



# Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

## Weekly Bulletin Week of March 4, 2018



*St. Gregory of Palamas*



### Contact Info

**Sts. Peter & Paul  
Greek Orthodox Church**  
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Rev. Fr. Jordan Brown  
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### Service Schedule & Parish Activities

<b>Sunday, March 5th</b>	<b>Pan-Orthodox Vespers</b> (Holy Transfiguration Cathedral, 349 E. 47th St. Denver)	<b>5 pm</b>
<b>Monday, March 5</b>	<b>Great Compline</b> <b>Parish Concil</b>	<b>6 pm</b> <b>7 pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 6</b>	<b>OCF College Ministry</b>	<b>6 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 7</b>	<b>Bible Study</b> <b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> <b>Lenten Dinner</b>	<b>10 am</b> <b>6 pm</b> <b>7:30 pm</b>
<b>Friday, March 9</b>	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> <b>Salutations</b>	<b>8 am</b> <b>7 pm</b>
<b>Saturday, March 10</b>	<b>Great Vespers</b>	<b>5 pm</b>

### 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

<b>Fellowship Host</b>	Juli Sarris
<b>Ushers</b>	Eric & Keity Elias
<b>Myrrhbearers</b>	Demetra, Sophie, Cassie
<b>Choir</b>	Alexandra, Elizabeth, Georgia
<b>Epistle Reader</b>	Elizabeth

### Have an Announcement?

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

# Homily on Fasting

## By St. Gregory of Palamas

THE CALM SEA, RADIANT AND BRIGHT with sparkling light, reflecting the dawn on its smooth surface, is a pleasant sight to the eyes. But it is far more delightful not just to see but to address the church gathered together according to God's will, freed from disturbances, illuminated mysteriously by the divine light, stirred up towards that light's dawn, with hands and eyes, all the senses and the mind uplifted. The grace of the Spirit has today granted me this agreeable sight. You are all spending your nights and days together here in God's temple, and by your unceasing attendance upon Him you could be regarded as heavenly trees planted by the streams of the water of the Spirit. So may I now assist these streams as far as I am able. As you have offered your morning prayers, may we, offer a sermon that we might show you openly all the different kinds of tricks to which the enemy of our salvation turns his hand to render not only our fasting but also our prayer worthless.

Brethren, there is another sort of evil satiety and drunkenness which does not result from indulging in food and drink, but from anger and hatred towards our neighbor, remembrance of wrongs, and the evils that spring from these. On this subject Moses says in his song, "Their wine is the wrath of dragons and the incurable wrath of asps" (Deut. 32:33). So the prophet Isaiah says, "Woe to those who are drunken, but not with wine" (Isa. 29:9), and again he commands, "ye shall not fast to fight" (Isa. 58:3 Lxx). To those who fasted in this way he says, speaking on the Lord's behalf, "If thou bendest thy neck as a ring, even then ye will not call this an acceptable fast, and if ye make many prayers, I shall not hearken unto you" (Isa. 58:5 Lxx), and, "When ye spread forth your hands unto me, I will turn away mine eyes from you" (Isa. 1:15).

This is the drunkenness of hatred which more than anything else causes God to turn away, and the devil attempts to bring it about in those who pray and fast. He prompts them to remember wrongs, directs their thoughts towards harboring malice, and sharpens their tongues for slander. He prepares them to be like that man who wishes for evil whom David describes with the words, "He deviseth mischief continually, his tongue is like a sharp razor" (Ps. 51:2 Lxx), and from whom he prays God to deliver him, saying, "Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man; they have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips" (Ps. 140:1, 3).

In this time of fasting and prayer, brethren, let us with all our hearts forgive anything real or imaginary we have against anyone. May we all devote ourselves to love, and let us consider one another as an incentive to love and good works, speaking in defense of one another, having good thoughts and dispositions within us before God and men. In this way our fasting will be laudable and blameless, and our requests to God while we fast will be readily received. We shall rightly call upon Him as our Father by grace and we can boldly say to Him, "Father, forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matt. 6:12).

