

PETRO NEWS

8 • 31
2025

Η ΑΓΙΑ

ΟΧΕΤΙ



This Week's Services

Saturday, September 6

Vespers _____ 5:00pm

Sunday, September 7

Orthros _____ 8:30am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Fellowship

Thank you to our Young Adult League for hosting fellowship hour today!

9/7: Tinsley Family

9/14: Team Barbu2

9/21: OPEN

We invite you to sign up to host Fellowship Hour by visiting stspeterandpaulboulder.org/fellowship.

Hymns for the Commemoration of the Placement of the Holy Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos

Resurrection Apolytikon, Mode 3

*Let the heavens rejoice, and let things on earth be glad,
for the Lord has worked power with His arm;
He has trampled upon death by death;
He has become the first-born of the dead.
From the bowels of Hades has He delivered us,
and has granted great mercy to the world.*

The Deposition of the Precious Sash of the Theotokos

Mode Plagal 4

*O Ever-virgin Theotokos, shelter of mankind,
thou hast bestowed upon thy people a mighty investure,
even thine immaculate body's raiment and sash,
which by thy seedless childbirth have remained incorrupt;
for in thee nature and time are made new.
Wherefore, we implore thee to grant peace to the world,
and great mercy to our souls.*

Apolytikon 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

Thy precious sash, O Theotokos, which encompassed thy God-receiving womb, is an invincible force for thy flock, and an unfailing treasury of every good, O only Ever-virgin Mother.

Communion Hymns

*Praise the Lord from the Heavens, Alleluia.
I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord,
Alleluia.*

Scripture Readings for the Twelfth Sunday of Matthew

The Orthros Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been



28:16-20

given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen."

Epistle: St Paul's letter to the Hebrews, 9:1-7

Brethren, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the first one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the



covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people.

The Gospel according to Matthew, 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed from my youth; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor,



and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."



Twelfth Sunday of Matthew, Matthew 19:16-26

Riches and the Kingdom

After Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples on Mount Tabor, He started to teach them what it means to follow Him. He teaches them the meaning of the Kingdom of God. And how the values of God are sometimes different or opposite from the values of this world. In this passage, Jesus teaches us that total dependence on God is the key to constant communion with Him.

The rich young man wants to know more about the Lord's teaching on eternal life. He calls the Lord Good Teacher and asks what he can do to inherit eternal life. The answer to this question is crucial since having eternal life is the most significant human hope and God's greatest gift to us. We all know that this life will one day end, and so, in the very depths of our hearts, we wish to understand how we can have eternal life. The rich young ruler, despite his youth, was wise enough to go right to the heart of the matter.

Jesus, instead of answering him right away, responds with another question, as He often does. Jesus is drawing out a deeper consideration from the young man. The Lord asks, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good." And this is God. Jesus is drawing attention to the fact that He is indeed the Good Teacher, and the rich young ruler could see why: because not only is Jesus the Messiah, but He is the only true Good One, that is, the Son of God.

The Lord continues, "If you would enter life, keep the commandments." Here, the Lord teaches the young man by reminding him of the Ten Commandments (found in the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament). God gave the commandments to Moses and to the ancient people of Israel. The first part of the Ten Commandments refers to the love of God ("You shall have no other gods before Me," as found in Exodus 20:3 and the following verses). Jesus Himself is God, so after pointing that out to the young ruler, He mentions the second part of the commandments, which relates to the matters of love of neighbor.

God loves us infinitely, so when we respond with love to Him, we express that by keeping His commandments and living the way He teaches us to live. If we truly love our neighbor, as the Lord teaches, then the desire

to lie, steal, murder, covet, dishonor others, or do any injury to anyone diminishes. Jesus refers to this in the New Testament, giving the commandments a deeper perspective. He shows that the commandments are not a matter of purely external actions but a matter of the heart. The commandments, by themselves, do not carry as much weight if they are not understood as an invitation for a higher life, a life with Christ. This is a life that struggles for Christlike virtues like love, goodness, and compassion.

