

PETRANEWS

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

4 • 21
2024



This Week's Services

Tonight

Pan-Orthodox Vespers _____ 5:00pm
at St. Elias in Arvada, CO

Monday, April 22

Great Compline _____ 6:00pm

Wednesday, April 24

Presanctified Liturgy _____ 5:00pm

Friday, April 26

Presanctified Liturgy _____ 8:00am

Saturday, April 27

Lazarus Saturday

Orthros _____ 8:30am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

followed by Pancake Breakfast,
Palm Folding, & Youth Confessions.

Baptisms _____ 3:00pm

Vespers _____ 5:30pm

(please note time change)

Sunday, April 28

Palm Sunday

Orthros _____ 8:30am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Bridegroom Service _____ 5:00pm

Hymns for the Sunday of St Mary of Egypt

Resurrection Apolytikion

Mode Plagal 1

Let us worship the Word,

*Who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit,
and from a virgin was born for our salvation,
O believers, and let us sing His praise.*

*For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh,
and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died,
by His glorious Resurrection.*

Apolytikion for Saint Mary of Egypt

Mode Plagal 4

*In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother;
for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ,
and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh,
for it passeth away, but to attend to the soul since it is immortal.
Wherefore, O righteous Mary, thy spirit rejoiceth with the Angels.*

Apolytikion for our Patron Saints

Tone 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

*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.*

Hymn to the Theotokos

*In thee, who art full of grace all creation rejoiceth:
both the congregations of angels and the human race.
O consecrated temple and spiritual paradise, the boast of virgins,
from thee was God incarnate and became a child,
He our God Who existed before the ages;
for He made thy womb a throne,
and He made thee more spacious than the heavens.
In thee who art full of grace all creation rejoiceth.
Glory be to thee.*

Memory Eternal

Join us in prayer for the 40-day memorial
of Catherine Panagoulis.

May her memory be eternal!

Fellowship Hour

Thanks to the Callas family for hosting
today's Fellowship hour.

4/28: Philoptochos Fish Luncheon

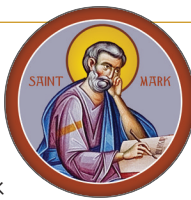
5/5: Pascha Picnic

5/12: Mother's Day Luncheon

Scripture Readings for the Sunday of St Mary of Egypt

The Orthros Gospel according to Mark, 16:1-8

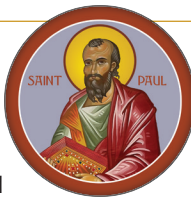
When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back – 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.

Epistle: St Paul's letter to the Hebrews, 9:11-14

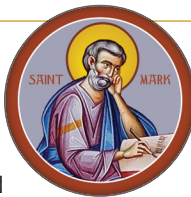
Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled



persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

The Gospel according to Mark, 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus took his twelve disciples, and he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am



baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



Sunday of St Mary of Egypt

On the Gospel of Mark 10:32-45 (Jesus' Third Prophecy of His Passion)

In this Gospel reading, the Lord prepares His disciples for His Crucifixion and Resurrection. The Apostles James and John, who were brothers, come to the Lord and ask to receive a place of special honor in the Kingdom because they did not understand what lied ahead. Like the other disciples, they could not yet fully understand what the Lord came into the world to accomplish.

James and John looked at Christ through the lens of the world around them. They thought that Christ was the Messiah expected by the Jewish people to liberate them from the foreign occupation of the Roman Empire. They thought that Jesus would lead a political uprising and destroy the enemies of Israel to restore the earthly kingdom of David. James and John wanted to secure a preferred status in the Kingdom of Christ, as they were imagining it.

They said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." The Lord answered them, "What do you want me to do for you?" James and John tried to gain advantage as viewed purely from the perspective of earthly power and glory. They asked the Lord to grant them to sit, one at His right hand and one at His left, in the coming Kingdom. Even though Jesus told them that His path was to voluntarily accept the Cross, the disciples continued to imagine that He would soon be enthroned in Jerusalem.

The symbolism of sitting at the right and left of the King's throne points to the position of the highest honor in the Kingdom. However, as Jesus would answer Pilate, the Kingdom of Christ is not of this world (John 18:36), and its glory is not of worldly power. Therefore, the Lord tells the brothers, "You do not know what you are asking." The brothers did not understand that being followers and disciples of Christ means participating in His sacrifice.

Therefore, Jesus asks them, "Are you able to drink the

cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" The reference to the "cup" points to the Lord's passion which He was to suffer. Likewise, the "baptism" to which He refers means dying to this world before being raised to new life. Our own baptism is a mystical union with Christ, by which we are buried with Him so that we can be raised with Him (Romans 6:3-5). Our own journey in the faith and our own path to the Kingdom of Christ begins with being received into the Church through baptism.

