

# PETRA NEWS

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**SAINT ELEFThERIOS**

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 2019**

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# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 2019

## HOSTS & VOLUNTEERS

### MYRRHBEARERS

Cassie Tinsley & Demetra Gregory

### EPISTLE READER

Xander Dzilvelis

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Sunday School

## SERVICES & FEASTDAYS

### Tuesday, December 17

Feast of St Dionyios &

Prophet Daniel and the Three Youths

Orthros \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

Evening Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 6pm

### Wednesday, December 18

Paracletis \_\_\_\_\_ 6pm

Orthodox Faith Class \_\_\_\_\_ 7pm

### Friday, December 20

Divine Liturgy at St Ignatius \_\_\_\_\_ 8am

### Saturday, December 21

Youth Shut-in &

Nursing Home Visitations \_\_\_\_\_ 10am

Great Vespers \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

## NATIVITY CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

### Tuesday, December 24

Nativity Royal Hours \_\_\_\_\_ 8am

Vesporal Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

### Wednesday, December 25

Orthros \_\_\_\_\_ 8am

Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 9am

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### RESURRECTION HYMN 1ST TONE, P. 80-81 GREEN HYMNAL

*“The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Jews and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred body O Savior the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life where by all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory unto our resurrected Christ. Glory unto Your Kingdom. Glory to Your dispensation O You alone who loves all.”*

### HYMN FOR THE FOREFATHERS

*“By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations.*

*The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.*

### HYMN FOR ST. ELEFThERIOS

*“You were fully adorned with the sacred priestly robes. You were dripping with streams of your own martyr blood. In this state, you ran to Christ your Master, O blessed Saint Eleftherios, destroyer of Satan; you are wise. Therefore cease not interceding for us who loyally honor your blessed contest of martyrdom.*

### HYMN OF SAINTS PETER PAUL

*“Oh 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

*“On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.”*

# DAILY READINGS - ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

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## FOURTH ORTHROS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 24:1-12

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On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. 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? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered in to 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.

## EPISTLE READING: ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY 1:8-18

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TIMOTHY, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to

me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me - may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesos.

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 14:16-24

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The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came

and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

# SAINTS & FEASTDAYS

## HOLY MARTYR ELEFThERIOS OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Feastday December 15th

*Eleftherios did not cower before the sword,  
For his mind was always free of fear.*

This Saint had as his homeland Constantinople, he shined forth in Orthodoxy, and exceeded in wealth and glory all those who at that time were glorious and rulers. For as a youth he was raised in the imperial courts, which is why he received from there his first honors. Inflicted however with eros for incorruptible and eternal good things, the blessed one did not reckon at all earthly things. Instead he preferred to have the lowest place in the courts of the Lord, rather than have the first place in the tents of sinners, as the divine David says. Thus he had the poetic eye of his soul fixated on God, he occupied himself daily with hymns and doxologies to God, and put into practice every form of the virtues. But the corrupter of our souls, the devil, could not endure seeing such good things. Therefore he handled the servant of the Saint as a one of his instruments (according to the opinion of a wise man: “To a servant their overseer is an enemy”), and he approached the impious emperor of that time [likely Julian the Apostate] by means of the servant, and he slandered the Saint, saying: “My master Eleftherios was baptized with the Baptism of the Christians and built a church. And he worships the one who was crucified, hating and turning away from imperial ordinances. And having a secret house under the earth, he offers all night vigils to Christ, and disciplines his body with fasting and tears and weeping.”

Such things did the servant narrate, which inflamed the emperor with anger, so he sent for and brought before him the Saint. And standing before him, he asked peacefully and flatteringly, saying: “Why have you forsaken

us, O Eleftherios, for such a long time, and despised my great love for you, as well as the imperial courts?” The Saint replied: “I have, O emperor, been suffering from various bodily ailments, which is why I sought to pass my time in a place with temperate air, that I may restore my health.” “And why,” said the emperor, “did you decide to receive the good and temperate air alone? For we also would have liked to have found some rest in such a good place.” The Saint did not respond to this at all. Therefore the emperor by night passed over the Sangarios (Sakarya) River to the house of the Saint. There where he lived, he saw a secret door, finding a gap made in the form of a well. Entering therein he found a decorated church. This disgusted the impious one, for “reverence towards God is an abomination to a sinner” (Seirach 1:25). However, he did not threaten the Saint, but putting such