For Christians, the commandments are fulfilled when they are done through love and for love. Jesus is our role model, and He is perfect. He sets the ultimate bar that a human being can reach, and when this seems unattainable for us, He gives us hope. Whatever we think is impossible can be made possible by the grace of God.

Jesus' call to the young man gets to the root of the matter in his life. God knows us personally, and because of His love for us, He gives us the prescription that grants us healing so that we can be united with Him. Jesus says to the young man that if he desires to be perfect, he can sell his earthly possessions in exchange for treasure in heaven. Then, He says, "Come and follow Me." When the Lord uses the word "perfect" (in Greek: τέλειος), it means complete or mature. When the young man heard this, he left sorrowful, for he had great possessions. To be clear, the Lord does not call each of us to sell all we have, but He knows that this is what that young man needs for his life.

Jesus says that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. The image of a camel going through the eye of a needle is a simple analogy of impossibility. Apart from the love and grace of God, we cannot find eternal life. Whether rich or poor, we close ourselves to Him when we love anything more than the God who loves us. It is not a matter of how much money or possessions we have but a matter of the heart. It is a question of what our greatest treasure is: is it God or the possessions of this life? Christ invites us to imitate Him and place Him at the center of our lives.

Continued on the following page.



The Placing of the Cincture (Belt) of the Mother of God

Commemorated on August 31st

The Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos in a church of Constantinople's Chalcoprateia district took place during the reign of the emperor Theodosius the Younger. Before this the holy relic, entrusted to the Apostle Thomas by the Mother of God Herself, was kept by pious Christians at Jerusalem after Her Dormition. During the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise (886-911), his wife Zoe was afflicted with an unclean spirit, and he prayed that God would heal her.

The empress had a vision that she would be healed of her infirmity if the Belt of the Mother of God were placed upon her. The emperor then asked the Patriarch to open the coffer. The Patriarch removed the seal and

opened the coffer in which the relic was kept, and the Belt of the Mother of God appeared completely whole and undamaged by time. The Patriarch placed the Belt on the sick empress, and immediately she was freed from her infirmity. They sang hymns of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Theotokos, then they placed the venerable Belt back into the coffer and resealed it.

In commemoration of the miraculous occurrence and the twofold Placing of the venerable Belt, the Feast of the Placing of the Venerable Belt of the Most Holy Theotokos was established. Parts of the holy Belt are in the Vatopedi monastery on Mt. Athos, in Trier monastery, and in Georgia.

Source: oca.org

Continued from the previous page.

When counseling a rich man, Saint Kosmas Aitolos did not ask him to give alms to the poor, which would have been very easy for him. Instead, he asked him to fast since he had to deny himself and keep from the food readily available. By contrast, when counseling a poor man, Saint Kosmas did not ask him to fast, which was easy for him because he lacked food, but to give alms out of his poverty. God always provides us with the medicine we personally need to grow in His love.

The rich young ruler was self-sufficient, and Christ called him to become like a child, to desire nothing but the Lord himself, and to trust Him fully. Saint Basil the Great says, "He does not tell us to sell our goods because they are by nature evil, for then they would not be God's creatures; He, therefore, does not bid us cast them away as if they were bad but distribute them; nor is anyone condemned for possessing them, but for abusing them."

The commandment to follow Christ with all our hearts applies to each of us. We are all called to love Him above all things. Have Him always at the center of our lives so that everything we do flows from the

love of God. Some people are called to a more literal application of the passage. There was another rich young ruler named Anthony, a native of Egypt, born in the year 250. At about 20, he walked into a church and heard the words of Christ in this passage. Those words seized him, sold his inheritance, and took up the life of a hermit. Eventually, he became known as the father of monasticism, and we know him today as Saint Anthony the Great.

