

## The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (6:11–17)

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

## The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (17:12–18)

At that time, as Jesus went to Jerusalem He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

## Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

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

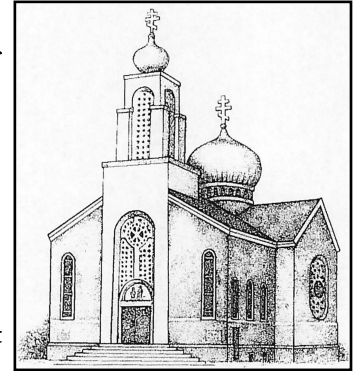
*A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

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27th Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 2

December 10, 2023

Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus, of Alexandria (ca. 313).  
Martyr Gemellus of Paphlagonia (ca. 361). Ven. Thomas of Bithynia (10th c.).

### 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). The most significant hymns and responses specific for today are printed inside this bulletin.

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 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 pray along with us, following our services online. Visit our website ([sspeterpaul.org](http://sspeterpaul.org)) for details.

Saturday, Dec. 9	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Dec. 10	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Tuesday, Dec. 12	Great Vespers—St. Herman of Alaska	6 PM
Wed., Dec. 13	Matins—St. Herman of Alaska	8:15 AM
	St. Herman was the first saint canonized in America, and we are blessed with his relic in the shrine on the right side of the church.	
Wed., Dec. 13	Parish Council	6:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 16	Parish Cleaning Day	9 AM
	Join this morning work party to prepare our church for the Lord's Nativity.	
Saturday, Dec. 16	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Dec. 17	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Tues., Dec. 19	Study of the Gospel of St. Matthew	6:30 PM
Friday, Dec. 22	Royal Hours of the Eve of Nativity	6 PM
Saturday, Dec. 23	Great Vespers followed by confessions	6 PM
Sunday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Vigil of Christmas Eve	5 PM
Monday, Dec. 25	Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day	9:30 AM

During this Nativity Fast, as we prepare for the greatest gift this season—our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—we need to truly pause and reflect. We are called upon to examine our consciences and recognize how we fall short of the way of life Christ has set for us. For this reason, the Church of Christ calls each one of us to **come during this season to Holy Confession** and partake of that Mystery of forgiveness—before the Feast of the Nativity.

Furthermore, our bishop has directed that **each member elected to an office must go to Confession and Communion** before being installed.

But for all us, we need to make ready to receive the Lord in these few remaining weeks. As we would clean and make everything ready for an honored guest, so our souls are washed “whiter than snow” through participating in the Mystery of Confession. Come and see!

**Our bookstore** has purchased beautiful Nativity Icon cards and wooden Christmas ornaments from the Holy Land available in the Fellowship Room.

## We Ask Your Prayers

**For those celebrating name days:** Daniel Veronick—Prophet Daniel (Dec. 17).

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Bella Weidmann (Dec. 12). Stuart Sousa (Dec. 13). Elaine Stath (Dec. 14). Daniel Veronick (Dec. 16).

### For the Sick & Suffering:

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

Starr (Sarrazin)—friend of Robin Levesque

Michael (Bongoll)—first-floor tenant of parish apartment house

Joyce—friend of Mary Jane Rodgers

Gregory (Mankevich)      Christopher (Sullivan)      Anita (Propheter)

Rosemary (Delaney)      Douglas (Hodges)      Steven (Rygiel)

Irene      Lorraine      Jacob

Juliana      Katelyn      Crystal

Angela      Innocent

Jeffrey      Stacia

Cyprian and Dana      Nicole and Naaman      Helen and Helene

### For Our Shut-Ins:

Yvonne (Rutcho)      Jennie (Padick)

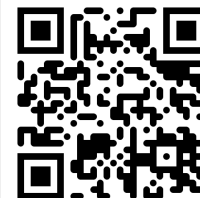
Margaret (Savchik)      Helen (Olsen)

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.

Give thanks to God, and support the work he is doing through SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church:  
<https://sspeterpaul.org/donate>

Open the donation link with this QR Code →





## 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 (*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 8 Troparion (*Martyrs*)

Having slain the fiery ragings and fierce movements of the passions  
through their ascetic labors,  
the Martyrs of Christ, Menas, Hermogenes, and Eugraphus,  
received grace to dispel the afflictions of the infirm and to work  
wonders both while alive and after death.  
It is a truly great wonder that naked bones pour forth healing.//  
Glory to our only God and Creator!

### 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 2 Kontakion (*Apostles Peter & 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.

### Tone 1 Kontakion (*Martyrs*)

Let us sing praise in honor of the glorious Menas,  
and of his companions, the holy Hermogenes and Eugraphus.  
For they have honored the Lord and fought for His glory.  
They are worthy of numbering with the Angels in ^heaven, //  
and are bountiful in their miracles.

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

### Tone 4 Kontakion (*Martyrs*)

The Lord snatched you from the temporal army,  
making you a fellow inheritor of the eternal, O Menas;  
together with Hermogenes and Eugraphus  
with whom you suffered, //  
you are granted an incorruptible crown.

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

### Tone 6 Kontakion—*Steadfast Protectress*

#### Prokeimenon in the Second Tone (*Resurrection*)

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)

#### Before the Gospel, the 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)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!