

## The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (15:1–7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

## The Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (9:27–35)

At that time, two blind men followed Jesus, crying out and saying, “Son of David, have mercy on us!” And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.” And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows it.” But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen like this in Israel!” But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.” Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

## Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: [sspeterpaul.org](http://sspeterpaul.org)

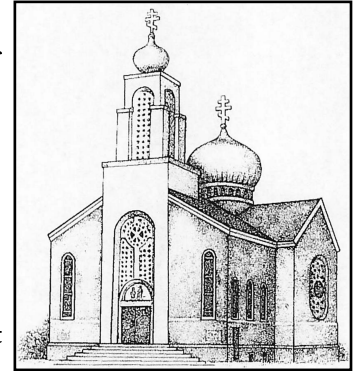
*A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

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7th Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 6

July 23, 2023

Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus, and  
13 others in Lycia (4th c.).  
Hieromartyr Apollinaris, Bishop of  
Ravenna (ca. 75).

## 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 (at the beginning of the book).

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](http://sspeterpaul.org)) for details.

Saturday, July 22	Parish Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, July 23	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Blessing of Vehicles	
	We practice this blessing as a celebration of the Prophet Elijah, who was carried up to heaven in a fiery chariot. (You can find the account in the Bible: 2[4] Kings 2:1–14.) On a Sunday close to St. Elijah's feast (July 20), we go out from the church to our vehicles to pray that the Lord would keep us safe as we travel. Please open your doors so that your vehicles may be blessed inside and out.	
	<b>Exploring Orthodoxy after Coffee Hour:</b> On Sunday afternoons, we will take about 30 minutes for a short exploration of Orthodoxy. Each week, we will take a topic of your choosing.	
Tuesday, July 25	Bible Study Online—2nd & 4th Tuesdays: the Gospel of Saint Mark	6:30 PM
Wednesdays	Morning Worship	8:15 AM
Saturday, July 29	Parish Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, July 30	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Furniture move after coffee hour	
	<b>Calling all able-bodied volunteers:</b> we need to clear space for refinishing the downstairs floors.	
August 1–14	<b>The Dormition Fast begins</b> with the Procession of the Cross. The fast ends on Aug. 15 with the Feast of Dormition.	
Tuesday, Aug. 1	National Night Out	5–8 PM
	<b>We are seeking volunteers for a booth in Hubbard Park, Meriden,</b> to greet youth on behalf of our church	

**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>

## We Ask Your Prayers

**For those who have as their heavenly patron the Martyr Christina of Tyre** (July 24).

**For the newly illumined Miguel Ivan Moll and Julaisa Xenia Santiago,** who were received through Holy Chrismation yesterday.

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Helen Barone and Sarah Massaro on July 30.

### 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     Lilah  
 Angela     Innocent  
 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](mailto: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.



# Keep in touch with us

VIA EMAIL OR TEXT MESSAGE

- Choose to receive updates from groups you're interested in
- Unsubscribe anytime
- No spam, we promise

## sspporthodox.flocknote.com

We respect your time and attention. Messages to the main group—"Everyone"—will be limited to the most important news of the week. You can expect one or two messages each week—no more except in truly extraordinary cases.

Once you are signed up, we encourage you to join groups to keep in touch with the news and ministries closest to your heart. For example:

### **Giving Thanks**

sharing news and photos from our parish  
life

### **Wisdom**

regular reflections drawn from the well of  
our Orthodox Christian faith

### **Bible Study**

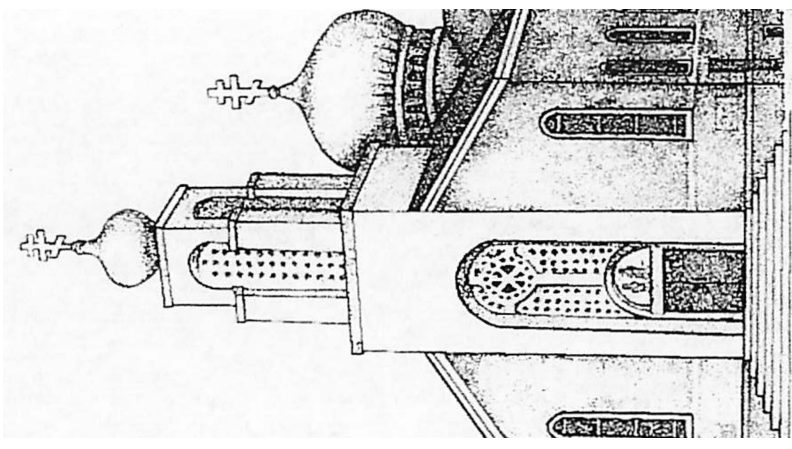
notes and preparation for those wanting  
to learn more of the Orthodox Faith

### **Choir**

coordinating the activity of our choir

### **Children's Ministry**

working with our families to help our  
children grow in faith



## 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 8 Troparion** *(Apostles Peter & Paul)*

O first-enthroned of the Apostles,  
teachers of the universe:  
entreat the Master of all  
to grant peace to the world, //  
and to our souls great mercy!

### **Tone 4 Troparion (Martyrs)**

Your holy martyr Trophimus and his companions, O Lord,  
through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our  
God.  
For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries,  
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. //  
Through their intercession, save our souls!

### **Tone 6 Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,  
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,  
He bestowed resurrection on the human race. //  
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

### **Tone 2 Kontakion – Apostles Peter and Paul**

O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest  
and to the enjoyment of Your blessings  
the two divinely inspired preachers, the leaders of the Apostles,  
for You have accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice, //  
for You alone know what lies in the hearts of men.

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

### **Tone 2 Kontakion** *(Martyrs)*

You have appeared as bright lamps, O holy martyrs!  
Illumine the whole creation with the brightness of your miracles.  
Deliver it from infirmity and drive away the deep darkness, //  
always interceding before Christ God for us all.

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

### **Tone 6 Kontakion — Steadfast Protectress**

#### **Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone**

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

*Verse:* To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

#### **Alleluia**

*Verse:* He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of  
the heavenly God. (Ps. 90:1)

*Verse:* He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I  
trust.” (Ps. 90:2)

#### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
*(Ps. 148:1)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

#### **Notes on the Week**

“O Son of David, have mercy on us!” (Matt. 9:27). These are promised signs of the  
Christ, the Son of David:

The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice  
and blossom as the rose.... They shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our  
God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who  
are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with  
vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you.” Then the eyes  
of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the  
lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst  
forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become  
a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water.... A highway shall be there, and a road,  
and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but  
it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray  
(Isaiah 35:1–8).