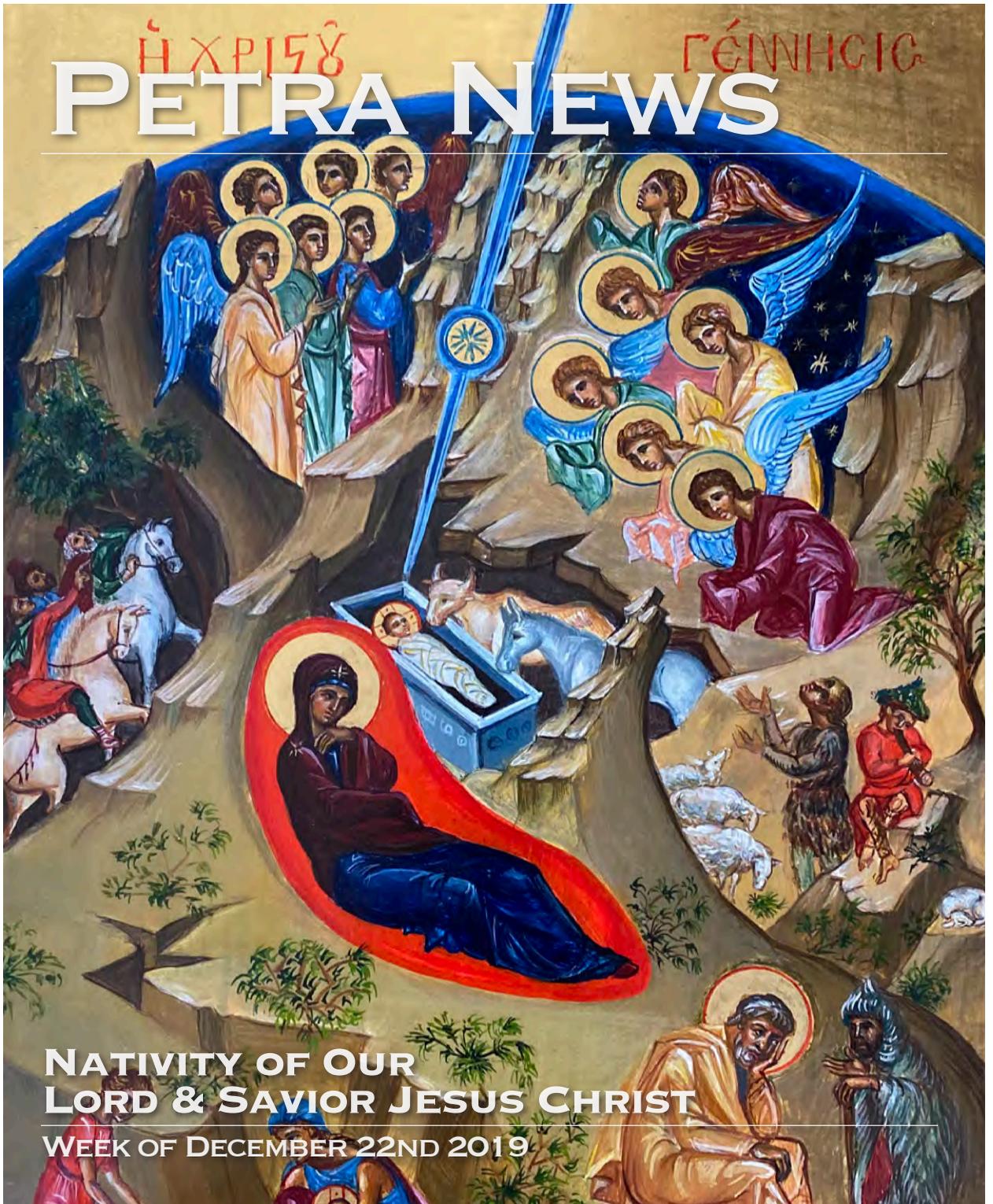


Ἡ ΧΡΙΣΤῸΣ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ

PETRA NEWS



**NATIVITY OF OUR
LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**
WEEK OF DECEMBER 22ND 2019

HOSTS & VOLUNTEERS

MYRRHBEARERS

Cassie Tinsley & Demetra Gregory

EPISTLE READER

Eleni Tsiouvaras

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Gregory Family

**NATIVITY SERVICE
SCHEDULE:**

Tuesday, December 24

Nativity Forefeast

Nativity Royal Hour _____ 8am

(Special Hymns, Old Testament Nativity
Prophetic Readings, Gospel Nativity Read-
ings)

Vesporal Liturgy: Nativity of Our
Lord & Savior Jesus Christ _____ 5pm

*December 24 is a strict fast day. Those who
are preparing to receive Holy Communion
are to fast (eat a very light lenten meal) from
the noonday meal or sooner from all food
and drink.*

Wednesday, December 25

Holy Nativity

Orthros for the Nativity _____ 8am

Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of

Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ _____ 9am

Sunday, December 29

Orthros _____ 8:15am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

NATIVITY PAGEANT – THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all of the volunteers, parents, teachers, and students that helped to make this year's pageant so special! And thank you to the parishioners of Saints Peter & Paul, who are so supportive of our Sunday School ministry!

