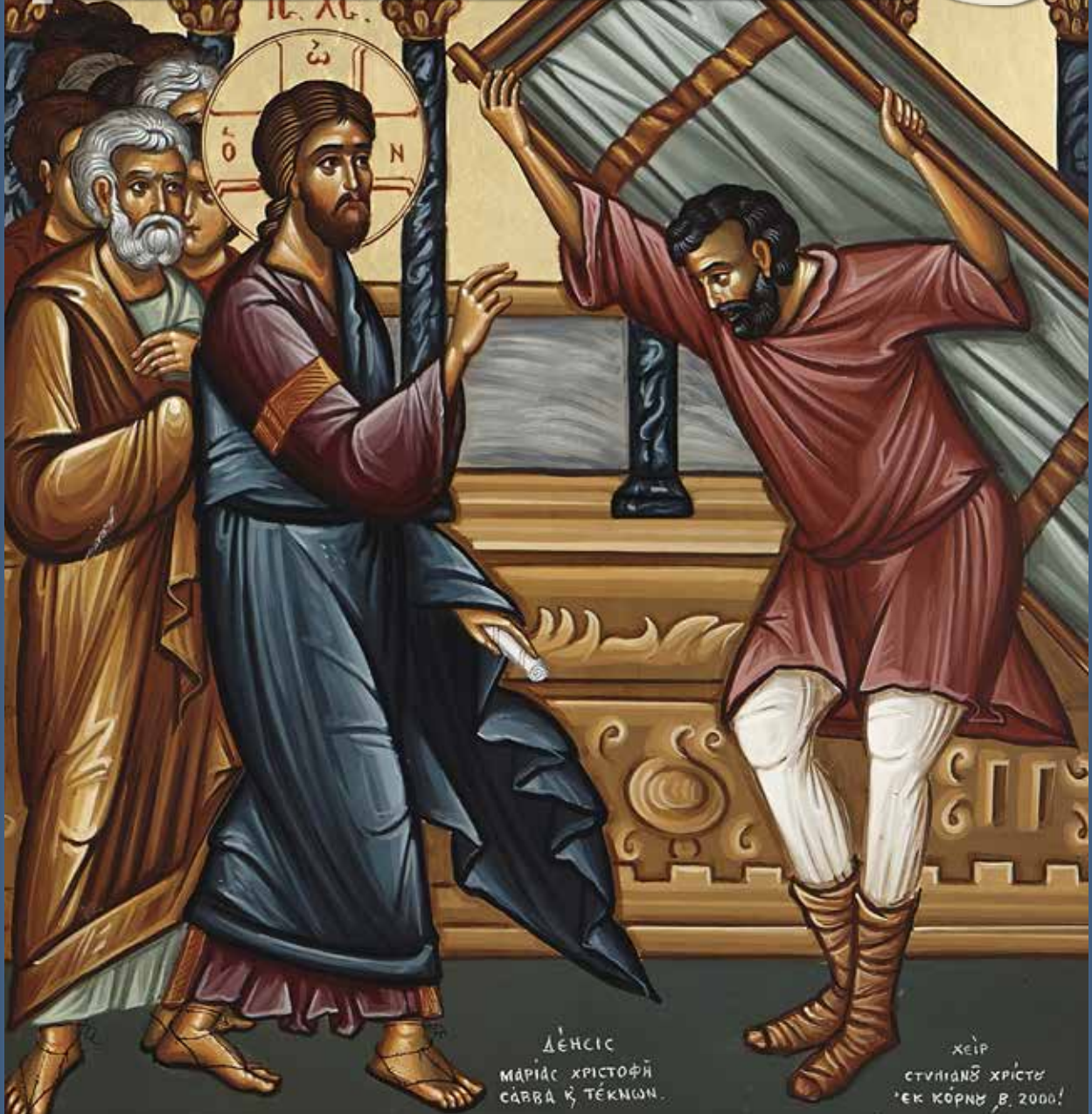


PETRA NEWS

5 • 11
2025

S T I S I C H R I S T O P H I S S A V V A K T E K N I W N



ΔΕΝΣΙΣ
ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΦΗ
ΣΑΒΒΑ Κ ΤΕΚΝΩΝ

ΧΕΙΡ
ΣΤΥΛΙΑΝΩ ΧΡΙΣΤΩ
ΕΚ ΚΟΡΝΥ Β. 2000!

40-Day Blessing

Join us in prayer for the 40-day blessing of Presbyteria Mercy and Catherine, Elizabeth and Lazarus, and Matia and Leonidas.

May God grant them many years!

