

# PETRANEWS

5 • 4  
2025

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



### Memory Eternal

Please join us in prayer for the memory of Aristides (14 years) & Demetra (3 years) Stamus; and Nick Pappas (8 years).

### This Week's Services

#### Thursday, May 8

##### St. John the Theologian

Orthros \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30am

Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 9:30am

#### Saturday, May 10

Vespers \_\_\_\_\_ 5:00pm

#### Sunday, May 11

Orthros \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30am

Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 9:30am

### Fellowship

Thank you to the Stamus and Sarris families for hosting fellowship hour today!

5/11: Mother's Day Luncheon

5/18: Parish Council

5/25: YAL

We invite you to sign up to host Fellowship Hour by visiting our website at [stpeterandpaulboulder.org/fellowship](http://stpeterandpaulboulder.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 2

*When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nether world, all the powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.*

*The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the tree, and having wrapped it in pure linen and spices, laid it for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day Thou didst arise O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.*

*Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave. Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting 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, 24:1-12

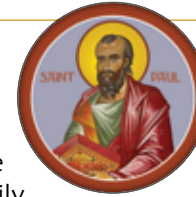
On the first day of the week at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking spices which they had prepared. And they



found the stone rolled away from the tomb, *Orthros Gospel continued on page 4.*

### Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

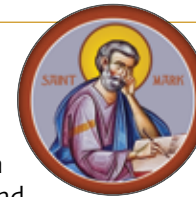
In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer



and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

### The Gospel according to Mark, 15:43-47; 16:1-8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and



anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## The Burial and the Empty Tomb

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus are secret disciples of Jesus. They are also members of the powerful assembly of Jerusalem, known as the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the Jewish religious leaders' supreme judicial and administrative council, composed of 71 members. For any member of the Sanhedrin to openly display a connection with Jesus Christ would place them in grave danger.

Yet, Joseph had opened his heart to God's will and eagerly sought His Kingdom. He courageously goes to the governor, Pilate, and asks for the Body of the Lord to give Him a proper burial. Pilate marvels that Jesus is already dead. Crucifixion was a method of punishment reserved for the vilest criminals. The purpose of crucifixion as a method of execution was to inflict long-lasting pain and torture. A crucified person would die publicly and slowly to deter others from criminal behavior.

On Friday, when the Lord is crucified, the Jewish people do not want to profane the holy Sabbath, which was to begin at sunset. Therefore, they ask the Romans to break the legs of Jesus and the thieves to accelerate their death and to remove them from the cross. As we read in the Gospel of John: "The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out" (John 19:32-34).

This was to fulfill the Old Testament prefiguring of Christ as the Paschal lamb — the lamb sacrificed at Pascha — about which Moses instructed the people: "Nor shall you break one of its bones" (Exodus 12:46). As the centurion pierces the side of Jesus to make sure He was dead, water and blood pour forth. This has profound significance. Just as Eve, the spouse of Adam, was born from his side in Paradise, so the Church, the spouse of Christ, is born from His side on

the Cross. The water and blood symbolize the two essential sacraments of the Church — Baptism and Eucharist. For it is in the waters of Baptism that each Christian becomes a member of Christ's Church. And it is in the Eucharist that each Christian is nourished with Christ's Body and Blood.

When Pilate learns from the centurion that the Lord is dead, he grants the Body to Joseph, who wraps Him in a linen shroud to prepare Him for burial. Joseph lays Jesus in an unused tomb carved out of the rock, and he rolls a stone against the door. As Christ was born in a cave and innocently lies in a manger, He rises from a cave and victoriously exits a tomb.

The Sabbath starts at sunset on Friday, as they put the Lord in the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus, see where He is laid. The Lord fulfills the Sabbath rest by laying in the tomb on Saturday. On Sunday, the first day of the week, He recreates all things. Christ's resurrection is the new beginning of life — of humanity's reunion with God and all of creation as a manifestation of God's glory. When the Sabbath was over, in the early morning hours of Sunday, the women bring spices to anoint Christ's Body. This is why they are called the "Myrrh-Bearing Women." They wonder: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?"

When the women arrive, they see that the large stone is already rolled back. This was not because the Lord needed a stone to be removed for Him to exit the tomb. His glorified and divinized Body can appear and vanish (Luke 24:31), enter a house where the doors were locked (John 20:19), and ascend to heaven (Luke 24:51). The stone was rolled away not for Him, but for the first witnesses to the Resurrection, to show that He is truly risen!

As the women enter the tomb, they see a shining angel sitting where Christ was laid. And the angel says to them: "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here . . .

go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." The women leave the tomb but are astonished and say nothing to anyone, for they are afraid.