threats aside, he began to flatter him with sweet words, in an effort to soften the steadfast resolve of the Martyr. Because it seemed, according to the saying, that he was beating at the air, he tried to persuade the one who was unpersuadable, and for this reason ordered for the Saint to be beheaded, and for his honorable body to be cast to the dogs and the birds to be devoured. Thus the blessed Eleftherios was beheaded, and he delivered his soul into the hands of God. His honorable body was found neglected by a pious and God-loving Christian, who was vested with the office of the Priesthood, and he took it. Having fragrancd it with myrrh, he buried it in a notable place. The relics of Saint Eleftherios were at Constantinople, and afterwards transferred to Italy, to the city of Theato.

## STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: THE RICH MAN'S MISTAKE

In the parable of the Rich Man / Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21) Jesus tells of the man who tears down his barns to build bigger ones. This sounds quite a bit like our days. Many cities and towns across our country are experiencing massive homes being built and older homes being torn down in favor of huge new ones. In addition to homes, witness the numerous Walmarts, Targets, Costcos, Home Depots, supermarkets and fitness clubs being raised (ironically) to resemble airports.

But that's not all. Although there is some backlash, watch out for all those Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) on the road that seem to be getting bigger and bigger, and faster and faster. These vehicles are accommodating children and adults who are bigger than in previous generations. McDonalds may have done away with their "Super-Size" option, but Americans have not.

Even so, it may not be the desire for more crops and bigger barns that are the rich man's undoing. When it is all over and done with, God asks him one simple question, "Fool, this night your soul is required of you, and all these things you have prepared, whose shall they be?" It is not the abundant crops and big barns that condemn the rich man, it is that they are not being shared and passed on to others. **Being rich is not**

**a sin, being selfish is.** It can be argued that we have an obligation to maximize the fruits of the earth so that we may feed and provide for our children and for others. Working hard to provide for others is a virtue sometimes lost on a generation wishing to accumulate more cars, houses, jewelry and toys.

Everything we have built, earned or amassed has come from God, and is a blessing. If we think everything we have has come from our own efforts, our possessions will be a curse. Sharing God's blessing is not only on of our obligations, it is one of the greatest joys in life. Not enough people today experience this joy.

There is nothing wrong with wealth, as long as God is thanked and glorified, and the wealth is shared. There is nothing wrong with big homes, as long as they are filled with children and family members, and God is as the center of the home. There is nothing wrong with amassing crops and goods, as long as they are used to feed and provide for God's children.

We are brothers and sisters in communion with each other. All that we have is from God, and intended to be shared with each other. **The difference between a Philanthropist and a Rich Fool is the desire to share, and the desire to do for others and not for oneself.**

### STEWARDS OF THE FAITH:

#### ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

With the Nativity of our Lord and Savior almost upon us, we are truly thankful for you and your family here in our church. You are a vital part of our Church Community. **Please take a few minutes to review your Stewardship commitment for 2019. Please complete your Stewardship Commitment for 2019 and ensure the success of the ministries undertaken for the spiritual needs of the families entrusted to our care.** Remember that your Stewardship provides the foundation for our Parish Ministries and our efforts in meeting the challenge of spreading Christ's Word and our our Orthodox Faith.

Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. **Giving is not a substitute for commitment - it is an expression of our commitment.**

May the grace of our Lord bless you and your loved ones to experience the joy of Christ's Birth through the joy of giving.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Steve Dzilvelis, Nick Kallan, Rick Leonidas, Kostas Pagratis and George Saliba. The newly elected council members will join Erica Gerakos, Brian Gregory, Philip Haratsaris and Oliver Huskey in 2020.

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH SERIES

Wednesday, December 18, 7pm

### MAKE UP CLASS: HOLY TRINITY (WHEN WE SAY GOD)

Due to the recent snow storm, this coming Wednesday, we will offer a make up class discussing the Holy Trinity. All our welcome to participate.



**Class will meet in the church quiet room.**

This series will resume January 8, 2020. If you have any questions about the class, growing in your faith, or becoming an Orthodox Christian, please contact Father Jordan @ frjordanbrown@gmail.com

## VISIT OUR BOOKSTORE

We have several wonderful books for the Nativity Advent Fast.

