Petra News, Week of January 1st 2023

This Week’s Services

Sunday, January 1
Circumcision of Christ and St Basil
Orthros ________________ 8:15am
Divine Liturgy __________ 9:30am

Thursday, January 5
Forefeast of Theophany of Christ
Royal Hours _____________ 8:00am
Vesperal Liturgy &
Small Blessing of the Waters _ 5:00pm

Friday, January 6
Holy Theophany of Christ
Orthros _________________ 8:30am
Divine Liturgy &
Great Blessing of the Waters _ 9:30am

Saturday, January 7
Vespers _________________ 5:00pm

Sunday, January 8
Orthros _________________ 8:15am
Divine Liturgy __________ 9:30am

Welcome Fr. Gabriel and Family

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah, it is with great joy that we welcome Fr. Gabriel, Presbytera Mercy, and their children Joseph and Lydia, to their new parish! Please be sure to introduce yourself during fellowship!

Baptism on January 7

Everyone from the parish is invited to attend the upcoming Sacrament of Baptism for Kevin and Emma Loson on Saturday, January 7 at 1pm. May God grant them many years!

Hymns for the Circumcision of Our Lord

Special Antiphon Hymn for the Feast

“Save us O Son of God,
Who were circumcised in the flesh, we sing to You: Alleluia.”

Apolytikion of the Feast  Tone 1

In essence being God, most-compassionate Master, * You assumed human nature without transmutation. * Fulfilling the Law, of Your own will * You accepted circumcision in the flesh, * to bring an end to the shadow, and to remove the passions that cover us. * Glory to Your benevolence, O Lord; * glory to Your compassion; * glory to Your inexpressible condescension, O Word.

Resurrectional Apolotikion  
Tone 4 (Green Hymnal - Page 96/97)

The women disciples of the Lord, having learned from the Angel the joyous news of the Resurrection, and having rejected the ancestral decision, then told the apostles elatedly Death has been stripped of its power; Christ God has risen, granting to the world His great mercy.

Apolotikion for St. Basil  Tone 1

Your proclamation went forth into all the earth, for it accepted your word, thru which you taught the dogmas befitting God, you expounded on the nature of all that is, and you arranged the morals of society.
A royal priesthood! Devout father Basil, intercede with Christ our God, to grant us His great mercy.

Apolotikion 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 Tone 3 (On this day)

As the Master over all * has undergone circumcision, * so He cuts away the sins * of humankind in His goodness. * On this day, upon the world He bestows salvation. * And on high * does the Creator’s hierarch Basil * now rejoice, for he is known as * a most divine and light-bearing mystic of Christ.

Hymn to the Theotokos

“In you, O Lady full of grace…”

Hymn after Communion

Apolotikion of the Feast
Seventh Orthros Gospel according to John 20:1-10

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying and the napkin, which had been on His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Epistle: St Paul’s Letter to the Colossians 2:8-12

BRETHREN, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

The Gospel according to Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.
On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God’s Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3].

After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos [Luke 1:31-33, 2:21]. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it
prefigured [Colossians 2:11-12]. Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of the Saint Savva Monastery.

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God’s Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus [Savior] on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world [Matthew 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Philippians 2:9-10]. These two events -- the Lord’s Circumcision and Naming -- remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and “are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ” [Colossians 2:11]. The very name “Christian” is a sign of mankind’s entrance into a New Covenant with God.
**YAL Snow Conference 2023**
**February 9-12**
Calling all Young Adults! The Metropolis of Denver is hosting the YAL Snow Conference in Midway, Utah. For more information, or to register, please visit our website. **Registration closes on Tuesday, January 17.**

**Hierarchical Vespers and Installment of Fr. Gabriel**
**Tuesday, January 24, 6:30pm**
Join us for Hierarchical Vespers with His Grace Bishop Constantine on the Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian. His Grace will also do the Installment of Fr. Gabriel as our new parish priest. There will be a reception following. Please RSVP to Shanyn at office@stspeterandpaulboulder.org if you plan on attending. Thank you!

