



Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of June 17th, 2018



Holy New Martyr Niketas of Nisyros +1732



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

Holy Apostles Fast, June 4th - June 29th

Saturday, June 23	Church Clean-Up Readers' Vespers	10 am 5 pm
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Hosts & Volunteers

Fellowship Host	Father's Day Luncheon Sponsored by Philoptochos
Ushers	Chris & Nancy Artemis
Myrrhbearers	Elizabeth, Alexandra, Sophie
Choir	Demetra, Georgia
Epistle Reader	Georgia

Have an Announcement?

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

Holy New Martyr Niketas of Nisyros (+ 1732)

Commemorated on June 21st

The Holy, Glorious, New Martyr of Christ Niketas was born in the town of Mandraki on the Aegean island of Nisyros, and his father was one of the community leaders of the town. His father committed some crime for which he was arrested, and brought for trial before the Ottoman courts, and fearing the punishment of death, he decided to become a Muslim along with his family. Thus Niketas, who was too young to realize the significance of the change, was given the name Mehmed. And because the Christian community of Nisyros looked down upon such a betrayal, the entire family moved to the island of Rhodes.

One day Niketas got into a fight with a Muslim boy with whom he kept company. The boy's mother, who found out about it, began yelling at Niketas, and knowing the story of his family, she called him a "giaiouri" which translates as "infidel". Perplexed by this insult, when Niketas got home he asked his mother what it meant, but she dismissed his question. Wanting to find out the answer, Niketas persisted in his efforts to find out the truth. His mother finally gave in and told him how they became Muslims. Saddened by this story, he wanted to know what his Orthodox Christian (Roman) name was that he received at his Baptism. When he was told it was Niketas, he became determined to return to his ancestral faith, and awaited the opportunity to escape the island.

Following his conscience, Niketas decided to board a ship for the island of Chios, landing at the harbor of Lithe. As he walked without knowing where to go, he ended up at the Monastery of Nea Moni, where he revealed his story to the Abbot, and asked for his advice regarding his salvation. The Abbot told him to visit Saint Makarios, the Metropolitan of Corinth, who lived as an ascetic on the island. When Saint Makarios heard his confession, he was received back into the Church through Holy Chrism and received spiritual guidance.

Niketas decided to stay in the Monastery of Nea Moni, where he began to live an ascetic life, but he expressed his piety in a strange and childish way, which made many of the monks question whether or not he had lost his mind. But in his heart he was motivated by his love for Jesus Christ. For greater asceticism and hardship Niketas decided to live in the Cave of the Holy Fathers near the Monastery, nearby the ascetic Anthimos to whom Niketas confessed that he desired to publicly testify for his faith in Jesus Christ, reject Islam and die a martyr's death. Returning to the Monastery, he expressed to the fathers the same longing. After they discussed the issue and prayed the Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos (*Parklesis*), permission was granted and he was given the blessing. Niketas at this time was only 15 years old.

When the blessed child arrived at the port of Chora in Chios he was arrested by a Crimean Muslim tax collector, because he had no proof that he paid his *haratsi*, or head tax, required of all Orthodox Christians in the Ottoman Turkish state. As he was being led to prison the tax collector stopped at a place called Vounaki, where he searched for other tax violators. Just then a priest named Daniel, who knew Niketas, happened to come by and called out Niketas using his Muslim name Mehmed. When he asked Niketas why he was being held, he was told because he did not pay the capitation tax. For this reason the priest Daniel shouted: "This is something new! Must Muslims now also pay the capitation tax?" When Niketas explained to him that he was a Christian named Niketas, the Crimean Muslim overheard and came to investigate. For this Niketas was taken to the Turkish judge and interrogated.

Niketas confessed to the judge that he had been a Muslim and was circumcised, but decided to return to his ancestral faith which was the truth and be called by his baptismal name Niketas. The judge therefore ordered that Niketas be imprisoned and tortured for ten days to come to his senses and return to Islam. Niketas remained steadfast and was not frightened, although they cursed at him and beat him mercilessly. And although they would bring him food to eat, he chose not to eat, but to fast and pray, saying: "I am being fed with food which you do not have, and I rejoice with joy which you cannot experience." He was also placed in a stable, in order to be trampled upon by the wild horses, but when it was discovered that he was unharmed, he was thrown back into prison.

