



**Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church**  
*A parish of the Orthodox Church in America*  
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Telephone: (201) 436-3244

Rector: V. Rev. W. Sophrony Royer

Choir Director: Mr. Yuriy Galkin

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## **DECEMBER 12, 2021 / 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (TONE 8)**

### RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE EIGHT

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

### TROPARION OF HOLY FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, / betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. / These saints exult in glory, / for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: / she who bore Thee without seed. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

### TROPARION OF ST. SPYRIDON IN TONE ONE

You were revealed as a champion of the First Council / and a wonderworker, our God-bearing father Spyridon. / You spoke to one dead in the grave / and transformed a serpent into gold. / While chanting your holy prayers / you had angels serving with you! / Glory to Him Who gave you strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! / Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!

- *Sing the troparion of Ss. Peter and Paul*
- *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

### KONTAKION OF HOLY FOREFATHERS IN TONE SIX

You did not worship the graven image, / O thrice-blessed ones, / but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. / From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: / “Hasten, O compassionate One! / Speedily come to our aid, // for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

### PROKEIMENON IN TONE FOUR

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!  
*v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!*

**Prokeimenon in Tone One:** My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

### THE EPISTLE

#### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)**

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which

you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (13:17-21)**

Brethren, obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

ALLELUIA IN TONE FOUR

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*v. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name.*

*v. They called to the Lord and He answered them.*

*v. The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment.*

THE GOSPEL

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)**

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.' For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper."

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (6:17-23)**

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## UPCOMING SERVICES

5:00 PM (Saturday) – Great Vespers

9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy

## TODAY’S SAINTS

Saints commemorated on December 12th: Holy Forefathers of Christ; St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus; Hieromartyr Alexander, Bishop of Jerusalem; Martyr Synesius of Rome; St. Abra of Poitiers (the daughter of St. Hilary of Poitiers); St. Corentin, Bishop of Quimper; St. Finnian, founder of Clonard Abbey; St. Columba of Terryglass (disciple of St. Finnian); St. Gregory of Terracina (disciple of St. Benedict of Nursia).

## TODAY’S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

**Sanctuary Lamp** offered by Fr. W. Sophrony Royer in memory of Right Rev. Bishop Anthony (Grabbe).

## PARISH CONFESSIONS

All parishioners ought to go to confession during the Nativity Fast, which may be heard after any Vespers. Confessions may be done without facial masks so long as you are fully vaccinated. Those unable to attend Vespers may call the Rectory at 201-436-3244 to make an appointment.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council is meeting today after Divine Liturgy.

## UPCOMING FOCA EVENTS

(1) **Virtual Tour of Bethlehem - Dec. 12, 2021:** Join us on a journey through the Holy City of Bethlehem as we relive the events and places of Our Lord’s birth. See: [www.orthodoxfellowship.org/upcoming-events-1/2021/3/14/virtual-tour-of-the-holy-sites-of-jerusalem-mksfp](http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org/upcoming-events-1/2021/3/14/virtual-tour-of-the-holy-sites-of-jerusalem-mksfp).

(2) **FOCA Virtual Christmas Concert - Dec. 26, 2021:** FOCA is coordinating a “virtual” Christmas concert to be streamed live on YouTube on Sunday, December 26, 2021! See: [www.orthodoxfellowship.org/upcoming-events-1/2021/12/26/national-virtual-christmas-concert](http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org/upcoming-events-1/2021/12/26/national-virtual-christmas-concert).

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."

- *Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)*