

PETRANEWS

3 • 9
2025

S T S P E T E R & P A U L



Welcome Metropolitan Constantine!

Thank you for joining us, Your Eminence! It is always a great joy to have you!

This Week's Services

Monday, March 10

Great Compline _____ 6:00pm

Wednesday, March 12

Presanctified Liturgy _____ 5:00pm
followed by short talk on prayer and potluck

Friday, March 14

Presanctified Liturgy _____ 9:00am
followed by Bible Study
Salutations to the Theotokos 5:00pm

Saturday, March 15

Vespers _____ 5:00pm

Sunday, March 16

Orthros _____ 8:30am
Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am
Pan-Orthodox Vespers _____ 5:00pm
at the Holy Transfiguration Cathedral

Fellowship Hour

Thank you to all those who contributed to our potluck fellowship today!

3/16: Joanne Callas

3/23: Fasting Potluck – OPEN

3/30: Fasting Potluck- OPEN

Details for signing up for Fellowship Potlucks and clean-up during Lent are on page 5.

Today's Hymns

Apolytikion for the Sunday of Orthodoxy, Mode 2

We venerate Thine immaculate icon, O Good One, asking the forgiveness of our failings, O Christ our God; for of Thine own will Thou wast well pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, that Thou mightest deliver from slavery to the enemy those whom Thou hadst fashioned. Wherefore we cry to Thee thankfully: Thou didst fill all things with joy, O our Savior, when Thou camest to save the world.

Resurrection Apolytikion, Mode 4

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples spake to the Apostles triumphantly: Death is despoiled, and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy unto the world.

Apolytikion for the Holy Martyrs, Mode 1

Be Thou entreated for the sake of the sufferings of Thy Saints which they endured for Thee, O Lord, and do Thou heal all our pains, we pray, O Friend of man.

Apolytikion of our Patron Saints, Mode 4

O leaders of the Apostles, and teachers of the world, intercede with the Master of all, that He may grant peace unto the world, and to our souls His great mercy

Kontakion

To you the champion commander, • In your city inscribe victorious anthems of thanksgiving, • For deliverance from sufferings, O Theotokos. • In as much as you have power unassailable, • From all manner of dangers, O set me free; • That I may cry out to you, Rejoice O Bride unwedded.

Hymn to the Theotokos, Mode Plagal 2

In thee rejoices, maiden who is full of grace, • all creation the ranks of angelic hosts, and the lineage of mankind. • A temple sanctified, and a paradise of the mind, thou art the boast of the chaste, • from whom our God was incarnate and became a newborn child, • yet he is God before time, unto every age. • For He created thy pure womb to be his throne wider he hath made thee than the heavens, without end he hath fashioned thee. • In thee rejoices, maiden who is full of grace, all of creation. Glory to thee!

Scripture Readings for the Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Orthros Gospel according to Luke, 24: 1-12

On the first day of the week at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be



delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the Apostles; but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home wondering at what had happened.

Epistle: St Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, 12:1-10

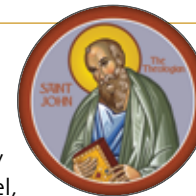
Brethren, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin that easily distracts, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who instead of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor



lose courage when you are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

The Gospel according to John, 1:43-51

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do



you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

John 1:43-51: The Baptist's Disciples follow Jesus

The Son of God took on human flesh for our salvation and entered the world to redeem it. Following Christ's temptations in the wilderness, He begins His public ministry and presents Himself to John the Baptist (the Forerunner) to be baptized. John said of Christ, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" Two brothers Andrew and Peter, who were disciples of John, followed Jesus in response to John's testimony. These disciples became eyewitnesses of the Glory of the Messiah, Who was revealing Himself. He said to them, "Come and see!" Jesus gathered His disciples, calling their friends and families to tell them about God's love. Jesus finds Philip and says to him, "Follow me." This is a simple yet powerful invitation. Following Christ means putting Him at the center of our lives. This invitation to become His disciple is also personally addressed to each one of us.

When we soften our hearts to God and realize He calls us to be with Him daily, we naturally respond in love. The Lord comes to us as unique individuals with full knowledge of who we are, where we come from, and everything that relates to us as human beings. His invitation opens the door for us to respond to His grace. Philip responds positively and follows Christ. Eventually, he becomes the Holy Apostle Philip, one of the Twelve, who devotes his entire life to serving Christ and is ultimately crowned with martyrdom. When we respond to the Lord's call to follow Him, He will lead us to live full and meaningful lives as we live for Him and bear lasting fruit both in our own lives and in the lives of others.

After responding to the call, Philip finds Nathanael and tells him he has seen the Messiah about Whom the Law and the Prophets had spoken. The grace of God opens Philip's heart to reveal Jesus's true

identity: He is the prophesied Messiah Who came to save the world. Philip overflows with joy and invites Nathanael to join him. Nathanael wonders how the Messiah can come from a little-known town like Nazareth.

