

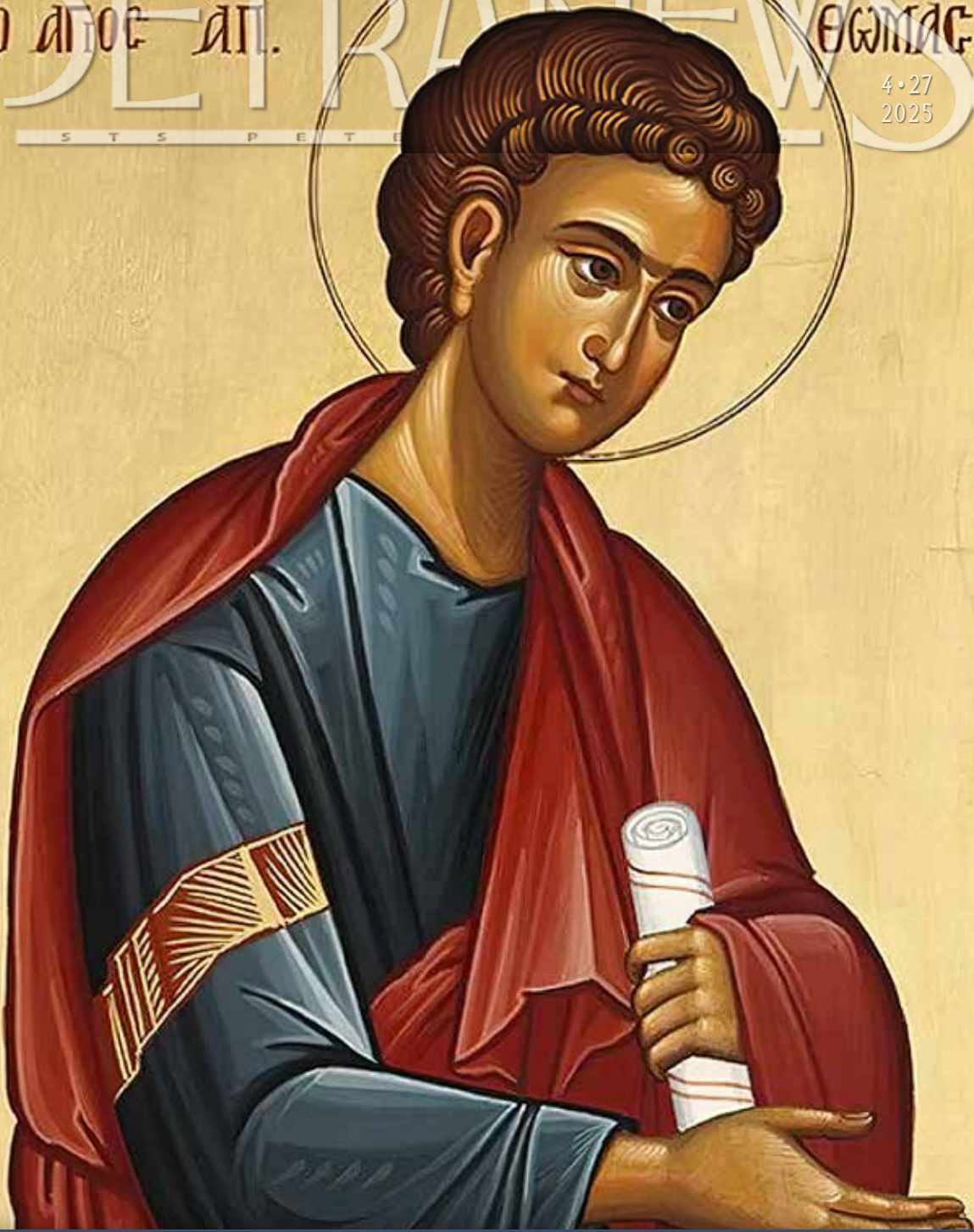
Ὁ ἈΓΙΟΣ ΠΑΥΛΟΣ

ΕΓΧΕΙΡΙΔΙΟΝ

PETRA NEWS

S T S P E T

4 • 27
2025



This Week's Services

Tuesday, April 29

Day of Rejoicing
 Orthros _____ 8:30am
 Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Saturday, April 26

Vespers _____ 5:00pm

Sunday, April 27

Orthros _____ 8:30am
 Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Fellowship

Thank you to Pam Torrance for hosting fellowship hour today!

