

# PETRA NEWS



**SAINT MAMAS**

**WEEK OF AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup> 2020**

## STS PETER & PAUL WEEKLY SERVICES

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

**Beginning of the Church Year**

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

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

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

Readers Vespers \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

## SIGN-UP FOR SERVICES

**Reserve a spot by visiting the church website at [stspeterandpaulboulder.org](http://stspeterandpaulboulder.org)**

Please email Shanyn Bateh at [shanyn.elserougi@gmail.com](mailto:shanyn.elserougi@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you.

## CHURCH OFFERINGS

*Due to current COVID-19 safety guidelines, we can not pass the usual offering basket at this time.*

*For those wishing to leave an offering, there are baskets available in the Narthex and at the South door as you exit.*

*You can also make an offering on-line, through **easyTithe**. See page 6 for details.*

## HYMNS FOR THE TWELFTH SUNDAY OF MATHEW

### RESURRECTION HYMN (3RD TONE)

*“Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world had granted His great redeeming mercy.”*

### HYMN FOR ST JOHN FORERUNNER

*“The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy.”*

### HYMN FOR STS PETER AND PAUL

*“O leaders of the Apostles, and teachers of the world, intercede with the Master of all that He may grant peace unto the Lord, and to our souls His great mercy.”*

### KONTAKION HYMN

*“Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility’s stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality’s ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, “The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”*

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Orthros Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20*

*Epistle: 1 Cor 15:1-11*

*Gospel: St Matthew 19:16-26*

## TWELFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

### FIRST 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 of the Son and of 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: ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom

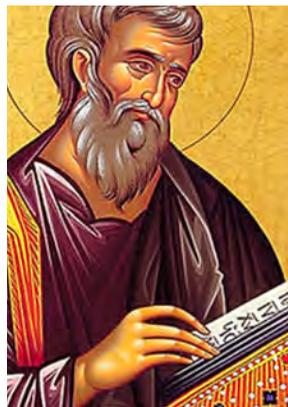
are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and

you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."



## THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH YEAR: THE YEAR OF THE LORD

They all survived. The Greek Orthodox Christians suffered for centuries under the Ottoman Turks. The Romanian, Russian, Albanian, Serbian and Bulgarian Orthodox Christians suffered under ruthless dictators and communism for many years. They all survived. How were they able to survive under such horrible conditions?

Historian Thomas Smith, had this to say about the Orthodox Church. "The Greek Orthodox Church survived under centuries of Muslim oppression." He believes the reason is next to the miraculous providence of God. "I ascribe the preservation of Christianity among them to the strict and religious observation of the Feast Days and Fast Days of the Church. The early Christians took courage from the glorious examples of the saints."

September 1st is a very special day in the life of the Church. September 1st is the first day of the Church Year. Historically the 1st was the beginning of the civil year for the Jews. In September of the 4th Century, Constantine the Great was victorious over Maxentius, the enemy of the Christian Faith. The First Ecumenical Council decreed the Church Year should begin on September 1st. In the book of Exodus 12:2, the faithful would gather fruits and bring them as an offering of thanksgiving to God. It was at this time of the feast the Lord Jesus Christ went into the synagogue in Nazareth, opened the Book of the Prophet Isaiah and read the words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; He has sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening

of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance." (Isaiah 61:1-2, Luke 4:16-21)

Why is it important to celebrate the beginning of the Church Year? The Church Year offers the whole life of Christ. The church year helps us remember the great events, feast days in the history of salvation, and makes them present at every Divine Liturgy.

We are reminded of what God has done for us. The church year, also known as the liturgical year, offers the gift of being united with Christ. Every Divine Service we participate, we are united intimately with Christ. The church year relives the whole life of Christ, from His Nativity to Pascha / Easter, from Pascha to Pentecost.



At every Divine Liturgy the faithful are united to Christ at His Birth, His suffering on the Cross, and Triumph at His Resurrection. The Church Year offers the gift to form Christ in us. The Church Year offers not only the life of Christ, but

the life of His Mother, the Virgin Mary, and all the Saints. The saints are shining rays of the holiness of Christ Himself. We have the beautiful example of St. Mamas, celebrated on September 2nd.

