

PETRA NEWS



ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

WEEK OF DECEMBER 6TH 2020

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH 2020

STS PETER & PAUL WEEKLY SERVICES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

Orthros / Morning Prayers ____ 9am

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Orthros / Morning Prayers ____ 9am

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Feast Conception of the Theotokos

Orthros _____ 8am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9am

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Orthros / Morning Prayers ____ 9am

SATURDAY MORNING, DEC 12

Feast St Spyridon & St Herman of Alaska

Orthros _____ 8am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9am

SATURDAY EVENING, DEC 12

Great Vespers _____ 5pm

NATIVITY FAST NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 24

WEEKDAY DAILY MORNING PRAYERS DURING THE NATIVITY FAST

The Church will be open every morning during the week, Monday through Friday (**with the exception of Thursday**), at 9 am - 11 am. The Orthros / Morning Prayers will begin at 9 am (35-45 minute service). This is wonderful time to light a candle, and offer prayers. If you would like to schedule confession, please speak with Father Jordan.

HYMNS FOR THE 10TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

RESURRECTION HYMN (1ST TONE)

*“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 ST NICHOLAS

*“A ruler of faith are you, and icon of gentleness, and teacher of self-control.
And to your flock this was evident, by the truth of your life and deeds.
You were humble and therefore you acquired exalted gifts, treasure in heaven for being poor.
O Father and Hierarch Saint Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, and entreat Him to save our souls.”*

HYMN FOR STS PETER PAUL

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

KONTAKION NATIVITY HYMN

*“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.”*

*“I Parthenos simeron, ton proeonion Logon,
en spileo erhete apotekin aporritos.
Horeve, I ikoumeni, akoutisthisa;
doxason meta Angelon ke ton Pimenon,
voulithenta epofthine, pedion neon, ton pro eonon Theon.”*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Orthros Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

Epistle: Hebrews 13:17-21

Gospel: St Luke 13:10-17

TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

FOURTH ORTHROS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 24:1-12

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.

ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 13:17-21

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored

to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the

Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.



ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA

By St Nikolai Velimirovich

This glorious saint, celebrated even today throughout the entire world, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of the city of Patara in Lycia. Since he was the only son bestowed on them by God, the parents returned the gift to God by dedicating their son to Him.

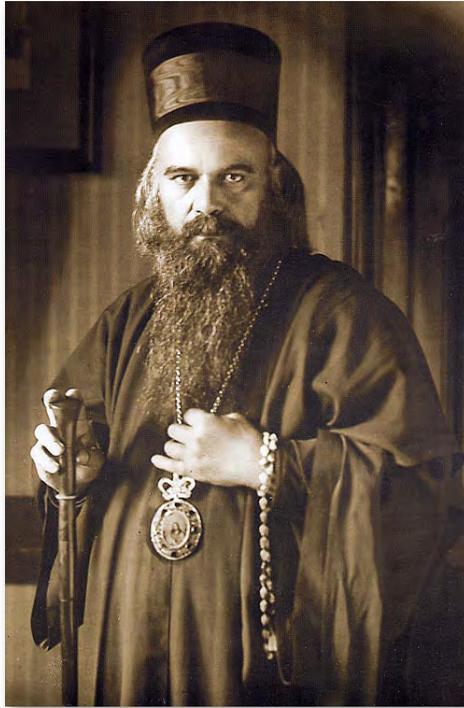
St. Nicholas learned for the spiritual life from his uncle Nicholas, Bishop of Patara, and was tonsured a monk in the Monastery of New Zion founded by his uncle. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself.

As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord:

“Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand is doing.” (Matthew 6:3)

When he gave himself over to solitude and silence, thinking to live that way until his death, a voice from on high came to him: “Nicholas, for your ascetic labor, work among the people, if thou desires to be crowned with Me.” Immediately after that, by God’s wondrous providence, he was chosen Archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia.

Merciful, wise, and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. During the persecution of Christians under Diocletian and Maximian,



he was cast into prison, but even there he instructed the people in the Law of God. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea (325) and, out of great zeal for the truth, struck the heretic Arius with his hand. For this act he was removed from the Council and from his archiepiscopal duties, until the Lord Christ Himself and the Most-holy Theotokos appeared to several of the chief hierarchs and revealed their approval of Nicholas.

A defender of God’s truth, this wonderful saint was ever bold as a defender of justice among the people. On two occasions,

he saved three men from an undeserved sentence to death. Merciful, truthful, and lover of justice, he walked among the people as an angel of God. Even during his lifetime, the people considered him a saint and invoked his aid in difficulties and in distress. He appeared both in dreams and in person to those who called upon him, and he helped them easily and speedily, whether close as hand or far away. A light shone from his face as it did from the face of Moses, and he, by his presence alone, brought comfort, peace and good will among men.

In old age he became ill for a short time and entered into the rest of the Lord, after a life full of labor and very fruitful toll, to rejoice eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven, continuing to help the faithful on earth by his miracles and to glorify his God. He entered into rest on December 6, 343.