- 5/4: Cindy Stamus and Juli Sarris
- 5/11: Mother's Day Luncheon
- 5/18: Parish Council

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.*

Thomas Sunday Apolytikion
Grave Mode

*While the tomb was sealed, Thou O Life,
 didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God;
 and while the doors were shut,
 Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all,
 renewing through them an upright Spirit in us
 according to Thy 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

*You are the shining torch lamp and the Mother of God,
 the immeasurable glory who is exalted over all creatures;
 in hymns of praise you do we magnify.*

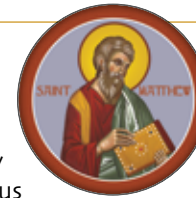
Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, praise your God, O Zion.

*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.*

Scripture Readings for **Thomas Sunday**

The **Orthros Gospel** according to **Matthew**.



28:16-20

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 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: **Acts of the Apostles**, 5:12-20



In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around

Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

The **Gospel** according to **John**, 20:19-31



On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger

in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Thomas Sunday

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to Ten Disciples

The week after Pascha (Easter), the Church celebrates the Sunday of Thomas. This Sunday is also called the Sunday of (in Greek: Ἀντίπασχα) “Antipascha” because it commemorates several appearances of the risen Christ to His disciples. “Antipascha” means “in the place of Pascha” and not “in opposition to Pascha.” It is a “second” Pascha in the same way that every Sunday and every Divine Liturgy is a unique celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.

The underlying theme of the Sunday of Thomas is the mystical reality of signs. The Epistle (Acts 5:12-20) says, “Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles.” But in the Gospel (John 20:19-31), it is Christ Himself who presents the signs. The Gospel readings from Pascha to Pentecost are taken from the Gospel of Saint John for a reason. This Gospel is called the “Spiritual Gospel” because it reveals the Person of the God-Man Jesus Christ through symbolic theology more than historical events, as told in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, & Luke).

On the Sunday of the Resurrection — the “Eighth Day” — Jesus is seen by the women who had come to the tomb. The women then go and tell the Apostles. This is why Saint Mary Magdalene is called the “Apostle to the Apostles.” Later, the Lord appears to two disciples traveling on the seven-mile road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. When they arrive, the Lord sits at the table with them. He takes bread, blesses it, and gives it to them. Their eyes are opened at once, and they know it is Him. He then vanishes from their sight.

After this encounter, the Lord appears before the other disciples in Jerusalem. Even with locked doors, Jesus comes, stands among them, and says, “Peace be with you.” The Lord does not rebuke the disciples for abandoning or betraying Him, nor does He recount His passion, death, and descent into Hades. The first thing our Lord gives His disciples after His Resurrection is His peace. His peace is everlasting (Isaiah 9:6). Whenever we encounter Christ, we are in His peace and receive His grace. Even when the “doors” of our hearts are locked, Christ enters in and offers to us His peace — the peace that “surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7).

We hear the words “Peace be with you” and “Peace be with all” several times in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy because Christ is truly in our midst. As Saint Seraphim of Sarov says, “When peace dwells in a man’s heart, it enables him to contemplate the grace of the Holy Spirit from within. ... When a man lives in peace, God reveals mysteries to him.” This is the true peace that we gain through prayer and participating in the holy sacraments of the Church.