HYMNS OF THE DAY

RESURRECTION HYMN

2ND TONE, P. 81-82 GREEN HYMNAL

*“When You descended to the realm of death
You as life immortal rendered to Hades
a mortal blow by Your all radiant divinity.*

*And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below
did raise the dead all the hosts of heaven's powers
did proclaim and cry out O life-giving Christ
and our God we give glory.”*

HYMN FOR THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY

“O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all.

*And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has
in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin.*

*Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise,
in which is found the God-planted Tree.*

*And if we eat from it we shall live,
and shall not die, as did Adam of old.*

*Christ is born, so that He might raise up
the formerly fallen image .*

HYMN FOR HOLY FATHERS

“Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith!

The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced,

as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters;

and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions,

as if they were sheep. At their entreaties,

O Christ God, save our souls.”

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 - SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

EPISTLE READING: ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 11:9-10; 32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not re-

ceive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. The Gospel According to Luke 14:16-24

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.'"

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the fa-

ther of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

NATIVITY EPISTLE OF ST. JOHN MAXIMOVITCH (1962)

“Thou, Who art the God of peace and the Father of compassion, didst send unto us the Angel of Thy great Counsel, granting us peace.”

The Angel of the pre-eternal Counsel of the Holy Trinity comes to the earth. This is not an ordinary messenger; it is the Only-begotten Son of God Himself. He brings peace to men. “Peace be unto you,” he said more than once to His disciples. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you,” He says to the apostles at the Mystical Supper, “not as the world giveth, give I unto you.” And appearing after His Resurrection, again He says: “Peace be unto you.” “For he is our peace,” the Holy Apostle Paul says concerning Him: “He came to the earth to reconcile man unto God by the Cross, having slain the enmity thereby. And having come, He preached peace to those afar off and to those near, because through Him we both have access unto the Father.”

The wall that separated heaven and earth is destroyed; the sword that barred the way to the Tree of Life disappears. Unto man that had sinned comes his Creator, calling him into His embrace! By the mouths of the apostles, the Holy Spirit cries out: “In Christ, be ye reconciled to God.” You that had sinned came not to God, but the Son of God, before Whom you sinned, came to you! He calls everyone to Himself; He gives forgiveness to everyone who merely thirsts for this. For without the desire of man himself, without at least his little effort, God’s peace cannot settle in him. The Lord forces no one to come to Him, but calls everyone: “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Come all ye who are heavy laden with sins, who are exhausted from your labors and who do not find rest! You shall find that inner peace, which you will find nothing on earth more desirable

than. The soul will feel unearthly peace and joy.

The Magi who worshiped the Babe experienced that joy; the shepherds, finding Him lying in a manger, also felt it. But neither peace nor joy touched the heart of Herod and those who wanted to destroy the Babe. For evil desire and malice are incompatible with inner peace. And whoever does not have inner peace, also sows strife and malice about.



The Church now calls us to meet Christ Who comes from heaven. What can we do in order to meet Him like the Magi, and not like Herod? “Ye that desire life, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.” It tends to be hard to do this; we are weak when it comes to everything good. But the Son of God even came for this: in order to strengthen us. Not for naught was He born in Bethlehem, which signifies “house of bread.” He feeds us with heavenly food, His flesh. “God, the Lord and Creator of all, as a babe in the flesh, is worshiped in a poor manger, crying out: ‘Eat My body and through faith be made steadfast.’” These words of the divine Babe are directed to us. Let us

hearken to His call! Let us follow the Magi; let us hasten with the shepherds! Our churches are now that cave of Bethlehem. Not illusory, but in reality does He, Who is now being born in His most pure flesh, rest in them. Let us worship Him; let us offer as a gift our thoughts and desires; let us confess our sins, and let us taste of His immaculate Body and Blood. Whoever did not do this earlier, let him at least accomplish it now, when the star of Bethlehem is already shining! Our minds will be enlightened and the heart will hear:

“Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will among men!”

