

## The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (15:11–32)

The Lord spoke this parable: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father.

But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, “Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

# Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

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

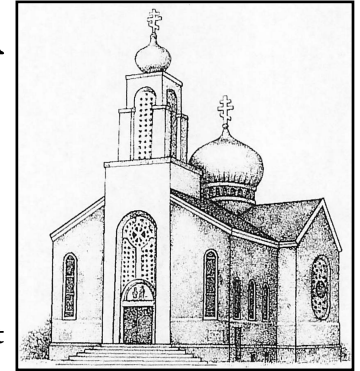
*A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

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39th Sunday after Pentecost—Tone 6  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son  
March 3, 2024

Martyr Eutropius of Amasea, and  
with him Martyrs Cleonicus and  
Basiliscus (ca. 308). Saint Piamoun  
(337). Ss. Zenon and Zoilus.

## 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.

Saturday, March 2	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, March 3	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
<i>Prodigal Son</i>	Having completed a fast-free week, on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, we begin increasing our efforts each week until the beginning of Great Lent. This week is the time to consume or freeze all remaining meat.	
Wednesdays	Morning Prayer	8:15 AM
Saturday, March 9	Memorial Saturday Liturgy	9:30 AM
	As we prepare ourselves for the Last Judgment (with this coming Sunday of the Last Judgment, Meatfare Sunday), we remember all the departed who are awaiting that same “great and terrible Day.” As we are reminded at every funeral, there is no great existential divide between the living and the departed: we shall together meet the Lord. Therefore, it is right that we pray for their souls while we still have breath. We do so at this Memorial Liturgy, and others during Great Lent. May their memory be eternal!	
Saturday, March 9	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, March 10	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
	His Grace, Bishop Benedict will preside—come early!	
<i>Meatfare Sunday Sunday of the Last Judgment</i>	<b>Meatfare Sunday Dinner:</b> We enjoy together the last day to eat meat until Pascha. Please see the enclosed flyer for details. Donna Leonowich is taking reservations. We hope you are able to join us in this celebration. Since this is a catered event, <b>we need to submit a count on March 4.</b>	
Saturday, March 16	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, March 17	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
<i>Forgiveness Sunday Expulsion from Paradise</i>	Following the Liturgy, we will make our final preparation for the Fast with Forgiveness Vespers and asking each person, “Forgive me—God forgives.”	

Please share recommendations of local families in need, for our customary **Easter basket gifts** on Western Easter. Our previous method for identifying and contacting families no longer works, so we need your help! Share details with Fr. Joshua.

As we begin to gird ourselves for Great Lent, we are **blessed with the offerings of our Parish Bookstore**. We have stocked it with excellent and accessible resources to strengthen our spiritual lives. We have a few varieties of prayer books that were carefully chosen to be an encouragement to those of different ages and experience. We also have picked out a few books that share the life and teaching of wise and holy people who understand contemporary struggles and show us the way. Before you leave today, take a close look at these offerings in the bookstore downstairs, and **consider claiming one for your own spiritual effort this Lent.**

## We Ask Your Prayers

**For newly-departed Kim Palmer**, dearly loved aide to Anna Belejack and Yvonne Rutcho, who died suddenly last week.

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Sophia Uliase (Mar 4). Melanie Russell (Mar 6).

### 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

Joyce—friend of Mary Jane Rodgers

Gregory (Mankevich)	Christopher (Sullivan)	Anita (Propheter)
Rosemary (Delaney)	Douglas (Hodges)	Steven (Rygiel)
Michael (Edwards)	Irene	Lorraine
Jacob	Juliana	Katelyn
Crystal	Angela	Innocent
Larissa	Jeffrey	Stacia
Cyprian and Dana	Nicole and Naaman	Helen and Helene
Georgiy and Galina		

### 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: 203-623-5336.

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 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 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!

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

### 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.

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

### Tone 3 Kontakion (*from the Lenten Triodion*)

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father;  
and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave me.  
And now I cry to You as the Prodigal:  
“I have sinned before You, O merciful Father;  
receive me as a penitent, //  
and make me as one of Your hired servants!”

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

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! (*Ps. 27:9a*)  
*Verse:* To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!  
(*Ps. 27:1a*)

## Before the Gospel, the Alleluia

*Verse:* He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the  
shadow of the heavenly God. (*Ps. 90:1*)  
*Verse:* He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in  
Whom I trust.” (*Ps. 90:2*)

## Communion Hymn

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

## Notes on the Week

Today is the second Pre-Lenten Sunday, the Prodigal Son. Last week warned us to flee the pride of the Pharisee, that sense of self-satisfaction and self-righteousness that makes it impossible for us to draw near to God. This week reminds us that our heavenly Father is eager to welcome us as soon as we come to our senses and return to him, no matter how far we have gone astray. Next Sunday is Meat-fare, the last day for eating meat until Pascha.

At Matins today, we introduce the singing of “By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept” (Psalm 136). This lament remembers the conquest of the kingdom of Judah, when their leaders were led away as captives in Babylon. They remained in exile for long generations, mourning their remembered home in Jerusalem. The hymn parallels the Prodigal Son’s recognition of what he has lost, having abandoned his father’s home. It also foreshadows the commemoration of Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise, Forgiveness Sunday before Great Lent begins. Our Ancestors likewise sat down and wept before the gate of Eden, forbidden to them.

We are also called to come to our senses, to recognize that we live as exiles today from Paradise through our own sins. We also should mourn the ancestral memory of our homeland, where we truly belong. We are invited to use the season of the Fast to turn our hearts back to God, that the doors of Paradise may be opened to us.

# Meatfare Sunday Dinner

Sponsored by the Parish Council  
Catered by Ken Marshall

**SUNDAY, March 10, 2024**

After Divine Liturgy

Adults and children 12 yo and older - **\$25 per person**  
Children under 12 yo - **Free**

## **MENU:**



Chicken  
Francaise



Sliced Pork  
Roast  
With  
Applesauce



Penne  
Alla  
Vodka



Mashed  
Potatoes



Steamed  
Vegetables



Tossed  
Salad



Dinner  
Rolls



Italian  
Bread



Dessert



Beverages