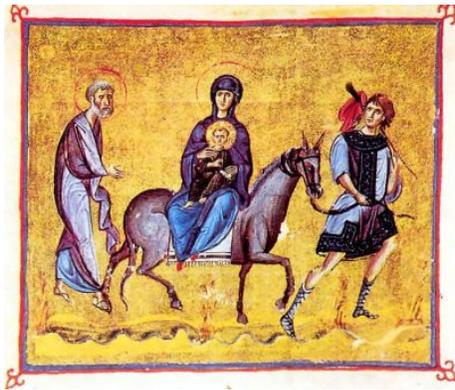




Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of December 30th, 2018



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

Service Schedule & Parish Activities

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.

Have an Announcement?

Please contact Aaron Wall:
awall609@yahoo.com;
(720) 400-6579

Deadline is every Wed. before Divine Liturgy.

Hosts & Volunteers

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Fellowship Host | Maria Pagratis |
| Ushers | Jacques & Amanda Nader |
| Myrrhbearers | Demetra, Cassie, Sophie |
| Epistle Reader | Niko |

Tuesday, January 1st

St. Basil / New Year's Day

Orthros Service

8:30 am

Divine Liturgy

9:30 am

Vasilopita Blessing

10:30

am

Saturday, January 5th

Forefeast of the Epiphany

Divine Liturgy

8 am

Blessing of the Waters

9:30 am

The Silence of Joseph

By Fr. Vasilios I. Kalliakmanis

A) If it is true that the language of the world to come is that of silence, then Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin, is a type of the man of the age to come. None of his words are recorded in the Gospels, none of his conversations mentioned. Only his thoughts and actions are described. He approaches the mystery of the ineffable self-emptying of the Son and Word of God with awe, circumspection and silence. And when thoughts of doubt overwhelm him, with the torment caused by unbearable mental pain, then heaven speaks.

B) But let's take things from the beginning. Joseph was chosen when he was at the threshold of old age to become the protector and guardian of the Virgin. During the betrothal, however, she was found to be pregnant "by the Holy Spirit". This caused him doubts and he considered it the result of adultery. According to the poet of the Akathist Hymn: "Filled with a storm of contradictory thoughts, the wise Joseph was greatly tormented."

C) This torment was "translated" in a lively and dramatic way by another hymn that is chanted during the First Hour of the Feast of Christmas:

Joseph said to the Virgin: "What has happened to you, O Mary? I am troubled; what can I say to you? Doubt clouds my mind; depart from me! What has happened to you, O Mary? Instead of honor, you bring me shame. Instead of joy, you fill me with grief. Men who praised me will blame me. I cannot bear condemnation from every side. I received you from priests in the temple as a pure virgin in the sight of the Lord. What is it that I now see?"

D) Despite his thoughts, for Joseph was pious and just, he did not want to publicly humiliate Mariam. He decided to break off their engagement, without formal proceedings. Then an angel of the Lord appeared in his sleep and said: "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21-22).

E) Joseph was a unique person, because he followed the path of his heart and not the rigor of the law. He has been declared "just", although he was not attached to the old law, but he exceeded it by helping to contribute to the work of grace. He became a minister of the new covenant, not according to the letter of the law but by the Spirit of God - "for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life" (2 Cor. 3:6). Moreover, Christian justice is found above and beyond the limits of any attachment to the letter of the law.

F) The words of the gospel are living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating deeply and judging the thoughts and intentions of people (see Heb. 4:12). Silence has proven, however, to be equally salvific. Not guilty silence, but the silence that comes from a heart of simplicity, clarity, spaciousness and unconditional obedience to the divine will. In the case of Joseph, silence accompanied the miracle of the Birth of Christ.

G) In a time of gabbiness, verbosity and even of the increasing dissemination of ecclesiastical words, it is almost impossible to estimate the value of silence. It is even more difficult in our modern rationalist time for someone to approach the divine Nativity in the way Joseph did. He, however, surpassed the shell of human reason and made his heart white as snow, having tasted even faintly "within his heart" the presence of the Redeemer "who became poor for us", in the personages of the beloved brethren and the "others" who are the least.

Source: Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

Jesus Christ the Eternal Victor

The Gospel reading of this Sunday describes the flight of the infant Jesus to Egypt, the slaughtering of the infants by Herod and the return of Jesus to the city of Nazareth. This briefly says that the story of the God-man is tragic from His first days. What is more tragic, however, is the condition of the chosen people who give chase to their Savior. Nevertheless, God interferes and directs the steps of Joseph. Does this alleviate human responsibility? Of course it doesn't.

