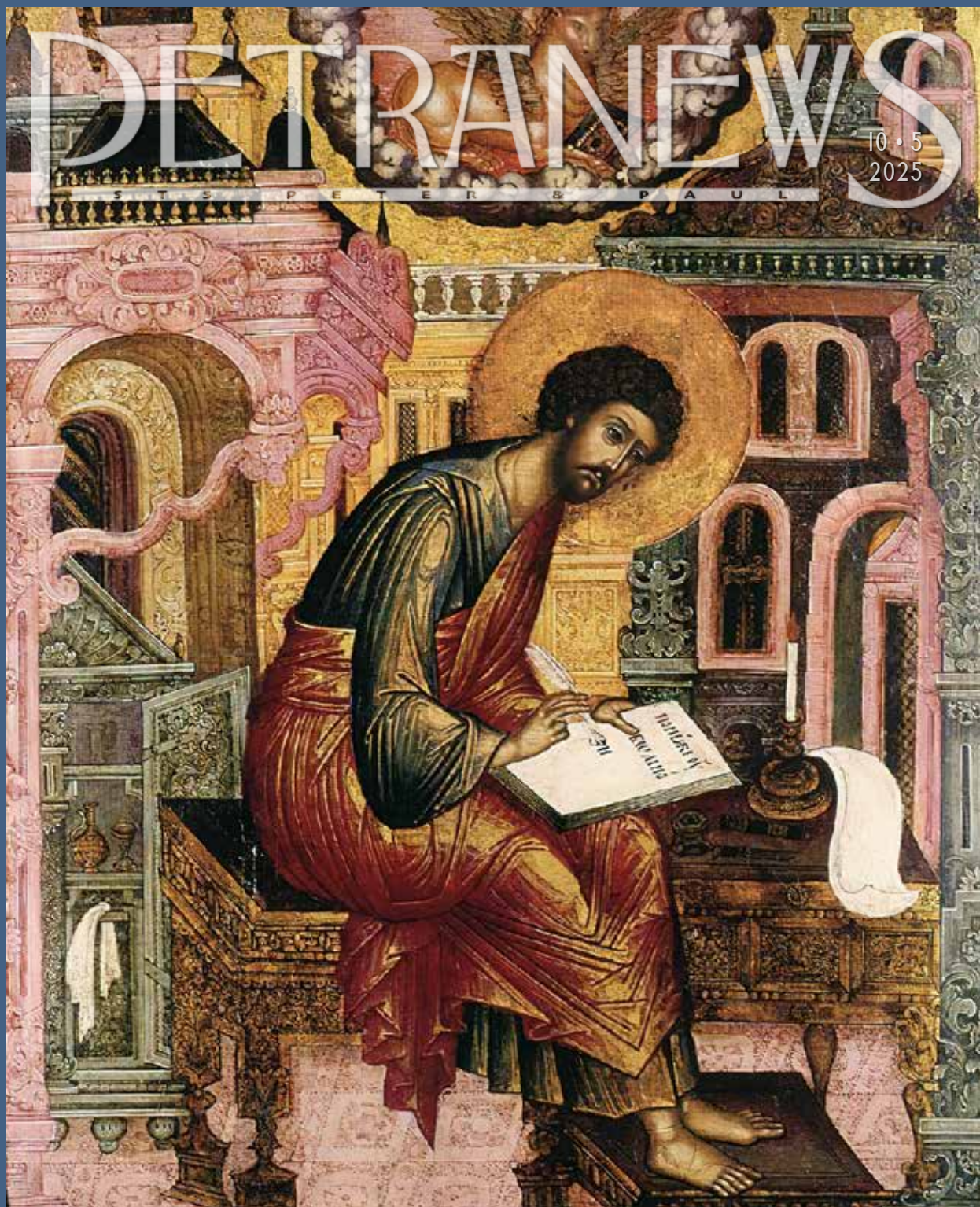


DET R A N E W S

10 • 5
2025



Memory Eternal

Please join us in prayer for the 4-year memorial of Voula Skodras and the 1-year memorial of Nick Skodras.

May their memory be eternal!

Welcome Dan Christopoulos!

Dan is the OCMC Senior Development Officer and is here to update us on the missionary efforts of OCMC around the world. Dan will have an information table set up during Fellowship to answer your questions. If you would like to make a gift to OCMC, we invite you to do so by scanning the QR code.



This Week's Services

Monday, October 6

Holy Apostle Thomas

Orthros _____ 8:30am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Thursday, October 9

Paraklesis _____ 6:00pm

Saturday, October 11

Vespers _____ 5:00pm

Sunday, October 12

Orthros _____ 8:30am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Today's Hymns

Resurrection Apolytikion

Mode Plagal 4

From the heights didst Thou come down,

O Compassionate One.

*And Thou didst submit to three-day burial
that from the passions Thou might deliver us.*

*O our Life and Resurrection, O Lord,
glory be to Thee.*

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

Mode 2

*A protection of Christians unshamable,
intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering,
reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin.
Instead, come to us for you are good;
your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you:
hasten to intercede,
and speed now to supplicate,
as a protection for all time,
Theotokos, for those who honor you.*

Scripture Readings for the Second Sunday of Luke

The Orthros Gospel according to Luke, 24:36-53

At that time, having risen from the dead, Jesus went up and stood among His disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; handle Me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish [and some honeycomb], and He took it and ate before them. Then He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the law of



Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name in all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the Temple blessing God.

