



Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of January 6th, 2019



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.

Hosts & Volunteers

Have an Announcement?

Ushers

George & Charleen Pappas

Myrrhbearers

Alexandra, Elizabeth, Cassie, Sophie

Epistle Reader

Xander

Please contact Aaron Wall:

awall609@yahoo.com;

(720) 400-6579

Deadline is every Wed. before Divine Liturgy.

Why Did Christ Call the Grace of the Holy Spirit Water?

By St. Cyril of Jerusalem

"The water I shall give him will become in him a fountain of living water, welling up into eternal life" (Jn. 4:14). This is a new kind of water, a living, leaping water, welling up for those who are worthy. But why did Christ call the grace of the Spirit water? Because all things are dependent on water; plants and animals have their origin in water. Water comes down from heaven as rain, and although it is always the same in itself, it produces many different effects, one in the palm tree, another in the vine, and so on throughout the whole of creation. It does not come down, now as one thing, now as another, but while remaining essentially the same, it adapts itself to the needs of every creature that receives it.

In the same way the Holy Spirit, whose nature is always the same, simple and indivisible, apportions grace to each man as He wills. Like a dry tree which puts forth shoots when watered, the soul bears the fruit of holiness when repentance has made it worthy of receiving the Holy Spirit. Although the Spirit never changes, the effects of His action, by the will of God and in the name of Christ, are both many and marvelous.

The Spirit makes one man a teacher of divine truth, inspires another to prophesy, gives another the power of casting out devils, enables another to interpret Holy Scripture. The Spirit strengthens one man's self-control, shows another how to help the poor, teaches another to fast and lead a life of asceticism, makes another oblivious to the needs of the body, trains another for martyrdom.

His action is different in different people, but the Spirit Himself is always the same. In each person, Scripture says, the Spirit reveals His presence in a particular way for the common good.

The Spirit comes gently and makes himself known by His fragrance. He is not felt as a burden, for He is light, very light. Rays of light and knowledge stream before Him as He approaches. The Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend and protector to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen, to console. The Spirit comes to enlighten the nous first of the one who receives Him, and then, through Him, the nous of others as well.

As light strikes the eyes of a man who comes out of darkness into the sunshine and enables him to see clearly things he could not discern before, so light floods the soul of the man counted worthy of receiving the Holy Spirit and enables him to see things beyond the range of human vision, things hitherto undreamed of.

From "On the Holy Spirit".

St. John the Baptist As a Model for Our Lives

By Protopresbyter Fr. George Papavarnavas

The Honorable Forerunner is the person who was praised by Christ more than anybody else: "Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist" (Lk. 7:28a). He is the greatest of the Prophets, not in age since he only lived thirty years, but in terms of grace and glory, because he was made worthy not only to see, but to baptize "the proclaimed" Messiah. But then Christ went on to stress that the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than Saint John the Forerunner ((Lk. 7:28b). He said this, according to the interpretation of the Divine Chrysostom, to avoid the crowds being dragged away in their exaggerations with this praise and consider John higher than the God-man Christ. But according to another interpretation, by the fourth century ecclesiastical writer Didymus the Blind, the youngest of the Holy Apostles, Saint John the Theologian, is greater than the Forerunner, since the Apostles are greater than the Prophets.

He was born of an infertile woman and was the fruit of prayer. As a fetus of six months in the womb of Elizabeth he received the grace of the Holy Spirit and leaped when the Panagia met his mother who with her mouth had prophesied and named Mary the Mother of God. The name John, which he received, was a gift from God, just as he was.

His ascetic life scandalized many of his contemporaries who could not understand his angelic way of life, and they criticized him as being possessed by demons. This fact, of course, where people criticize another person because they do not live the way they do, but in a different way, occurred in other periods as well, just as it occurs today, since today also there are many who criticize that which they cannot understand by their own reasoning; they can only understand that which exists and what they feel. In other words, beyond logic there also exists the heart, which when it gets drunk with the strong wine of the uncreated grace of the Holy Spirit, renounces all false graces of this fleeting life. The Holy Fathers call this drunkenness "sobriety". When someone tastes of the love of God, then they despise all other loves, towards material things that is, because they find them false.

The Honorable Forerunner prepared the people to receive Christ. His preaching was a preaching of repentance. His words were filled with bravery and power. He did not flinch nor hesitate to take on the establishment of his time. He rebuked the lawlessness of King Herod. Even the Pharisees, who oppressed the people by burdening them with heavy and unbearable loads, he called serpents and a brood of vipers. He was a forerunner to Christ even in Hades and with joy, as we chant in his Apolytikion, he preached to those deceased from ages past that "God has appeared in the flesh".

We will proceed to emphasize three points, taking occasion by the events of his life, as well as his experience and deeds.

First, that he was accused of being demon possessed because his life, which he dedicated to God, was different from most others. He did not live in the city, but he fled into the desert, where he lived as an ascetic. He did not eat food, but fed on akrides, which are the tips or edges of plants, and wild honey. And today, unfortunately, there is confrontation from many when someone decides, especially if they are young and educated, to dedicate their life to Christ and His Church as a Priest or as a Monk. And if they do not call him demon possessed, surely they say that something happened to his mind. In most cases people who are opposed and inflict a large number of obstacles and difficulties are not atheists and those outside the Church, but rather those who go to church and honor the Saints who followed the same path. If this isn't an absurdity then what is?

Second, if he rebuked the lawlessness of Herod and hypocrisy of the Pharisees, he did it out of love and not hatred, since he was passionless and "full of the Holy Spirit". His purpose was not to humiliate them, but to correct and heal them.