**Stewardship Drive 2023 is Underway!**
Knowing the total commitment of all our stewards allows the Parish Council to better plan for the new year’s goals and the financial obligations that come along with them. Be sure to complete your card (paper or on-line) by **Stewardship Sunday on January 8.** Blank cards can be found in the narthex or go on-line at stspeterandpaulboulder.churchtrac.com/connect

To set up your recurring donations through ChurchTrac, please login after January 1st. Contact Nicole Tsiouvaras (tsiouvaras@msn.com) with any questions.

**IMPORTANT NOTE for ChurchTrac Recurring Donors**
ChurchTrac donors that set up recurring payments for 2022 MUST log back into ChurchTrac to set up their "Stewardship2023" giving. Your donation that is set up for 2022 will not transfer over to 2023, so please log-in and make the change today!

**Wednesday Wonder Workers**
We will resume meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, beginning with January 11, 9:00 - 2:00. The majority of tasks are of a light nature. Contact Joanne Ashmun, 303-678-0440, horizon80501@yahoo.com, or Zoe Zwierzynski 720-999-2208, zoezwier@gmail.com. All are welcome, come lend your time and talents!

**Fellowship, 2023**
Thanks to all of those who hosted Fellowship over the past year. We currently have exactly 51 open slots to host Fellowship over the next year, so there's sure to be a week that works best for you! You can sign-up at SignUpGenius by following the link found on our church website at stspeterandpaulboulder.org

**House Blessings**
**Fr. Gabriel will be scheduling house blessings** with everyone in our parish! To help with scheduling, please scan this QR Code to access the form online or visit our website at stspeterandpaulboulder.org. Contact Shanyn in the office at 303-581-1434 with any questions.
Iconography Project, Phase-2
We are looking for a few individuals that would be interested in joining the fundraising team for Phase-2 of our Iconography Project. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact Jim Azar, Shanyn Bateh, or Matt Melanakis.

Thank You for Your Giving Tuesday Donations!
We would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone that has donated towards the Giving Tuesday Campaign for Phase-2 of our Iconography Project! For Giving Tuesday, we raised a total of $8,677.97! Thank you again to everyone!

Goal: $100,000.00
As of 12/29/22, we have raised 23% of our overall goal, totaling $23,215.84

Our Iconographer, Bessie Zgourides, has shared some images of the Icons she's completed; the Holy Napkin, Sts Peter & Paul, and the Nativity of Christ.

To view larger images of each and make a donation, go to stspeterandpaulboulder.org/iconproject

Philoptochos

We CAN’t Help Without You!

OUR Center provides critical services such as food, housing, and utilities to help families reach self-reliance. We need canned meat, tuna, and chicken, as well as personal items like shampoo and toothpaste. Leave your donations at the OUR Center table in the Fellowship Hall near the ramp door entrance.

Grocery Cards
Philoptochos sells gift cards to Safeway/Albertsons, Natural Grocers Vitamin Cottage and Sprouts. Also available are OLD CHICAGO PIZZA PALZ, an $11 gift card that you redeem at an Old Chicago restaurant by ordering any large pizza valued up to $25! Restaurants are located throughout Colorado. Please contact Julie Powers to make your purchase.

King Soopers shoppers: all you have to do is create an account with your King Soopers loyalty card (or alternate id, your phone number) on their website at kingsopers.com. Once your account is created, you will link your loyalty card 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 the Philoptochos will receive a portion of your purchase.
About Our Parish

We welcome visitors worshiping with us today. Our diverse church family encompasses many converts to the Orthodox Christian Faith, as well as Greek, Arab, Romanian, Serbian and Russian Orthodox Christians. 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.

Please introduce yourself to our priest and members of our community. We also encourage you to join us for our fellowship after services in the parish hall.

Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church

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.