

**SS. Peter & Paul  
Orthodox Church**

**“Souper” Bowl Sunday**

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 12, 2023, we will host our special “Souper Bowl” luncheon after Divine Liturgy.

“Take away” soups will be sold and delivered to Shut-Ins. Fill your freezer with homemade soups for the winter months, and the upcoming Lenten Fast.

To place your order in advance, please complete the form below and return it to Donna Leonowich, 557 Busk Court, Cheshire, CT 06410 by Feb. 5 or call 203.250.9028. Please make checks payable to SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church.

<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Borscht (Meat)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lentil Soup
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Noodle	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable
<input type="checkbox"/> Split Pea with Ham	<input type="checkbox"/> Broccoli
<input type="checkbox"/> Cabbage and Kielbasi	

The cost is \$5.00/pint; \$10/Quart.

Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU!

# Rector’s Letter, February, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters:

The Orthodox Christian Faith is not the easiest to embrace. It demands a lot of us: long services, fasting and prayer, disciplines and rules, and I’m sure we could name plenty more. As we hear one more time, “Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord”; as we are called one more time to fast or come to confess our sins; as we find one more way that Orthodoxy does not fit in with normal American ways; we may ask, “Why do we bother?”

God knows what is on our minds; so why do we need to pray again and again? God does not benefit from our fasts; so why fast? God sees our secret sins; so why confess? Why do anything beyond the minimum we feel is necessary?

But Valentine’s Day, coming in just a couple of weeks, gives us a clue. A holiday to celebrate love? It seems a little silly, perhaps. But a husband who fails to do something that says, “I love you,” is probably making a serious mistake! In fact, we make a statement, whether we like to or not, every day of a marriage. If we are mindful and conscientious, we act in ways big and small that show our love; and truly, it is the regularity and faithfulness that matters most. If we don’t think to act in these ways, it says — whether we mean it or not — that our spouse is not important, not worthy of attention.

In fact, this principle extends to all our relationships. The way we treat those around us says many things: what we think of those people, yes; but even more, what we are like, ourselves. More than that, these ways of treating people shape who we truly are. If we constantly complain and criticize, we become increasingly embittered, and find it hard to be grateful for anything. If we make a point of giving thanks, though, we find it easier to be at peace, even during troubles. If we think of ways to be charitable to those around us, we become more open to the gifts of God's grace.

And that is why we bother with all the demands of Orthodoxy. It is a straight and narrow road, like marriage. A glamorous wedding may seem very appealing, with a beautiful couple, wealth, style, paparazzi and all the rest. But the glamorous couples hardly ever hold their marriages together when life gets difficult.

Lasting marriages are built on the willingness to faithfully and patiently act in love toward one another, no matter what. They involve doing many of the same things again and again, day after day. They involve sacrifice. They involve saying some obvious but essential words: "Please"; "Thank you"; "I'm sorry"; "I forgive you"; "I love you." If we put our heart behind them and show by our actions that we mean them, they never get old. In fact, we can become better husbands and wives, and find that we love each other more sincerely.

Doesn't church sound a lot like this, too? The Church was not established for God's sake but for ours, to help us become better human beings, that

Growth and Outreach	Greg Mankevich, Sarah Massaro, Mary Jane Rodgers
Develop and administer activities to support our parishioners, shut-ins, and neighborhood outreach	
Special Events and Hospitality	Linda Craig, Sarah Massaro
Plan and manage events, for hospitality and fundraising	
Liturgical Support	Cyprian Kolpakov, Elias Mosher, Mihaela Alecsandru, John Barone
Assist in the preparation and activities for religious services; Candle stand and greeting	
Safety and Wellbeing	Linda Craig, Mihaela Alecsandru
Oversee the general physical welfare of the parishioners	
Bulletin Board	Irene White
Update, post and maintain bulletin board material	
Bylaws	Father Joshua, Alexia Tassmer, Donna Leonowich
Complete Cemetery Bylaws; Revise the Bylaws, as needed	
Coffee Hour Committee	Donna Leonowich, Ephraim Mosher
Prepare Coffee Hour Calendar, maintain supplies, and account for donations	
Neighborhood Association	Father Joshua, Sarah Massaro, Maria Rodriguez, Ephraim Mosher
Work with local community committees for the safety and betterment of the neighborhood	

## SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Committee Assignments 2023

<b>Mission Building Team</b>	Ephraim Mosher, leader; Elias Mosher, Radu Alecsandru
Given our current location, identify obstacles to our church mission and develop proposals to overcome them	
<b>Building Committee</b>	Radu Alecsandru, Paul Leonowich, Dan Veronick, Timur Yarovinsky
Oversee and maintain the Church interior and exterior; Research, develop and oversee its maintenance.	
<b>Apartment House Committee</b>	Donna Leonowich, Cyprian Kolpakov
Oversee and maintain the apartment house	
<b>Cemetery Committee</b>	Dan Veronick, Alexia Tassmer, Paul Leonowich, Chris Eckels
Manage and maintain the Cemetery	
<b>Endowment Committee (Elected at Annual Meeting)</b>	Sarah Massaro, Linda Craig, Irene White
Oversee and manage the Endowment Fund	
<b>Finance Committee</b>	Sarah Massaro, Timur Yarovinsky, Greg Mankevich, Alexia Tassmer, Irene Zavednak, Linda Craig
Manage and oversee the financial operations of the Parish including stewardship, budgeting, investments	
<b>Technology/Communications</b>	Father Joshua, Elias Mosher, Thomas Crosby
Facilitate all parish communications internally and externally; acquire and maintain needed equipment	

is, more like Jesus Christ. We repeat ourselves because the words still need saying, for our own sake. We fast and pray because it draws us closer to God. We sacrifice time for church services, prayer, and works of love because these help shape our minds and hearts to know God better, to draw into closer communion with God and his saints.

The mystery is that, if we turn from asking, “Why bother?” to asking, “Why not?” we find joy in the same things that were drudgery before. If we wash the dishes in a spirit of complaint, we hate the work, but if we wash them as an offering of love, we find it rather easy. If we pray in a spirit of complaint, we hate that work, too. But if we find the way to be thankful and put our love for God into action, we find that our burden becomes light.

Yours in Christ,

*F. Joshua S. Mosher*

## Around the Parish

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 with Vigil on the eve, Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 6 PM, and Divine Liturgy on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 9:30 AM.

**We have begun a ten-part online series, “A Foundation in Orthodox Christianity.”** We will meet via Zoom on Tuesday evenings, starting with prayer at 6:00. Each session will start with a presentation aimed at a very introductory level, and will have an opportunity for discussion. All are welcome! Join us via this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/sspp-zoom>

This month, we prepare for the Great Fast, which begins Feb. 27. On Meatfare Sunday, Feb. 19, we say farewell to meat until Pascha. **The Parish Council has committed to hosting a Meatfare Dinner**—more details will be announced in coming days.

Our last preparation before Great Lent begins is the **Rite of Forgiveness** on Sunday, Feb. 26. 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, Feb. 27 through March 2.

## Do You Know?

### from our Parish Council

#### **Mission Statement:**

*SS. Peter & Paul*

*Orthodox Church is a local Christian community of the Orthodox Church in America located in Meriden,*

*Connecticut, and serving the surrounding area. We offer the love of Christ Jesus to all, both in words and in action. Grateful for God's gifts, we work to expand the mission of Jesus Christ.*

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**Do You Know...** this month, the Parish Council will be setting goals for the year? Goals include spiritual ministries, growth and outreach opportunities, property maintenance, and financial considerations. In addition to the Council, committees assist in church ministries and goal attainment. They include Growth and Outreach, Technology and Communication, Building, Events, Coffee Hour and other committees. A complete list is posted on our bulletin board outside the Fellowship Room. Ephraim Mosher, Chairperson of the Mission Building Team, is also planning an organizational meeting. Please consider joining our parish ministries. This is another opportunity for you to become involved in carrying out the work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.