

PETRA NEWS

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ST CALLISTRATOS
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27TH 2020

**STS PETER & PAUL
WEEKLY SERVICES**

WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPT 30
Bible Study _____ 10am

WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPT 30
**Holy Protection of the
Theotokos & St Ananias**
Orthros _____ 5:15pm
Evening Divine Liturgy _____ 6pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
Great Vespers _____ 5pm

**SPECIAL GIFT FROM
HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN ISIAH**

Our Spiritual Shepherd, Metropolitan Isaiah, has written a beautiful reflection on the Virgin Mary, titled, "Behold Your Mother." His Eminence has given our parish copies of the book for everyone in our parish. The books are in the Narthex of the Church. Please take one. On behalf of Sts Peter and Paul, we thank His Eminence for love and support.

*"Many years to our Bishop and
Hierarch, Lord keep him in Your care."*

**HYMNS FOR THE
1ST SUNDAY OF ST LUKE**

RESURRECTION HYMN (BARIS TONE)

*"O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death,
and granted unto the thief blessed paradise.
The Myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy.
The apostles did preach the Good News at Your command,
that You had Risen from the dead O Christ our God,
bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore."*

HYMN FOR ST KALLISTRATOS

*"Your Martyrs, O Lord,
were worthily awarded by You the crowns of incorruption,
in that they contested for You our immortal God.
Since they possessed Your power, they defeated the tyrants,
dashing the demons powerless displays of defiance.
O Christ God, at their fervent entreaties, save our souls."*

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 World,
and to our souls His great mercy."*

KONTAKION HYMN

*"A Protection of Christians unshamable,
intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering,
reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin;
instead, come to us, for you are good;
your loving help bring unto us,
who are crying in faith to you:
hasten to intercede, and speed now to supplicate,
as a protection for all time,
Theotokos for those who honor you."*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Epistle: Corinthians 6:1-10
Gospel: St Luke 5:1-11*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE

EPISTLE: ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 6:1-10

Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity,

knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 5:1-11

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.



HOLY MARTYR CALLISTRATOS & THE 49 MARTYRS WITH HIM

St Callistratos came from Carthage. His parents were devout Christians and nurtured him in the education and admonition of the Lord. When he reached draft age he was inducted into the Roman Army. In the army environment, among the pagans, he was tried by many temptations, which, however, he faced with great patience, wisdom and faith. Because he had a healthy spiritual organism, with strong spiritual antibodies, he remained, by the Grace of God and his own personal struggle, harmless and free from evil.

He had the good habit of waking up during the night and praying, but did this with discernment and attention without bothering anyone. However, his way of life and behavior made some suspect he was a Christian and for that a complaint was made against him to the general. He invited him to apologize and heard Callistratos boldly confess his faith in Christ. He tried to dissuade him with promises and flatteries, yet, because he said that he could not change his mind, he ordered Callistratos be tortured harshly. Finally, they tied him in a sack, which was well sealed, and threw him into the sea. But in a wondrous way the sack ripped and two dolphins carried the Saint safe and sound to shore. This miracle was seen by other, 49 soldiers, who came to believe and boldly confess that the God of Callistratos was the true, "Who alone does wonders."

After this event the Saint was imprisoned together with the 49 soldiers, whom he catechized in prison. And because everyone remained stable and steadfast in their faith, they were beheaded, and in this way they sealed their martyrdom for Christ with their holy blood.

Their life and times give us the opportunity to highlight the following:

The value of an example is truly very great, because an example teaches and inspires more than any teaching. Of course, teaching advice and admonition is also necessary, but they are all completely useless and bring no benefit when they are not practiced, that is, when no one practices in life that which they say and advise. And, indeed, not



only do they not build, but they destroy because they scandalize the conscience of those who are ill in faith. They are like the "barren fig tree," which was cursed by Christ. Conversely, when one's words speak, namely through their life, then words become redundant and silence often is stronger than words.