Today there is the mentality to justify our mistakes and our passions by citing Holy Scripture and the Lives of Saints for support. In this way many curse, slander and taint reputations supposedly for the glory of God. The Saints, when they are forced to rebuke, they did it with pain, love and much prayer for the persons concerned and after having exhausted all other means.

Third, the events of the life of the Honorable Forerunner, both the pleasant and the painful, he considered as coming straight from God, since apart from His will nothing can take place. Indeed, not only his birth but the other circumstances of his life took place because it was the will of God, and his death took place by divine economy, so that he may preach "to those in Hades".

The same happens with every one of us. God knows us even before we were born, since He is the cause of our creation. He loves us more than we think and cares for each of us individually. Nothing happens in our life by accident. Failures, setbacks and even the most painful diseases are allowed by the God of love, because when dealt with properly they can prove to be the greatest blessings. How many did not repent and become authentic people after a hard adventure or a severe illness?

Trust in the love and providence of God is the most stable support even when confronting the greatest setbacks. It removes insecurities and stress and puts us in the right perspective for a calm and proper treatment of the most difficult problems.

Source: *Ekkelesiastiki Paremvasi*, "ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ Ο ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΣ", January 2001. Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

Christian Stewardship 2019

“All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ”

In the early church, the faithful Christians would support the Church by offering the products of their labor - oil, for example, to keep the kandylia, the lamps, burning before the icons. Today, we primarily support the Church through our financial donations. But the principle is the same.

Our contributions make it possible to maintain the church building and the parish center, to make improvements to our facilities - and to keep our parish programs and ministries going. Our support helps keep the Light of Christ burning brightly in our Church, in our hearts, and even in the larger community.

The Lamp of Christian Stewardship symbolized that light, and our commitment to Christ Himself. **It costs approximately \$800 per day to operate the church.** Stewardship of our faith in Jesus Christ calls us to do those things that reflect our faith to others, living our faith through our actions. Please prayerfully make a Stewardship pledge for at least the cost of operating the church for 2 days.

Today, on the Great Feast of Theophany, Our Lord's Baptism, we begin the 2019 Stewardship Ministry. Please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making. Giving to the Church is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question we must ask ourselves, **“How can I thank God for my many blessings?” “Do I love my church?” “Will I make the commitment to take care of at least one day - two days - three days, of the church operating budget?”** And the most important stewardship question, **“Will I make a commitment to thanking God every Sunday and faithfully participate in the Divine Liturgy?”**

You as a Christian Steward can make a huge impact in the life of the church. If you are new to our parish, please pick up your 2019 Stewardship Packet. They are located in the church narthex.

Stewardship strengthens the parish, allows for sharing the Gospel of Christ and for offering a spiritual home. Thank you for your dedication to our parish and your participation in Christ's work of salvation.

Events & Announcements

Construction

Please enter the side (north) entrance to the Parish Hall. The Sunday stairs are being repaired. Parents, please do not allow your children to play outside. The west wall of the parish hall is being repaired. Sts Peter Paul received a generous donation for the Sunday School and Church Parking lights. Stairs to the Sunday School are being installed. Please note the Sunday School area (2nd level), is not in use. The Sunday School will be open for class next Sunday, January 13th.

Stewardship Social - Saturday, January 12, 7 pm

Our first Stewardship Social will take place at the home of George and Nicole Tsiouvaras(5808 Fox Ridge Ct., Broomfield). **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. There will be a discussion on the exciting ministries and future plans for our parish.

Orthodox Spiritual Awakening Class - Wednesday, January 16, 7- 8 pm

Please join us as we read *Spiritual Awakening* by St. Paisios. The cost of the book is \$30. (the check can be made out to 'Sts Peter Paul). Father Jordan will be leading the class. If you are interested in joining this class or you would like to bring some lenten snacks, please contact Father.

IOCC Mission Team Build, Houston, Texas

Father Jordan will be a part of a IOCC Seminary Build in Houston, January 7 - 11. Father Jordan was asked to be the Seminary Build Spiritual Team Leader. The team will be participating in the re-construction of a new home. Thousands of homes in Houston were severely damaged and destroyed due to last years flooding. Please keep Father Jordan and the Seminary team in your prayers. In case of a hospital emergency this week, please contact St Spyridon's (Loveland) or St Luke's (Erie).

House Blessings

Father Jordan will be blessing homes the month of January, and the first week of February. Please note the House Blessing Schedule:

Westminster, Louisville, Lafayette area January 14 - 20

Boulder area January 21 - 27

Longmont, Berthoud area January 28 - February 2

Broomfield, Thornton area February 3 - February 8.

Please contact Father Jordan to schedule your house blessing. In addition, there are House Blessing forms located in the Church Narthex. Blessed New Year!

Icon Drawing Workshop - January 25 - 26

Join us for this intensive workshop focused on developing drawing skills of iconographers. Completing this course will enable you to paint the icons you wish to create with confidence and ease. This intensive workshop is focused on the study of Byzantine Composition: At the conclusion of the class students will achieve the knowledge and the skill (practical ability) to draw with self-assurance and comfort the icon of Byzantine Composition. **Course fee:** \$230 + \$25 Registration Fee (fee waived if paid in full upon registration). Registration is required and course space is limited. For more information contact, JP Andrews at 303-807-7772 or jp@sicafoundation.org; Ileana Barbu at 303-521-3387 or ilebarbu@yahoo.com

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.

Church Cleaning

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