



Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of December 9th, 2018



St. Herman of Alaska - December 13th



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, December 11	Orthodox Faith Class	7 pm
Wednesday, December 12	St. Spyridon (Service at St. Spyridon - Loveland) Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:30 am 9:30 am
Saturday, December 15	St. Eleutherios Orthros Divine Liturgy GOYA Shut-in Visitations Great Vespers	7:15 am 8 am 10 am 5 pm
Sunday, December 16	Sunday School Christmas Pageant Stewardship Luncheon	

Hosts & Volunteers

Fellowship Host	Tsiouvaras and Dzilvelis Families
Ushers	Brian Gregory
Myrrhbearers	Alexandra, Elizabeth, Cassie, Sophie
Epistle Reader	Xander

Have an Announcement?

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

St. Spyridon as a Model for Our Lives

By Protopresbyter Fr. George Papavarnavas
(St. Spyridon is Commemorated on December 12th)

In a previous article we discussed Saint Katherine who was wise and of the world, having studied nearly all the sciences of her day. Presently we will deal with Saint Spyridon, who was a private man and uneducated, according to human knowledge, yet both are found among the chorus of saints. With the sacramental life and asceticism they purified their vessel and reached the experience of true love. Human education is useful insofar as it helps in finding the truth and the path that leads to eternal salvation. The great Saint of Romiosini, Kosmas Aitolos, built schools for people to learn to read Holy Scripture, as he said, as well as the lives and writings of the Saints. But it must be said that books are useful and necessary until one acquires God. Saint Symeon the New Theologian tells us: "Acquire God, then you will have no need of books." Besides, what will one do with human knowledge, when they hold the knowledge of God!

Saint Spyridon knew God, because from childhood he learned to communicate with Him through prayer. So he became truly wise and this was clear to everyone, especially during critical and decisive moments in his life. At the First Ecumenical Synod he preached the consubstantiality of the Persons of the Holy Trinity, in his own unique way, and he overcame Arius. He acquired the gift of wonderworking due to the purity of his heart and his great love towards God and man. He was made worthy to speak with his dead daughter, to ask her where she hid the jewelry entrusted to her by her neighbor, and she responded to him from the grave. He didn't have money to give to a certain poor farmer who was in distress due to the drought, which caused him and his family to go hungry, so he thought to give a gold object to pay off his lenders so he can obtain wheat. But as a Bishop he was more poor than he was, which is why he resorted to a miracle. A certain snake was circulating outside his house so he changed it into gold and gave it to him. Most importantly, however, was that when he was liturgizing he would see Holy Angels coliturgizing with him. These wondrous events raise doubts among unbelievers, but impression and awe among believers. But we must not remain in wonder, but proceed to the cause of the events. We should look to see how he acquired these gifts and move on to imitate his pious life.

The Bishop of Tremithus was guileless and simple. He experienced the words of the Apostle to the Nations: "That being enriched in all things, you may abound unto all simplicity, which worketh through us thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:11). He had true compassion in his heart which fit the entire world. Precisely because he was rich in his heart, he did not measure perishable and false wealth at all. He was very poor materially and not a lover of money in the least. Very characteristic is the incident with Emperor Constantius, which allows us to unfold the splendor of his sanctified soul and his utter disdain for material goods. When he healed the Emperor of an incurable disease, the Emperor wanted to reward him and give him gifts of great worth, but the Saint refused everything. Of course after much perseverance he got a little money for the poor of his District and, humble as he was, he rushed to return to his flock, avoiding the glories and honors towards his person. This is the ethos of the Saints. He did not want to exploit his acquaintance with the Emperor and the gratitude felt by this higher Ruler towards him, in order to extort money or glory, which is common in our days. He wasn't avaricious and ambitious, but a lover of God and lover of man. He built palaces and castles in the hearts of people and saved money in the bank of heaven. Our society has a need for such people, for they are the salt which preserves it from rot and decay. They are the true consolation of the people of God, their cane and their support.

Saint Spyridon, humble shepherd of Tremithus, bishop and pastor of reasonable sheep, pray for Kerkyra, which holds your incorruptible Holy Relic, and for Cyprus, the much-tortured island that gave you birth. Even for Turkish-trodden Tremithus, your Diocese, "wasted by misery, rescue them through your intercessions".

