your lamb Febronia calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice:
“I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You, I endure suffering.
In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You,
and I died so that I might live with You.
Accept me as a pure sacrifice,
for I have offered myself in love.”//
Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful!

Tone 2 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with
You,//
and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Tone 3 Kontakion *(Forerunner)*

Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ’s Forerunner,
who is the fulfillment of every prophecy;
for in the Jordan,
when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the Prophets,//
he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.

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

Tone 6 Kontakion *(St. Febronia)*

“Most sweet Jesus, my Bridegroom,
it is not hard for me to follow You,” cried Febronia,
“the sweetness of Your love gives wings of hope to my soul,
the beauty of Your mercy has sweetened my heart;
may I drain the cup of sufferings in imitation of You,
so that You may count me worthy to be among the wise virgins:
those who dance with You in Your bridal chamber.”
Therefore, venerable passion-bearer, as we honor the struggles of your
labors, we entreat you://
“Pray that we not find the doors of the bridal chamber locked to us!”

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

Tone 6 Kontakion — *Steadfast Protectress*

Prokeimenon in the Second Tone

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.
(Ps. 117:14)
Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me
over to death. *(Ps. 117:18)*

Alleluia

Verse: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of
the God of Jacob protect you! *(Ps. 19:1)*
Verse: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!
(Ps. 19:9)

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
(Ps. 148:1)
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear
evil tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!