



**Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church**  
*A parish of the Orthodox Church in America*  
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Rector: V. Rev. W. Sophrony Royer

Choir Director: Mr. Yuriy Galkin

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## **DECEMBER 18 2022 / SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (TONE 2)**

### RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, / Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. / And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, / all the powers of heaven cried out: // “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

### TROPARION OF HOLY ANCESTORS IN TONE TWO

Great are the accomplishments of faith, / for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; / and the Prophet Daniel appeared / a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

- *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 ages of ages. Amen.*

### KONTAKION OF HOLY ANCESTORS 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!*

### THE EPISTLE

#### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)**

Brethren, by faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak

and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

#### ALLELUIA IN TONE FOUR

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*v. We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.*

*v. For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us.*

#### THE GOSPEL

##### **The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:1-25)**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” So, all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

#### COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the upright. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### TODAY’S PARASTAS

Parastas in memory of Juliana & Andrew Bacsik, offered by Russell & Andrea Wyskanycz, on their anniversaries of birth, and Archpriest John Chepeleff, Mitred Archpriest Damian Krehel, and Geraldine Rogers.

## TODAY'S SAINTS

Saints commemorated on December 18th: Martyr Sebastian of Rome and Companions; St. Modestus, Archbishop of Jerusalem; Martyrs Rufus and Zosimus of Philippi; St. Gatianus, 1st Bishop of Tours; St. Florus, Bishop of Amisus; St. Michael the Confessor, of Constantinople; St. Winibald, Abbot of Heidenheim, Bishop of Eichstatt; St. Simeon, Wonderworker of Verkhoturye; St. Daniel the Hesychast.

## UPCOMING SERVICES

4:30 PM (Saturday) – Vigil w. Lity [*Christmas Eve*]

9:20 AM (Sunday) – Third Hour & Divine Liturgy [*Christmas*]

## PARISH & LOCAL EVENTS

(1) Today there is a special collection for the benefit of financial support of the clergy of the Diocese of Alaska, which was mandated by the 2022 Diocesan Assembly of the New York & New Jersey Diocese.

(2) Our parish is collecting cans of soup and other non-perishable foods for donation to a local food pantry. A bin for placing the donated food items will remain in the church until February 12, 2023. Please make sure that items donated are not past the expiration date, and thank you for co-operating in this project!

(3) Looking for a Christmas gift for your cleaning person, hair dresser, handyman, tutor, etc.? The ShopRite, Stop & Shop, and Acme gifts cards, available for purchase in the church, might be just what you're looking for.

(4) Fr. Sophrony will bless homes on January 6-7, 2023. A sign-up sheet for house blessings is in the church vestibule – please sign up, or call the Rectory at 201-436-3233, by January 5, 2022. If you require a change in schedule, or cancellation, after you've signed up, please call the Rectory.

*“Faith is different from proof; the latter is human; the former is a Gift from God.”*  
~ Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)