When the ten days were completed, and it was seen that Niketas had no desire to return to Islam, but was even more steadfast in his Orthodox Christian faith, they led Niketas to the edge of the city, to a Metochion (Dependency) of the Athonite Monastery of Iveron. For the last time he was urged by the executioners to return to the Muslim faith and escape death, but Niketas replied: "I am a Christian; my name is Niketas, and I will die as Niketas."

With this the executioners made Niketas kneel a number of times in an attempt to frighten him, but he said to them: "Why do you delay? Kill me quickly that I may rest in the good things of Paradise." The executioner then struck the blade of the sword several times against his neck lightly, to bring greater pain. After several strikes, the young Niketas was decapitated and received the crown of martyrdom on 21 June 1732 (some sources say 1792). The faithful then gathered his martyr's blood, and when the blind were anointed with it they received their sight. And although the Turks threw dirt over his body to dishonor it, the body would remain clean for many days. To prevent his sacred relic from being honored by the Christians, it was thrown into the sea. His sacred skull was saved however, and today it is kept at Iveron Monastery in Mount Athos.

Events & Announcements

Welcome Father Thomas

We welcome Father Thomas Lynch from the St John's Greek Orthodox Church of Pueblo, Colorado. Father Thomas is filling in for Fr Jordan who is serving at the Ionian Village Summer camp.

Father's Day Luncheon

Happy Father's Day! Please join us today after Divine Services for a fellowship luncheon given in honor of Father's Day. Thank you to our Philoptochos for sponsoring today's luncheon.

Father Jordan Out of Town

Father Jordan is serving at the Ionian Village Summer Camp. Father will be returning July 5th. In case of a hospital emergency, please contact one of our sister parishes; St. Spyridon's (Loveland) 970-667-5778; St Luke's (Erie) 303-665-4013; Assumption Cathedral (Denver) 303-388-9314.

Church Clean Up - Saturday, June 23, 10 am

We need your help! Please mark your calendar, Saturday, June 23, 10 am. We need your help to get ready for our Patron Feast Day. One hour can make a huge difference. The children are out of school. We will be cleaning the church and working outside. Please bring comfortable working clothes and garden gloves. Thank you.

Sts Peter Paul Feast Day Schedule

Feast Day Great Vespers & Artoclasia (Blessing of the Five Loaves)
Thursday, June 28, 6 pm (Reception will follow)
Feast Day Divine Liturgy 9:30 am (Feast Day Orthros 8:30 am)
Friday, June 29
(Brunch will immediately follow services in the Parish Hall)

Women's Retreat - August 9 & 10

We are planning a Women's Retreat to the Holy Protection Monastery during the Dormition Fast, Friday, August 9 thru Saturday, August 10. We will be staying at the Monastery Friday night. The monastery is about an hour from Colorado Springs. Mother Cassiana is the Gerontissa serving the Monastery, and will be offering spiritual reflections during the retreat. Space is limited. Please contact Dana Gall to sign up.

Sunday School Teachers & Parent Retreat

New date: Saturday, September 22, 9 am - 12 noon

One of the most important and vital church ministries is ministering to our youth. On Saturday, September 22, Sts Peter Paul will host a morning retreat for Sunday School Teachers, Youth Worker and Parents. If you have a calling to serve the youth, please visit with either Father Jordan or Bruce Geerdes, Sunday School Director. There will be a special event in the evening, Saturday, September 22, for all parents and their children. We have a special speaker who will be leading the retreat.

Altar Boy Mountain Retreat

Calling all young men to serve! Mark your calendars for a special overnight mountain retreat for the young men of our parish. Father Jordan, and a few dads, will be taking the altar boys for an overnight retreat located at Hot Sulphur Springs. We are planning a great weekend. August 24 & 25.

Rocky Mountain Orthodox Youth Camp - July 25 - 28

Where: Camp Buckhorn (near Ft Collins in the mountains)
Registration Material is available in the parish hall or visit with Dena Tinsley.
Scholarships are available (please contact Father Jordan).

15th Annual Sts Peter Paul Greek Festival, September 7 - 9, 2018

Planning is underway for our 15th annual festival. If you would like to be involved in the planning, please contact Nicole Tsiouvaras, tsiouvaras@msn.com or Nick Karis, nickandsandy77@gmail.com

Young Adult Conference

The Metropolis of Denver will host the 2018 Young Adult Conference, Labor Day Weekend, August 31 - September 3. The Conference will take place in Salt Lake City. All Orthodox Young Adults from across the nation, ages 19-35, are invited to attend. REGISTER NOW AT metofdenveryaconf.org. Questions, MetofDenverYA@gmail.com.