

PETRA NEWS



ΗΑΓΙΑ
ΠΑΡΜΕΝΗ

ST PELAGIA

WEEK OF OCTOBER 4TH 2020

1757 1/4
100 N. Main

STS PETER & PAUL WEEKLY SERVICES

WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCT 7

Bible Study _____ 10am

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCT 7

St Pelagia

Orthros _____ 5:15pm

Evening Divine Liturgy _____ 6pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Great Vespers _____ 5pm

SPECIAL GIFT FROM HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ISAIAH

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 2ND SUNDAY OF ST LUKE

RESURRECTION HYMN (PLAGAL 4TH TONE)

*"From high did You descend,
O merciful Lord,
for us did You endure,
three days in the tomb that we may be
released from passions in this world,
You who are our resurrection and our life
Glory unto You O Lord."*

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

Orthros Gospel: Luke 24:36-53

Epistle: 2 Cor 6:16-18; 7:1

Gospel: St Luke 6:31-36

SECOND SUNDAY OF LUKE

ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 6:16-18; 7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I

will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 6:31-36

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."



ST PELAGIA

This saint was a prominent actress of the city of Antioch, and a pagan, who lived a life of unstrained prodigality and led many to perdition. Instructed and baptized by a certain bishop named Nonnus (St Nonnus is commemorated November 10), she departed for the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem, where she lived as a recluse, feigning to be a eunuch, called Pelagia. She lived in such holiness and repentance that within three or four years she was deemed worthy to repose in an odour of sanctity, in the middle of the fifth century. Her tomb on the Mount of Olives has been a place of pilgrimage ever since.

**We will celebrate her feast on
Wednesday Evening, October 8th, 6pm.**



“LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU.”

St Luke 6:31-36

Jesus pronounces the golden rule to love our enemies. Not once, but twice, Jesus is quoted with this remarkable teaching. The gospel of St Matthew offers an even stronger message; **“Love your enemies and pray for those persecute you.”** This was a radical teaching Jesus presented during His earthly ministry. The golden rule had been applied by Jewish spiritual leaders, but only in a negative form; **“What you do not want others to do unto you do not unto them.”** The people, especially the Jewish leaders, were astonished at this command that Jesus had changed in a positive sense. “A Jew love a Roman soldier? Ridiculous!” There were many who believed Jesus to be a traitor for offering this teaching to “love your enemies.” It is no surprise that not long after Jesus spoke these words that He was condemned to death.

The message of ‘love’ is contained throughout the Divine Liturgy. In preparation of the Great Entrance, the priest faces the faithful, and offers the following prayer; **“Let us forgive those who hate us and those who love us.”** Holy Scripture shares that our cooperation is required for love to be genuine. The Bible teaches us love is selfless concern and action for genuine good of another. The greatest act of love was the sending of God’s Son, Jesus Christ into the world to teach, heal, and suffer on the cross for our sins. Jesus Christ conquered sin through His Resurrection for the sake of the salvation of the human race.

What does it mean to love, and why must I love my enemy? The answer is in the gospel. The words of Jesus; **“But love your enemies, do good and lend, hoping in return, and your reward will great and you will be sons and daughters of the most high.”** We love our enemies in order to be true children of God. We love our enemies in order to be penetrated by His holiness. A wise father of the church said, **“The last thing and enemy expects is love. When we give love, instead of hatred, we disarm the enemy.”** Give him the devil, advised a friend who had suffered an injustice at the hands of a third party. The friend replied, “He already has the devil, I would like to give him God.” **To love your enemy is to give him God.**

A great Russian Saint said that true Christian love is not measured whether we love our friends, but whether we love our enemies. **“How do we know whether a person abides in God and is sincere in his Christian faith? There is no other way of ascertaining this that by examining the person’s life to see if he loves his enemies. Where there is love for one’s enemy, there also is God.”**

The following is a true story of a priest in the Middle East; Father Elias was sent to a church that was literally falling apart, and the congregation that worshiped inside was in not better condition than the building. The divisions that ran through the parish could be seen in the way that people arranged themselves in the church on Sunday: four distinct groups each keeping a distance from the others, and everyone with grim faces. The fundamental division in the church was between four brothers, and even the death of their mother had not provided the occasion for the brothers to be in the same room together.