Philip then repeats the words of the Lord: "Come and see!" Jesus sees Nathanael coming to Him, and He says of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael's heart did not have any deceit. Because he was open to God, God the Son revealed Himself to him. Nathanael, stunned by Christ's response, asks, "How do you know me?" Jesus answers, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

The encounter could not be more intimate and personal. The Lord knows everything about us. He sees us and longs to be with us, even when we falsely assume we are alone and forgotten. He is always with us. Saint John Chrysostom says, "Do you see how his soul is filled at once with exceeding joy and embraces Jesus with words? ... How he leaps and dances with delight? So, ought we also to rejoice, who have been thought worthy to know the Son of God."

Jesus answers Nathanael that he would see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. In the Old Testament Book of Genesis, we read that the Patriarch Jacob dreams of a ladder connecting earth to heaven, upon which the angels were ascending and descending (Genesis 28:12-15). Jesus is this Ladder as He unites in His Person both divine and human natures. Christ is speaking of His mission to provide the missing link for humanity, recombine earth and heaven, and reconnect heaven to earth, as it was in the beginning. Christ is the Ladder before us upon which we are all called to climb.

Everything we do in the Church revolves around this ascension of man to God, which was enabled by God taking on flesh and descending from heaven to the world. He descended for us to ascend. In this way, Nathanael beholds the God-Man in the fullness of His purpose. As the disciple embarks on a life of discipleship, he will see greater things than what he just saw. Eventually, Nathanael would see the Lord ascending into heaven, revealing His glory to all people.

Nathanael and Philip encounter Jesus personally. In His love, He calls them to follow Him. By opening their hearts to Him, they respond positively to the call. This changes their lives forever. The words "follow me" are received by them as the Word of God, He Whose identity they recognize, as the sheep recognize the voice of the Shepherd. This is also true of us. Christ is the center of our faith. Like Philip and Nathanael, we are encouraged to open ourselves to Who He is and what He came to do. He is fully God and fully Man. He is the Messiah, the Christ. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Who has no beginning and no end.

Christ comes to us in love, taking up human nature to unite us forever to God. The unity of the divine and human natures of Christ is expressed dogmatically in the Creed we recite at every Divine Liturgy when we affirm that, He is the "one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father through Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man."

The divine light of Christ illumines Philip and Nathanael. Desiring the same illumination, we pray in the Liturgy, "For You, Christ our God, are the illumination of our souls and bodies, and to You, we offer up glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages."

Christ calls to us personally. It is up to us to respond to His call and witness His presence in the world, just like Philip and Nathanael did. When we decide to come and see and then invite others to do the same, we begin to be transfigured into living icons of Christ. God has given us icons as windows of heaven, and He makes us icons to shine the glory of Christ. We become windows of heaven to the world through our prayers, our lives, our love, and our care for others.

As we commemorate this Sunday of Orthodoxy, we reaffirm the significance of icons for our faith. In the Church, many holy images depict Christ, the Virgin Mary, Angels, or Saints. Although icons are created by molding earthly materials, they can be venerated because God took on human flesh and entered the material world. We venerate icons but worship only God. We also venerate the image of God in every human being.

May we continue our journey to Pascha (Easter) by responding to His call in our lives. May we open ourselves to Christ and receive His Body and Blood, which was shed for us to bring us back to His Kingdom. In this way, we make the Kingdom of God present in the world, available to all people, for the salvation of their souls and the glory of God, now and forever.

Events & Announcements

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity Class

Today at 12:30pm

Class will resume today following fellowship hour. This class is for catechumens, inquirers and faithful alike that wish to learn more about our Church. If you have any questions, please contact David at daviddinsmore.d@gmail.com.

Bible Study Day

**Time Change
Fridays at 11am**



During Great Lent, Bible Study will change from its usual date on Wednesday mornings to Fridays at 11am. Join us before Bible Study for the Presanctified Liturgy that begins at 9:30am.

Epistle Reading Rotation



We are looking for people who would like to read the Epistle on Sunday! As you know, we only have a few people who read the epistle on Sunday morning, so we are trying to form a rotation of people who are willing to read it as well. This is a very low commitment way to help out during church, so please consider joining! Please talk to Anthony Pappas or email him at pappasa99@gmail.com to be added to the list. We will have a short lesson on what to do during the epistle reading after church on Sunday, and then a rotation of readers will be posted. Young and old, it doesn't matter, all are welcome!

Consecration Registry



We would like to thank all those that have contributed towards our Consecration Registry. The total amount needed for Consecration is \$65,000. The amount raised so far is just over \$46,000! If you would like to learn more about our upcoming Consecration or would like to make a gift, please visit our website at stspeterandpaulboulder.org/consecration. Thank you!

