



Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of February 25, 2018



Monastic Procession - Sunday of Orthodoxy



Contact Info

**Sts. Peter & Paul
Greek Orthodox Church**
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Boulder, CO 80301
Office: 303-581-1434
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Rev. Fr. Jordan Brown
frjordanbrown@gmail.com

Service Schedule & Parish Activities

Sunday, February 25	Pan-Orthodox Vespers (Assumption Cathedral, Denver)	5 pm
Monday, February 26	Great Compline	6 pm
Wednesday, February 28	Bible Study Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Dinner	10 am 6 pm 7:30 pm
Friday, March 2	Presanctified Liturgy Salutations	8 am 7 pm
Saturday, March 3	Pan-Orthodox IOCC Vespers (Assumption Cathedral, Denver)	5 pm

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.

Hosts & Volunteers

Fellowship Host	Sunday School
Ushers	Steve & Ashley Dzilvelis
Myrrhbearers	Alexandra, Elizabeth, Sophie, Cassie
Choir	Demetra G., Georgia
Epistle Reader	Georgia

Have an Announcement?

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

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy

By Monk Moses the Athonite

The Sunday of Orthodoxy, the festive celebration of the prevalence of truth, is the victory against heresies and delusions, schisms and conflicts. For two thousand years Orthodoxy remains true, steadfast, beloved, authentic, just, honorable, integral, genuine and inspiring. It cannot cease, cannot bend, cannot wilt, cannot fear, cannot be defeated, cannot be opposed, and cannot be conquered.

Orthodoxy is faithful to the Gospel, to the requirements of the Holy Apostles, to canonical apostolic succession. We need to proclaim to our neighbor the true ecclesiastical tradition, not only with words but by a powerful example. Orthodoxy is not sterile knowledge, but life and experience. The personal taste of faith is a sublime wealth, inexhaustible treasure, a source of joy and hope.

The uniqueness of Orthodoxy in times of confusion, anxiety, darkness and crisis raises a bright star to illuminate the mind and heart. Holy Orthodoxy does not lose its foundation easily when confronted by progressive nihilists. Its base is strong and the faithful people have felt well its great power.

Orthodoxy is a living meeting between people and God. It is not extremism, fanaticism, jealousy, hatred and obstinacy. It is the middle way, frank, measured, balanced, free and graceful. It unites, brings rest, animates and sanctifies. It is beyond natural, beyond logic, transformative, light-giving, meaningful and substantial. It is incorrupt, ancient and new, perfect, sacred, comprehensive, ecumenical, but not ecumenistic. Orthodoxy is not a museum exhibit, a nebula, an abstract habit, a statue, a worn out idol, or a rotting swamp. It is not ancestor obsession, folklorism, a beautiful religion among others, but a new way of life.

It is not a human construct, a witticism, an eloquence, a formality or externality. It is not a window display, a picture frame, egotistical and belonging to the past. It is a cross and resurrection, a crowned martyrdom, manly and brave. Its symbol is a cross. Its throne is modesty, humility and simplicity. It does not coerce, blackmail, enslave or revolt. An Orthodox is not born but made, is baptized and re-baptized. It is a stadium of struggle, repentance, freedom, fearlessness, security and hope. Joy, peace and refuge are elements of Orthodoxy. Hopefully we experience these comfortably. Let us not be spectators in the stands, but athletes in the arena - beginning today - the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Source: Translated by John Sanidopoulos

Experiencing Great Lent

By Father John Angelis

True spiritual growth comes by participating in the Lenten effort and by experiencing for ourselves the content of the Lenten services of our Church. Fr Alexander Schmemmann has written a book, *Great Lent*, (available in our bookstore), which is very helpful in understanding the Lenten Services.

The writers of the Bible and the Fathers of the Church, who composed our church services, struggled personally to overcome their weaknesses and cleanse their passions. They desired to become clean vessels of the Holy Spirit. And God endowed them with His holy grace. What they share with us in their writings are the fruits of their spiritual struggles and growth, the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Among the gems of the Lenten services is the Prayer of St Ephraim the Syrian.:

*O Lord and Master of my life take away from me the will to be lazy and sad;
the desire to get ahead of other people and to boast and brag.
Give me instead a pure and humble spirit, the will to be patient with other people,
and to love them.
O Lord and King, let me realize my own mistakes and keep me from judging
what other people do. For You are blessed now and forever. Amen*

In this prayer, St Ephraim acknowledges God as Lord and Master of our lives. It is important to keep alive this confession of God as Lord and Master of our lives, because what follows in the next two lines of prayer will shake our spiritual life and its foundation.

For this reason, we ask God to take away from us the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk. For sloth is spiritual laziness. It is the inner feeling that pushes us down and leaves us with low self-esteem. It drains us of energy and it produces in us a form of cynicism every time we try to make a new start.

Sloth lead to faint-heartedness, to depression, to despair. One cannot see anything good around him. Everything seems negative. A feeling of pessimism pervades his being. It is demonic influence at its worst. Man is unable to see the light, the goodness of creation, to desire it and strive to achieve it.

