

**The Reading from the 1st Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the
Corinthians (8:8–9:2)**

Brethren: food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to
St. Matthew (25:31–46)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

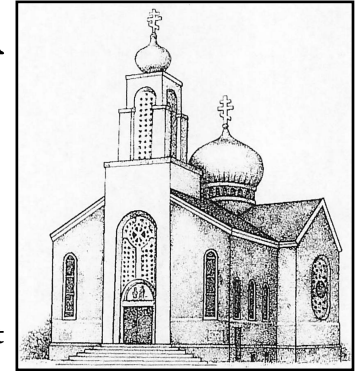
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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Meatfare Sunday—Tone 7
Sunday of the Last Judgment
March 10, 2024

Martyr Quadratus and those with him: Cyprian, Dionysius, Anectus, Paul, Crescens, another Dionysius, Victorinus, Victor, Nikēphoros, Claudius, Diodorus, Serapion, Papias, Leonidas, Chariessa, Nunechia, Basilissa, Nika, Galla, Galina, Theodora, and others, at Corinth (3rd c).

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We welcome everyone who has come into this house of the Lord. We especially welcome all guests 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 (found 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, March 9	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, March 10	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
<i>Meatfare Sunday Sunday of the Last Judgment</i>	We welcome His Grace, Bishop Benedict, who will preside today, along with Deacon Gregory Curran and Subdeacon Nektary Lukianov. Following the Liturgy, we will host our annual Meatfare Dinner in our Fellowship Room. The cost is \$25 per person. Children under 12 are free.	
Tuesday, March 12	Online Study of the Gospel	7 PM
	Join us on Zoom to examine Luke 7–8: sspeterpaul.org/study	
Wednesdays	Morning Prayer	8:15 AM
Wed., March 13	Parish Council	6:30 PM
Thurs., March 14	<i>A Foundation in Orthodox Christianity, Session 5: “Church History Over-Simplified”</i>	6:30 PM
	We are continuing our introduction to the essentials of Orthodox teachings, this week touching lightly on 2,000 years, from the apostles to our own day. Find the Zoom link at sspeterpaul.org/study	
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.”	
Mon., Tue., Thurs. March 18, 19, 21	Compline with the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete	6 PM
	This hymn of repentance forms our entrance into Great Lent. If you cannot come to all, come once. If you have to arrive late or leave early, do so — but come! There is no better way to enter the spirit of Lent than by making St. Andrew’s words to his soul our own.	
Wed., March 20	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Supper	6 PM

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.**

Please support the Sisterhood Spring Clothing Drive on March 23—see the enclosed flyer for details.

We Ask Your Prayers

The cross is lit by Helen Husenita in loving memory of Robert Husenita. Memory eternal!

For His Grace, Bishop Benedict, who has as his heavenly patron Ven. Benedict of Nursia (March 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

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 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 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 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 1 Kontakion (*from the Lenten Triodion*)

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory,
all things shall tremble,
and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat;
the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed;
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, //
and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge!

Prokeimenon in the Third Tone (*Resurrection*)

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, / His understanding is
beyond measure. (*Ps. 146:5*)

Verse: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!
(*Ps. 146:1*)

Before the Gospel, the Alleluia

Verse: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to
God our Savior! (*Ps. 94:1*)

Verse: Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make
a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise. (*Ps. 94:2*)

Communion Hymn

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

Notes on the Week

We are truly at the door of the Fast now, with just one week
left to prepare. Great Lent is our opportunity to turn our
minds from useless and destructive pursuits and turn
toward the life-giving way the Lord has shown us. This change of
mind and life cannot be done in a moment, which is why we are given
Great Lent each year.

Today is Meatfare, the last day for eating meat until Pascha. Next
Sunday is the last before the Great Fast begins. Our Lord fasted from
all food for forty days. In the forty days of Great Lent, we are called to
fast from meat and other rich foods. More importantly, the Fast calls
us to be long-suffering toward our neighbor, to pray more and indulge
less in self-centered pursuits, to be self-sacrificially generous to those in
need, to learn how to love our God, who loves us all the way to the
Cross.



Hosted by Our Lady's Sisterhood

We invite all friends of Meriden to
SS Peter and Paul Orthodox Church for a

SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE

March 23, 2024

11am-2pm

54 Park Avenue,
Meriden, CT, 06450



Please bring clothes on Sunday, March 17th, or the
morning of the drive! **Do not** bring before Sunday.