

## The Reading from the 2nd Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy (3:10–15)

My son Timothy, you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

## The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (18:10–14)

The Lord spoke this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

# Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Meriden, Connecticut

website: [sspeterpaul.org](http://sspeterpaul.org)

*A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America*

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Sunday of the Publican and  
the Pharisee—Tone 8  
February 9, 2025

**Beginning of the Lenten Triodion.**  
**Leavetaking of the Meeting of the Lord.**  
Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch in Syria  
(ca. 257). Uncovering of the Relics of  
St. Innocent, Bishop of Irkutsk (1805).

### **Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!**

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

Today, we begin with Matins, the morning service with readings and hymns illuminating the meaning of this particular Sunday. You can follow along with a Matins service booklet, found beside these bulletins on the table at the glass doors. The Divine Liturgy, the primary celebration this morning, immediately follows. You can follow along with a black Liturgy book from the stack on the same table as the bulletins and Matins booklet. 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 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](http://sspeterpaul.org)) for details.

Saturday, Feb. 8	Vigil, followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Feb. 9	<i>Liturgy canceled due to snow storm</i>	
<i>Sunday of the Publican &amp; the Pharisee</i>	This day marks the beginning of the Lenten Triodion, the book of hymnography and directions on how to observe the season of Great Lent and Passion Week. Always, there are Four Sundays to prepare us for the Fast: The Publican and the Pharisee, the Prodigal Son, the Last Judgment, and the Expulsion from Paradise.	
	We begin our Lenten preparations by putting aside all pride in our own spiritual efforts. To remind us to avoid the self-justification of the Pharisee, <b>we do not fast at all during this coming week.</b>	
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Study of the Gospel of John via Zoom: <a href="http://sspeterpaul.org/study">sspeterpaul.org/study</a>	7 PM
Wednesdays	Weekday Matins	8:15 AM
Wed., Feb. 12	Parish Council	6:30 PM
Saturday, Feb. 15	Great Vespers, followed by confessions	5 PM
	Supper and Fellowship afterward	
Sunday, Feb. 16	Matins, leading into Divine Liturgy	9 AM
<i>Prodigal Son</i>	“Souper Bowl” Fundraiser	
	Julaisa Moll will be making a presentation during our fellowship time on Nutrition and Fasting	
Saturday, Feb. 22	Memorial Liturgy on Meatfare Saturday	9:30 AM
	Diocesan Choir Rehearsal	
Saturday, Feb. 22	Great Vespers, followed by confessions	5 PM
Sunday, Feb. 23	Meatfare Sunday—Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Bishop Benedict presiding, followed by Meatfare Dinner	
	This will be the last day for eating meat until Pascha.	
Sunday, March 2	Rite of Forgiveness leads us into Great Lent	

## We Ask Your Prayers

**For Donna Leonowich, who has as her heavenly patron the Righteous Empress Theodora** (Feb. 11).

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Veronica Tassmer (Feb. 13). Valentina Wigglesworth (Feb. 14). Kelso Tassmer (Feb. 15).

### For the Sick & Suffering:

Archpriest Vladimir (Aleandro)

Corey (Knap)—nephew of Valentina Knap

William (Weidmann)

Raisa (Morosan)—recently hospitalized

Carol—friend of Mary Jane Rodgers

Ed—friend of Sierra Levesque

Gregory (Mankevich)

Christopher (Sullivan)

Anita (Propheter)

Rosemary (Delaney)

Steven (Rygiel)

Catherine (Barra)

Raisa (Fahy)

Michael (Edwards)

Shawwna (Kelly)

Susan (Shulga Waas)

Timothy (Waas)

Irene

Lorraine

Jacob

Katelyn

Joseph

Crystal

Angela

Innocent

Georgiy

Larissa

Valentin

Andrei

Stacia

Jose

Cyprian and Dana

Nicole and Naaman

Helen and Helene

### For Our Shut-Ins:

Yvonne (Rutcho)

Margaret (Savchik)

To share news in the bulletin, or to add someone to our prayer list, please contact Fr. Joshua: [priest@sspeterpaul.org](mailto: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:

<https://sspeterpaul.org/donate> or use this QR Code →



February 2025,

The Sundays of February mark the beginning of Pre-Lenten Sundays which signal that we are approaching the season of Great Lent. Throughout the month, the Gospel readings will guide us, step-by-step, to Great Lent, the season of forgiveness, prayer, fasting, and repentance, and ultimately to Pascha.

