



Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of September 23rd, 2018



Saint Eustathios and his family (Feast Day - September 20)



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

Tuesday, September 25	OCF College Ministry	6 pm
Wednesday, September 26	Falling Asleep of St John the Theologian	
	Orthros	7 am
	Divine Liturgy	8 am
	Paraclesis	6 pm
	Orthodox Faith Class	7 pm
Friday, September 28	Bible Study	9 am
Saturday, September 29	GOYA Lunch & Movie	1 pm
	Great Vespers	5 pm
	Festival Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	5:45 pm

Hosts & Volunteers

Fellowship Host	Koran & Pagratis
Ushers	Manny & Candy Soulakis
Myrrhbearers	Demetra, Cassie, Sophie
Epistle Reader	Elizabeth

Have an Announcement?

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

Holy Great Martyr and His Wife and Children (Commemorated September 20)

It is significant that this feast is celebrated on the day before the Apodosis of the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, since it was the Cross of Christ, in a miraculous manner, which inspired the conversion of the great early 2nd century martyr St. Eustathios from paganism. This is reflected in the hymn of St. Nikolai Velimirovich which I posted toward the end, followed by his life.

The Holy Great Martyr Eustathios was named Plakidas before his Baptism. He was a military commander under the emperors Titus (79-81) and Trajan (98-117). Even before he came to know Christ, Plakidas performed acts of charity, helping the poor and destitute. Therefore, the Lord did not leave the virtuous pagan to remain in the darkness of idolatry.

Once while hunting in a forest, he saw a stag which would stop now and then to look him right in the eye. Plakidas pursued it on horseback, but could not catch up. The stag leaped over a chasm and stood on the other side facing him. Plakidas suddenly saw a radiant Cross between its antlers. In surprise the military commander heard a voice coming from the Cross saying, "Why do you pursue Me, Plakidas?"

"Who are You, Master?" asked Plakidas. The voice replied, "I am Jesus Christ, whom you do not know, yet you honor Me by your good deeds. I have appeared here on this creature for your sake, to capture you in the net of My love for mankind. It is not fitting that one as righteous as you should worship idols and not know the truth. It was to save mankind that I came into the world."

Plakidas cried out, "Lord, I believe that You are the God of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things. Master, teach me what I should do." Again the Lord replied, "Go to the bishop of your country and receive baptism from him, and he will instruct you."

Plakidas returned home and joyfully recounted everything to his wife Tatiana. She in turn told him how the evening before, in a mysterious dream, she had been told, "Tomorrow you, your husband and your sons shall come to Me and know that I am the true God." The spouses then proceeded to do as they had been bidden.

They hastened to the Christian bishop, who baptized all their family, and communed them with the Holy Mysteries. Plakidas was renamed Eustathios, his wife was called Theopiste, and their children, Agapios and Theopistos.

On the following day, St. Eustathios set out to the place of his miraculous conversion and in fervent prayer he offered up thanks to the Lord for having called him onto the path of salvation.

Again St. Eustathios received a miraculous revelation. The Lord Himself foretold his impending tribulations: "Eustathios, you shall suffer many misfortunes, as did Job, but in the end you will conquer the devil."

Soon St. Eustathios was plunged into misfortune: all his servants died of the plague and his cattle perished. Brought to ruin, but not despairing in spirit, St. Eustathios and his family secretly abandoned their home, to live unknown, humble and in poverty.

They went to Egypt to board a ship sailing for Jerusalem. During the voyage a new woe beset the saint. The ship owner, enchanted by Theopiste's beauty, cruelly set Eustathios and his children ashore, keeping the wife for himself.

In great sorrow the saint continued on his way, and new woe beset him. Coming to a tempestuous river, he went to carry his two sons across in turn. When he had brought one across, the other was seized by a lion and carried off into the wilderness. As he turned back towards the other, a wolf dragged that child into the forest.

Having lost everything, St. Eustathios wept bitterly, but he realized that Divine Providence had sent him these misfortunes to test his endurance and devotion to God. In his inconsolable grief, St. Eustathios went on farther, prepared for new tribulations.

In the village of Badessos he found work and spent five years in unremitting toil. St. Eustathios did not know then that through the mercy of God, shepherds and farmers had saved his sons, and they lived right near him. He also did not know that the impudent shipowner had been struck down with a terrible disease and died, leaving St. Theopiste untouched. She lived in peace and freedom at the place where the ship landed.

Holy Great Martyr and His Wife and Children (Cont'd)

During this time it had become difficult for the emperor Trajan to raise an army for Rome to deal with a rebellion, for the soldiers would not go into battle without their commander Plakidas. They advised Trajan to send men out to all the cities to look for him.

Antiochus and Acacius, friends of Plakidas, sought him in various places. Finally, they arrived in the village where St. Eustathios lived. The soldiers found Eustathios, but they did not recognize him and they began to tell him of the one whom they sought, asking his help and promising a large reward. St. Eustathios, immediately recognized his friends, but did not reveal his identity to them.

He borrowed money from one of his friends and fed the visitors. As they looked at him, the travellers noted that he resembled their former commander. When they saw a scar on his shoulder from a deep sword-wound, they realized that it was their friend there before them. They embraced him with tears and told him why they were seeking him.

St. Eustathios returned to Rome with them and again became a general. Many new recruits were drafted into the army from all over the empire. He did not know that two young soldiers who served him, and whom he loved for their skill and daring, were actually his own sons. They did not know that they were serving under the command of their own father, nor that they were brothers by birth.

While on campaign, the army led by Eustathios halted at a certain settlement. The soldier-brothers were talking in their tent. The elder one spoke about his life, how he had lost his mother and brother, and how in a terrifying way he had been parted from his father. The younger brother then realized that before him was his very own brother, and told him how he had been rescued from the wolf.