Source: *Ekkelesiastiki Paremvasi*, "ΑΓΙΟΣ ΣΠΥΡΙΔΩΝ", December 1997. Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

St. Herman of Alaska: On Love for God

(St. Herman is Commemorated on December 13th)

Once the Elder was invited on board a frigate that had come from St. Petersburg. The captain of the frigate was a man quite learned, highly educated; he had been sent to America by Imperial command to inspect all the colonies. With the captain were some 25 officers, likewise educated men. In this company there sat a desert-dwelling monk of small stature, in an old garment, who by his wise conversation brought all his listeners to such a state that they did not know how to answer him. The captain himself related: "We were speechless fools before him!"

Father Herman gave them all one common question: "What do you, gentlemen, love above all, and what would each of you wish for his happiness?" Diverse answers followed. One desired wealth, one glory, one a beautiful wife, one a fine ship which he should command, and so on in this fashion. "Is it not true," said Father Herman at this, "that all your various desires can be reduced to one - that each of you desires that which, in his understanding, he considers best and most worthy of love?" "Yes, it is so," they all replied. "Well, then, tell me," he continued, "can there be anything better, higher above everything, more surpassing everything and in general more worthy of love, than our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who created us, perfectly adorned us, gave life to all, supports all, nourishes and loves all, who Himself is love and more excellent than all men? Should not a person then love God high above all and desire and seek Him more than all else?" All began to say: "Well, yes! That is understood! That speaks for itself!"

"And do you love God?" the Elder then asked. All replied: "Of course, we love God. How can one not love God?" "And I, sinful one, for more than forty years have been striving to love God, and cannot say that I perfectly love Him," answered Father Herman; then he began to show how a person should love God. "If we love someone," he said, "we always think of him, strive to please him, day and night our heart is occupied with this subject. Is it thus that you, gentlemen, love God? Do you often turn to Him, do you always think of Him, do you always pray to Him, and fulfill His holy commandments?" It had to be acknowledged that they did not! "For our good, for our happiness," concluded the Elder, "at least let us make a promise to ourselves, that from this day, from this hour, from this very moment we shall strive to love God above all, and fulfill His holy will!"

Behold what an intelligent, superb conversation Father Herman conducted in society; without doubt this conversation must have imprinted itself on the hearts of his listeners for their whole life!

Events & Announcements

Memorial Service

Today's memorial service is offered for Mihalis (40 day memorial) and Avgosta (6 year). Mihalis and Avgosta are the parents of Constantinos Apostolopoulos. May their memories be eternal.

Parish Council Elections Today

Elections for the 2019 Parish Council Members will take place today after services in the Parish Hall. Please a few minutes to vote today. Thank you

Fellowship Hour Sponsors

Today's fellowship hour is sponsored by the Tsiouvaras and Dzilvelis families in honor of Melina Nolte's college graduation. May God bless Melina on this special milestone in her life.

Orthodox Christian Faith Series – Tuesday, December 11, 7 pm

Please note the schedule change for December. Please join us for the remaining classes left in this series. The topic is "Baptism: Sacrament of Chrismation". A Lenten Meal is offered. You may bring a dish to share. Please be mindful of the Nativity Fast. We are fasting from meat and dairy products.

Head Start Angels Update

Please bring your Head Start Angels to the fellowship hall today. For the first time since I have been doing this, ALL of the angels have been taken off the tree! That means a lot to us and we are so grateful! **We will be delivering the angels on Tuesday, December 18th.** If you would like to join us, and Santa Claus, **meet us at the church around 8:30am.** Everyone is welcome and lunch will be provided. It is such a special day, and the kids are thrilled to see Santa and their gifts. For some kids, this may be the only presents they receive for Christmas.

Nativity Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 16th

Last Practice Today at 11:30 am

Dear Parents, our parish will hold a Nativity program on Sunday, Dec. 16th, after the Liturgy. Your children are invited and encouraged to participate in the program, which will incorporate singing, instrumental music and readings. Pres. Marika has met several times with the junior- and senior-high students to teach them songs, so they can provide the backbone of the program. **The children's last practice will be today at 11:30 am.** We will be meeting in the junior-high room. She will teach the preschoolers "Jingle Bells." If you want to get a head start and practice the song at home with your little ones, please do so. She will teach the other children Nativity hymns and Christmas carols. Please contact her if you are able to help her with the program. You can email her at marikadb@aol.com. Your participation will be a wonderful gift to the congregation!

Christmas Pageant Luncheon - Calling All Volunteers!