James and John did not yet fully understand what that meant, yet hastily said they were able to drink the "cup" and receive that "baptism." Christ, in His love, responds, saying they would indeed be united to Him by drinking that "cup" and receiving that "baptism." However, the Lord meant that, like Him, they would be martyred. As Saint John Chrysostom explains, "[Jesus] foretold great things for them; that is, you shall be held worthy of martyrdom, you shall suffer the things I have suffered, you shall end your life with a death from violence, and in this also you shall be sharers with me."

Christ says to His disciples that to sit at His right and left hand is not His to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared. Elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus says that He does not seek His own will but the will of the Father (John 5:30). It is therefore the Father who "has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name . . . that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11).

To be united with Christ means to suffer and die with Him before being raised to eternal life. As we prepare ourselves for the Kingdom through faith, repentance, and service to others, we draw near to God. And He, through His love, also prepares the Kingdom for us as a fulfillment of our desire to be with Him. The Cross comes before the Resurrection, as humility comes before grace.





true foretaste of the coming Kingdom, connecting us to God and to others. We can already experience that joy and hope as we partake of the Body and Blood of the Resurrected Christ.

The Lord teaches that life in Christ is, in many respects, opposed to the values of this fallen world. Christ makes clear that whoever would be great in the Kingdom is called to be humble, and whoever would be first is called to be of service to others. God the Son came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life for many.

We do not expect rewards for our good works, as if God owes us something. We rely entirely on the grace and love of God. We follow Him because we love Him and entrust ourselves completely to His love. As Saint Porphyrios of Kafsokalyvia says, "Whatever you want, my Lord, whatever your love desires. I know I am not worthy . . . There is one thing I want, one thing I desire, one thing I ask for, and that is to be with You, wherever and however You wish." Our love for Christ is not offered in selfish terms, or in pursuit of personal gain. It is offered for the sake of the One who loved us and gave Himself up for us and for our salvation.

Therefore, as we come to the Lord and ask Him to help us, let us pray that He will teach us how to serve Him and to serve others as He did — with sacrificial love. May all we do be for the glory of God. Let us continue our journey on the path of repentance, humility, peace, and love. By embracing our cross with joy, for the sake of Christ, and with complete confidence in His love for us. Let us unite ourselves to Him and constantly seek to renew our membership in the Church by doing good works in witness to His Glory. May we continuously seek to become like our Lord, seeking not to be served, but to serve.

When the other disciples heard about James and John asking the Lord for privileges and earthly glory, they were displeased — not necessarily because they already understood the true meaning of the Cross and the Kingdom — but because they were envious. They wished for the same privileges. The Apostles were still on a journey of discovery. They were still learning that the true glory of Christ is sacrificial love, that is, to dedicate one's own life for the benefit of others.

The Lord invites us to participate in His struggle and be patient with the challenges in life. In persevering, we may even endure persecution for His name's sake. Whenever we sacrifice our desires so we can fulfill God's will or our needs for the needs of others, we undergo a voluntary martyrdom. This is the way to receive grace and to secure our status in heaven. We can be confident that behind every challenge and struggle, there is redemption and deliverance. Behind the Cross of Christ, and our own crosses, lies the joy of the Resurrection. We begin to experience the Resurrection even now, every time we celebrate the Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy is a

Events & Announcements

White Eggs Needed for Pascha

... by **April 28th**

Our Wednesday Wonder Workers have volunteered to take on the dyeing our eggs for Pascha! Based on the dye that they are using (sold in our Philoptochos bookstore), they are asking that WHITE eggs are donated for Pascha this year. While you are out doing your shopping, please grab a carton of white eggs (not boiled!) to donate to the Church.



Wednesday Wonder Workers

April 24th at 9:30^{am}

We'll be preparing for our upcoming Palm Sunday luncheon and Pascha Picnic. We welcome all that are willing to assist with the preparations. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Ashmun at horizon80501@yahoo.com.



St Augustine Restoration

Pascha Basket Fundraiser

Deadline to order, 4/29

Built in 1912, St. Augustine Orthodox Church in Glendale has been long overdue for upgrades including Iconography and we need your help. To support our project you can purchase a lovely Pascha basket for yourself or loved one. There's small basket (\$65), large basket (\$120), and ala carte items (\$5-30) available. Visit our Facebook page for more details or scan the QR code to order.



Men of Sts Peter & Paul

Mother's Day Luncheon

Sunday, May 12th

This year, Mother's Day falls the weekend after Pascha. We plan to continue our tradition of honoring our mothers with a luncheon following the Divine Liturgy. To make this possible, we need your help! We need help with set-up, preparation of food for approximately 125 people, and clean-up. Contact Nick Karis at nickandsandy77@gmail.com or 908/698-3635 with any questions.