Despondency and faint-heartedness fill the heart with lust of power. Being empty inside, man tries to dominate the people around him. If the Lord is not the Master of my life, then I become lord and master and consider the others my subjects, for my use. Lust of power also can take the form of indifference, contempt, lack of interest, lack of consideration, and lack of respect.

And idle talk: Man has the gift of speech to communicate with others and praise God. God revealed Himself as the Word. "And the Word became flesh," a human being. But man can abuse this gift of speech with idle talk, through gossip and wasteful verbiage, and thus bring great catastrophe on his fellow man and on himself.

St Ephraim moves quickly to the positive virtues which we need to grow spiritually. "The spirit of chastity" does not refer only to sexual purity, but also to whole-mindedness, wisdom to see clearly the blessings of God upon us and the goodness of His creation and to praise Him for it. He calls upon God to give us this wholeness that we may grow spiritually in Him. Humility is the fertile ground - the mother of virtues - that helps us relate correctly to our fellow man and to our God.

Patience is needed in everything. How much more we need patience in our era when we want everything "instantly," as a form of cure-all. God takes His time to make us and shape us. The attaining of virtue and sanctity is a lifelong process, one in which we have to be co-workers with God.

Love is the goal of all virtues. That's why God summed up all the commandments into one: Love for God and love for our fellow man. When we have love, we are closer to God.

St Ephraim, as an experienced spiritual father, can see the danger of self-righteousness and pride. To protect us, he asked the Lord to grant us the discretion / discernment to "see our own errors and not to judge our brother."

During Great Lent we become spiritually introspective and examine our personal lives. We avoid the pitfalls of sin and strive to cultivate the virtues that will bring us closer to God and to our fellow man, as Saint Ephraim urges in his prayer.

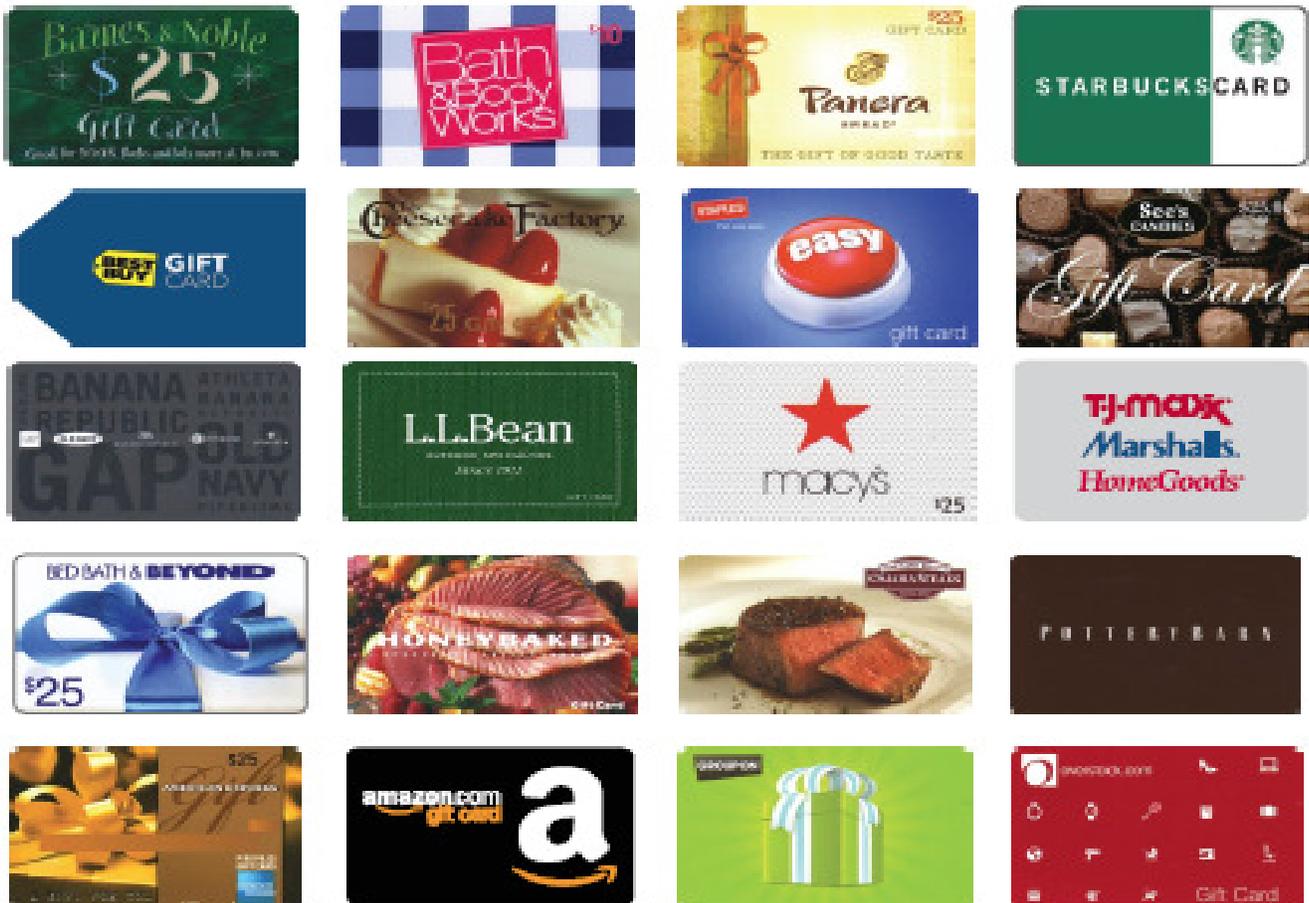
May each of us, as we set out on the Lenten journey, ask God to be the Lord and Master of each of our lives, and then may we walk with Him all the days of our lives.

