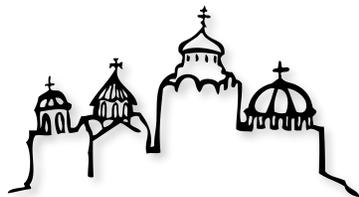


Sept. 13, at 6 PM, and Divine Liturgy on Tuesday at 9:30 AM.

**We are planning to resume Children's Sessions at the beginning of October.** Details are still being worked out—look for more information in the next few weeks.



**Our services in the temple are streamed via Facebook and Youtube.** You can most easily find them on our website:

<https://sspeterpaul.org/media> .

We are in need of more **volunteers to run our livestream of church services.** If you have the willingness to learn the necessary technology, please speak with Rick Comshaw or Fr. Joshua.

**You can follow our parish on Facebook.** We have shared a steady stream of news and other material on our page:

[facebook.com/saintspeterandpaulmeriden/](https://facebook.com/saintspeterandpaulmeriden/) .

**Donations are also welcome online!** We are able to direct your contributions to our general treasury, to fulfilling your pledge, or to special funds like the Charity, Endowment, and Scholarship Funds. Use the Donation button on the right side of our parish website, or use this link:

[https://sspeterpaul.org/news\\_201014\\_1](https://sspeterpaul.org/news_201014_1)

# Rector's Letter, September, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters:

What is the meaning of life? That's a big question that folks like to toss around. But there's another big question that's closer to home: **what is the meaning of my life?** We all wonder about that, especially when we are most confused, most unhappy with our direction and circumstances. On sleepless nights, we may find ourselves endlessly wrestling with our past decisions, with our priorities and goals, with our relationships.

We can never completely answer that question, because the meaning of a life only becomes clear when it is complete, when we die. Not only that, there is only One who judges the meaning of each life: Jesus Christ our Lord. Until all is revealed at the Last Day, we just try the best we can, using the measure of Christ's own life as our guide for what is true and good and worthy.

On September 1, the new Church Year begins. It is the time to give thanks to the Lord for all the blessings he has provided for us, and to ask for his protection and guidance in the year to come. We should not let this opportunity pass by in our own lives, to reflect on the meaning of the year just past: what has born fruit and what has withered? What was of lasting worth and what was a waste of time? And what hopes and fears need to be brought before the Lord for the coming year? If we do not take

the time to reflect, how will we hope to live our lives in a meaningful, worthy, Christ-like way? How will we prepare to meet the Lord on the Day of Judgment?

Not by accident, the Church Year begins with the Nativity of Our Most-Holy Lady Theotokos and the Conception of St. John the Forerunner and Baptist, and it ends with commemorations of the end of each of their lives (the Falling-Asleep of the Theotokos and the Beheading of St. John).

The Lord marked these two holy people as the best examples for all of us to follow, because from beginning to end both dedicated their lives to what truly matters. The Theotokos shows us the joy it is to “hear the word of the Lord and keep it.” St. John reminds us to “repent, for the Kingdom of God is close at hand.” How could our lives be summed up? How do we want to be remembered? Would the examples of our lives speak a good word to those who follow after us?

As we enter into this new Church Year, we can find new meaning for our life in giving thanks for what has already come to pass. We can also find renewed purpose by learning better what is God’s will for our lives— “hear the word of God and keep it.” And by commending ourselves, and each other, and all our life to Christ our God, we can find the meaning of life in getting to know Life itself: Christ the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Yours in Christ,



## Around the Parish

As was announced in a letter enclosed in the August newsletter, **we will be holding a purely informational meeting** after the Divine Liturgy on Sept. 12 to review possible future directions for the parish’s facilities.

**Charles Haddad, father of M. Jenny Mosher, and Fr. Michael Koblosh, brother of M. Lydia Westerberg**, both departed this life in recent weeks. May their memory be eternal!

We will celebrate the **Nativity of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary** on Sept. 8. The birth of the Theotokos was the fulfillment of promises made by God to her righteous parents, and also the fulfillment of the hope of generations of people who put their trust in God, from Noah to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to King David and his line. The birth of the Theotokos represents the best the human race has to offer to our Creator, and God accepts this gift and returns her to us as the mother of our Savior. We will observe the feast with Great Vespers on Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 6 PM, and Divine Liturgy on Wednesday at 9:30 AM.

The feast of the **Elevation of the Cross** is on Sept. 14. This feast honors first the finding of the Cross of our Lord by St. Helen, and then its recovery years later, after it had been captured by the Persians. In celebration, we lift up the life-giving Cross, so that we may bow down before the crucified Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we put all our trust. We will observe the feast with Great Vespers on Monday,