Christ said that the preachers and teachers of the Gospel are those who validate what they say by their way of life and their brilliant example, and they will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven: "Whoever does and teaches, will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matt 5:19). Indeed, the person who

struggles to apply what they teach is overshadowed by the uncreated Grace of God, and then acquires inspiration and a power so great that like a magnet they attract the well intentioned on the path of virtue and perfection.

The 49 soldiers who were martyred together with St Callistratos were influenced in their way of life and behavior by the bright example of the Saint. Because they were well intentioned, the Grace of God overshadowed them, they were changed internally and prepared to accept at the right time the message of the Gospel. In other words, the 49 soldiers renounced their idols and confessed Christ as true God, sealing their confession with the blood of their martyrdom, not just because they saw the miracle of the rescue of St Callistratos from drowning, but because they loved Christ and accepted His rich Grace, influenced by the bright example of the Saint. Besides, this miracle was seen by many others, but they did not believe in Christ, because miracles do not give birth to faith, but they are the fruit of faith.

It is verified by science, but also from the daily experience of life, that as the years pass the memory weakens, and most people remember few things, if any, of the advice and admonitions of parents and teachers on various issues. They remember, however, very well their way of life and behavior, that is, their personality and character.

Continued on the following page.

THE CHURCH: THE ARK OF SALVATION

Our safety / salvation is the Divine Liturgy; literally, heaven brought down to earth. But explaining that to people outside the Church (non-orthodox) is like trying to explain to someone what honey tastes like; or like telling someone who never swam in the ocean, how it feels. We know - **because we are the "Ecclesia," the gathered people of God.** In the Divine Liturgy **Christ becomes tangibly present!** Herein rests our central treasure, our pure joy and our eternal gladness; liturgy literally means; the work of the people of God.

When we "enter into" and celebrate our Divine Liturgy "with the fear of God, with faith and with love," there is **simply no better , no more beautiful and no safer place to be.** The church proper, we call the "nave" - which comes from the ancient word for ship, "nafs" (from which we get the word "navy"). Similarly, Saint Basil likens the Church to Noah's Ark, calling her **"the Ark of Salvation."** And from ancient times every temple dedicated to any deity has been understood as a "ship" taking man on a journey to another world; this is why in Greek our church building (our temple) is called the "naos."

Besides the Divine Liturgy and the Church's architecture, everything else about "our ways" has been given by the Holy Spirit - designed to enhance our journey to the



salvation Christ promises; iconography, fragrances, language, hymnography, music and overall solemnity - all steering us toward eternal life.

We the faithful preserve a worshipful disposition of repentance, gratitude and hope in Christ's promise of eternal life as the reflection of heaven. And we preserve it first for our own progeny (**in order that they might "taste and see" with regularity - lest the "dainties" of the outside world "steal" their attention - 2 Cor 12:14.** As mature adults we know that the **liturgy serves both to strengthen our faith - and to relieve our fears.**

Christians! As we continue this temporal journey then (with God's help) after each and every Divine Liturgy **let us return "to the world" as better faithful Christians, truly as "salt and light"** (Matt 5:13-16) in order to gift this world - yes! **Our work is to give the world hope;** the world which Christ our Savior came to save! (John 3:17)

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world - but that the world would be saved by Him."

Father Christodoulos Papadeas

Continued from the previous page.

It is especially remembered if they applied themselves personally in their lives to what they taught and advised, remembering also very well the love and interest applied to them, and vice versa.

Therefore, the bright example of parents, especially when it is coupled with deeply pained prayer that comes from a loving heart, literally performs miracles. An impression was made upon me by the words of a simple yet faithful mother, who was saddened by the way one of her children treated a certain serious issue, how it did not conform to the will of God. She said: "Now that my children are

Source: Ekklesiastiki Paremvasi

grown I have stopped giving them advice. What I do now is show them lots of love and at the same time pray that God enlightens them." And truly, this helped substantially.