Again, he who schemes against our souls uses another means to render our prayer and fasting useless, self-conceit. Because that Pharisee was conceited when he fasted and prayed, he was sent away empty-handed (Luke 18:10-14). We know, however, that people with proud hearts are unclean and unacceptable to God, and we are well aware that we owe God many large debts and pay back very little. So let us forget those things which are behind as worthless, and reach out towards those things which lie ahead (cf. Phil. 3:13). Let us fast and pray with contrite hearts, self-reproach and humility, that our fasting and our regular attendance and presence in God's Church may be pure and pleasing to Him.

Another of the evil one's methods of making our toil in fasting and prayer fruitless is to persuade us to accomplish them hypocritically for the sake of vainglory. This is why the Lord commands us in the Gospel, saying, "Enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (Matt. 6:6). He did not say to encourage us to excuse ourselves from gatherings and prayers in church, because in that case the prophet and psalmist would not have said to Him, "In the midst of the congregation will I praise thee" (Ps. 22:22), or, "I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations" (Ps. 57:9), or, "I will pay my vows before them that fear thee, Lord" (Ps. 22:25). Nor would he have said to us, "Bless ye God in the congregations" (Ps. 68:26), or, "O come, let us worship and bow down and weep before the Lord our God" (Ps. 95:6 Lxx). The Lord teaches, besides other, higher matters, of which there is no time to speak now, that if we are stirred up to pray alone in our houses and bedrooms this also encourages prayer to God in church, and inner prayer of the mind encourages spoken prayer. If someone only wants to pray when he attends God's Church, and has no concern at all for prayer at home, in the streets or in the fields, then even when he is present in church he is not really praying.

In Babylon a fourth person was seen in the midst of the flames alongside those three young men, who were adorned with self-control and fasting, keeping them unharmed and mysteriously refreshing them (Dan. 3:25). When Daniel kept a long fast an

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angel came to him to instruct him and to foretell the future (Dan. 10:1-21). At another time when Daniel had closed the lions' mouths by his prayer and fasting (Dan. 6: 16-27), an angel carried a prophet through the air from far away to bring him food (Bel & Dr. 33-39 Lxx). When we practice both spiritual and bodily fasting and pray, for us too the fire of fleshly desire will be extinguished with the help of good angels, and anger will be tamed like a lion. We will become partakers of prophetic food with hope, faith and inner vision of the good things to come, and we will be able to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy.

Fasting which is neither like this nor carried out in this way is more akin to the evil angels, for their own abstention from food is accompanied by anger, hatred, pride and opposition to God. As servants and helpers of the good we are their opponents. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood", says the apostle, "but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness" (Eph. 6:12). We do not resist them just by fasting, but we use the breast-plate of righteousness to protect us, the helmet of saving works of mercy and the shield of faith (cf. 1 Thess. 5:8, Eph. 6:t6). Also the sword of the Spirit, which is more than sufficient for defense, that is, God's saving word to us (Eph. 6:14-17). So let us fight the good fight (1 Tim. 6:12), keep the faith firm, quench all the fiery darts of the evil one (cf Eph. 6:16), and, when we have been proclaimed victors in everything, we shall attain to pure heavenly crowns and rejoice eternally together with the angels in Christ Himself, our Lord.

To whom belong all glory, might, honor and worship, together with His Father without beginning and the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