Baptisms on Lazarus Saturday

Saturday, April 27th - 3^{pm}

The parish is invited to attend the baptisms of our four catechumens. There will be a reception following with light refreshments. May God grant them many years!



Confession

Additional confession slots have been made available Lenten confession, including Palm Sunday and Holy Tuesday. Reserve your spot today by visiting our website and clicking on the "Meet with Fr. Gabriel" button. If you need assistance with scheduling, please contact Shanyn at the Church Office.



Quiet Room Registry

Our Quiet Room will be undergoing a transformation! At the request of several parents, a registry has been established so that we may redecorate the room. If you are interested in contributing towards new furniture items for the Quiet Room, please scan the QR code to access the registry. As items are received, they will be added to the room. Many of the larger items will be moved out this week, so please be patient with us as we piece together this project. Thank you!



Lenten Series Class

Fr. Gabriel's Lenten Series Class continues today following the Divine Liturgy from 12-1pm. The series will cover Lenten topics starting with the Triodion and going through each of the Sundays of Great Lent. Visit our website or grab a flier from the Narthex for more information.



Bible Study

Friday, 9:30^{am}

Please note that during Lent, Bible Study will move to Friday mornings following Presanctified Liturgy. If you would like to get caught up with our study, please visit Fr. Gabriel's podcast "Alive in Christ" on our website.



Lazarus Saturday Activities

Palm Folding & Pancake Breakfast Following Divine Liturgy



Join us for our annual pancake breakfast followed by the age-old tradition of trying to remember how we folded palm fronds into crosses last year!

Youth Confessions

Fr. Gabriel will also be holding youth confessions during that time for all Sunday School aged children.

Holy Friday Activities

Decorating of the Kouvouklion Following Royal Hours – 9:30am



Young and old are encouraged to join in this day of preparation. We will be decorating the kouvouklion with flowers, preparing the candles for the Lamentations and Pascha services, eggs for the children's Easter Egg Hunt, and cleaning the Church. We thank you for your participation.

Philoptochos

April Monthly Service Project

Project Mexico April 14th - Fellowship Fundraiser



This month our Philoptochos will be supporting our missionary group headed to Project Mexico this upcoming summer! The cost for the three people to attend is approximately \$4,000. If you can contribute towards this, please visit our website at www.stspeterandpaulboulder.org/philoptochos. Click on the "Donate" button and select "Fundraiser Luncheons" when making your donation. We thank you for your support for this project!

Later in the month, we will have former Project Mexico missionaries share their experiences from their trip. A date will be announced later.

Pascha Bake Sale

Cookies-\$25/box **The deadline to order is TODAY!**

Cookie boxes are filled with your favorite ethnic cookies of Baklava, Koulourakia, Kouembeithes, Paximathia, Melomakarona, Finikia, Gurabeh. Order forms are available on-line or at the Philoptochos table in the hall. Pick-up April 27 or 28.

Bookstore

Please check out the front glass case for newly-arrived Pascha items. There are children's books, icons, Ukrainian decorated eggs and, of course, Easter egg dye. Please see Olga if you have any questions.



For those of us who would like to better understand the meaning of Lent, here are a couple of short paperback gems available in our bookstore:

Meditations for Great Lent – shows us how to make our fast acceptable: to fast not only from food but also from sin.

Great Lent, Journey to Pascha – examines the meaning of Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts and other aspects of Lenten worship.

Bakers Needed

If you are able to contribute towards the baking of cookies, or are willing to help with assembly, contact Juli Sarris (jl80303@gmail.com) or Presbytera Kedrann Dotson (kedrann@gmail.com). Cookies are due to the Church by Sunday, April 21, and box assembly will take place on Thursday, April 25 beginning at 5pm.



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2024



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 '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

Parish Council

- Steven Dzilvelis, President
- Michael Bateh, Vice-President
- Jim Azar, Treasurer
- David Dinsmore, Secretary
- Andriy Andreyev
- Gabriel Chiriac
- Nick Karis
- Michelle Mann
- Nicole Tsiouvaras

Philoptochos

- Dana Gall & Lis Troicky
Presidents
- Julie Powers
Treasurer
- Olga Coleman
Secretary & Bookstore
- Photini Westover
Corresponding Secretary

Church Office

Shanyn Bateh, Manager

Choir Director

Presbytera
Kedrann Dotson



METROPOLIS
OF DENVER

Recurring Services

Saturday Vespers - 5pm • Sunday Divine Liturgy - 9:30am (Orthros - 8:30am)
Visit our website for a complete calendar of upcoming services and events.

1973 **Sts PETER & PAUL**
Greek Orthodox Church

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