

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (5:9–19)

Brethren: the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:25–12)

At that time, great multitudes followed Jesus—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: sspeterpaul.org

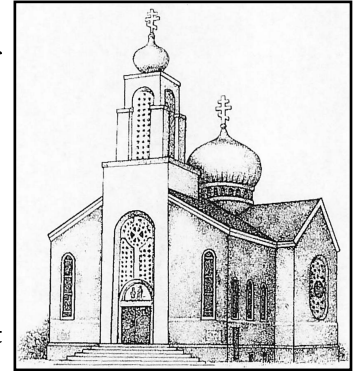
A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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Fourth Sunday of Great Lent—Tone 4
St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*)
April 14, 2024

St. Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome (655). Martyrs Anthony, John, and Eustathius of Vilnius (Lithuania—1347). Martyr Ardalion the Actor (4th 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 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.

Saturday, April 13	Memorial Liturgy	9:30 AM
	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, April 14	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
<i>St. John Climacus</i>	Mission Vespers at Holy Transfiguration, 285 Alden Ave, New Haven	4 PM
	Each Sunday afternoon during Lent, we are invited by a nearby parish to a service, followed by a light supper.	
Wednesdays	Morning Prayer	8:15 AM
Wednesdays	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, Supper	6 PM
Saturday, April 20	Parish Clean-Up Day	9–Noon
	Please help us prepare our church for Holy Week.	
Saturday, April 20	Vigil followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, April 21	Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
<i>St. Mary of Egypt</i>	Holy Unction Service Three Saints, 26 Howard Ave, Ansonia	4 PM
	This service is devoted to prayer and anointing (unction) for the healing of our souls and bodies. As the Apostle James taught: “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” (James 5:14–15).	
Wed., April 24	Prepare Palms & Branches for Palm Sunday	3 PM
Friday, April 26	Last Day of Great Lent	
Saturday, April 27	Matins & Liturgy—Raising of Lazarus	9 AM
	Chrismation of Robyn Levesque	4:30 PM
Saturday, May 4	Chrismation of Sierra Levesque	11 AM

There is an ancient tradition to **keep vigil at the Tomb of Christ** from the evening of Holy Friday until the Paschal Vigil begins the following night. Participants read the Psalms overnight and later the Acts of the Holy Apostles. **We are looking for pairs to sign up for periods of the night and day when we don’t have services.** Please consider this opportunity to keep prayerful watch as we remember our long-suffering Lord’s great love.

We Ask Your Prayers

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

Carol—friend of Mary Jane Rodgers

Gregory (Mankevich) Christopher (Sullivan)

Anita (Propheter) Rosemary (Delaney)

Douglas (Hodges) Steven (Rygiel)

Michael (Edwards) Shawnna (Kelly)

Susan (Shulga Waas) Timothy (Waas)

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 →



Services of Holy Week and the Pascha of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

54 Park Avenue, Meriden, Connecticut



*Come, let us see our Life lying in the tomb,
to give life to those who lie dead in the tombs.*

Raising of Lazarus

9 AM, Saturday, April 27: Festal Matins & Divine Liturgy.

Palm Sunday — Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem

5 PM, Saturday, April 27: Vigil. *Palms will be blessed and carried during the service.*

9:30 AM, Sunday, April 28: Divine Liturgy. *Blessed palms carried during the service.*

Holy Week

Monday, April 29, 6 PM: Bridegroom Matins of Great and Holy Tuesday.

Tuesday, April 30, 6 PM: Bridegroom Matins of Great and Holy Wednesday.

Wednesday, May 1, 6 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Thursday.

Thursday, May 2

11 AM: Vespers & Liturgy of the Mystical Supper.

6 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Friday. *12 Gospel readings of the Passion.*

Friday, May 3

10 AM: Royal Hours of Great and Holy Friday. *Meditating on the Crucifixion.*

3:30: Vespers of Great and Holy Friday. *Veneration of the Shroud of Our Lord.*

6 PM: Matins of Great and Holy Saturday. *Procession with the Shroud.*

Saturday, May 4

11 AM: Vespers, Readings of Old Testament Prophecies, Liturgy

—*Blessing of Pascha Baskets follows.*

Pascha: the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Saturday, May 4, 11:30 PM: Service of Nocturn.

Midnight: Paschal Vigil and Divine Liturgy. *Blessing of Baskets.*

Sunday, May 5, Noon: Paschal Vespers. *Blessing of Baskets.*

Bright Monday, May 6, 9:30 AM: Paschal Divine Liturgy and Procession.

*Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!*

Hymns of the Day

Tone 4 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is 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!

Tone 1 Troparion *(St. John Climacus)*

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,
you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer,
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.
Glory to Him Who gave you strength!
Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! //
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master, //
He has risen on the third day!

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 4 Kontakion *(St. John Climacus)*

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence,
to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, //
O our father and teacher John.

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

Tone 6 Kontakion *Steadfast Protectress*

Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone *(Resurrection)*

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; / in wisdom have You made them all.
(Ps. 103:26)

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great!
(Ps. 103:1)

Tone 7 Prokeimenon *(St. John Climacus)*

Let the saints exult in glory; / let them sing for joy on their couches! *(Ps. 149:5)*

Before the Gospel, the Alleluia

Verse: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness
and truth! *(Ps. 44:3b)*

Verse: For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity. *(Ps. 44:6)*

Verse: They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the
courts of our God. *(Ps. 91:12)*

Instead of “It is truly meet...” we sing:

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)*
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil
tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!