

For the Paschal Liturgy (early morning):

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (1:1-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

For Paschal Vespers (at noon):

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (20:19-25)

The same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

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Meriden, Connecticut

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Holy Pascha

The Resurrection of Our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ

May 5, 2024

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

We welcome everyone who has come into this house of the Lord. We especially welcome all guests and newcomers.

Please feel free to pick up a Divine Liturgy book from the table at the glass doors, to follow along. This Sunday and most of the year, we use 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) for details.

Saturday, May 4	Nocturn before Paschal Service	11:30 PM
Sunday, May 5	Paschal Matins and Liturgy	Midnight
	Blessing of baskets, fellowship follows	
	Paschal Vespers	Noon
Monday, May 6	Divine Liturgy, with procession and Gospel readings	9:30 AM
Wednesday, May 8	Bright Week Matins	8:15 AM
Friday, May 10	Bright Week Vespers	6 PM
Saturday, May 11	Divine Liturgy—Ss. Cyril & Methodius, 34 Fairview Ave, Terryville	9 AM
	The service concludes Bright Week, observes the temple feast of Ss. Cyril & Methodius, and gives us a chance to rejoice with fellow Orthodox. A meal follows.	
Saturday, May 11	Great Vespers, followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, May 12	Divine Liturgy—St. Thomas Sunday	9:30 AM
	Blessing of Graves (weather permitting)	Noon
Saturday, May 18	Baptism of Liam Stark	3 PM

Notes on the Week

We call the present Feast “Pascha,” which in Hebrew means “Passover.” For this is the day on which God from the beginning brought the world out of non-existence. On this same day he also made the people of Israel pass over the Red Sea and snatched them from the hands of Pharaoh. Again it was on this day that he came down from heaven and dwelt in the womb of the Virgin. And now he has snatched the whole of humanity from the vaults of Hades and made it pass upwards to heaven and brought it to its ancient dignity of incorruption.... And so we, rejoicing exceedingly, celebrate the Resurrection with splendor.... Likewise, to demonstrate the abolition of enmity and the union with God and the Angels, we give one another the customary kiss.

Understand how the Lord’s Resurrection was on the third day like this. Thursday evening and Friday make one day. Friday night and the whole of the Saturday make another full day; so this is the second day. Saturday night and the morning of Sunday (for the whole is understood from the part) make another full day; so that is the third day.

—From the *Synaxarion of the Menaion*

Christ is risen! Indeed, he is risen! This is the Day of Resurrection! Not only do we celebrate the Feast of Feasts with Pascha Sunday, but throughout all the coming Bright Week. **For this week, there is no fasting.**

We also honor the Resurrection (literally, when our Lord “stood up again”) by **standing to pray**—neither kneeling nor making prostrations—until Vespers of Pentecost. **In our prayers, we also do not begin with “O Heavenly King”**—the hymn to the Holy Spirit—until Pentecost. Rather, we begin with the Paschal Troparion three times: **“Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!”**

We Ask Your Prayers

Many years to the newly-illuminated Sierra Ruth Levesque.

Many years to all those who have as their heavenly patron the Great Martyr Irene (May 5).

For the Sick & Suffering:

Corey (Knap)—nephew of Valentina Knap, recovering from a serious accident
William (Weidmann)

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) Shawna (Kelly)

Susan (Shulga Waas) Timothy (Waas)

Irene Lorraine John

Jacob Katelyn Joseph

Crystal Angela Innocent

Larissa 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.

In order 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:

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