

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 (18:35–43)

At that time, as Jesus was coming near Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, “What do you want Me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.” Then Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

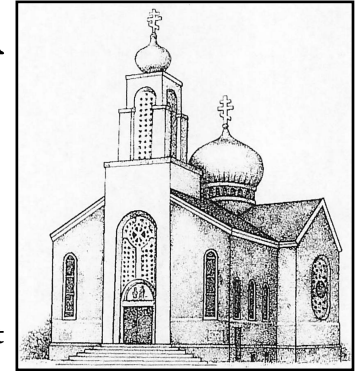
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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32nd Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 7

Leave-taking of the Theophany

January 7, 2024

St. Savva I, first Archbishop of Serbia (1237). The Holy Fathers slain at Sinai and Raithu (4th–5th c.).
St. Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles, Enlightener of the Georgians (355).

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, Jan. 13	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Jan. 14	Divine Liturgy (enrolling catechumens before the Liturgy begins)	9:30 AM
	Brotherhood meeting after coffee hour	
Wednesdays	Morning Worship	8:15 AM
Saturday, Jan. 20	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Jan. 21	Divine Liturgy (enrolling catechumens before the Liturgy begins)	9:30 AM
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Online Study of the Gospel of Luke: sspeterpaul.org/study	7 PM
	All are welcome to join us on Zoom to study chapters 1–2, the conclusion of this Gospel.	
Thursday, Jan. 25	Foundation in Orthodox Christianity Session 2: “I believe in one God...”	6:30 PM
	All are welcome, but especially those who seek to be received into the Orthodox Faith. Participate in these sessions on Zoom: sspeterpaul.org/study	
Saturday, Jan. 27	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Jan. 28	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM

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.) To set a date for your house blessing, please contact Fr. Joshua (email priest@sspeterpaul.org or call 203-237-4539).

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.

Free Narcan Training: we have multiple opportunities in our area to be trained and equipped to prevent an opioid overdose. If we have enough interest, we can also schedule Narcan training at the parish. If interested, please speak with Linda Craig (203-494-9789).

We ask God’s blessings on Skeeter Nance, who is celebrating both her 50th birthday and her 25th anniversary today. Many years!

We Ask Your Prayers

Many years to all those who have as their heavenly patron Anthony the Great (Jan. 17).

For those celebrating birthdays: Skeeter Nance on Jan. 14. Natasha Sousa on Jan 20.

For those celebrating anniversaries: Skeeter and Charles Nance on Jan. 14.

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 Larissa

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 7 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen, //
granting the world great mercy.

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 have enlightened the world, glory to You.

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

Tone 7 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith; //
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

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

Tone 4 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 Seventh Tone (*Resurrection*)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The Lord shall bless His people
with peace. (*Ps. 28:11*)

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord young rams.
(*Ps. 28:1a*)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (*Theophany*)

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has
revealed Himself to us. (*Ps. 117:26b, 27b*)

Before the Gospel, the Alleluia

Verse: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O
Most High. (*Ps. 91:1*)

Verse: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.
(*Ps. 91:2a*)

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord young rams.
(*Ps. 28:1a*)

(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 grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men. (*Titus 2:11*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Notes on the Week

He Who covers Himself with light as with a garment / for our sake saw fit to
become like us. / Today He covers Himself with the streams of the Jordan. /
He has no need of their cleansing, / but He secures new birth for us. /
O the wonder! / Without fire He re-forges, / Without breaking He re-forms.
/ He saves those enlightened in Him: // Christ God, the Savior of our souls.

By fire and the Spirit, / You wash away the sin of the world. / When the
Baptist saw You coming, he was afraid. / He trembled and cried out, saying: /
“I dare not hold Your spotless head. // Sanctify me with Your Epiphany,
O Master the lover of mankind!”

Let us imitate the wise virgins, / let us go and meet the Master who appears; /
like a bridegroom He comes forth to John. / Seeing You the Jordan holds
back in fear. / John cries out: “I dare not hold Your immortal head.” / The
Spirit comes down in the form of a dove to sanctify the waters. / And a voice
from heaven resounds: / “This is My Son, Who comes to the world to save
the human race.” // O Lord, glory to You!

Hymns of Vespers on the Theophany of the Lord, by Cosmas the Monk