**Meditations for Advent Preparing for Christ's Birth**  
by Fr Vasileos Papavasiliou, \$13

**Let all Creation Rejoice:**  
**Reflections for Advent, The Nativity and Epiphany**  
by Fr Stavros Akrotirianakis, \$20

## UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

ATTENTION ALL MIDDLE &  
HIGH SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

**GOYA** Shut in & Nursing Home visitations w/  
Father Jordan

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 9AM - 1 PM**

We will be making visits in the Louisville & Broomfield area.

We will meet at the Starbucks in Louisville, located at 459 S McCaslin Blvd. **PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE.** We need drivers. Please contact Father Jordan if you are able to help with driving. Our last visit at 1 pm will be in Broomfield.

## OCF - ORTHODOX COLLEGE/CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP

**STUDENT GET -TOGETHER DURING BREAK  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 6 PM**

We welcome all college students to join us for an evening fellowship. Parents, please share this invitation with your children, especially students attending out of state. Students from our sister parishes in the Front Range and Denver will be coming. This is a great opportunity and blessing for our college students to connect with each other. The Zaronias family have opened their home for the college student fellowship. Their address is 140703 Sorrel Drive, Broomfield. Please contact Father Jordan @ frjordanbrown@gmail.com with any questions.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT

TODAY, FOLLOWING LITURGY

Come One, Come All! Please join us for our annual Sunday School Nativity Pageant! The kids and teachers have been working hard to make this event one to remember! The performance will begin in the church after Divine Liturgy. Parents, there will be no classes today. Instead, the kids will go over to the hall after communion to prepare for the Pageant. Sunday School will also be providing today's Fellowship Hour meal. Your donations will go to support this important community ministry.

# Christmas Cookie Baskets Order Now!

Sponsored by and benefits the many philanthropic projects of Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos Society

Gift Baskets include a variety of cookies including ... Mediterranean, European, Middle Eastern, American, and other Christmas favorites!

**Donation**  
**\$20.00 per basket**

**Please order on or before, December 16, 2019**  
**Order Forms available in the Narthex**  
**and Fellowship Hall**



## Philoptochos Christmas Fundraiser

**Help Attention Homes  
fill their Amazon wish list.**

**What is Attention Homes?** Founded in 1966, Attention Homes is a safe resource for youth in crisis providing access to crucial services so that homeless and displaced youth can become stable, independent members of our community and achieve their potential.

Attention Homes has provided safe housing and supportive services to over 12,000 young people in Boulder County between the ages of 12-24 who need help.

**How Can I Help?** Two ways. This November Attention Homes opened a 40 unit transitional housing complex for ages 18-24. 50% of adults experiencing homelessness had their first episode of homelessness between the ages of 18-24. By having a safe, and affordable place to stay these adults will break this cycle. Grab an ornament, of different items and cost, off the tree and take it to the Philoptochos table. Philoptochos will order the items off Amazon and they will be delivered by Christmas. Second, give a monetary donation so Philoptochos can purchase what they need.





## SAINTS PETER & PAUL

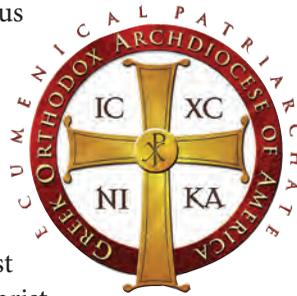
Greek Orthodox Church

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301

303-581-1434 • [stpeterandpaulboulder.org](http://stpeterandpaulboulder.org)

### ABOUT OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors worshipping 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 and visit our bookstore. If you are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please visit with our priest, Fr. Jordan Brown.

### 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 'antidoros' (blessed bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.



### PRIEST

Reverend Father Jordan Brown

### PARISH COUNCIL

President - George Tsiouvaras  
Vice President - Nicholas Kallan  
Treasurer - Brian Gregory  
Secretary - Phillip Haratsaris

### PHILOTOCHOS

Presidents - Dana Gall and Sharon Dzilvelis  
Treasurer - Julie Powers

### BOOK STORE

Sharon Dzilvelis

### YOUTH / GOYA

Fr. Jordan Brown

### SENIOR MINISTRY

Dena Tinsley

### CHOIR DIRECTOR

Presbytera Marika Brown

### RECURRING SERVICES

Orthros - Sundays, 8:15am  
Divine Liturgy - Sundays, 9:30am  
Great Vespers - Saturdays, 5pm  
Confession by appointment.