

**Saints Peter & Paul
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November 10, 2022

Dearest Brothers and Sisters of Saints Peter & Paul,

I hope you are enjoying the relatively mild beginning of November. Please allow me to share a few words with you to help us in our upcoming spiritual preparation.

This Monday, November 14th, is the Feast of the Apostle, St. Philip. The next day, in our Byzantine Rite, November 15th, begins the 40-day preparation season that we refer to as The Fast of St. Philip. Our Roman Catholic brothers & sisters refer to this time before the celebration of our Lord's birth as Advent, and they begin a couple weeks after we do. The word "Advent", of course, means coming.

During these next 40 days, as we get ready for our Lord's coming, I encourage everybody to spiritually prepare using many different avenues, for example;

1. Increase your fasting especially on Wednesdays and Fridays and remember that December 24th, is a strict fast day.
2. Increase your alms giving – we have had several collections recently to help the hungry and to help the imprisoned. There are many other things we can do to reach out to our brothers & sisters in need.
3. Increase your attendance at Divine Services. As usual, there are daily Liturgies almost every day, Liturgies for the several holy days during this time period, and the normal weekend Liturgies. Challenge yourself to come to church each and every weekend during this time of preparation.
4. Receive the Mystery of Confession. Confessions are heard by appointment and every Saturday from 4:45-5:15 pm in church. We are also planning a special Confession service for the end of Philip's Fast.

In conclusion, this is a very special time of the year. We can very easily be overwhelmed by the busyness of the season, but I hope and pray we take seriously the spiritual challenge to grow in our relationship with our Lord, Jesus, and to prepare to celebrate with great joy his Nativity.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Mike