



Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of December 24, 2017



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



Contact Info

**Sts. Peter & Paul
Greek Orthodox Church**
5640 Jay Rd.
Boulder, CO 80301
Office: 303-581-1434
www.stspeterandpaulboulder.org
Rev. Fr. Jordan Brown

Recurring Services

Orthros
Sunday @ 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy
Sunday @ 9:30 am
Great Vespers
Saturday @ 5 pm
Confession by appt.

Welcome to Our Parish!

The mission of Sts. Peter & Paul is to be a beacon of Orthodox Christian spirituality in the greater Boulder area. We strive together to live our Orthodox Christian Faith by having a devoted prayer life, through fasting and almsgiving, and through regular participation in the services and sacraments of the Holy Orthodox Church.

Service Schedule & Parish Activities

Sunday, December 24th	Christmas Eve	
	Nativity Great Vespers	6 pm
Monday, December 25th	Nativity of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ	
	Orthros	8 am
	Divine Liturgy	9 am

Hosts & Volunteers

Fellowship	Pam Torrance
Ushers	Parish Council
Myrrhbearers	Alexandra, Elizabeth, Sophie
Choir	Demetra G., Georgia

Have an Announcement?

Please contact Aaron Wall:
awall609@yahoo.com;
(720) 400-6579
Deadline is every Wed. before Divine Liturgy.

Have You Prepared Your Manger?

By Fr. Cherubim Veletza

Have you ever wondered, why did Christ choose to be born in a cave and be placed, after His incarnation, in a manger? Why wasn't He born in a house, even if it was poor and humble?

God as man in the person of Christ came and lived on earth humbly and undetected. But what need did His particular mode of birth serve? For, if He was born in a house, He would still be undetected and still humble.

There was no place worse than a cave and a manger, for the newborn Messiah to see the light of day, or the shimmer of the stars. For any common man it would be a shame to be born in a stable, let alone God Himself.

Yet this is exactly what the Lord wanted to emphasize from the beginning: that although He was God, He humbled Himself and took on a human hypostasis, and this divine humbling is much greater than simply a man being born inside a cold stable. He chose to be born in a cave and not a normal stable, to show that God does not dwell in temples made with hands, but in the hearts of those who recognize their unworthiness to receive Him and live humbly, without boasting and self-promotion. He chose to be placed in a manger of irrational animals, to show us that He came to dwell in this irrational world, a world that was dominated (and unfortunately still dominated) by sin and unbelief, which is foolishness in God's eyes.

Amid the hubbub of the census, accommodation for the newborn Christ could not be found, except in the embrace of the straw manger of irrational animals. And in the maelstrom of sin and hypocrisy He was not accepted by His chosen people, except for the few humbled and crushed hearts of simple fishermen, tax collectors and prostitutes, who had the straw of humility and embraced Him as Master and Savior.

He chose for all these things to take place in this way, so that with the visit from the Magi it would not be obvious who the King was. These distant visitors bypassed the person of Herod and every earthly glory and dignity and, these wise men according to the world, came to offer their gifts to Him Who deserves all glory and honor and worship, the obscure infant, the pre-eternal God.

In the modern hubbub, in the dizziness of the preparation of various dishes and sweets, in the irrationality of worldly events, He will again remain outside of human activities.

He will look again for some dark cave of self-knowledge, which has a manger of humility with a little straw of genuine love, and there He will rest in the hearts of certain people who will live once again this year in the great Mystery of the Divine Incarnation, and they will secretly chant, along with the Angels, the "Glory to God in the Highest...".

For two thousand years He is doing exactly the same thing, every day and every hour:

He is looking for a Manger!

When He locates it, He will remain there, and He is saddened when He sees that He is absent.

For several years, this is my anxiety, that is, if I have the required humility for a manger in the cave of my heart, and if I have adorned it enough with the straw of true humility.

Really, have you prepared your Manger?

Nativity Epistle of St. John Maximovitch (1962)

"Thou, Who art the God of peace and the Father of compassion, didst send unto us the Angel of Thy great Counsel, granting us peace."

The Angel of the pre-eternal Counsel of the Holy Trinity comes to the earth. This is not an ordinary messenger; it is the Only-begotten Son of God Himself. He brings peace to men.