A woman overheard the soldiers' conversation, since their tent was pitched right next to her house, and this woman realized that these were her sons. Still not identifying herself to them, but not wanting to be separated from them, she went to their commander, St. Eustathios, to ask him to take her to Rome with him. She said she had been a prisoner, and wanted to go home. Then she came to recognize the commander as her husband, and with tears she told him about herself and about the two soldiers who were actually their sons. Thus, through the great mercy of the Lord, the whole family was happily reunited.

Soon thereafter the rebellion was crushed, and St. Eustathios returned to Rome with honor and glory. The emperor Trajan had since died, and his successor Hadrian (117-138) wanted to celebrate the event of victory with a solemn offering of sacrifice to the gods. To the astonishment of everyone, St. Eustathios did not show up at the pagan temple. By order of the emperor they searched frantically for him.

"Why don't you want to worship the gods?" the emperor inquired. "You, above all others, ought to offer thanks to them. They not only preserved you in war and granted you victory, but also they helped you find your wife and children." St. Eustathios replied: "I am a Christian and I glorify and give thanks to Him, and I offer sacrifice to Him. I owe my life to Him. I do not know or believe in any other god than Him."

In a rage, the emperor ordered him to take off his military belt and brought him and his family before him. They did not succeed in persuading the steadfast confessors of Christ to offer sacrifice to idols. The whole family of St. Eustathios was sentenced to be torn apart by wild beasts, but the beasts would not touch the holy martyrs.

Then the cruel emperor gave orders to throw them all alive into a red-hot brass bull, and St. Eustathios, his wife Theopiste, and their sons Agapios and Theopistos endured a martyr's death. Before being placed in the bull, St. Eustathios prayed, "Grant, O Lord, Thy grace to our relics, and grant to those who call upon us a place in Thy Kingdom. Though they call upon us when they are in danger on a river or on the sea, we entreat Thee to come to their aid."

Three days later, they opened the brass bull, and the bodies of the holy martyrs were found unscathed. Not one hair on their heads was singed, and their faces shone with an unearthly beauty. Many seeing this miracle came to believe in Christ. Christians then buried the bodies of the Saints.

Events & Announcements

Sunday School

Sunday School is off to a great start. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Sunday School Director, Bruce Geerdes. A reminder for our children participating in Sunday School to proceed to the the parish hall after receiving Holy Communion.

2nd Tray Offering

The 2nd Tray donations go directly to the needs of parish hall repairs. On occasion, the 2nd Tray will be offered for the Seminary and ministry of International Orthodox Charities, and St Basil's Academy. Thank you for all your support!

Sunday School Kick-Off Party - Today, September 23, 12:30

Hosted by the Tinsley Family (1825 Chilton Place, Broomfield)

Orthodox Christian Faith Series - Wednesday, September 26, 7 pm

Are you interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian Church? Do you have a desire to become an Orthodox Christian? Please join us for our next class on the Orthodox Christian Faith. The class topic will be The Holy Trinity. If you have questions, please contact Father Jordan @ frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 303-581-1434. Lenten meal will be provided.

College Ministry - Tuesday, September 25, 6 pm

Welcome back students! Please join us for dinner & fellowship at the St Thomas Student Catholic Center (corner of 15th & Euclid / near the Hill) at 6 pm. Evening prayer in the chapel at 7 pm. If you need a ride to church on Sunday, please contact Father Jordan.

Weekday Bible Study - Friday, September 28, 9 am

All our welcome to participate in the morning Bible Study. Class will begin at 9 am (1 hour). Coffee and refreshments are provided.

GOYA Fellowship: Movie & Lunch - Saturday, September 29, 1 pm

We will meet at 1 pm for lunch at Five Guys (1710 29th St/29th Street Mall across from Macy's). Afterwards, we will watch the movie "Unbroken: Path to Redemption" at Century Theatre (located at the 29th Street Mall). Rated PG-13, the movie tells the story of the Olympian runner Louis Zamperini, who was a POW during WW II. It is powerful story of forgiveness and redemption. Please RSVP with Father Jordan in order to purchase the tickets.

Festival Appreciation Dinner - Saturday, September 29, 6 pm

Thank you for a great festival! The volunteers made all the difference. Sts Peter Paul was blessed with a successful parish festival. In appreciation of all the hardworking volunteers, please join us for a special Appreciation Dinner.

Denver AHEPA Golf Tournament - Monday, October 1st

Denver AHEPA Chapter 145 Lee Rallis Memorial Golf Tournament including the
U.S. Veterans Forgotten Heroes Campaign
Invite you to play in their Annual Golf Tournament
at **Cherry Creek Country Club**
Banquet to follow after Golf Tournament

Philo托chos Fellowship Meeting - Saturday, October 6th

Board Meeting 9 am; Potluck Brunch 10:30 am

Senior Ministry Brunch - Friday, October 26th, 9:30 am

Dear Seniors, Please join us on the Feast of St Dimitrios for a wonderful time of prayer and fellowship. There will be a special brunch offered for our Seniors after the Divine Liturgy. If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Dena Tinsley @ 724-705-3225 or Father Jordan @ 720-329-5212. Dena Tinsley and Nicole Tsiouvaras will be coordinating the Senior Ministry for Sts Peter Paul. It is our hope to have a monthly activity for our seniors scheduled around a weekday Church Feast Day. If you would like to help with one of the monthly senior luncheons, please contact either Dena, Nicole or Father Jordan.

2019 Church Ecclesiastical Calendar

If you would like to sponsor the 2019 Church Calendar with your business, please contact Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 303-581-1434.