This Week's Services

Wednesday, May 14

Mid-Pentecost

Divine Liturgy _____ 8:00am

Saturday, May 17

Vespers _____ 5:00pm

Sunday, May 18

Orthros _____ 8:30am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Fellowship

Thank you to the men of the parish for hosting today's Mother Day Luncheon!

5/18: Parish Council

5/25: YAL

6/1: Open

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

Today's Hymns

Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

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 for 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

*Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One,
yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades,
and didst arise as victor, O Christ God,
calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice,
and giving peace unto Thine Apostles,
O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.*

Hymn to the Theotokos

*The angel cried to the lady full of grace: Rejoice, rejoice, O pure Virgin!
Again, I say rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb.
With Himself He has raised all the dead, Rejoice, rejoice, O ye people.
Shine! Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem.*

*The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, exult, and be glad, O Zion.
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection, the resurrection of your Son.*

Communion Hymn

Receive the Body of Christ, taste from the immortal fount.

Instead of "We have seen the light..."

Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs He has granted life

The Orthros Gospel according to Luke, 24:12-35

At that time, 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.

[Orthros Gospel continued on page 4.](#)

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means gazelle. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was



there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which she made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

The Gospel according to John, 5:1-15

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said



to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk?'" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Sunday of the Paralytic

John 5:1-15

A Paralytic is Healed

The Gospel story of the man with paralysis is our story, too. We are all in need of healing, and we are incapable of saving ourselves. We need help from others, and ultimately, we need God's grace.

There was a healing pool on the outskirts of Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate, through which the animals to be sacrificed at the Temple passed. The pool was surrounded by five covered porches from which the water could be accessed. Many sick people with various ailments would lay on the porches, waiting for the water to be stirred up and the medicinal properties from the underground spring to be released. It was believed that an angel of the Lord would come and stir the water, giving it healing power. The first person to step into the stirring water was instantly healed. The pool was called Bethesda — which means "house of mercy" — because of the healing of many who suffered.

Jesus is in Jerusalem for a Jewish festival. He sees a man with paralysis by the pool who has suffered for 38 years. Jesus has compassion for him and asks, "Do you want to be healed?" Saint John Chrysostom says that Jesus does not ask this question for Himself. He does so to bring to light the great patience of the man, who for 38 years had sat by the pool with the hope of being healed. The man answers, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going, another steps down before me." Jesus responds, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." The man is healed at once, and he picks up his bed and leaves.

This healing occurs on the Sabbath (Saturday), the day of rest. The Jewish leaders accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath Law. Instead of praising God for the miracle, they condemn Jesus for not honoring the letter of the Law. This reminds us to commit ourselves more to the love of God and His grace than to rules and religious customs. "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

The pool is a metaphor for the Mosaic Law, and the man with paralysis is an image of Israel yearning to find salvation in the Law. The man was in his condition for a long time, just as Israel had been waiting for deliverance

from their long-awaited Messiah. Angels were said to have stirred the Pool of Bethesda, just as angels were said to have given the Law (Acts 7:53). The pool featured five entrances, just as the Mosaic Law (the Pentateuch) had five books. Christ is the embodiment and fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, and "by His wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

Only one of the many sick and disabled at Bethesda is healed by the Lord. Although Jesus has compassion for all, the Lord directs his attention to the one who had no one to help him. The man with paralysis represents each and every one of us. We all become spiritually paralyzed by the weight of our sins and our shortcomings. As the man with paralysis needed to be healed, we desperately need healing. As the man was unable to get to the waters himself, we also need Christ to help us.

Our healing begins with faith. The man with paralysis had waited for 38 years because others would get to the waters when stirred before he could. Still, he perseveres in faith. Jesus asks him if he wants to be healed because free will is always involved in God's miracles. God's love initiates the giving of His Grace, but it is up to us to respond freely by accepting His Grace. The love God offers humanity cannot be reconciled with force or pressure. Love is only compatible with freedom and trust. Christ knows the exact condition of the man with paralysis, but He still asks him if he wants to be healed. Christ knows the exact condition of each and every one of us, but He still asks us if we truly want salvation.

Later, Jesus finds the man in the Temple and says, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The Lord's instruction draws attention to the underlying condition of the paralysis — the relationship between suffering and sin. As the Gospel story demonstrates, our bodies and souls are interconnected. The health of our body, mind, and spirit are interdependent. A spiritual problem may have physical consequences, and physical problems may cause psychological or spiritual issues.

The Church, like a hospital, offers holistic treatment for all that afflicts us in body and soul. We receive the medicine of God's grace through personal prayer — especially the Jesus Prayer and the Psalter (Book of Psalms) — the Divine Liturgy, and most of all, the Holy Sacraments.

