

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Colossians (3:4–11)

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14:16–24)

The Lord spoke this parable: “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’”

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

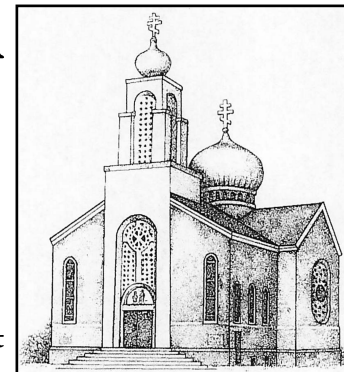
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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28th Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 3

Sunday of the Forefathers

December 10, 2023

Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misael (600 B.C.). Ven. Daniel the Confessor, in schema Stephen, of Spain and Egypt (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 specifically 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) for details.

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
	Join us to discuss chapters 21–24, which begin with the Lord's Entry into Jerusalem and follows the confrontations with the Jewish authorities before the Passion. Zoom link at our website: sspeterpaul.org/study	
Wed., Dec. 20	Morning Worship, Pre-Feast of Nativity	8:15 AM
Saturday, Dec. 16	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Dec. 17	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Friday, Dec. 22	Royal Hours of the Eve of Nativity	6 PM
	This quiet service offers beautiful meditations preparing us for the feast of Nativity.	
Saturday, Dec. 23	Great Vespers followed by confessions	6 PM
	This Saturday has special material preparing for the Nativity of the Lord	
Sunday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Installation of Parish Officers follows	
	Vigil of Christmas Eve	5 PM
Monday, Dec. 25	Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day	9:30 AM

Profound thanks to everyone who pitched in for our **Parish Cleaning Day**. Your labors blessed us as we prepare for the Lord's Nativity.

Our bishops ask your loving support of the Diocese of Alaska, whose clergy on average subsist on about \$7,000 a year. The Diocese of Alaska is the birthplace of the Orthodox Christianity in North America and the mother diocese of the Orthodox Church in America. The entire Orthodox Church in America owes much to the Church in Alaska for its faith and

witness since Saint Herman and the first missionaries arrived in 1794. In gratitude to the Alaskan faithful, and in fraternal love toward our fellow brothers and sisters in need, please contribute to the St. Olga Alaskan Clergy Stipend Fund—a donor is matching all donations until Dec. 31. Give at the collection at the end of the Liturgy, make a contribution to our Charity Fund which will be forwarded to Alaska, or donate directly online: <https://odoso.org/current-fund-raisers>

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: Julie Mosley (Dec. 19).

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

Sarr (Sarrazin)—friend of Robin Levesque

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 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> or use this QR Code →



Hymns of the Day

Tone 3 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

Tone 2 Troparion *(Forefathers)*

Through faith You justified the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.
These saints exult in glory,
for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:
she who bore You without seed.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Forefathers)*

You did not worship the graven image,
O thrice-blessed ones,
but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,
you were glorified in a trial by fire.
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:
“Hasten, O compassionate One!
Speedily come to our aid,//
for You are merciful and able to do as You will!”

Prokeimenon in the Third Tone *(Forefathers)*

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is
Your Name forever!

(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)

Verse: For You are just in all that You have done for us! *(v. 4)*

Before the Gospel, the Alleluia

Verse: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among
those who called on His Name. *(Ps. 98:6)*

Verse: They called to the Lord and He answered them. *(Ps. 98:6)*

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 the Week

Today marks the Sunday of the Forefathers, all those who trusted in the promise from the Lord that he would send the Messiah to restore his people. In the Liturgy of St. Basil, we call to mind how the Lord worked in the hearts of his faithful to prepare for the coming of Christ: “For you did not turn yourself away forever from your creature whom you had made, O Good One, nor did you forget the work of your hands. Through the tender compassion of your mercy, you visited him in various ways: you sent prophets; you performed mighty works by your saints, who in every generation were well-pleasing to you; you spoke to us through the mouths of your servants the prophets, foretelling to us the salvation which was to come...” Those prophets and saints are our spiritual forefathers and mothers. The Old Testament is our family history. It is not a glorious history: for every Daniel and David, there are a hundred false prophets and wicked kings, and ten thousand ungrateful and rebellious people who forget the promises and mighty works of the Lord. It is nonetheless a story we need to know by heart if we are to come to know the head of this family, Jesus Christ. So today is a call to us: to open the Bible and remind ourselves of Noah and Abraham (Genesis), David (1 Samuel — or 1 Kings in your Orthodox Study Bible) and Daniel (Book of Daniel). We need to recognize our own struggles to trust in the promises of the Lord and to live in expectation of his Coming Again.

Tone 3 *(for the Forefathers, by Germanus)*

Come all who love the feast,
let us praise in psalms the assembly of the Forefathers:
Adam, our first Father,
Enoch, Noah, Melchizedek,
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob;
and those who came after the Law:
Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel and David,
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel,
and with them the Twelve Prophets:
Elijah, Elisha, and all the rest,
Zachariah and John the Baptist:
all those who proclaimed Christ,//
the Life and Resurrection of the human race!