Epistle: St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and



6:16-18; 7:1

I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

The Gospel according to Luke, 6:31-36

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what



credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."



Second Sunday^{of} Luke

Luke 6:31-36

Love of Enemies

When Jesus begins His ministry, He goes up on a mountain to pray and prays all night. When the day dawns, He gathers His disciples and chooses twelve of them to be His Apostles. Now, He begins to teach them what it means to be His disciples, and what it means to be transformed into His likeness. When He teaches them, He teaches us. We learn that following Christ involves reorienting our whole beings. It means being transformed in our soul (in Greek ἡ ψυχή), mind (in Greek, ὁ νοῦς), and body (in Greek, τὸ σῶμα).

After teaching about what it means to live a blessed life, Jesus warns His disciples about receiving praise from those who oppose the coming of the Kingdom of God. The Lord warns that to live and act like Him will inevitably cause hostility from those who live by the world's values rather than God's love. It is in this context that the Lord teaches about love of enemies. In other words, the Lord says that if the world hates us, remember that it hated Him before it hated us (John 15:18). Even more, He says, "love your enemies." We see that this is precisely what Jesus did.

In our times, the concept of "love" can be distorted to mean very different things. However, the Lord teaches us what genuine love means and how it is expressed concretely. We see the meaning of true love through what God has done and continues to do for us. Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God, the Logos Who is, Who was, and Who ever shall be. He has no beginning and no end. He is before all things, and in Him, all things exist. He created all things for us so that we may share in His love. The act of creation itself is an act of His profound love.

Yet, we, His beloved creation, turned away from Him in the Garden of Eden by desiring to become gods without God, and we do the same today by putting other idols before God such as money,

power, and luxury. Nevertheless, He chooses to become Incarnate (taking on human flesh) for our salvation. He took on all of human nature — except for sin. He embraced all the weaknesses of human nature. He hungered, thirsted, sweated blood, was betrayed, beaten, crucified, and buried. He did it all because of His great love for us, to redeem and restore us to our original unity with Him that we once enjoyed in the Garden of Eden. He destroyed death by death and rose from the grave to give us eternal life. This is the transformative power of love and forgiveness.

Christ ascended to Heaven from the Mount of Olives to prepare a place for us on the right hand of the Father. He united our broken humanity to his Divine Person so we could live with Him forever. He did it all because of His unending love for us. He died and resurrected to give us new life in Him. The Resurrection is the center of our Faith, and it is what gives us not only eternal life in Heaven, but new life now. Only in this new life can we truly love and forgive our enemies and do good to them.

The Lord teaches us this very love by His example. It is an unselfish love that desires the eternal good of our loved ones for their own sake. A concrete love is expressed not only in words but also in acts, as Christ did for us. His love has opened the doors to the Kingdom of Heaven for us and given us the grace of the Holy Spirit to be united with Him. We are transformed by this unity of Divinity and humanity. That is why He teaches and models what it truly means to love, and He also hopes that we love one another as He has loved us.

To be united to Christ by obeying His commandments and receiving the Holy Sacraments transforms us into His image and likeness. From His grace, we receive the greatest gift: His unconditional love. And we also receive great responsibility:



to love others as He loves them. We learn what love means from Him, and He teaches us to love as He does because He gives us the grace to do so. If we receive forgiveness and mercy from God when we may not deserve it, then we have the ability and responsibility to love others — even our enemies. We show love for our enemies through forgiveness. When we forgive those who wrong us, we imitate Christ, Who forgave those who were crucifying Him. This is the teaching and the motivation that Christ's love presents to us, to love even those who may seem unlovable.

Genuine love, therefore, is a love directed at all people — even our enemies. It is a concrete love coming from a compassionate heart. The Lord tells us to love our enemies and do good. There is an emphasis on the whole person expressing love, not only in the heart but in the actions of doing good and even giving one's possessions without expecting anything in return. It is a selfless love that not only forgives the wrongs done to us but actively seeks to bless those who have injured us.

Saint Porphyrios the Kavsokalyvia says, "When someone injures us in whatever way, whether with slanders or with insults, we should think of him as our brother who has been taken hold of by the enemy. He has fallen victim to the enemy. Accordingly, we need to have compassion for him and entreat God to have mercy both on us and on him, and God will help both."

God does not want us to be merely nice people. The Gospel does not say: be nice, as God is nice. Rather, God says: "be holy, for I am holy" (Leviticus 11:44). It is much more than just being nice or good — it is about being like God. We are in His image and called to become holy — in His likeness. As Saint Silouan the Athonite says, the measure of our holiness is

the measure of our love for our enemies. We begin to acquire this holiness, or love for enemies, by doing to others as we wish they would do to us; that is, by not returning evil for evil.

