

**The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul
to the Hebrews (11:24–26, 32–12:2)**

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (1:43–51)

At that time, Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

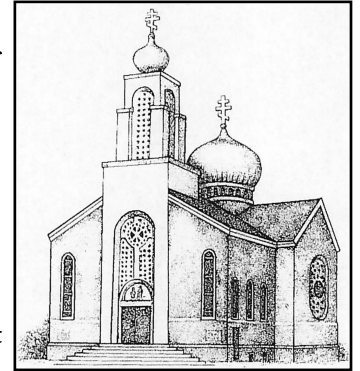
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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First Sunday of Great Lent—Tone 1
Sunday of Orthodoxy
March 24, 2024

Ven. Zachariah the Recluse. St. Artemon,
Bishop of Seleucia (1st–2nd c.).
Ven. Zachariah, Ascetic of the Kiev Caves
(13th–14th c.). Martyrs Stephen and
Peter of Kazan' (1552).

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 these Sundays during Great Lent, we are using the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. 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.

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| Saturday, March 23 | Memorial Liturgy | 9:30 AM |
| | Sisterhood Clothing Drive | 11–2 PM |
| | Vigil followed by confessions | 5 PM |
| Sunday, March 24 | Divine Liturgy—enrolling catechumens before the Liturgy begins | 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! | |
| Tuesday, March 26 | Study of the Gospel of Luke online | 7 PM |
| Wednesdays | Morning Prayer | 8:15 AM |
| Wednesdays | Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Supper | 6 PM |
| Thurs., March 28 | Foundation of Orthodox Christianity Session 6: Worship in Time & Space | 6:30 PM |
| Saturday, March 30 | Assemble and Deliver Easter Baskets for families in need | 1 PM |
| | Please come assemble and deliver Easter baskets filled with encouraging and necessary items. All of this is made possible by your support of the Charity Fund. Please give generously this Lent! | |
| | Vigil followed by confessions | 5 PM |
| Sunday, March 31 | Divine Liturgy | 9:30 AM |
| <i>St. Gregory Palamas</i> | Mission Vespers at St. Peter & St. Paul, Springfield, MA | 4 PM |

Please remember that every member of this parish has a responsibility to participate in Holy Confession regularly, and at least once during Great Lent. Please make an appointment soon. Don't let the days slip away.

The cross is lit in loving memory of **George Rutcho and Kim Palmer** by George's family. Memory eternal!

And also by Donna and Paul Leonowich for **Meg and Noah Leonowich** on their first wedding anniversary. Many Years!

We Ask Your Prayers

For all those who have as their heavenly patron the Archangel Gabriel (March 26).

For those celebrating birthdays: Henry Pannone (March 29).

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

Julianna—friend of Sierra Levesque

Gregory (Mankevich)

Christopher (Sullivan)

Anita (Propheter)

Rosemary (Delaney)

Douglas (Hodges)

Steven (Rygiel)

Michael (Edwards)

Shawna (Kelly)

Irene

Lorraine

Jacob

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 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 2 Troparion (*Sunday of Orthodoxy*)

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One;
and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.
Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh
and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy.
Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You:
“You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,//
by coming to save the world.”

Tone 4 Troparion (*Forefeast of the Annunciation*)

Today is the prelude of joy for the universe!
Let us anticipate the feast and celebrate with exultation:
Gabriel is on his way to announce the glad tidings to the Virgin;
he is ready to cry out in fear and wonder://
“Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!”

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

Tone 8 Kontakion (*Sunday of Orthodoxy*)

No one could describe the Word of the Father;
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to be
described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine
beauty.//
We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

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

Tone 8 Kontakion (*Forefeast of the Annunciation*)

You are the beginning of salvation for all of us on earth, Virgin Mother of
God.

For the great Archangel Gabriel, God’s minister, was sent from heaven to
stand
before you to bring you joy://
Therefore, we all cry to you: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone (*Song of the Fathers*)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is
Your Name forever! (*Song of the three Holy Children, v. 3*)
Verse: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (*v. 4*)

Before the Gospel, the Alleluia

Verse: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among
those who called on His Name. (*Ps. 98:6*)
Verse: They called to the Lord and He answered them. (*Ps. 98:7a*)

(*Instead of “It is truly meet...,” we sing the following*)

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace:
the assembly of angels and the race of men.
O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,
the glory of virgins,
from whom God was incarnate and became a Child –
our God before the ages.
He made your body into a throne,
and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens.
All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace.
Glory to you!

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*)
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (*Ps. 32:1*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Notes on the Week

The first Sunday during Great Lent is the Sunday of Orthodoxy,
celebrating the restoration of icons to the churches after generations of
dispute and persecution. We recall the triumphal entry of icons on the
first Sunday in Lent in 843.