When Christ gives the disciples His peace, He empowers them for their God-given mission as “ministers of peace” (Luke 10:1-6). “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” He then breathes on them and says: “Receive the Holy Spirit.” In this way, the Lord empowers them for the ministry that lies ahead and gives them apostolic authority.



One of the Apostles, Thomas, was not with them when Jesus appeared. The other disciples tell him, “We have seen the Lord.” Thomas replies, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails in His hands and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.” Yet, Thomas’ absence the first time the Lord appears to the disciples was part of God’s Providence.

The following Sunday, the doors were again shut. Jesus appears, stands among them, and again says, “Peace be with you.” Then, with divine love, He says to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Put your hand in my side. Do not be faithless but believing.” Jesus demonstrates to him, and to all of us, that He was not a ghost but the risen Christ. It is then that Thomas makes one of the greatest confessions about the divinity of Christ in Scripture, “My Lord and my God!”

As a result, the Church refers to Thomas’s disbelief as “good” in our hymns, “Oh, how good is Thomas’s unbelief!” (in Greek: Ὡ καλὴ ἀπιστία τοῦ Θωμᾶ!). It is “good” because it is based on a desire to find Christ and to meet Him directly and personally. If Thomas had not asked to touch the prints of the nails, we would not know without a doubt that Christ was Resurrected both in body and spirit. If Thomas had not doubted, we would not have this assurance. Thus, Thomas’s unbelief helps form our belief.

Jesus says to Thomas, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” These words refer to us, the “blessed who have not seen.” We have not touched His side, and we have not put our fingers on His scars. But we believe and love Him because we know, by the work of the Holy Spirit and by the apostolic witness of the Scriptures and the Church, that He is risen and He is with us. We encounter Him in our hearts, in one another, and we receive His risen Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

May we continue to grow in our faith in Christ, as the Holy Apostle Thomas did. When we encounter doubt, may it be an opportunity to ask Christ to reveal Himself more fully. Let us be inspired by Thomas and open our hearts to Christ and His peace. Christ is Risen! (in Greek: Χριστός Ἀνέστη!)

Events & Announcements

Strategic Planning Committee

Open Forums Begin
Monday, April 28th - 7-9pm



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.

- Monday, April 28th, Google Meet, 7-9pm. (Google Meet: meet.google.com/cku-qgms-srg)
- 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@stspeterandpaulboulder.org. We look forward to your engagement as we work together to shape the future of our parish!

Senior Gathering

English High Tea & BINGO
Tuesday, April 29th, 11am-1pm



All seniors (women and men) are cordially invited to join us for finger sandwiches, scones, desserts and tea as we enjoy an afternoon together in fellowship. Rides are available. Please RSVP by phone or text to Nicole Tsiouvaras 303-489-4491 or Joanne Callas 303-888-6904. We look forward to seeing you!

Bible Study

Wednesday, April 30th - 9:30am



Join us as we resume Bible Study. 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".

Blooms & Brims

Fashion Show & Luncheon
Assumption Cathedral
Saturday, May 10th, 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 April 30th to Jan Marose at 303-817-9675 or jmarose@comcast.net. For more information, visit denverphiloptochos.com or contact Jan.

Mother's Day Luncheon

Sunday, May 11th
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!

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.

Holy Week Images

Images from this past week are available for viewing and download on the Church's Google drive. photos.app.goo.gl/egrSDNCyATEjGzAbz. (Many of the same images can also be found on our Facebook page, 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!) Cheeeese!

Philoptochos

2025 Membership Drive

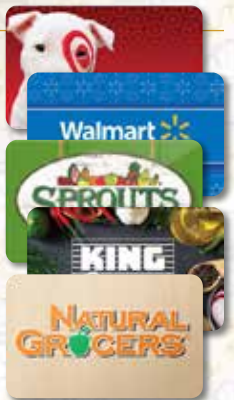
To all the new women
of our groing community...



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 '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

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301
303.581.1434

office@stspeterandpaulboulder.org
stspeterandpaulboulder.org