However, it is only by Divine Power that we return good for evil, which the Lord calls us to do. He calls us to be genuine and authentic Christians. That means we will be ready to forgive, give selflessly, and help whoever is asking for help whenever we are asked, no matter the circumstances. He calls us to offer sacrificial love, which means forgiving even our worst enemies. He gives us the grace to forgive and love selflessly when we call on Him for help, saying: "Lord, you see that I cannot forgive. You see that I cannot love selflessly. Help me." And He really does help us.

The Lord knows our weaknesses. Sometimes, we fall short and cannot be as good as we intend. We may even respond with evil for evil. He loves us regardless and helps our weaknesses and needs through His grace. Therefore, let us not lose hope when we fall, because God is full of understanding, mercy, and love. When we remember and experience His grace, we become channels of His love for others — especially our enemies. Those against us need our love more than anyone because only love can truly transform the world — never hatred.

God loves us even though we crucified Him. Likewise, we are called to imitate Him, and do good to those who do evil unto us because evil can only be dispelled by love — nothing else. Let us follow the example of the life and death of Jesus and show love to every person we encounter so we can do our part to help eliminate the evil of the world and fill it instead with Christ's love.



Events & Announcements

Ladies' Craft Night!

Hosted by the, **Mom's Group**
Saturday, October 11, 6-8pm



All the women of the parish are invited to a Ladies' Craft Night following Vespers at 5pm. Bring a craft you'd like to share — whether it's painting, knitting, cooking, or card making. We look forward to an evening of prayer, fun, and fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Troicky at stroicky@gmail.com.

Notice of Fall General Assembly

Sunday, October 26
Following the Divine Liturgy



All members of the parish are invited to attend our Fall General Assembly Meeting. For this meeting we will review and vote on the proposed 2026 Budget. If you have any questions leading up to the meeting, please see a member of the Parish Council. Thank you!

Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30am



Join us every Wednesday morning for Bible Study. This year we will be covering St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. Topics covered will include reconciliation and communion, the communion of saints, apostleship and the Church, the unity of the Church, and the Church and the world.

Church Family Community Nights

Thursday, October 16th



Come share an evening of prayer, fellowship, and fun with us! Once a month, our church family will gather to enjoy:

- Paraklesis or Vespers at 5pm
- A hosted spaghetti dinner at 6pm

Followed by...

- Adult Education with Fr. Benedict on the book of Psalms
- A GOYA discussion led by Fr. Gabriel

Grab a flyer in the Narthex for more details.

The Orthodox Christian Faith Class

Today, following Fellowship!
Divine Liturgy, Part 3



A two-part series on the Orthodox Christian faith will be offered on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy. The first four weeks of the series is titled "The Divine Liturgy" and will be offered by Fr. Gabriel. The following four weeks is titled "Philippians: Finding Joy in our Spiritual Lives" and will be offered by David Dinsmore. Everyone is welcome to attend, especially inquirers or catechumens who wish to learn more about the faith.

Parish Update

Community Planning Progress



We're pleased to share highlights from our ongoing strategic planning efforts, which will continue into early 2026. As milestones are reached, updates will be shared through multiple channels. If you have any questions regarding these highlights, please contact Michael Bateh at michael@stspeterandpaulboulder.org.

Leadership

- Secure file storage system in development
- Volunteer resource manual underway
- In-person leadership training course planned
- Simplified process forms being designed

Facilities

- Pothole repairs, new roof, and hall step improvements completed
- Architect engaged for long-term campus planning
- Daily maintenance continues for safety and beautification
- Preparing for Boulder County's pre-application process

Stewardship

- New stewardship team formed
- 12-month communication calendar drafted
- PK-2 Sunday school curriculum created
- 2026 campaign in development

Ministries

- Fellowship teams launched to deepen engagement
- Collaboration with Father Gabriel and ministry leads ongoing
- Monthly community nights introduced

Thank you for your continued support and participation.

Fellowship



Today's fellowship hour is hosted by the St. John Maximovitch Team. Thank you to Yana and Andriy Andreyev, Olga Coleman, Pres. Kedrann Dotson, Michelle Mann and Elizabeth Prevatte! To help host a fellowship hour, please contact Joanne Callas.

10/12: St. Demetrios Team

10/19: St. Genevieve of Paris Team

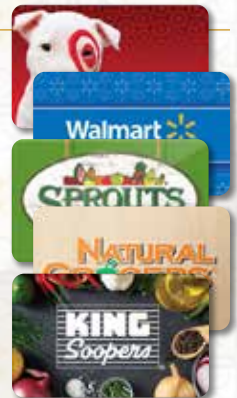
10/26: Parish Council

To schedule a memorial, please contact the church office.

Philoptochos

Grocery Cards

Philoptochos has 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

Welcome to Sts. Peter & Paul. 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.*

Clergy

Fr Gabriel McHugh
Fr Benedict Andersen

Church Office

Shanyn Bateh, Parish Administrator

Choir Director

Katherine Vest

PetraneWS

Rick Leonidas & Shanyn Bateh

Parish Council

Steven Dzilvelis, President
Michael Bateh, Vice-President

Jim Azar, Treasurer

Gabriel Chiriach, 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

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