

Rector's Letter, February, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters:

We sometimes divide life into the “spiritual” and the “material,” to our cost. The material covers the practical activities: earning money, managing property, matters of sickness and health, and also our friends, family, and interests. The spiritual is focused on church services, prayers, the Bible, the sacraments, and similar affairs—all really the province of the priest.

But the division is an imaginary one. Our Lord has a lot to say about things we sometimes think of as strictly material: money, business, health, family, friends—it’s all tied together with the Spirit of God, according to our Lord’s Gospel.

And the division of labor is imaginary too. We consider “ministry” the work of the priest (and okay, we’d include the altar servers and choir), but cleaning the church? That’s not the same thing. But the Spirit doesn’t make that distinction. Preaching and cleaning, praying and hosting coffee hour—they are all ministries necessary for the work of the church, and the Spirit works through each one of us, no matter how we serve.

These are all different ministries, different activities, requiring different gifts—just like St. Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians, chapter 12. He

speaks about gifts from the Holy Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, faith, even miracles—but also helping others and even administration. All of them glorify God and serve others, which is what Christian ministry is all about.

You may have heard how another name for the Church is the Body of Christ. In this same chapter while talking about variety of gifts and ministries, St. Paul helps us understand by talking about different members of the Body, like different body parts:

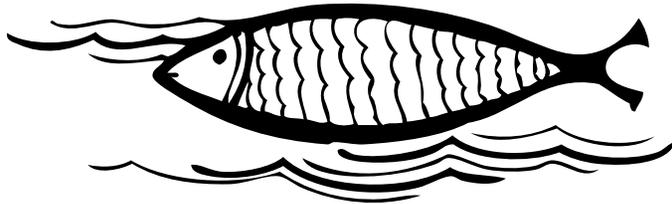
For as the body is one and has many members ... so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many... If the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? ... But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

So we, members of the Body of Christ, members of his Church, each have our gifts that God asks us to use to build up that Body, to help SS. Peter & Paul. The whole Body suffers when one

member holds back, and the whole Body benefits from even the most quiet, seemingly unnoticed contribution. Please join in!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Joshua S. Modlin



SS. Peter & Paul Parish Council

February 2020

February is Heart Month!

As we transition into the new year, it is important to count our blessings. I am thankful for Father Joshua, Matushka Jenny and their sons, the members of our Parish Council, each member of SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, all of our little children, and our many extended friends and families. Together, we possess many talents, skills, and interests. We all love God. And, we all want to see our Church develop its full potential of being a “Christ-centered Community that lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”



The Parish Council has established several important Goals and Priorities for the year. We have formulated Committees, their Goals, and Membership, all of which is posted on our website and on the bulletin board downstairs. Volunteer Ministry is key to our success!! We invite each of you to review the Committees and join us in doing the work of the Parish. There are many opportunities for you and your family to lend a hand, before, during, and after worship Services, host a Coffee Hour, comfort and serve those in need, participate in outreach, and do God’s work.

The Church School offers Game Night every first Friday of the month for children, teens, and their parents to meet and enjoy each other’s company. Bible Studies and Adult Education classes are available. The Growth Committee sponsors Parish events to unite Parishioners of all ages, and is active in the neighborhood communi-

ty. Our Brotherhood is planning a number of activities for members to enjoy. Experience these and the other opportunities offered.

We encourage you to connect with our Parish and to serve the Lord with all your heart, and all your mind, and all your soul. Live a life full of the love of Jesus Christ so that others want to follow you!!

Yours in Christ,

Donna Leonowich

for the SS. Peter & Paul Parish Council

February is Heart Month! Jesus invites to brotherhood all who are kindled with love for others!!

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 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 you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or

naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”

Matthew 25:34-40



Around the Parish

Many years to **Chris Eckels**, who was received into Orthodoxy last month. Welcome!

We also welcome **Theo and Yizhen Rodriguez**, who have joined our parish after moving from Denver.

Forebears in Faith: Study the Book of Judges—continuing on Sundays. We are exploring one of the most dramatic books of the Bible: Judges. We will read of men and women of great courage in a confusing time before the Kings of Israel, “who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises...” Join us after fellowship hour.

The feast of the **Meeting of the Lord in the Temple** is on Feb. 2. This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was brought into the temple as a forty-day-old child by his parents. There the Righteous Simeon testified that he saw the promised salvation of Israel fulfilled: “Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation....” We sing his prayer of thanksgiving at every service of Vespers. We will observe the Meeting of the Lord this year as part of our regular Saturday and Sunday services.



Our annual **“Souper” Bowl** will be held Sunday, Feb. 2, after Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Area. More than 12 homemade soups, rolls, salad and desserts will be provided. The cost per person is \$10. Children under 12 are free. Soups will be available for take-away: \$5 per pint; \$10 per quart.

Mark your calendar: Our annual **Meat-fare Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 23**, after Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Area. Tickets are \$20; children under 12 are free.

There is still opportunity for **house blessings**. Our homes need this spiritual “spring cleaning” each year to free them from the remembrance of sin and fill them with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Please speak with Fr. Joshua to arrange a time.

The season of Great Lent begins with the **Rite of Forgiveness** on Sunday, March 1. Each of us has the responsibility to ask and offer forgiveness before Lent starts. Unless we are homebound, we shouldn't be anywhere but in church that day.

In the first week of **Great Lent**, we will have services most of the week, to enter into the spirit of repentance and spiritual effort which makes the time of fasting fruitful. In addition to the Rite of Forgiveness, we will celebrate the **Canon of St. Andrew and the first Presanctified Liturgy** and Lenten Supper on Wednesday. These services begin at 6 PM, Monday through Thursday of the first week of Lent.

Please remember that, **if severe weather conditions force church service or event cancellations**, announcements will be posted on WFSB (channel 3) and WNBC/WVIT (channel 30), as well as on our own parish website: sspeterpaul.org.