Not all of us are called to serve Christ in that exact way, but we are all called to follow Christ, regardless of our position in life and regardless of our possessions. The ultimate question is: What is our greatest treasure? If it is Christ, then we love God above all things, and the love of God will flow to us and through us to bless others. Becoming dependent on God, like a child is to its mother and father, is key to communion with Him. Even when we seem to struggle and stumble, let us always remember that all things are possible because of God's infinite love for us.

Source: goarch.org

Events & Announcements

Fellowship Teams

We would like to give a BIG thank you to the 65+ people who have volunteered and joined Fellowship Teams! We are 14 teams strong and growing! If you are interested in joining a team, please see Joanne Callas or Nicole Tsiouvaras. Thank you!



Sunday School

Next Sunday, September 7th

The first day of Sunday School classes is next week. This year we are asking that all parents register their children, new or returning. Please scan the QR code or visit our website at stspeterandpaulboulder.org/sundayschool to do so.



Snack Sign-Up

We invite parents to help contribute to Sunday School snacks and set-up this year! Find a family to pair up with and select a Sunday that you can help. Scan the QR code or visit our website to sign up. We thank you in advance!



If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to Aaron Wall at 720-400-6579 or awall609@yahoo.com or Cyndi Yost at 720-936-3613 or ck.yost@yahoo.com.

Metropolis of Denver Hierarchical Liturgy & Open House

Monday, September 8th

His Eminence Metropolitan Constantine of Denver invites you to attend the Feast Day celebration of the Metropolis of Denver Chapel. Orthros will begin at 8am followed by Hierarchical Liturgy. Following the services there will be an Open House and Reception.



Mom's Group Gathering

Wednesday, September 17th

10:30^{am}

All mothers of the parish are invited to join us for our first gathering at our fellowship hall! We will come together for fellowship and a discussion. Children are welcome! You may also plan to attend Liturgy and Bible Study before our meeting that morning. If you would like to be added to our group message to stay up on upcoming events, readings, or podcasts, please contact Sarah Troicky at stroicky@gmail.com.



Church Family Community Nights

**Beginning Thursday,
September 18th**



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

Our very first gathering kicks off on **Thursday, September 18**, and will be hosted by the Wednesday Wonder Workers! Grab a flyer in the Narthex for more details! We hope to see you there!

The Orthodox Christian Faith Class

**Classes Start
Sunday, September 21st**

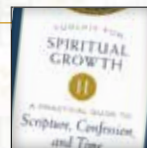


A two-part series on the Orthodox Christian faith will be offered on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy. The first four weeks of the series is titled "The Divine Liturgy" and will be offered by Fr. Gabriel. The following four weeks is titled "Philippians: Finding Joy in our Spiritual Lives" and will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

Philoptochos

Bookstore

Toolkit For Spiritual Growth II

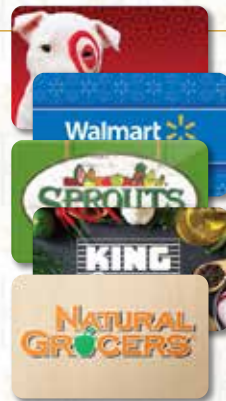


The sequel to Fr. Evan's (St. Spyridon) 'Toolkit to Spiritual Growth I,' relays the importance of Scripture reading, confession, and living in the present moment of time and is now available in our bookstore.

We also have new icons and prayer bracelets that have just arrived. Have you been wanting to try a new incense? We have sample packages for only \$2 or \$4! If you'd like to know more about the lives of St. Sophia and her daughters, Hope, Faith, and Love, we have a book in Greek. Please check out the bookstore or contact Olga Coleman.

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.





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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.*

Priest

Fr Gabriel McHugh

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 Chiriac, Secretary
Andriy Andreyev
Chris Artemis
David Dinsmore
Nick Karis
Nicole Tsiouvaras

Philotochos

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
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Greek Orthodox Church

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301
303.581.1434

office@stspeterandpaulboulder.org
stspeterandpaulboulder.org