

VENERABLE PAUL OF THEBES

Sunday 15th of January

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27

Troparion — Tone 3

Inspired by the Spirit, / you were the first to dwell in the desert in emulation of Elijah the zealot; / as one who imitated the angels, you were made known to the world by Saint Anthony the Great. / Righteous Paul, entreat Christ God to grant us His great mercy.

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protospesbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Nadine, Michelle, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie. Amen!!!

*** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski***

Follow us on



And remember to use:



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<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

The WEEKLY BULLETIN

HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

January 15th, 2023

VENERABLE PAUL OF THEBES - Saint Paul of Thebes was born in Egypt around 227 in the Thebaid of Egypt. Left orphaned, he suffered many things from a greedy relative over his inheritance. During the persecution against Christians under the emperor Decius (249-251), Saint Paul learned of his brother-in-law's insidious plan to deliver him into the hands of the persecutors, and so he fled the city and fled into the wilderness. Settling into a mountain cave, Saint Paul dwelt there for ninety-one years, praying incessantly to God both day and night. He sustained himself on dates and bread, which a raven brought him, and he clothed himself with palm leaves. Saint Anthony the Great (January 17), who also lived as an ascetic in the Thebaid desert, had a revelation from God concerning Saint Paul. Saint Anthony thought that there was no other desert dweller such as he. Then God said to him, "Anthony, there is a servant of God more excellent than you, and you should go and see him." Saint Anthony went into the desert and came to Saint Paul's cave. Falling to the ground before the entrance to the cave, he asked to be admitted. The Elders introduced themselves, and then embraced one another. They conversed through the night, and Saint Anthony revealed how he had been led there by God. Saint Paul disclosed to Saint Anthony that for sixty years a bird had brought him half a loaf of bread each day. Now the Lord had sent a double portion in honor of Saint Anthony's visit. The next morning, Saint Paul spoke to Anthony of his approaching death, and instructed him to bury him. He also asked Saint Anthony to return to his monastery and bring back the cloak he had received from Saint Athanasius. He did not really need a garment, but wished to depart from his body while Saint Anthony was absent. As he was returning with the cloak, Saint Anthony beheld the soul of Saint Paul surrounded by angels, prophets, and apostles, shining like the sun and ascending to God. He entered the cave and found Abba Paul on his knees with his arms outstretched. Saint Anthony mourned for him, and wrapped him in the cloak. He wondered how he would bury the body, for he had not remembered to bring a shovel. Two lions came running from the wilderness and dug a grave with their claws. Saint Anthony buried the holy Elder, and took his garment of palm leaves, then he returned to his own monastery. Saint Anthony kept this garb as a precious inheritance, and wore it only twice a year, on Pascha and Pentecost. Saint Paul of Thebes died in the year 341, when he was 113 years old. He did not establish a single monastery, but soon after his end there were many imitators of his life, and they filled the desert with monasteries. Saint Paul is honored as the first desert-dweller and hermit.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5 pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 14th of January

Baptism of Vada Rosa Hardcastle at 10 am

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 15 of January

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Saturday 21st of January

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 22nd of January

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Monday 23rd of January

Parish Council Meeting at 7 pm via ZOOM

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

If you are a guest at today's Divine Liturgy, we invite you to join us following Divine Liturgy for light refreshment and fellowship so we can get to know each other. You are always welcome to share in worship and fellowship at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church. Please sign the Guest Book in the Narthex and include your email address.

Blessing of the homes

We are again blessed with the opportunity to bless the homes of all our parishioners. If you would like your home to be blessed, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or contact Father Michael at pejovicveljko@gmail.com or via cell phone: at 848-228-1563. Blessing of the homes is a wonderful opportunity to bring the joy of the Holy Theophany into your home.

Archbishop Michael's Anniversary of Ordination

The clergy and faithful of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey are called to honor the fiftieth anniversary of His Eminence Archbishop Michael. The Divine Liturgy will be held at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Paramus on February 4th, 2023, at 10:00 am. A commemorative buffet luncheon will be held at 1:00 pm at the Brownstone, Peterson NJ. Please find the advertisement and the reservation form attached.

Food Donation Cart

Thanks to Dan Taylor we are blessed with the donated cart in the narthex. Whenever you are shopping remember those who are hungry and purchase one or more items for our donation cart.

Funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Metropolitan Tikhon attends the Funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. For more information, please follow the link: <https://www.oca.org/media/photos/metropolitan-tikhon-attends-funeral-of-pope-emeritus-benedict-xvi>

Parish Council Meeting

The next parish council meeting will take place on Monday, January 23rd at 7 pm via ZOOM.

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com