Silence and words are two ways of expression which cause benefit when they take place at at proper time, since there is "a time for silence and a time to speak." One needs to have discernment to know when to speak and when to be quiet. And, of course, silence and words create inspiration and truly are beneficial when they are clothed in the bright garment of a shining example, as well as prayer with deep pain and selfish love.

Stewards of SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we progress to fall, we hope that this message finds all of your families well. COVID-19 has stretched us all and presented unprecedented challenges. For our family, we miss our time together and the fellowship of our Church family. We also missed the fun and fellowship of the Taste of Orthodoxy, which we could not hold due to restrictions on gathering sizes this year.

As you may expect, the church has experienced some financial challenges due to COVID-19. Stewardship gifts have dropped off, with many stewards that have either not given this year or are lower in amount than previous years. Without the festival, we will not receive the revenue bump of \$25-30K that is often used to pay operating expenses. And in early 2020, before COVID-19 paralyzed our country, the much-needed decision was made to replace our HVAC system. This was necessary as we had many stretches without air conditioning in the summers or heat in the winters.

These circumstances have created a deficit that needs to be closed before the end of the year. We are very appreciative for the donations that have already been made toward the HVAC system; and for all of the stewards who have pledged and kept their stewardship commitments. We also understand that this may be a very tough time economically for people. What we are asking is that you prayerfully consider whether you can make a financial gift to help Sts. Peter and Paul finish the year in a strong position.

We are grateful to see the many parishioners that have returned to Church and look forward to both Saturday (Sunday) School and a time when we may all gather together again.

Special thanks to the Parish Council and Father Jordan for the many online services that have allowed us to stay connected to our Lord Jesus Christ and our Sts. Peter & Paul family.

Be well, with Love in Christ.
George and Nicole Tsiouvaras
Stewardship Chairs

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

SEPTEMBER 30, 10AM

Please join via live stream zoom
or in person.



ORTHODOX FAITH SERIES

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 6PM

October schedule:

Saturday, October 10 and Saturday, October 24 at 6pm

Class is open to all parents, adults and inquirers. This series will take place in the church. Contact Father Jordan with any questions.

TOPIC: WORSHIP AND PRAYER

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 'SATURDAY SCHOOL'

Please join us for our next 'Saturday School' fellowship scheduled for October 10 and October 24. We will gather for evening prayer at 5 pm. Dinner will be offered around 5:30ish. Breakout Classes by grade will be offered, 6 to 7 pm. There will be an Adult Education class for all parents, adults and inquirers, 6 to 7 pm in the church. If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Wall, "Saturday" school coordinator @awall609@yahoo.com or (720) 400-6579.

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.



PHILOPTOCHOS 2020 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Due to Covid, Philoptochos had not finalized 2020 membership in March. We are starting back up our 2020 membership drive today. If you would like to join Philoptochos or renew your membership, please turn in your membership form and stewardship donation to Lis Troicky. Membership form is attached. You can mail it to the church or drop it off on Sunday. Below are the people who are members for 2020.

Gaynel Andrusko
Ileana Barbu
Presb Marika Brown
Debbie Catechi
Alekie Cheronis
Georgia Christopher

Elayne Dageenakis
Rola DeGeorge
Presb Kedrann Dotson
Ashley Dzilvelis
Fran Dzilvelis
Sharon Dzilvelis

Keity Elias
Mary Garcia
Katherin Gerakos
Mary Lymberopoulos
Julie Powers
Candy Soulakis

Jan Marose-Swisczc
Pam Torrance
Lis Troicky
Julie Welker
Peter Demetropoulos



SAINTS PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301
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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 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 'antidoro' (blessed bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.



PRIEST

Reverend Father Jordan Brown

PARISH COUNCIL

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

PHILOPTOCHOS

Presidents - Dana Gall and Sharon Dzilvelis
Treasurer - Julie Powers

BOOK STORE

Sharon Dzilvelis

YOUTH / GOYA

Fr. Jordan Brown

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Presbytera Marika Brown

RECURRING SERVICES

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