St Mamas was orphaned twice, but his life was in Christ. The great hierarchs, St Basil the Great, and St. Gregory the Theologian, both offered homilies celebrating the life of this 15 year old saint. His parents, Theodotos and Ruphina were of noble rank. They were a devout Christian couple, and openly witnessed their faith in Jesus Christ.

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The Agios Mamas Church Ruins, located within the Nicosia district of Cyprus.  
*Photo by Costas Panagiotopoulos*

This devout couple was arrested. At the time of their arrest, Ruphina was pregnant with their first child. Theodotos suffered a martyr's death while in prison. Ruphina gave birth in prison to their baby boy, and died shortly after. The orphaned boy was adopted by a pious woman named Ammias. The boy did not speak a word for his first five years. The first word that came out of his mouth was 'Mamas.'

As a boy, Mamas was known for his intellect and devoutness. During his teen years, Mamas helped convert children to the Christian faith. This was done during some of the worst years of Christian persecution. His adopted mother Ammias passed away, and Mamas was orphaned a second time. Mamas was arrested for his belief and faith. The pagan rulers heard of the young boy Mamas converting children to Christianity. He was set free like St Paul from prison by an angel and lived for a short time in the wilderness. The young Mamas would return to the city and bring food to the poor during the night. He was eventually discovered for his pious works, arrested, and suffered a martyr's

death at the age of fifteen.

Why is it so important for us to participate in the feast days of the saints during the year? The saints, like St Mamas, are shining rays of holiness of Christ Himself. I encourage you to join me in prayer. In addition to the Sunday Divine Liturgy, Sts Peter and Paul will be offering weekly services scheduled in the evening. The evening services have been scheduled to work around school and work schedules. Make a spiritual goal to attend at least one week day service.

The feast days of saints help us, and provide support for lessons in Christian piety. Every feast day offers the gift to bring us together in unity. The first day of the Church Year has one goal, to help the faithful begin their journey to reach the Kingdom of God. Let this Church Year be a special time in your life. Let this Church Year be a Year of the Lord, making Christ, and His saints present in your life.

– Father Jordan

## Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"Sunday" School as we've come to know it will have a very different look this Fall! Covid-19 presents some obvious challenges, but our modified format will allow us to continue to offer youth education while preserving our sense of community. Without further ado, we'd like to introduce...



*Combining worship, fellowship, and education  
for students of all ages!*

**Class Schedule** In-person classes will be held every other Saturday, starting **Saturday, Sept. 12th**.

**Great Vespers, 5pm**

**Dinner, 5:30ish** We will serve pizza, takeout, etc.  
No potlucks or buffet-style meals will be served.

**Breakout Classes by Grade, 6 to 7pm**

**Adult Education for Parents** Father will also be offering an Adult Education class in the church while student classes are being conducted.

**Registration** It's important that you register your child even if they aren't attending in-person. That way, we can make sure that "Sunday School" can flourish at home! Go to [StsPeterandPaulBoulder.org](http://StsPeterandPaulBoulder.org) to register.

**Sign-Up for Classes** In-person attendance will be by **RSVP only**. This allows us to pre-plan and take necessary precautions based on the number of attendees. A Sign-Up Genius link will be sent via email the week prior to classes.

We look forward to working with you and your children and are excited for our new Saturday School / Family Night format! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you!

**Aaron Wall**

**"Saturday" School Coordinator**

[awall609@yahoo.com](mailto:awall609@yahoo.com) • (720) 400-6579

## "Saturday" School FAQ

### Where will classes be held?

We will utilize outdoor spaces whenever weather permits. When weather isn't cooperating, we will hold classes in separate areas of the hall and church and practice social distancing.

### What about parents/students who are immune-compromised or who are simply not comfortable with attending in-person?

We want all of our families to feel like they are still part of this community, even if they aren't able to attend in-person! Our teachers will be communicating with parents on a weekly basis, providing lesson summaries and tips for "Sunday School" activities at home. Youth Ministry will provide additional e-resources periodically to encourage and facilitate at-home learning.