The healing waters in the Pool of Bethesda are a symbol of Baptism. But where the waters of Bethesda cured physical ailments, Baptism cures those of the soul. But even after our Baptism, we still experience the paralysis caused by sin and need further healing.

Orthros Gospel continued from page 2.

And behold, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk, looking sad?" Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had

Confession — called "a second baptism" — is where God's grace heals us through our repentance and the priest's absolution prayers read over us. Holy Unction is the Sacrament of spiritual and physical healing. And it is in the Holy Eucharist that our body and soul are healed by receiving Christ's Body and Blood.

Like the man with paralysis, the Lord sees us and wants to heal us. As we persevere in faith and participate in the Holy Sacraments of the Church, we will continually receive healing of our soul and body with the promised gift of eternal life.

said; but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Events & Announcements

Mother's Day Luncheon

Today

The men of Sts. Peter & Paul invite everyone to honor the mothers, grandmothers, and godmothers of our parish! Please join us for our annual luncheon following the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to celebrating with all of you!



Sunday School

Last Day, Today!

There will be a brief end-of-year ceremony that will take place on Sunday, May 18 following the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to ending the school year with your child!



Bible Study

Wednesday, May 14th at 9:30am

Join us for Bible Study every Wednesday! If you would like to get caught up with our study, visit our website at stspeterandpaulboulder.org/podcast to listen to Fr. Gabriel's podcast "Alive in Christ."



General Assembly Meeting

Sunday, May 18th
Following Liturgy

Our Spring General Assembly is coming up. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for our bi-annual meeting following the Divine Liturgy. We will discuss several big items related to the church, including an overview of our budget and a vote to move forward our Strategic Plan. Please see any member of the Parish Council if you have any questions.



Women's Hike

Sunday, May 18th, 1pm

All women are invited to a relaxing hike around Walden Ponds, just a five minute drive from church! The most recent hike was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the ladies have expressed interest in having another gathering. If you're interested, email/text Kate Vest at Katherine.lynn.vest@gmail.com 205-807-3368 for more details.



Baptism of Catherine McHugh

Saturday, May 31st at 11am

Fr. Gabriel and Pres. Mercy invite you to attend the baptism of their daughter Catherine on Saturday, May 31 beginning at 11am. If you plan to attend and have not yet notified Father or Presbytera, please email the church office at office@stspeterandpaulboulder.org.



Names for the Altar

During the Consecration of our Church, a list of names of our loved ones, living and departed, will be placed and sealed in the Holy Altar. We invite you at this time to submit the names of your loved ones that you would like included by visiting our website at stspeterandpaulboulder.org/consecration



Blazing Brick Run

August 16th

The college ministry at Saints Peter and Paul, Rooted, is hosting the Blazing Brick bike ride to raise money for college students to be able to take part in Rooted events, regardless of financial capacity. You can ride 100 miles, 100 kilometers, or take part in the 5+ mile Family Ride, and join the party at the finish line as we raise scholarship money for any college student to take part in Rooted retreats and trips in 2026, like our spring break trip to the Saint Paisius monastery. We will help you go from the couch to a century ride, so you don't have to be an experienced cyclist! Contact Gabriel Chirac for more information.



Lost and Found

Please stop by the tables in the fellowship hall near the bulletin board to see if you have any items that are missing. There are sunglasses, reading glasses, water bottles, coats, jackets, prayer ropes and so much more! Items not claimed by 5/18 will be donated. Thank you for your understanding.



Senior Event - Thank you!

We kicked off our new senior ministry with an English High Tea and bingo! A wonderful time was had by all. A BIG thank you to Joanne Callas, Nicole Tsiouvaras, and all the others that helped that day to make the event such a success! Watch the bulletin for info on the next event. Interested in helping? Contact Nicole or Joanne.

Philoptochos

2025 Membership Drive

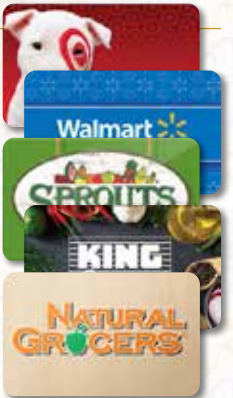
**To all the women
of our growing community...**



Would you like to join this amazing charitable arm of Sts Peter & Paul? 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.



King Soopers Shoppers:

Create an account with your loyalty card at kingsoopers.com. Then link your account to "Sts Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos" by doing the following: 1) Sign-in to your account and select "community rewards" (left-hand side, under my account); 2) Search for "Sts Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos", under category "faith based"; 3) Select enroll. Remember to use your loyalty card whenever you shop and your Philoptochos will receive a portion of your purchase.

1973



2025



About Our Parish

We welcome visitors worshiping 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 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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