

PETRANEWS

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

3 • 2
2025



This Week's Services

Monday, March 3

Start of Great Lent

Great Compline and
Canon of St. Andrew _____ 6:00pm

Tuesday, March 4

Great Compline and
Canon of St. Andrew _____ 6:00pm

Wednesday, March 5

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

Friday, March 7

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

Saturday, March 8

Vespers _____ 5:00pm

Sunday, March 9

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Orthros _____ 8:30am
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy ____ 9:30am
with Metropolitan Constantine
Procession of Icons _____ 11:30am
Pan-Orthodox Vespers _____ 5:00pm
at the Assumption Cathedral.

Today's Hymns

Resurrection Apolytikion

Mode 3

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

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 of the Sunday of Cheesefare

Mode Plagal 2

*O Thou Guide unto wisdom, Bestower of prudence,
Instructor of the foolish, and Defender of the poor:
establish and grant understanding unto my heart, O Master.
Grant me speech, O Word of the Father;
for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying unto Thee:
Have mercy, O Merciful One, on me who have fallen.*

Fellowship Hour

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

3/9: Fasting Potluck - OPEN

3/16: Joanne Callas

3/23: Fasting Potluck - OPEN

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

Scripture Readings for Judgment Sunday

The Orthros Gospel according to Mark, 16:9-10

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they sat at table; and he upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel



to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

Epistle: St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but



13:11-14; 14:1-4

not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

The Gospel according to Matthew, 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by



men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."



Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)

Matthew 6:14-21, How to Pray, Fast, and Trust in God

Forgiveness Sunday is the last day before we begin our journey through Great and Holy Lent, on our way to Pascha, the Feast of Feasts. With the Holy Feast of Pascha, we celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We celebrate the victory over death, as neither death nor the power of the grave could hold our Savior prisoner. However, this victory came through the Cross, for it was on the Cross that Christ frees us from our bondage to sin. Now, through faith in Him, we are restored, we are transformed, and we are once again capable of eternal life. Therefore, our Lenten journey is a way for us to be united to Him in His Crucifixion and Resurrection.

The Lenten journey is also an opportunity for renewal and reorientation toward God as we strengthen our commitment to Him. It is an opportunity to intensify our ascetic struggle (ἀσκησις in Greek) to actualize our potential to become saints by nurturing the transformative and sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. During Great Lent, we fast to open the door to a deeper spiritual dimension. We also intensify our prayer life to strengthen our bond with God, and we engage in works of charity to learn to love others more fully. The Gospel reading for Forgiveness Sunday prepares us for the beginning of our Lenten journey by setting out the Lord's basic teachings on fasting, praying, and giving.

There is a fundamental connection between forgiveness and prayer. Our Lord taught us to pray in simplicity and truth. He gave us the Lord's Prayer, where we call on God to "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Christ then tells us, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men

their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." We might fall or miss the mark at many points throughout our lives, and it is only through the love and mercy of God that we can be reconciled to Him. We do not approach forgiveness as a contractual undertaking. We forgive because we trust and give ourselves over completely to God's infinite love and compassion.

This reconciliation with God requires that we take on His qualities of love and mercy towards humankind. We learn in the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21-35) that it is insincere to seek the mercy and forgiveness of God when we are not willing to be merciful to others. Nothing makes us more like God than being ready to forgive the wicked and wrongdoers, just as He taught when He spoke of making the sun shine on both the evil and the good. Forgiveness may sometimes be a process that takes time. What is most important is our willingness to participate in the process. Recognizing our own sinfulness, we understand the depth of our need for forgiveness.

The Lord similarly teaches us about fasting. It is essential for us to understand both why and how we fast. In part, we fast to share in Christ's fasting at the beginning of His earthly ministry. As the ancient nation of Israel spent 40 years in the desert, so the Lord was led to the desert by the Holy Spirit, and there He fasted forty days and forty nights while He was tempted (Matthew 4:1-11). He was victorious over all the temptations the enemy put before Him. He then began His ministry on earth. Jesus, as the Second Adam, was victorious through fasting, whereas the first Adam failed to fast from the fruit of the tree and fell into sin (Genesis 3). As Saint Basil says, "We have been injured by sin; let us be healed by repentance. But repentance is futile without fasting ... It is because



we did not fast that we were banished from Paradise. So let us fast that we may return to it.”