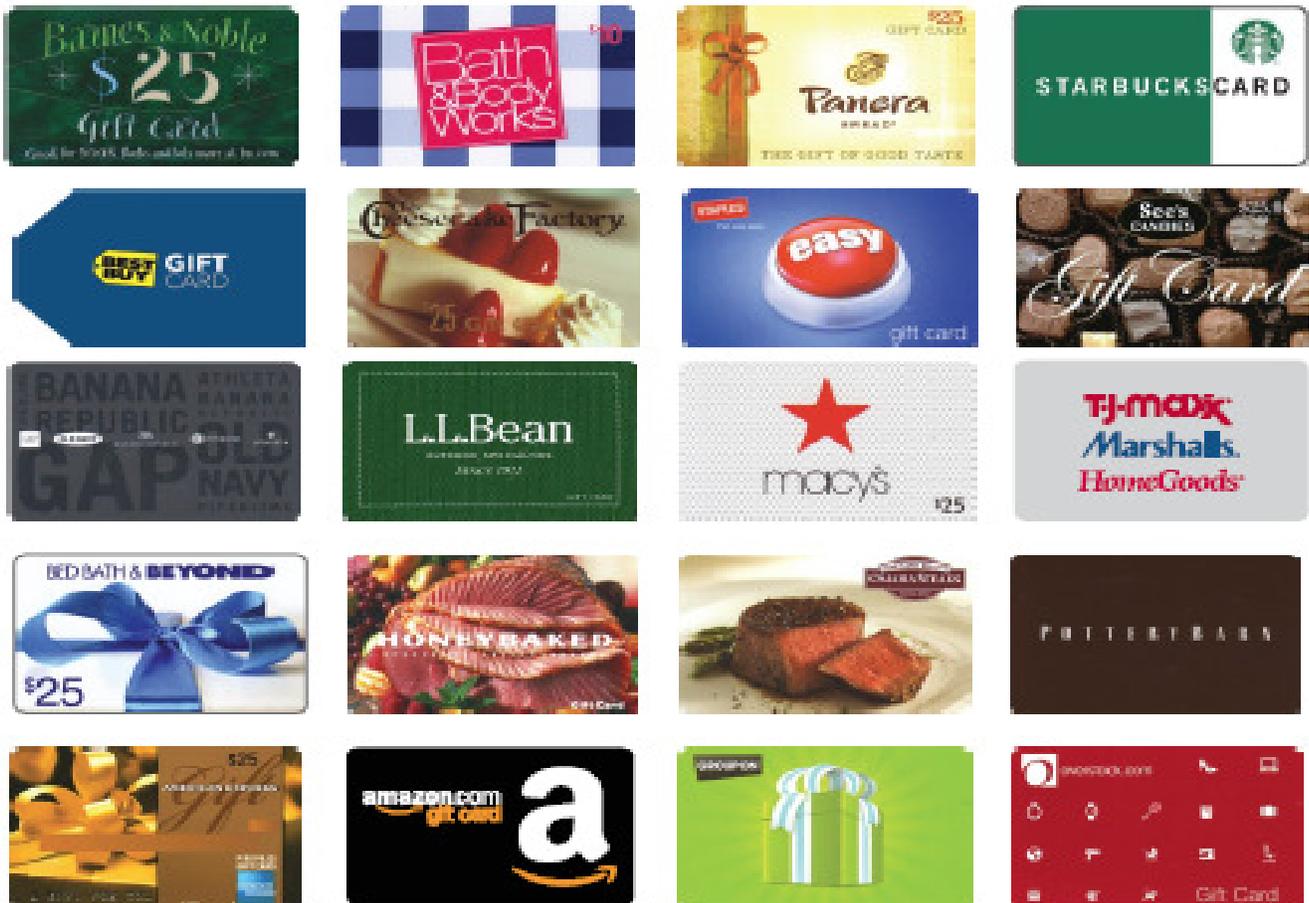
From *Saint Gregory Palamas: The Homilies*, Mount Thabor Publishing, Waymart PA; 2009 pp 49-53.

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- 720-771-7786 / etroick@aol.com

# Events & Announcements

## **Townhall Meeting**

Please join us for our Parish Town Hall Meeting today, March 4th, after services in the parish hall. There will be an update on the latest Parish Council work, church dome and pews, and discussion of the Taste of Orthodoxy Festival. Thank you for your support.

## **Sacrament of Confession**

Father Jordan is available to hear confessions before the weekday lenten services. You may visit with Fr. Jordan after services to schedule your confession or see his contact info on Pg. 1.

## **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.

## **OCF College Ministry – Tuesday, March 6, 6 pm**

The OCF of CU will be meeting at the St Thomas Student Catholic Center (located on the corner of 15th and Euclid). All students are welcome. We will meet for dinner in the lower level of the coffee shop.

## **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, March 7th, the Sunday School will be the host ministry for dinner.

## **Pan Orthodox Lenten Vespers, Sunday Evenings at 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, March 4, at the Transfiguration OCA Cathedral (349 East 47th Ave, Denver).

## **Goya Lenten Retreat - March 9 - 11, 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 Fr. Jordan to sign up (see contact info on Pg. 1)

## **Wednesday Morning Bible Study - Lenten Schedule - March 7 & March 21**

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 everyday 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>

## **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.