The Myrrh-Bearing Women are the first to witness the most extraordinary event of all time, which changes the course of history and provides the cure to what has plagued humanity since the Fall. The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ defeats the works of the Evil One and opens the door to man's salvation. It is not the Apostles or the other disciples, but the Myrrh-Bearing Women who first learn the most fundamental truth of our Faith. "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17).

Let us consider for a moment what this means for us today. Women performed an essential ministry in the life of Christ. And it is women who continue to offer themselves in service to Christ throughout our churches today. In the Gospel, the remarkable role of women is highlighted from the very beginning. It was from a woman that the God-Man, Christ Jesus, was born. It was women who financially supported Jesus and His disciples (Luke 8:3). It was women who had the courage to accompany Christ during

His arrest and trial. It was women who were present when Christ was crucified. It was women who came to the tomb to anoint His Body with myrrh oils. They do not fear the Jewish leaders or the Roman soldiers who would have been expected to be guarding the tomb. It is not surprising, then, that it was women who were the first to witness Christ's resurrection because it was women who first went to the tomb.

The Kontakion hymn for the Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-Bearers reads, "In saying Rejoice to the myrrh-bearers, You allayed the lament of the first mother Eve, at Your Resurrection, O Christ our God. And You ordered Your Apostles to proclaim, "The Savior has risen from the sepulcher."

The example of godly women is what the Church provides for us today. As Saint John Chrysostom says, "Do you see the women's courage? Do you see their affection? Do you see their noble spirit in matters of money? Their noble spirit even unto death? Let the men imitate the women." Let us uphold the privileged place of women in the Church. And, most of all, let us imitate the women who accompanied Christ throughout His life and death. And may we, like the Myrrh-Bearing Women, experience the grace of His resurrection.

*Orthros Gospel continued from page 2.*

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.

## Events & Announcements

### Strategic Planning Committee

**Next Meeting:**  
**Today, 12-2pm**



The Strategic Planning Committee is thrilled to share the action steps we've developed to address our four objective focus areas, as well as our updated Mission and Vision statements.

We invite the entire parish to join us for three open forum sessions, where you'll have the opportunity to:

- Learn more about our plans for the future
- Ask questions to the committee members
- Provide valuable feedback

These sessions will begin after Pascha and will offer a combination of virtual and in-person options to ensure everyone can participate. Grab a 'Strategic Plan Overview' from the Narthex to see what the meeting will cover.

- Sunday, May 4th after fellowship, 12-2pm.
- Saturday, May 10th before Vespers, 3:30-4:30pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Bateh at [michael@stpeterandpaulboulder.org](mailto:michael@stpeterandpaulboulder.org). We look forward to your engagement as we work together to shape the future of our parish!

### General Assembly Meeting

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**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.

### Bible Study

**Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am**



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

### Blooms & Brims

**Fashion Show & Luncheon**  
Assumption Cathedral  
Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 11am



Attention all Ladies of the church! We are trying to get together a group of at least 10 women from our parish to attend this fun-filled fashion show event at the Cathedral. Cost - \$60. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by May 4th to Jan Marose at 303-817-9675 or [jmarose@comcast.net](mailto:jmarose@comcast.net). For more information, visit [denverphiloptochos.com](http://denverphiloptochos.com) or contact Jan.

### Mother's Day Luncheon

**Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**following Liturgy**



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

Parents, mark your calendars! The last day of Sunday School classes will be Sunday, May 11. 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!



### Women's Hike

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:Katherine.lynn.vest@gmail.com) (205)-807-3368 for more details.

### Holy Week Images

Images from Holy Week are available for viewing and download on the Church's Google drive by using the Qr code (Many of the same images can also be found on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/SaintsPeterAndPaulGreekOrthodoxChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/SaintsPeterAndPaulGreekOrthodoxChurch/))



You are also invited to share your **best photos** that you may have taken during Holy Week. (If photos include people other than your family, please make sure you have their permission to share!) Cheeeeese!

### 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 [stpeterandpaulboulder.org/consecration](http://stpeterandpaulboulder.org/consecration)



## Philoptochos

### 2025 Membership Drive

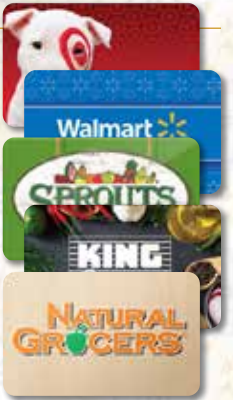
**To all the women  
of our growing community...**



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](mailto:sharon_dzilvelis@yahoo.com), 303-495-8827 [fran\\_dzilvelis@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://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 'antidoron' (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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