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

What is Christian Stewardship? Christian Stewardship is about becoming good caretakers of all that God had given us. God had given each of us special and unique gifts. Archbishop Anastasios of Albania has noted that **“we find ourselves by offering ourselves.”**

We are deeply appreciative of the many gifts that have been given to Sts Peter and Paul in 2019. We have much to be thankful for including completing many long-needed repairs and successfully retiring the debt on our Church mortgage. In addition, our Parish Festival was successful earning approximately \$27,000. As we close in on the end of 2019, please review your Stewardship to verify that you have completed your 2019 pledge. In addition, the Parish

Council requests that you prayerfully consider an end-of-year gift to help close the gap between our budget and revenue. In the month of December we will **need to raise \$31,000** to equal our 2018 Stewardship levels.

We need your help. Please give with love and know that your financial support makes possible the spiritual growth and spreading our beloved Orthodox Christian Faith. **Enclosed is an offering envelope. You can make a gift today or offer it on the celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Nativity of Jesus is the greatest expression of love. God offered His Son for the salvation of each and everyone one of us.**

STEWARDSHIP: ORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY FAITH

Let us reflect on Joseph, engaged to the Virgin Mary, and his amazing example of stewardship. “Joseph was a just man and the Gospel tells us that he did not want to put Mary to shame, so he resolved to divorce her quietly. We are told that “When Joseph woke from sleep, he took his wife but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His name Jesus” (Matt 1:24-25).

And what faith he must have had in God to assume the role of caretaker for an unmarried woman who risked being scorned by the society of the day. He had the same risk as well. He had a job, he had friends, he had a reputation, and all those things he was **willing to put on the line because of his faith.**

There are two lessons from the life of Joseph. **First, one can be a rather ordinary person**

and still make an extraordinary spiritual contribution. Joseph was not a priest, was not really learned, was not a member of the temple elite. Yet, he, like Mary, embraced his role. Joseph was willing to risk his comfort, his job, his friends, and so much more in order to care for Mary and her unborn child. **Are we willing to do the same?**

An ordinary person with extraordinary faith, is extraordinary in the eyes of God. **What kind of faith do you have?** What kind of faith do you want to have? If you were standing in the presence of God right now, how would He describe your faith?

Reflection by Fr Stavros Akrotirianakis,
Let all Creation Rejoice

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH SERIES

This series will resume January 8, 2020.

**TOPIC: OUR ULTIMATE PURPOSE
(THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDING US)**

If you have any questions about the class, growing in your faith, or becoming an Orthodox Christian, please contact Father Jordan at 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

2020 CHURCH CALENDAR & STEWARDSHIP PACKETS

The Parish Council will be distributing the 2020 Church Calendar and 2020 Stewardship Packets at the end of service today. If you are new to our parish, please inform one of our council members or Father Jordan. Mark your calendar! Sunday, January 5, is Stewardship Sunday. Thank you for your commitment to Church.

HOUSE BLESSINGS 2020

Father Jordan will begin blessing homes after the Feast of Epiphany, January 6th. The church office will be contacting you to schedule your house blessing. If you are new to Sts Peter & Paul, please contact the church office or visit with Father Jordan.

CHURCH CLEANING

We need your help. Please help with preparing the church for the Nativity Services. Presbytera Kedrann will be organizing the cleaning for the church and hall. We will begin cleaning after services. Please see Presbytera Kedrann at the end of services.

Thank you



FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is running very low. Please bring canned meat, tuna, chicken. Our parish has made a commitment to help those in need. The Food Pantry Basket is located in the Parish Hall. How beautiful if every member brought just one canned meat for Christmas?



Thank you

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

ATTENTION ALL MIDDLE &
HIGH SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

**GOYA SHUT-IN & NURSING HOME
VISITATIONS W/ FATHER JORDAN**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 9AM - 1PM

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.

GOYA FIRESIDE CHAT

Saturday, January 11, 6pm

**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 of 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 **Zarnias family** have opened their home for the college student fellowship. Their address is **140703 Sorrel Drive, Broomfield**. Please contact Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com with any questions.



Philoptochos Christmas Fund-raiser

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.

Philoptochos Cookie Baskets



If you pre-ordered a cookie basket, please pick it up today. We have extra cookie baskets for a donation of \$20 each and boxes of cookies for a donation of \$10 each. Stop by the Philoptochos gift card table after Liturgy.

Thank you to all of the people who baked and helped with our annual Christmas cookie basket fund raiser! It is very much appreciated!



SAINTS PETER & PAUL

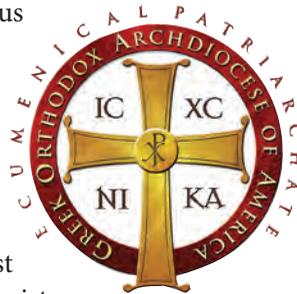
Greek Orthodox Church

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301

303-581-1434 • 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.