Following in Jesus’s steps, we fast so that we learn discipline. Through our efforts, with the grace of God, we learn to control the passions which seek to rule over us. We grow in self-control, so our appetite and body no longer dominate us. Our prayer life improves as we simplify our lifestyle, becoming less preoccupied with cooking, eating, and entertainment. The Church calls on us to become less materialistic and more spiritual, think more about our salvation, and take a few weeks during Lent to put aside worldly concerns. As a result, we learn restraint and abstinence, which bring about spiritual growth and purity of heart. One of the most significant benefits of fasting is that it helps us grow spiritually. Fasting from food teaches us how to fast from sin, as both involve denying our impulsive desires and urges. We also fast to understand and empathize with our sisters and brothers who are hungry and in need. We fast in preparation to receive our Savior during Holy Week and the Great Feast of Pascha.

However, it is essential to understand how to best approach fasting to maximize the spiritual benefits. Our fasting from food is only beneficial if we also seek fellowship with God and others. That is why fasting cannot be separated from prayer, forgiveness, and almsgiving. An active participation in the sacramental life of the Church is also necessary. Parishes throughout the world offer Presanctified Liturgies during the week in order to spiritually sustain the faithful in the period of Great Lent. Through Holy Communion, Christ Himself sustains our fasting efforts throughout the week. Fasting accomplishes its purposes only when it is not an end in itself, but a means of encountering Christ. As we fast, we

focus on our own struggle, not on the efforts of others. We remember that the Pharisee fasted from food twice a week, but his heart was full of pride and judgment for others, so he could not benefit from fasting. The Lord, however, teaches us to fast with joy and in communion with Him: “Anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (Matthew 6:17-18).

The Lord further tells us not to store up treasures on earth, but treasures in heaven, for where our treasure is, there our heart will also be. We know this instinctively when we think of our loved ones. Our children represent our treasure, as do our parents, spouses, brothers and sisters, friends, and everyone we love. They are our treasures because we love them, so our hearts are with them. During Lent, we are presented with the opportunity to cultivate those relationships, but to also critically assess whether our hearts seek to cherish money, possessions, status, or other worldly things. These may not necessarily be evil if used for God’s glory, but they are not an end in themselves. To accumulate treasures in heaven means letting go of our attachment to worldly things, trusting in God, setting our heart on Him, and serving others in love.

May we open ourselves to God’s love and grace as we begin Great and Holy Lent. May it be a time of renewal and growth for all of us. May we draw ever closer to God, forgiving all injuries and insults, learning discipline and self-control over food, thoughts, words, and actions, and growing in love for God and each other. Our journey toward Pascha will place us on the path where His Cross can lead us completely to our own resurrection.



Events & Announcements

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity Class

No Class Today



Classes will resume next week 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 9am.

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 \$24,000! If you would like to learn more about our upcoming Consecration or would like to make a gift, please visit our website at stpeterandpaulboulder.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 stpeterandpaulboulder.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!

Road Closure

Jay Road between the northeast and southwest lanes of Colorado 119 (diagonal highway) will be closed to all modes of transportation. Feb. 28 to March 10. Alternate routes to and from church are advised.



Great Lent

With Great Lent beginning on Monday, March 3, we invite you to join us on our Lenten Journey towards Holy Week and Pascha. Grab a calendar with all upcoming Lenten services from the Narthex and help yourself to the Lenten reading materials in the fellowship hall. Be sure to schedule your Lenten confession with Fr. Gabriel by visiting our website. Please contact the church office with any questions.



Surrounding Lenten Events:

Lecture: Theosis in Icons at St. Tikhon Orthodox Church

Saturday, March 8, 3-4:30pm

All are invited to attend the parish of St. Tikhon's in Parker as Fr. Alexander Vallens gives a Lenten talk titled, "Theosis in Icons". Light refreshments served after. Vespers will begin at 5:30pm. All are welcome to attend!

Pan-Orthodox Vespers (All services begin at 5pm)

- March 9: Sunday of Orthodoxy at the Assumption Cathedral in Denver
- March 16: St. Gregory Palamas at the Holy Transfiguration Cathedral in Denver
- March 23: Sunday of the Cross at St. Elias in Arvada
- March 30: St. John of the Ladder at St. Luke in Erie
- April 6: St. Mary of Egypt at St. Herman in Littleton

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.



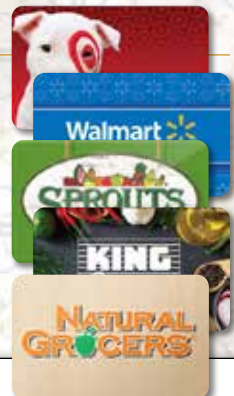
Philoptochos Membership Drive

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

Presbyteria Kedrann Dotson

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 Tricky,
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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