

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. Matthew (22:35–46)

At that time, a lawyer asked Jesus a question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.” He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”’? If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

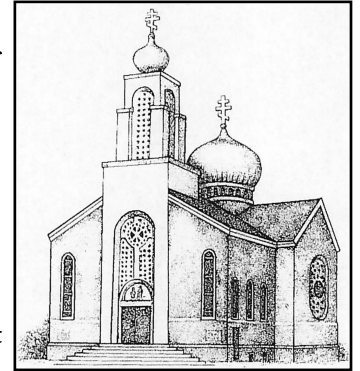
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

Fr. Joshua Mosher, Pastor

203-237-4539 priest@sspeterpaul.org

Donna Leonowich, Parish Council President

203-887-5155 president@sspeterpaul.org



34th Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 1

January 28, 2024

Ven. Ephraim the Syrian (373–379). Ven. Palladius a Hermit of Antioch (4th c.). St. Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Nineveh (7th c.). Ven. Theodosius, an Abbot of Tot'ma (Vologdá—1568).

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. 27	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Jan. 28	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Meeting to organize a parish sisterhood	
Wednesdays	Morning Prayer	8:15 AM
Thursday., Feb. 1	Vigil for the Meeting of the Lord	6 PM
Friday, Feb. 2	Divine Liturgy—Meeting of the Lord	9:30 AM
	The feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple is on Feb. 2. This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was brought into the temple as a forty-day-old child by his parents. There the Righteous Simeon testified that he saw the promised salvation of Israel fulfilled: “Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation....” We sing his thanksgiving at every service of Vespers.	
Saturday, Feb. 3	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Feb. 4	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Saturday, Feb. 10	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Feb. 11	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	“Souper Bowl” : A wide variety of soups, salad, bread and dessert are on offer for \$10 per person. Also take home soup: \$5/pint and \$10/quart.	
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Online Study of the Gospel of Luke chapters 3–4: sspeterpaul.org/study	7 PM
Thursday, Feb. 15	Foundation in Orthodox Christianity Session 3: “Jesus teaches us how to be human”	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	

We Ask Your Prayers

Many years to Ephraim, who has as his heavenly patron the **Ven. Ephraim the Syrian** (Jan. 28).

For those celebrating birthdays: Michael Barra & Serge Pavlov on Jan. 30. Christina Craig on Jan. 31.

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: 203-623-5336.

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 1 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

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 3 Troparion (*Ven. Ephraim the Syrian*)

A river flows out of Paradise,

flooding all the earth with unending joy,

cheering souls with compunction and saving fear:

Ephraim, the wine bowl of gladness ^inspired by God,

from all eternity chosen to light the Church

with his sacred hymns, sermons, and shining songs,//

whereby he fills faithful souls with godliness.

Tone 1 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Yourself.

Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.

Adam exults, O Master!

Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://

“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

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.

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

Tone 8 Kontakion (*Ven. Ephraim the Syrian*)

Ever anticipating the hour of Judgment,

you lamented bitterly, venerable Ephraim.

Through your deeds you were a teacher by example;//

Therefore, universal Father, you rouse the slothful to repentance.

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

Tone 6 Kontakion “Steadfast Protectress”

Prokeimenon in the First Tone (*Resurrection*)

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*)

Before the Gospel, the Alleluia

Verse: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. (*Ps. 17:48*)

Verse: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with

David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (*Ps. 17:51*)

Communion Hymn

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Notes on the Week

Today, we commemorate St. Ephraim the Syrian, a profound gift to the life of the Church. Living in Nisibis and Edessa, he composed a vast number of hymns, teachings and prayers. For us, the most well-known is the Prayer of St. Ephraim we recite during Great Lent: “O Lord and Master of my life...” He also wrote rich lyric theology, much only now being translated:

All these changes did the Merciful One make,

stripping off glory and putting on a body;

for He had devised a way to reclothe Adam

in that glory which he had stripped off.

He was wrapped in swaddling clothes,

corresponding to Adam’s leaves,

He put on clothes

in place of Adam’s skins;

He was baptized for Adam’s sin,

He was embalmed for Adam’s death,

He rose and raised up Adam in His glory,

Blessed is He who descended,

put Adam on, and ascended.

(from St. Ephraim’s *Nativity Hymn* 23)

B Sou per owl



On Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024, the Parish Council will once again host a special "Souper Bowl" luncheon after Divine Liturgy. The lunch will include an assortment of:

Homemade Soups Salad
Breads Dessert and Beverage

The cost is \$10.00 per person. Children under 12 are free. In addition, "take away" containers of soup will be available \$5.00 small (pint); \$10.00 large (quart). Fill your freezer with homemade soups for the winter months and upcoming Lenten Fast. You may pre-order soups or purchase them at the luncheon on Feb. 11.

Please consider volunteering to make a Pot of Soup or adding to the luncheon table.

If you would like to volunteer or to place an order, please contact Donna Leonowich 203.250.9028 or 203.887.5155.

Thank you.