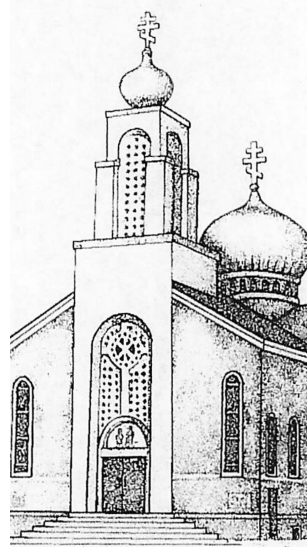




## Keep in touch with us

VIA EMAIL OR TEXT MESSAGE

- Choose to receive updates from groups you're interested in
- Unsubscribe anytime
- No spam, we promise



## sspporthodox.flocknote.com

We respect your time and attention. Messages to the main group—"Everyone"—will be limited to the most important news of the week. You can expect one or two messages each week—no more except in truly extraordinary cases.

Once you are signed up, we encourage you to join groups to keep in touch with the news and ministries closest to your heart. For example:

### **Giving Thanks**

sharing news and photos from our parish life

### **Wisdom**

regular reflections drawn from the well of our Orthodox Christian faith

### **Bible Study**

notes and preparation for those wanting to learn more of the Orthodox Faith

### **Choir**

coordinating the activity of our choir

### **Children's Ministry**

working with our families to help our children grow in faith

## Rector's Letter: July, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters:

We have arrived in the season of summer vacations. Time to free ourselves from the daily grind: travel, explore, and relax. Time to rest and restore ourselves before we return to our usual ways.

It's amazing how accustomed we can become to insanity in our routine. Some of us suffer from unreasonable demands in the workplace, being asked to do two or three people's jobs at once. The work may be crucial or it may be meaningless, but if we are expected to drive ourselves into the ground day after day, we eventually will break.

Some of us suffer from pain and unhappiness at home. Maybe we're not getting along with our family the way we used to. Or maybe our health (or that of a loved one we take care of) is not what it was, and the stress is killing us, literally. If we are constantly drained emotionally, physically and spiritually by our home life, eventually we will run dry.

Some of us suffer from insanity we impose on ourselves. All too many of us cram our schedules full of activities, programs, and busyness. Life disappears into a blur like the scenery passing a speeding train. Instead of actually engaging with the people in our lives, all too many of us fill ourselves with bitterness and resentment, with passionate opinions and clever counter-arguments, with remembered wrongs and unforgiven offenses. We know exactly what every-

one is going to say and so we never listen to what we need to hear.

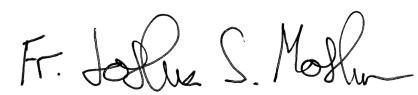
So a promised vacation can seem like just the relief we need to leave behind all the craziness. But unless we make an effort to put down our burdens and leave our emotional and spiritual baggage behind, we will find that we have relieved ourselves of nothing but money and time. It takes concentration to put those burdens down.

Wise Christians advise travelers to pray more than when they are at home. It may go against the grain: “I’m on vacation! This is the time to forget all my obligations!” But prayer is not an obligation, but a life-line. Prayer, when we learn to seek the presence of God like fresh water in the desert, is what frees us from our burdens and anxieties and resentments and all the rest.

“God is with us!” We proclaim this truth in the Church, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, God is with us when we travel. God is with us when we’re visiting far-away family. God is with us on the beach.

The only question is, where are we? Have we found within ourselves a place calm and quiet and peaceful enough to hear the “still, small voice” of God, who asks us each day, “Take my yoke upon you, and I will give you rest.”

Yours in Christ,



## Staying Connected with SS. Peter & Paul

We have been making some big changes in our communication methods at SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church. You may be aware that our parish has a very active livestream, sharing most of our services for those who cannot attend. And we make recent celebrations available for later viewing. You can see the glorious celebrations of our parish feast of the Apostles Peter & Paul, and many other services here: [sspeterpaul.org/media](http://sspeterpaul.org/media)

We also share our weekly bulletin, with plenty of detail of what is going on in our community. Find it every week here: [sspeterpaul.org/news.html](http://sspeterpaul.org/news.html)

Our whole parish website received a noticeable facelift this past month, making it more user-friendly especially for those using phones: [sspeterpaul.org](http://sspeterpaul.org)

And most recently, we have made a significant push to our online communication service, Flocknote. Read the enclosed flyer for details: we hope you will sign up to receive more engaging and timely news of parish life. Sign up here: [ssporthodox.flocknote.com](http://ssporthodox.flocknote.com)

### Among our recent announcements:

**Jill Boris Zadar** fell asleep in the Lord last month. May her memory eternal!

We are starting an online **Bible Study** via Zoom on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays—for details, visit [sspeterpaul.org](http://sspeterpaul.org)

**Miguel Moll** and **Julaisa Santiago** will be received through Holy Chrismation on Saturday, July 22. Many years!

We aren’t shutting down this mailed newsletter, but we are planning to reduce the frequency. It requires significant time, postage, and paper to produce, and we are confident you can receive more useful and appealing news through these other means mentioned above. So please stay connected with us using these resources.