

## The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (4:7–13)

Brethren, to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

## The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:12–17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

## On the Meaning of Christ's Baptism

Wishing to save humanity that had gone astray,  
you did not think it unworthy for you  
to be clothed in the form of a servant;  
for it was proper for you as Master and God  
to take upon yourself human nature for our sake.  
Being baptized in the flesh, O Redeemer,  
you made us worthy of forgiveness.  
This is why we cry out to you:  
"O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to you!"  
— *Vespers hymn, Theophany of the Lord*

## Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

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

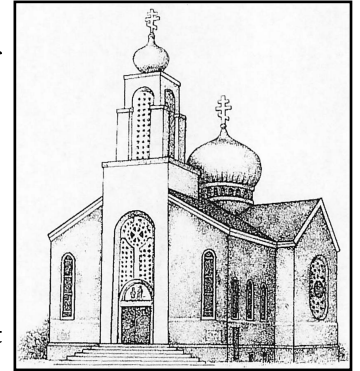
*A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

Fr. Joshua Mosher, Pastor

203-237-4539 [priest@sspeterpaul.org](mailto:priest@sspeterpaul.org)

Donna Leonowich, Parish Council President

203-887-5155 [president@sspeterpaul.org](mailto:president@sspeterpaul.org)



31st Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 6  
**Sunday after the Theophany**  
January 7, 2024

**Synaxis of the Holy Glorious  
Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist  
John**

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

Friday, Jan. 5	Vespers of Theophany, Great Blessing of Water	6 PM
Saturday, Jan. 6	Divine Liturgy of Theophany	9:30 AM
	Saturday Vespers and Sunday Liturgy canceled due to winter storm and expected parking ban	
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Online Study of the Gospel of Matthew: <a href="http://sspeterpaul.org/study">sspeterpaul.org/study</a>	7 PM
	All are welcome to join us on Zoom to study chapters 25–28, the conclusion of this Gospel.	
Wednesdays	Morning Worship	8:15 AM
Wed., Jan. 10	Parish Council	6:30 PM
Thursday, Jan. 11	Foundation in Orthodox Christianity Session 1: “I Am the Way”	6:30 PM
	All are welcome, but especially those who seek to be received into the Orthodox Faith. Participate in these sessions on Zoom: <a href="http://sspeterpaul.org/study">sspeterpaul.org/study</a>	
Saturday, Jan. 13	Great Vespers followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Jan. 14	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Brotherhood meeting after coffee hour	

**With the Theophany and the Blessing of Water, we enter the season of house blessings.** Our homes need this spiritual “spring cleaning” each year to free them from the remembrance of sin and fill them with the presence of the Holy Spirit. All that is required is that you prepare a list of the living and departed that you wish to commemorate, and set up a candle and bowl of holy water before an icon. (Fr. Joshua brings holy water, too, in case anyone needs more.) Please sign up for a time on the sheets provided at the candle desk, or contact Fr. Joshua if none of the times are convenient.

**All are welcome to take home holy water from the Great Blessing of Water on Theophany.** Afterward, the dispenser will be placed at the back of the church for your use.

John Phostole, husband of Nancy Phostole passed away. Condolences may be sent to Nancy and her sons at 113 Eaton Avenue, Meriden, CT 06451

Roger Bickford, husband of Barbara (Pfeiffer) Bickford passed away. Condolences may be sent to Barbara at 20141 Ian Court, #308, Estero, FL 33928.

## We Ask Your Prayers

**Many years to all those who have as their heavenly patron the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John (Jan. 7).**

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Amy Stankiewicz on Jan. 7. Garry Craig on Jan. 9. Lanah Brigid Phillips & Theodora Boris on Jan 12. Sierra Ann Stankiewicz on Jan. 13.

### 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

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> or use this QR Code →





## 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 1 Troparion** *(Theophany)*

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,  
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.  
For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,  
and called You His beloved Son;  
and the Spirit in the form of a dove  
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.  
O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself //  
and hast enlightened the world, glory to You.

### **Tone 2 Troparion** *(Forerunner)*

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,  
but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner.  
You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,  
for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him  
Whom  
they foretold.  
Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,  
you proclaimed to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh,  
Who takes away the sin of the world //  
and grants us great mercy.

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

### **Tone 3 Kontakion** *(Forerunner)*

The river Jordan trembled, and was driven back,  
filled with fear at Your coming in the flesh,  
while John drew back in awe  
as he fulfilled the ministry of the Spirit.  
The ranks of Angels stood amazed

when they beheld You baptized in the stream.  
And we who were in darkness are filled with light. //  
We praise You, O God made manifest, as You enlighten all.

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

### **Tone 3 Kontakion** *(Theophany)*

Today You have shone forth to the world, O Lord,  
and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us.  
Knowing You, we sing Your praises:  
“You have come and revealed Yourself, //  
O unapproachable Light.”

### **Prokeimenon in the First Tone** *(Sunday after)*

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on You!

*(Ps. 32:22)*

*Verse:* Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

*(Ps. 32:1)*

### **Tone 7 Prokeimenon** *(Forerunner)*

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him. *(Ps. 63:11a)*

## Before the Gospel, the Alleluia

*Verse:* I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will  
proclaim

Your truth from generation to generation. *(Ps. 88:1-2)*

*Verse:* For You have said: Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will  
be prepared in the heavens. *(Ps. 88:3)*

*Verse:* Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. *(Ps. 96:12)*

### **(Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing:)**

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos,  
more honorable than the heavenly hosts!

No tongue knows how to praise you worthily, O Theotokos;  
even angels are overcome with awe praising you.

But since you are good, accept our faith;

for you know our love inspired by God!

You are the defender of Christians, and we magnify you.

## 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!