Eric Elias and Nick Karis are preparing the lunch for the Christmas Pageant on 12/16 and would love your help! Please let us know if you can contribute any of your special dishes or desserts for the luncheon, keeping the fast in mind. Contact Nick nickandsandy77@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

Christmas Cookie Basket Fund Raiser – Order Deadline December 16

Gift Basket includes a variety of cookies (Mediterranean, European, Middle Eastern, American, Christmas favorites!) Donation is \$20.00 per basket Please order on or before, December 16. Pick up your basket at the Church Sunday Dec 23, 11:30am to 12:30pm. Please see the full-page flyer for more info and order form.

Christmas Cookie Basket Fund Raiser: Attention Bakers!!!

We are in need of cookies for our annual Christmas cookie basket fund raiser! If you can help by baking 9 dozen cookies (Ethnic, American, Christmas, etc), please contact Fran Dzilvelis (303-775-6138; fran_dzilvelis@yahoo.com) or Lis Troicky (720-771-7786; etroick@aol.com). Cookies are due to the church on Sunday December 16th (or before assembly night on Thursday December 20th). Please join us as we assemble the cookie baskets on Thursday December 20th starting at 6pm.

Events & Announcements

Feast of St. Spyridon

Wednesday, December 12, Orthros 8:30 am / Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Our sister parish, St Spyridon, will be celebrating their patron feast day on December 12th. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate in prayer with our sister parish. The St Spyridon parish will have a patron feast day brunch immediately following services. We are encouraged to car pool. The St Spyridon Church is located at 807 W 29th Street, Loveland. (website stspyridons.org)

The Metropolis Annual Open House - Friday, December 14th, 5 pm to 9 pm

His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah and the Metropolis Council invite you to attend the Metropolis Open House. Denver Metropolis Center, 4550 East Alameda Avenue, Denver; Catered by: Aspasia's Catering

Youth Shut-In Visitations - Saturday, December 15, 10:30 am - 4 pm

Our parish youth will join Father Jordan for a day of shut-in visitations. We will meet at the church at 10 am to prepare the care packages. This is a great blessing to visit our parishioners who have difficulty driving to church. The children will present Christmas care packages and sing Christmas Carols / Nativity hymns. We are in need of a few adult drivers and chaperones. At the end of the day, we will gather at the home of Dana Gall (3988 Campo Court, Boulder) around 4 pm for dinner and fellowship.

Senior Lunch Bunch - January 15, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Introducing a new ministry for the "young at heart" of our parish that includes social, cultural and religious activities. You are such an integral part of our community and we want to set aside one day a month to honor you. The group will be meeting monthly, generally the second or third Tuesday of each month. We will be providing lunch as well as a spiritual talk from Fr. Jordan and a variety of activities; such as musicians, guest speakers, etc. Our first official get together will be in the home of Dena and Dean Tinsley 1825 Chilton Pl. Broomfield, on Tuesday, January 15 from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm. Please R.S.V.P. to Dena Tinsley (724)705-3225. Also, if you need help with arranging transportation, please call Dena or Fr. Jordan.

Senior Lunch Volunteers Needed

We are looking for help with transportation for those who are home-bound, and help providing the luncheon dishes. Please contact Dena Tinsley (724)705-3225 if you would like to help with this new ministry. This is a great opportunity for our members of our community to take an active involvement in enhancing the lives of our senior members.

Monastery Pilgrimage - February 15 - 17, 2019

Fr Jordan will be leading pilgrimage to the Life Giving Greek Orthodox Women's Monastery in Dunlap, California. There will be a planning meeting to discuss the pilgrimage on **Sunday, December 9** during the Fellowship Hour. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Jordan.

Christmas Cookie Basket Fund Raiser

*Sponsored by and benefits the many philanthropic projects of
Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos Society*



Gift Basket includes a variety of cookies
(Mediterranean, European, Middle Eastern, American, Christmas favorites!)

Donation \$20.00 per basket

Please order on or before, December 16, 2018

Pick up your basket at the Church Sunday Dec 23 11:30am to 12:30pm

Mail or Return order form below to Fran Dzilvelis or Lis Troicky,
along with your check made payable to **Philoptochos**:

Christmas Cookie Basket Fund Raiser
Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church
5640 Jay Road; Boulder, CO 80301
720-771-7786 (Lis)

2018 Christmas Cookie Basket Fund Raiser ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Number of baskets (minimum \$20 donation per basket) = \$ _____ Total

Paid Check # _____ Cash _____

Please make checks payable to Philoptochos
Thank you for your support!

Merry Christmas!