Feb. 2: The Feast of ***The Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple*** and ***The Sunday of Zacchaeus***.

Feb. 9: ***The Publican and the Pharisee***

Feb. 16: ***The Prodigal Son***

“Souper Bowl” Sunday: After Divine Liturgy, we invite you all to participate in soup, salad, bread, desserts, and beverages

“A Sacred Journey of Faith and Food”: During Coffee Hour, Julaisa Moll will offer a presentation on nutrition during fasting.

Feb. 23: ***The Sunday of Last Judgment***

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy: +Bishop Benedict  
“Meat-fare Dinner”—Please join us for our Annual Meat-fare Dinner, catered by Ken Marshall.  
Reservations requested

*“...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 in prison and you visited me.  
For truly I say to you, if you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me” (Matthew 25).*

Mar. 2: ***Forgiveness Sunday*** and ***The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise***

Vespers with the Rite of Forgiveness, after a brief Coffee Hour.

*“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 heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses” (Matthew 6).*

Mar. 9: ***Sunday of Orthodoxy***: First Sunday of Lent  
Our Parish will host a Sunday of Orthodox Vespers Service for the Connecticut Deanery at 4:00 pm., Lenten Supper to follow in our Fellowship Area

Wednesdays March 5 through April 9: ***Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts*** at 6:00 pm, followed by Supper in the Fellowship Area.

Church life in the weeks to follow will be a time of reflection, quiet prayer, and fasting. Lent is a journey in preparation for the resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we all journey with faith and love for each other.



## 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 1 Troparion** (Feast)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!  
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God,  
enlightening those who sat in darkness.  
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,  
you accepted in your arms the ^Redeemer of our souls,//  
Who grants us the Resurrection!

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

### **Tone 4 Kontakion** (from the Lenten Triodion)

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee!  
Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!  
Let us cry to our Savior:  
"Have mercy on us, //  
O only merciful One!"

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

### **Tone 1 Kontakion** (Feast)

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb  
and blessed Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God.  
Now You have come and saved us through love.  
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, //  
O only Lover of Man!

### **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)

### **Tone 3 Prokeimenon** (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

### **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 face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise  
to Him with songs of praise! (Ps. 94:2)

Verse: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my  
eyes have seen Your salvation! (Luke 2:29)

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)

### **Tone 3**

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians,  
protect, preserve, and save those who hope in you!  
In the shadow and letter of the Law,  
let us the faithful discern a figure:  
every male [child] that opens the womb  
is holy to God.  
Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of the Father Who has no beginning, //  
the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1)  
I will receive the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### **Notes on the Week**

Brethren, let us not pray like the Pharisee!  
He who exalts himself will be humbled.  
Let us prepare to abase ourselves by fasting;  
let us cry aloud with the voice of the Publican: //  
"O God, forgive us sinners!"

The Pharisee went up to the temple with a proud and empty heart;  
the Publican bowed himself in repentance.  
They both stood before You, O Master:  
the one, through boasting, lost his reward,  
but the other, with tears and sighs, won Your blessing:  
Strengthen me, O Christ our God, as I weep in Your presence, //  
since You are the Lover of man!

I know the value of tears, O almighty Lord:  
they delivered Hezekiah from the gates of death,  
and rescued the harlot from repeated sins.  
Tears justified the Publican instead of the Pharisee.  
I pray You, O Lord: //  
"Number me with the former, and have mercy on me!"

— Stichera of the Triodion.

Vespers of the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

He who seeks forgiveness of his sins loves humility, but if he condemns another he  
seals his own wickedness. Just as water and fire cannot be combined, so self-  
justification and humility exclude one another.

— St. Mark the Ascetic, "On the Spiritual Law" 125, 126, from the Philokalia.