Fellowship Hour Potlucks



Sunday Lenten Potluck

During Lent, Fellowship will mostly consist of fasting potlucks. Each potluck has a sign-up with ideas for food and a couple of spots to help set up. By coming together as hosts, we will be supporting each other on the journey to the Resurrection. If you would like to host a Sunday during Lent or help with clean-up, visit our website at stspeterandpaulboulder.org/fellowship to sign-up! Check the bulletin each week to determine the potluck dates still open. Contact Nicole Tsiouvaras with any questions.

**Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy
& Potluck, 5pm**

Join us on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5pm for the Presanctified Liturgy. Following the service, Father Gabriel will give a short talk on prayer followed by a potluck in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to share!

Help Needed



Looking for three more people to join our fellowship clean-up teams. Once a month, you stay after fellowship to clean the kitchen/dining area. Training is provided. This is an easy way to get involved! Please text or email Nicole if you can help. 303-489-4491 or tsiouvaras@msn.com. Thank you!

Freezer Space



The large freezer in the kitchen will be cleaned out in the next week to make room for tsoureki (Easter bread). If you have something in the freezer, please take it. Nothing can be in the freezer after mid-March. After Pascha, frozen items must be labeled with a name, date, and reason it is in the freezer, or they will be discarded. See Juli Sarris if you have any questions.

GOYA Lenten Retreat

April 4-6, 2025



The Metropolis of Denver will be hosting their annual GOYA Lenten Retreat at the Ponderosa Retreat Center in Larkspur, CO. If you have a middle or high school aged child and wish to register them, please visit <https://metropolisofdenver.regfox.com/goya-front-range-lenten-retreat>.

Philoptochos

Monthly Service Project

Orthodox Day Of Service

Saturday, March 29

Help support your Philoptochos by joining the **Orthodox Day of Service** that will take place at St. Luke in Erie. The local Orthodox community, Meals of Hope, and The Good Samaritan Project will come together to pack and donate 35,000 meals! People of all ages are welcome to join!

If you would like to help in the meantime, please consider donating towards the project to help with the purchase of supplies by scanning the QR code. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Dzilvelis at ashleydz1@hotmail.com.



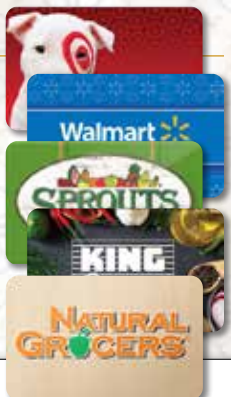
Philoptochos Membership Drive



Our annual membership drive has begun! If you would like to join this amazing charitable organization or renew your membership, complete the membership form and return to Sharon or Fran Dzilvelis (forms are available in the Narthex and the Hall). Contact Sharon or Fran with any questions (sharon_dzilvelis@yahoo.com, 303-495-8827) (fran_dzilvelis@yahoo.com, 303-775-6138).

Grocery Cards

Philoptochos sells gift cards to Walmart, Target, Safeway, Albertsons, Natural Grocers Vitamin Cottage, and Sprouts. See Julie Powers at the Philoptochos table in the Hall to make your purchase.



1973



2025



About Our Parish

We welcome visitors worshipping with us today. Our diverse church family encompasses Greek, Arab, Romanian, Serbian and Russian Orthodox Christians as well as many converts to the Orthodox Christian Faith.

The foundation of the Orthodox Church are the teachings and Holy Tradition of Jesus Christ. We follow the first Christians who began to worship Jesus Christ after the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is reserved only for baptized and/or chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared by prayer, fasting, and confession.

The Orthodox Church understands the reception of Holy Communion to be the highest expression of our faith. Both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike are invited to receive the 'antidoro' (blessed bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

*If you are new to our Parish or just visiting,
please join us for our fellowship hour following this morning's service.*

Priest

Fr Gabriel McHugh

Church Office

Shanyn Bateh, Parish Administrator

Choir Director

Presbytera Kedrann Dotson

Petranews

Rick Leonidas & Shanyn Bateh

Parish Council

Steven Dzilvelis, President
Michael Bateh, Vice-President
Jim Azar, Treasurer
Gabriel Chiriac, Secretary
Andriy Andreyev
Chris Artemis
David Dinsmore
Nick Karis
Nicole Tsiouvaras

Philoptochos

Dana Gall & Lis Troicky,
Presidents
Julie Powers,
Treasurer
Olga Coleman,
Secretary & Bookstore
Photini Westover,
Corresponding Secretary

Recurring Services

Sunday Divine Liturgy - 9:30am (Orthros - 8:30am) • Saturday Vespers - 5pm
Visit our website for a complete calendar of upcoming services and events.



Sts PETER & PAUL
1973
Greek Orthodox Church

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301
303.581.1434

office@stspeterandpaulboulder.org
stspeterandpaulboulder.org