Philoptochos Gift Card Fund Raiser

Various Gift Cards

Support Philoptochos with special order gift cards!
A percentage of every sale comes directly to us!

- Easter * Birthdays * Graduation * Personal Shopping *



...and hundreds more!

Order Deadline: Mar 18th to receive by Mar 25

See Lis Troicky after church to view list of gift cards and order today - or
- 720-771-7786 / etroick@aol.com

Events & Announcements

Capital Maintenance Fundraiser

The Parish Council has identified several significant repairs necessary to the Fellowship Hall in order to keep the building safe and functional for the near future. These include repairs to the roof, replacement of crumbling bricks on the north side of the building, and the purchase of a new air conditioning unit. To make the needed repairs, we are initiating a Capital Maintenance fundraiser to raise \$35,000. To accomplish this, **all proceeds from the second basket will be directed toward the Capital Maintenance fund.** Additionally, any member of the congregation who would like to make a directed donation may speak with Fr. Jordan or any member of the Parish Council.

Sacrament of Confession

Father Jordan is available to hear confessions before the weekday Lenten services. You may visit with Father Jordan after services to schedule your confession or contact him at frjordanbrown@gmail.com 303-581-1434.

Souper Bowl of Caring Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring! We raised \$290 for IOCC and donated 5 bags of groceries to Community Food Share.

Liturgy of Saint Basil

The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil is celebrated on the Sundays of Great Lent. The additional special prayers are available in the Narthex.

Pre-Sanctified Lenten Dinners - Wednesday Evenings During Great Lent

During the Great and Holy Lent, the church celebrates the Pre-sanctified Liturgy every Wednesday Evening (6 pm) and Friday morning (8 am). It has been a parish tradition to bring a Lenten dish. Parishioners are welcome and encouraged to bring a Lenten meal to the Wednesday evening service. On Wednesday, February 28th, the Parish Council will be the host ministry for dinner.

Pan Orthodox Lenten Vespers - Sunday Evenings 5 pm

Each year the faithful of the Orthodox Christian churches throughout Colorado unite by visiting one another's parishes on the Sunday Evenings of Great Lent. We will gather this evening, the first Sunday of Great Lent, February 25th, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Assumption (4610 E Alameda Ave, Denver).

GOYA Lenten Retreat - March 16-18, 2018

Attention all middle and high school students!

The GOYA Lenten Retreat will take place at the YMCA Retreat Center located in Granby, Colorado. Sts Peter Paul will join the Goyans from the Assumption Cathedral, St Catherine, St Spyridon (Loveland), and Holy Apostles (Cheyenne). The Lenten Retreat is a great opportunity to grow in the faith and make new friends. The Retreat Center offers a number of activities; snow tubing, hiking, indoor swimming, basketball and roller skating. The cost of the weekend retreat is \$75 (covers all lodging and food). Please contact Father Jordan to sign up. You can reach Fr. Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 720-329-5212.

Annual IOCC Awareness Dinner - Saturday, March 3

His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver and the IOCC Denver Metropolitan Committee cordially invites you to the annual IOCC Awareness Dinner. Learn more about IOCC's life changing programs and on-going possibilities which result from your outreach and support. Pan-Orthodox Vespers will begin at 5 pm followed by dinner at 6 pm.

Adults - \$30 / Children - \$10 / Students 13-18 - \$18

Questions? Contact Elaine Cladis at Ecladis@comcast.net or 303-435-8584

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Lenten Schedule: February 28, March 7, March 28 - 10 am

Everyone is welcome to participate. Please join us for as we strive to apply prayer and scripture to our spiritual life, striving to grow close to God. The Bible Study for February and March will focus on the readings of Great Lent and the meaning of the Lenten Services. This is a great opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the Great and Holy Lent, and how it applies to our every day life.

Inquirers Class: Orthodox Q & A

Do you have questions about the Orthodox Church? Father Jordan will be offering an Orthodox Christian Faith Question and Answer class during Great Lent on Wednesday evenings after the 6 pm Presanctified Liturgy. Father Jordan will be focusing on questions related to Great Lent, Sacrament of Baptism / Chrismation and Spiritual Life.

EasyTithe - A New Online Giving Tool For Sts. Peter And Paul

The Stewardship and Finance Committees encourage everyone at Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church to try our new online giving method through EasyTithe. EasyTithe is simple to use and provides a great way to make online contributions and recurring stewardship payments. To use EasyTithe, please visit this link: <https://www.easytithe.com/stspeterandpaul>