"Peace be unto you," he said more than once to His disciples. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you," He says to the apostles at the Mystical Supper, "not as the world giveth, give I unto you." And appearing after His Resurrection, again He says: "Peace be unto you." "For he is our peace," the Holy Apostle Paul says concerning Him: "He came to the earth to reconcile man unto God by the Cross, having slain the enmity thereby. And having come, He preached peace to those afar off and to those near, because through Him we both have access unto the Father."

The wall that separated heaven and earth is destroyed; the sword that barred the way to the Tree of Life disappears. Unto man that had sinned comes his Creator, calling him into His embrace! By the mouths of the apostles, the Holy Spirit cries out: "In Christ, be ye reconciled to God." You that had sinned came not to God, but the Son of God, before Whom you sinned, came to you! He calls everyone to Himself; He gives forgiveness to everyone who merely thirsts for this. For without the desire of man himself, without at least his little effort, God's peace cannot settle in him. The Lord forces no one to come to Him, but calls everyone: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Come all ye who are heavy laden with sins, who are exhausted from your labors and who do not find rest! You shall find that inner peace, which you will find nothing on earth more desirable than. The soul will feel un-earthly peace and joy.

The Magi who worshipped the Babe experienced that joy; the shepherds, finding Him lying in a manger, also felt it. But neither peace nor joy touched the heart of Herod and those who wanted to destroy the Babe. For evil desire and malice are incompatible with inner peace. And whoever does not have inner peace, also sows strife and malice about.

The Church now calls us to meet Christ Who comes from heaven. What can we do in order to meet Him like the Magi, and not like Herod? "Ye that desire life, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." It tends to be hard to do this; we are weak when it comes to everything good. But the Son of God even came for this: in order to strengthen us. Not for naught was He born in Bethlehem, which signifies "house of bread." He feeds us with heavenly food, His flesh. "God, the Lord and Creator of all, as a babe in the flesh, is worshipped in a poor manger, crying out: 'Eat My body and through faith be made steadfast.'" These words of the divine Babe are directed to us. Let us hearken to His call! Let us follow the Magi; let us hasten with the shepherds! Our churches are now that cave of Bethlehem. Not illusory, but in reality does He, Who is now being born in His most pure flesh, rest in them. Let us worship Him; let us offer as a gift our thoughts and desires; let us confess our sins, and let us taste of His immaculate Body and Blood. Whoever did not do this earlier, let him at least accomplish it now, when the star of Bethlehem is already shining! Our minds will be enlightened and the heart will hear:

"Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will among men!"

Events & Announcements

Stewardship Message

The Stewardship Committee has placed gift ornaments on the Christmas Tree in the narthex. Please chose an amount that you would like to give, and make a Christmas donation to the church. All proceeds will help close the fiscal gap for the 2017 Stewardship Year. May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas, and thank you for your help. - **Stewardship Committee**

Stewardship 2018 Packets

On behalf of the Parish Council, Stewardship Committee, and Father Jordan, we express our deep appreciation to the faithful stewards of the Sts Peter Paul Church Family for your support this past year. Thank you for working towards the goal of fully funding our parish's operating expenses through Stewardship. We are closer to this goal because of your living faith. We are grateful to the number of our stewards who have given an extra stewardship gift to help sustain our parish. Every gift, small and large, are an expression of commitment to the Church of God.

The Stewardship 2018 Packets are available in the Narthex. **Please pick up your packet at the end of Sunday Services.** Enclosed in the packet are your 2018 Church Calendar. Thank you for faithful support.

Services for the New Year & Theophany

Feast of St Basil / New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 2018
Orthros 9 am / Divine Liturgy 10 am
Blessing of the Vasilopita

Feast of Theophany, Saturday, January 6, 2018
Orthros 8 am / Divine Liturgy 9 am
Blessing of the Waters (Agiasmo)

Bible Study & Orthodox Christian Faith Classes

The Bible Study and Orthodox Faith Classes will resume in January 2018. If you have any questions regarding the Orthodox Faith, please contact Father Jordan, our parish priest, at (720) 329-5212 or frjordanbrown@gmail.com.

House Blessings

Father Jordan is looking forward to the blessing of homes in 2018. The House Blessing forms are available in the narthex and parish hall. Father Jordan will begin house blessings on the Feast of Theophany, January 6th, and will be blessing homes the entire month of January. If you are new to our parish, and have any questions, please contact Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com.

2018 Usher Schedule

We are updating the usher schedule for 2018. If you would like to be added or taken off the list of ushers, please contact Jim Zissimos 303-427-7981 or papoojim@msn.com