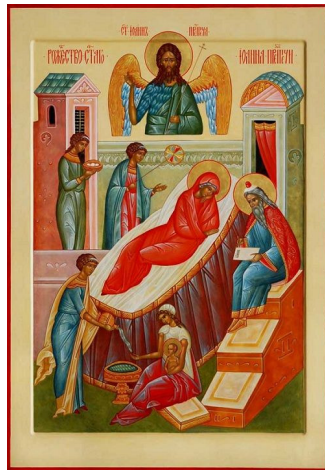




Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of June 24th, 2018



Nativity of St. John the Baptist



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

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)

Saturday, June 30 Readers Vespers 5 pm

Hosts & Volunteers

Fellowship Host Huskey & Geerdes Families
Ushers Jim Azar

Have an Announcement?

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

On the Birth of the Honorable, Glorious, Prophet and Baptist John (Commemorated June 24th) By St. Luke of Simferopol

In the history of mankind there are only two major events which God announced by means of the Archangel Gabriel. These are the Birth of the Pre-eternal Son of God in the flesh and the birth of the Forerunner and Baptist John, the greatest of "those born of women" (Matt. 11:11), according to the word of the Lord Jesus Christ. The birth of the Forerunner follows the miracle of the loosening of the tongue of his father Zechariah, which the Archangel tied because he did not believe his words.

His birth was glorified with the prophetic word of Zechariah, who said: "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Lk. 1:76-79).

The whole life of the Forerunner was a harsh life. Regarding the years of his childhood, we know only that which is told us by the Evangelist Luke, in other words, "he grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the desert until the day of his public ministry towards Israel" (Lk. 1:80). How and when the child was found in the desert we do not know for sure. According to tradition, King Herod, after the slaughter of the children in Bethlehem, wanted to kill John, but he couldn't find him. This angered him greatly, and because of this he ordered his father Zechariah be killed. His mother, having learned that the soldiers were looking for the child, took him and went with him to a desolate mountain region. There having lived a short time, his mother died and the small John remained by himself in the desert.

We do not know how the Lord God fed him, how he protected him from the wild animals, neither do we know how the young Forerunner learned to eat locusts and wild honey. But we firmly believe that for God all things are possible. See, therefore, that from the beginning, the life of him who would be called greatest of "those born of women" (Matt. 11:11) was an unprecedented and unheard of life. He remained in the desert totally by himself until thirty years of age. What did he do in the desert? What did he occupy himself with? He did not have any handiwork, and didn't have books, neither did he know letters.

The biographies of the great philosophers, such as Descartes and Kant, relate that these men spent whole days and nights sitting in their armchairs, engrossed in their thoughts. Philosophy is deep, but deeper still is theological contemplation, the greatest form of prayer, which the holy fathers call noetic prayer. The depth of communion in Spirit which the saints have with God is inconceivably great. For 91 years the Venerable Paul of Thebes lived in the desert unknown to the world, having communion only with God. For entire nights until the rising of the sun Arsenios the Great stood with hands lifted up to heaven. For a thousand days and a thousand nights the Venerable Seraphim of Sarov prayed to God on a slanted rock. Likely the same was the work of John the Forerunner during his stay in the desert.

In the ceaseless contemplation of God and of the fortunes of the world, in deep communion of prayer with God, his spirit grew and his understanding of the ways of salvation increased, to which he would teach the people who were being lost in their sins. He would have to change their thoughts and the senses of the people, to make them deeper, to urge them to repent and to change their perverted and evil ways.

This was roughly the purpose which He preordained for His great Forerunner: to prepare the path for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is precisely why all his life, from a young age until the moment he began preaching on the banks of the Jordan River, was unprecedented and unheard of. This preaching of repentance drew towards him thousands of people submerged in the futility of worldly life.

Let us glorify and thank our Lord and God, who sent into our sinful world the greatest of all, the ascetic and preacher of higher truth, the Forerunner John. And on this blessed day which is full of grace, his day of birth, let us bend our knees and our hearts, praising and glorifying him. Amen.

Events & Announcements

Welcome Father Ambrose

We welcome Father Ambrose today who is filling in for Fr Jordan who is serving at the Ionian Village Summer camp.

Hospital Emergency

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.

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

Help Promote This Year's ToO on Facebook!

Visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TasteofOrthodoxy> and click on the "Like", "Follow", and "Recommend" buttons below the cover photo. Rate the event by clicking "Review" in the left-hand column. Post photos from past years and "tag" your family and friends! As the event approaches, we will be posting reminders that you should also like and share with friends.

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.