### What kind of precautions are you taking for Covid-19?

The safety of our students and teachers has ALWAYS been a top priority for Youth Ministry. **We will FULLY adhere to all state, county, and Metropolis regulations, and these will be updated as needed.** As of today, those restrictions are:

**All attendees 10 years or older are required to wear masks when indoors.** Masks are strongly encouraged for younger children whenever social distancing isn't possible.

**Attendees 10 years or older are required to wear masks outdoors when social distancing (6' separation) isn't possible.**

**Children will be segregated by class groups, and will be spaced 6' apart during class.**

### Meal-Time

Food will be served by select volunteers only.

Teachers will escort their students over to the Hall for dinner.

We will avoid congregating in the Hall during meal-time.

**Sanitizer will be available and hand-washing will be encouraged.**

**All surfaces used by teachers/students will be sanitized before and after classes.**

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADULT EDUCATION

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 9TH, 10AM**

### ORTHODOX FAITH SERIES

**First Class, Saturday  
September 12th, 6pm  
Topic: Worship and Prayer**



Class is open to all parents, adults and inquirers. This series will take place in the church. Questions: Please contact Father Jordan



Welcome back college students! The Sts Peter Paul Church Family welcome you to Boulder. The OCF is planning a student fellowship BBQ dinner at the church in early September. Please contact our CU OCF President, Panteli Stathapoulos @ 720-883-8391 or Father Jordan @ 720-329-6363 with any questions. Details regarding our September Kick-Off Dinner will be coming out next week.

## HOME VISITATIONS

Father Jordan is available to make home visitations for our elderly, shut ins, and all those with 'high risk' health challenges. Please do not hesitate to contact Father Jordan to schedule a visit. Parishioners with 'high risk' health challenges are welcome to visit the church during the week to schedule a time to pray and receive the Holy Sacraments.

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Please send an email to ashleydz1@hotmail.com with a letter providing details on why you feel you are a candidate for the Philoptochos scholarship. Include what school you are attending, school address and student id (if applicable). You or your family must be a part of the Sts Peter and Paul Church community. The deadline for the scholarship is September 15th.

## WE CAN'T HELP WITHOUT YOU!

**OUR Center** is in need of canned food donations (meat, tuna, chicken, etc). There is a box outside the church building to drop off your donation. If you would like us to shop for you, we will be taking donations. You can contact Ashley Dzilvelis at ashleydz1@hotmail.com or send money via Venmo to @AshDz. You can also mail a check to Julie Powers, please contact her for her address (powerjulie@gmail.com), and put "Our Center" in the memo line.



## GROCERY GIFT CARDS

Philoptochos sells gift cards to Safeway, Natural Grocers Vitamin Cottage, Whole Foods 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 in Broomfield, Arvada, Denver, Thornton, Westminster, Loveland, Ft. Collins, Greeley, Brighton, Aurora, Lakewood, Highlands Ranch. **Please contact Julie Powers** (powerjulie@gmail.com, 970.412.5338) to purchase these gift cards. She will either mail them to you or deliver them to you on Sunday after Liturgy.

## 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 kingsoopers.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.





## SAINTS PETER & PAUL

### GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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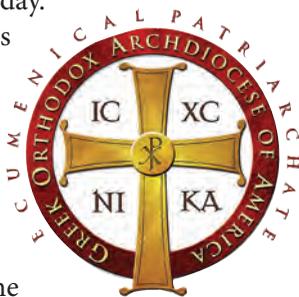
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#### ABOUT OUR PARISH

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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 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

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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.



#### PRIEST

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Reverend Father Jordan Brown

#### PARISH COUNCIL

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President - Erica Gerakos  
Vice President - Nicholas Kallan  
Treasurer - Brian Gregory  
Secretary - Phillip Haratsaris

#### PHILOPTOCHOS

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Presidents - Dana Gall and Sharon Dzilvelis  
Treasurer - Julie Powers

#### BOOK STORE

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Sharon Dzilvelis

#### YOUTH / GOYA

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Fr. Jordan Brown

#### CHOIR DIRECTOR

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Presbytera Marika Brown

#### RECURRING SERVICES

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