

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

Brethren: know the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (6:14–21)

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

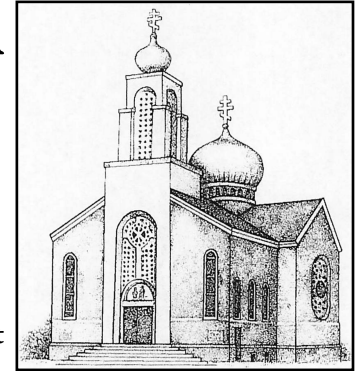
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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Forgiveness Sunday—Tone 8
The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from
Paradise
March 17, 2024

Ven. Alexius the Man of God (411).
St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh,
Enlightener of Ireland (ca. 461).
Ven. Macarius the Wonderworker, Abbot
of Kalyázinsk (Tver'—1483).

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 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 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.	
Wednesdays	Morning Prayer	8:15 AM
Wednesdays	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Supper	6 PM
Saturday, March 23	Memorial Liturgy	9:30 AM
	On Saturdays during Lent, March 23, April 6 and 13, we will continue to lift up the memory of the departed in prayer. Please bring names of those to commemorate.	
Saturday, March 23	Sisterhood Clothing Drive	11–2 PM
	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, March 24	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
<i>Sunday of Orthodoxy</i>	Vespers of Orthodoxy/Annunciation at St. Dimitrie, 504 Sport Hill Rd, Easton	4 PM
	Each Sunday afternoon during Lent, we are invited by a nearby parish to a service, followed by a light supper.	
Monday, March 25	Vespers & Liturgy at the Leave-taking of the Annunciation	6 PM
	We commemorate the Annunciation, when Archangel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would bear in the flesh the Son of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Come, rejoice!	

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our celebration with His Grace, Bishop Benedict of Meatfare Sunday a beautiful and joyful occasion!

We are planning to assemble **Easter baskets filled with encouraging and necessary items and distribute them to eight families in need on Saturday, March 30.** All of this is made possible by your support of the Charity Fund. Please give generously this Lent!

Next Sunday, we will enroll new catechumens before the Liturgy begins.

We Ask Your Prayers

For Adam Lipinski's uncle **Edward Szmajter** who departed this life.

The cross is lit in celebration of Joe and Paul by the Barone and Leonowich families. May God grant them many years!

For those celebrating birthdays: Valentina Knap and Zella Ann Phillips on March 18. Joe Barone & Paul Leonowich on March 22.

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)	Shawna (Kelly)	
Irene	Lorraine	Jacob
Juliana	Katelyn	Crystal
Angela	Innocent	Larissa
Jeffrey	Stacia	Georgiy
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 8 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, 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 6 Kontakion *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

O Master, Teacher of wisdom,
Bestower of virtue,
Who teach the thoughtless and protect the poor,
strengthen and enlighten my heart!
O Word of the Father,
let me not restrain my mouth from crying to You:
“Have mercy on me, a transgressor,//
O merciful Lord!”

Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone (Resurrection)

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! *(Ps. 75:10a)*
Verse: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. *(Ps. 75:1)*

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)

Communion Hymn

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

Notes on the Week

Great Lent begins on Monday. It is a time of great spiritual effort. We fast from all meat and rich foods, both so that we can hunger for the food that comes from God alone, and so that we have money to spare for our neighbor. We grieve over our sins and our broken relationships, but we don't put on a display for others. Rather, we do our work in secret, where our heavenly Father alone sees and blesses us. Where our treasure is, there is our heart also.

Hymns from the Eve of Forgiveness Sunday

O Paradise, garden of delight and beauty,
dwelling-place made perfect by God,
unending gladness and eternal joy,
the hope of the prophets and the home of the saints,
by the music of your rustling leaves beseech the Creator of all
to open the gates which my sins have closed,
that I may partake of the Tree of Life and Grace//
which was given to me in the beginning!

Adam ate the forbidden fruit and was driven from Paradise.
He sat outside, weeping bitterly:
“Woe to me! What will become of me, a worthless man?
I disobeyed one command of my Master and lost every good thing!
O holy Paradise, planted for me by God, and closed by the weakness
of Eve,
grant that I may once again gaze on the flowers of your gardens!”
The Savior said to him:
“I do not wish the death of My creation!
I desire that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the
truth,//
for him who comes to Me I shall never cast out!”



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.