The position of Joseph is that of every spiritual person

The beginning of the life of the Lord on the earth teaches us many things. It teaches us that we must expect temptations and plotting from the beginning. What does this mean? It simply means that when someone is deemed worthy of undertaking a spiritual ministry, he should expect tragedies and perils. He should not, however, be upset. He must accept everything courageously, knowing that this is exactly the course of the spiritual life. It has temptations conjoined to it, because these "good" temptations weave the life of the righteous.

St. John Chrysostom says that the temptations are not met with the strength of the body, but with the disposition of the soul. This is why the sky is not as bright with its captivating reflections and colors, as the souls of those persons who endure their temptations by the grace of their Lord and transform them into joy and spiritual life experiences. The road towards sanctity is not inhibited by any temptation or human obstacle. This is because we are not alone, but have God inside us and around us, who opens the way of Divine knowledge. This is the road that leads to the beautiful Gate of Paradise.

The position of Herod is that of every unjust person

St. John Chrysostom, interpreting the rage of Herod on account of the mockery of the Magi, says that when a soul is ungrateful and incurable, she does not retreat before anything and especially does not accept that she seeks after unfeasible things. Human beings, when they reject the faith and remove from their souls the fear of God, not only dare, but put to practice everything. An ungodly human being becomes a wild beast, and for this reason, woe to them who may fall into the hands of ungodly persons.

Since Herod acted unjustly, why did God allow this? In the Old Testament, Israel is the son of God, whose position has now been taken by Jesus Christ. In the last analysis the chosen people of God is now restricted to the one and unique Person, Jesus Christ. It is from Jesus Christ that a new people will be born, whom God will lead out of Egypt, according to the prophesy of Hosea, which now finds its full meaning. God, then, allowed this because the plan of the Divine Economy is never aborted.

When the righteous is treated unjustly, then, we ask, why does God allow this? The answer is given by St. John Chrysostom: "Whatever we may suffer unjustly in the hands of another, God will count this injustice either to cover some of our sins or to give us a reward." In other words for all the injustices which we endure, we either wipe out sins, or earn brighter rewards if we have no sins. This is why we never put such questions to God, especially if we want our faith to be like that of Abraham, and to have the privilege to serve actively the will of God.

In the Person of Christ there is everyone who is treated unjustly

Jesus Christ was pursued from the very beginning and he had to flee from his place because of the murderous fury of Herod. The one who left was He who would save His people according to the order that Joseph received from the Angel. What does this mean for us? It means that we must never be anxious, when what is done to us is contrary to what we expect. God often fulfils His plans by contradictory events, giving us in this way the greatest proof of His power. Let us never forget the saying, "Mine is the retribution. I will recompense, says the Lord." In other words, to God belongs both the retribution and the recompense (Heb. 10:30).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, by becoming man and going through all the events of the Divine Economy "came out as a victor to accomplish victory." In other words, He was given the crown of victory, and departed as a victor in order to accomplish new victories. One of these, which is the most substantial, will be the one in which God will come to dwell among the people for ever, and will wipe out every tear from their eyes (Rev. 21:3-4). "O Lord may Your kingdom come." AMEN!

Translated from the "Voice of the Lord" of the Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece, by Fr. George Dion. Dragas

Events & Announcements

Stewardship Social 2019 - Saturday, January 12, 7 pm

Our first Stewardship Social will take place at the home of George and Nicole Tsiovaras. If you live in the Broomfield / Thornton area, please join us for an evening of fellowship. This will be a great time to get to know your church neighbors.

OCF Lunch - Friday, January 4, 2019, 12:30 pm

Attention all college students on break! You are invited for lunch with Father Jordan. We will meet at the church at 12 noon and car pool to the restaurant. Please let Father Jordan if you make it.

Church Cleaning

Can you offer 30 minutes with keeping our church clean and beautiful? Please see Presbyteria Kedrann after services today. A handful of faithful stewards can get the work done in less than an hour. Thank you for your Stewardship.

Orthodox Spirituality: Spiritual Awakening - Wednesday, January 16, 7 pm

Please join Father Jordan as we read the book by St Paisios, "Spiritual Awakening." If you are interested in joining this class, please contact Father Jordan (we will be ordering the books this week).

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, please contact us if you would be interested in volunteering.** Also, if you need help with arranging transportation, please call Dena or Fr. Jordan.

Ushers for 2019

We are looking for volunteers to serve as church ushers in 2019. If you were on the schedule last year, then we will automatically include you in the rotation for 2019. Please let us know if you would like to be removed from the list. Also, if you were not on the schedule last year, and would like to participate this year, please contact Jim Zissimos.