On Palm Sunday of his first year as priest, Father Elias looked from the front of the church at the stony faces before him. One of the brothers, sat in the front with his wife and children. The hymns were sung, but without spirit. The priest at the end of his sermon said, ‘The congregation endured me indifferently,’ But before the service ended, Father Elias did something that no one, perhaps not even he himself had anticipated. He walked to the back of the church and padlocked the door. Returning to the front of the church, he told his parishioners, ‘sitting in this church building does not make you a Christian. You are divided people. You argue and hate each other. You gossip and spread lies. Your religion is a lie. **If you can’t love your brother whom you see, how can you say you love God who is invisible? You have allowed the Body of Christ to disgraced. I have tried for months to unite you. I have failed. I am only a man. But there is someone else who can bring you together in true unity. His name is Jesus Christ. So now I will be quiet and allow Him to give you that power. If you will not forgive, then we will stay locked in here and I will provide your funeral prayers.**

Continued on the following page.

Stewards of STS 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

Continued from the previous page.

Ten minutes passed. At last the brother sitting in the front stood up, faced the congregation, bowed his head and said, forgive me. I am the worst of all. I have hated my own brothers. I have hated them so much that I wanted them dead. More than any of you, I need forgiveness. He turned to his priest, and said, 'Father can you forgive me?' Come here', Fr Elias replied. They embraced each other with the kiss of peace. Father said, 'Now go and greet your brothers.' The four brothers rushed together, meeting halfway down the aisle, and in tears forgave each other.

In an instant the church was a chaos of embracing and embracing. Never was forgiveness withheld in that church.

During the last years of his life, St John the Evangelist, would face the faithful in church, and offer the following sermon; **"Children, love one another."** St John would say these words over and over. When asked why, St John replied, **"He who loves keeps all the commandments of the Lord."**

Father Jordan



PHILOPTOCHOS 2020 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Due to Covid, Philoptochos had not finalized 2020 membership in March. If you would like to join Philoptochos or renew your membership for 2020, please turn in your membership form and stewardship donation to Lis Troicky or Julie Powers. Membership form is attached. You can mail it to the church or drop it off on Sunday. Deadline is Sunday October 18th. 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-Swisch
Pam Torrance
Lis Troicky

Julie Welker
Sheila Zissimos
Zoe Zwierzynski
Peter Demetropoulos

Yes, I would like to offer my love and service by joining the Philoptochos Society in its philanthropic efforts. Please accept my stewardship below realizing that a total of \$22 of my stewardship will be sent to National Philoptochos and the Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos.

My stewardship pledge for 2020 is: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

eMail: _____

Renewing Member

Birth date: ____ / ____
MONTH DAY

New Member

I would like to help with the following ministries/projects. Check as many boxes as you can:

- Fund Raisers; bookstore, baking, etc.
- Special Events; annual winter dinner event
- Membership; forms, booklet, etc.
- Fellowship Events; cooking, baking, set up, clean up
- Social Services; food drive, etc.
- Sisterhood; social events, preparing dinners, visitations

Please make checks payable to "Philoptochos"

RETURN ON SUNDAY or MAIL TO:

Sts Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church
c/o Philoptochos Society
5640 Jay Rd
Boulder, CO 80301

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT EDUCATION

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY OCTOBER 7, 10AM

Please join via live stream zoom
or in person.



ORTHODOX FAITH SERIES TOPIC: WORSHIP AND PRAYER

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.

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.



SATURDAY'S, SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Thank you to the handful who have provided fellowship during these challenging times. The Sunday fellowship has been a great blessing for our parish family. We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with Sunday Fellowship. If you are able to help, please contact Father Jordan.

HOLY WATER BOTTLES

Please bring back your empty Holy Water Bottles to the church. We are running low.

OUTDOOR GAMES & EQUIPMENT

There are new balls (basketball, soccer & football), and soccer nets. The equipment is located in the toy bin (behind the basketball hoop). Children, please make sure and put away the balls & equipment when you are done. Please do not park in front of the basketball hoop (south side of the church)



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.





SAINTS PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301

303.581.1434 • stspeterandpaulboulder.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 '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.