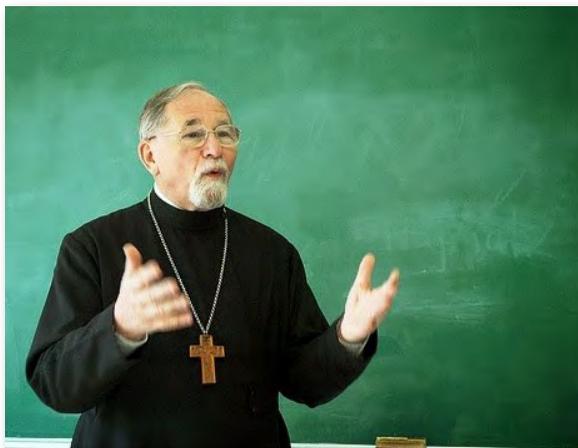
THE CONCEPTION OF MARY

By Fr. Thomas Hopko

On the ninth of December the Orthodox Church celebrates the feast of the conception of the Virgin Mary by her parents Joachim and Anna. On this major festival which finds its place in the Church's preparation for Christmas, the faithful rejoice in the event by which Mary is conceived in fulfillment of her parent's prayers in order to be formed in the womb, born on the earth, dedicated to the Lord, and nurtured in holiness to become by God's grace the mother of His Son the Messiah.

The Orthodox Church, particularly in the present time, does not call the feast of Mary's beginning the "immaculate conception." This is not because the Orthodox consider Mary's conception to have been somehow "masculate" or "stained" (macula means 'stain' in Latin). It simply means that the Orthodox do not want to support the conviction that God had somehow to intervene at the moment of Mary's conception with a special action to remove the "stain" of the original sin transmitted by the act of human reproduction because, simply put, the Orthodox do not hold that such a "stain" exists.

The Orthodox Church affirms original sin. Orthodox theology teaches that all human beings, including the Virgin Mary who is a "mere human" like the rest of us - unlike her Son Jesus who is a "real human" but not a "mere human" because He is the incarnate Son and Word of God - are born into a fallen, death-bound, demon-riddled world



whose "form is passing away" (1 Cor 7:31). We are all born mortal and tending toward sin. But we are not born guilty of any personal sin, certainly not one allegedly committed "in Adam." Nor are we born stained because of the manner in which we are conceived by the sexual union of our parents. If

sexual union in marriage is in any sense sinful, or the cause in itself of any sinfulness or stain, even in the conditions of the "fallen world," then, as even the rigorous St. John Chrysostom has taught, God is the sinner because He made us this way, male and female, from the very beginning.

The Orthodox Church teaches that it is possible by the grace of God, with whom all things are possible, for sexual union in marriage, even in the present condition of things, to be good, holy, beautiful, loving, and pure. The proof of this is the feast of Joachim and Anna's conception of Mary (and Zacharias and Elizabeth's conception of John the Baptist), with no mention whatsoever of any "stain" having to be removed by a special action of God, certainly not one connected with the manner in which the conception occurs.

Mary is conceived by her parents as we are all conceived. But in her case it is a pure act of faith and love, in obedience to God's will, as an answer to prayer. In this sense her conception is truly "immaculate." And its fruit is the woman who remains forever the most pure Virgin and Mother of God.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES UPDATE 12/6/2020

The revised Colorado Safer-at-Home guidelines set forth by the Governor of Colorado allow Sts Peter Paul to 45 people in Church during the services.

PLEASE NOTE THAT MASKS ARE REQUIRED AND TO BE PROPERLY WORN AT ALL SERVICES INCLUDING ALL WEEKDAY SERVICES.

Please be considerate and **sign-up for only one of the services (Divine Liturgy)** offered during the week. Please allow others to sign up if you have already attended, especially if it was the prior Sunday. If at the end of the week (Saturday evening), the list is not filled, then please sign up. If you did not sign up or prefer not to attend on Sunday, Holy Communion will be offered from 11:30 - 12 noon.

The weekly schedule of services are as follows:

- Wednesday, December 9, Divine Liturgy, 9am
(no sign-up required)
- Saturday, December 12, Divine Liturgy, 9am
(please sign-up)
- Sunday Divine Liturgy, December 13, 9:30am
(please sign-up)

The fellowship Hall will remain closed on Sundays. The Welcome committee and members of the Parish Council will offer coffee & pastry 'To Go' at the end of service. Due to recent restrictions, in person Sunday School, Classes and Bible Studies are discontinued until further notice. The Wednesday Bible is available via 'zoom.' Father Jordan will offer a youth discussion via 'zoom' beginning December 5th (details TBA).

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT EDUCATION

**MORNING BIBLE STUDY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 10 AM**



Please note the Wednesday Morning Bible Study has been moved to Friday this week because of the Divine Liturgy on Wednesday

Please join us via live stream zoom. We will be discussing the life of St Spyridon and St Herman of Alaska. The scripture study will be St Luke 14:16-24

ORTHODOX FAITH SERIES

If you are interested in learning about the Orthodox Faith, please contact Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 303-581-1434. The Orthodox Christian Faith Classes will begin in January 2021.

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.

WE CAN'T HELP WITHOUT YOU!



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 Dzivelis 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.

BOOKSTORE



We are here for you! Philoptochos would be happy to help you with your bookstore Christmas purchase on Sunday's after Liturgy. Please see Lis Troicky or Julie Powers.



SAINTS PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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

PHILOTOCHOS

Presidents - Dana Gall and
Sharon Dzilvelis
Treasurer - Julie Powers

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.