

# PETRA NEWS

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**ST SPYRIDON**

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 2020**

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# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 2020

## STS PETER & PAUL WEEKLY SERVICES

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 14,**  
Orthros / Morning Prayers \_\_\_\_ 9am

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
**Feast of St Eleutherios**  
Orthros \_\_\_\_\_ 8am  
Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 9am

**WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC 16**  
Orthros / Morning Prayers \_\_\_\_ 9am

**WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC 16**  
Holy Unction Service \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18**  
Orthros / Morning Prayers \_\_\_\_ 9am

**SATURDAY MORNING, DEC 19**  
**Feast St Boniface**  
Orthros \_\_\_\_\_ 8am  
Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 9am

**SATURDAY MORNING, DEC 19**  
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 9am - 11am. 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.

## SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS

### RESURRECTION HYMN ( 2ND TONE)

*“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 HOLY FOREFATHERS

*“By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, 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

Epistle: Col 3:4-11 Gospel: St Luke 14:16-24

### ARTOCLASIA / BLESSING OF THE 5 LOAVES

*We will celebrate the Artoclasia (blessing of the 5 loaves) at the end of today’s Divine Liturgy in celebration of Saint Dionysios, commemorated on December 17th.*

*Through his holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen*

## TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

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### EPISTLE: ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS 3:4-11

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Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice,

slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 14:16-24

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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 DEADLY EPIDEMIC OF 1630 AND THE MIRACLE OF ST. SPYRIDON



Palm Sunday, the great feast of Christianity, in Kerkyra is celebrated together with the commemoration of the miracle of St. Spyridon, whereby the Saint saved the residents of the island from a deadly epidemic of the plague in 1630. Every year on this date, after the Divine Liturgy, as a sign of remembrance and in honor of St. Spyridon, a long procession takes place throughout the old town of Kerkyra, and a prayer of entreaty is read on the spot where stood the old walls of the city and the non-preserved Church of St. Athanasios the Great.

In 1630, by the miraculous intervention St. Spyridon, Kerkyra was saved from the plague, a deadly pestiferous terrible disease. According to historical sources, the illness broke out in Kerkyra in October of 1629. It was transferred from a ship that arrived in Kerkyra from Italy. The illness affected Italy and the Ionian Islands. On Christmas of 1629 four cases were identified in Kerkyra and as time passed in proliferated.

Despite stringent measures taken by the health authorities, the evil did not subside. There weren't nearly enough doctors to help those afflicted.

People therefore fled to the intercessions of St. Spyridon, their greatest and last hope. Indeed,

as it is written, the Saint did not remain unmoved by the entreaties and prayers of the people.

Shortly before the days of Pascha many of the sick saw him in their dreams blessing them and giving them back their health. Also, the night watchmen of the Old Fortress would see a supernatural light hovering over the church of the Saint. Slowly, slowly, day by day, the incidence decreased until they ceased altogether on Palm Sunday in 1630.

The people of Kerkyra attributed their salvation to a miracle of St. Spyridon and they established from that time forward for a procession to take place with the sacred, wonderworking and in-corrup relic of St. Spyridon every Palm Sunday.

The procession on this day is longer than all the others that take place throughout the year and the distance covers the perimeter of the Post-Byzantine city of Kerkyra. It is on this day also that all the philharmonic orchestras of the island join together and lead the procession throughout the streets.

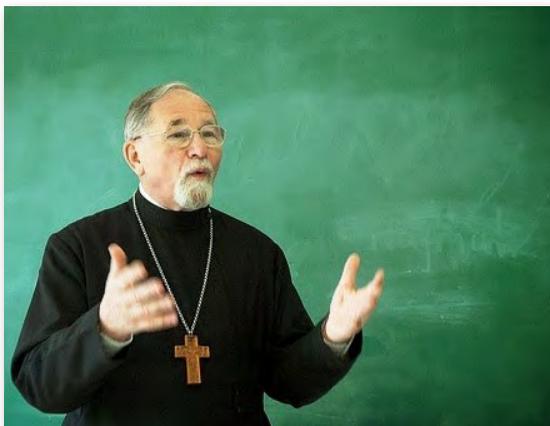
# THE FEAST OF SAINT HERMAN

By Fr Thomas Hopko

The elder Herman of Alaska, a missionary monk of Spruce Island near Kodiak, died on the 13th of December in 1837. He is the first formally canonized saint of the Orthodox Church in America.

The young monk Herman was a hermit in the monastery of Valaamo in Russia Finland. He was chosen to be a member of the first missionary team being sent to the Russian lands in Alaska. He was not ordained. He was not formally educated. He had no particular human skills. His only grace was that he was a holy man, a person of genuine faith and continuous prayer.

Herman came to America with the first group of missionaries. He alone survived, living for many years as a simple monk of Spruce Island. He taught the people the Gospel. He attended to their spiritual and physical needs. He defended them against the cruelty of the Russian traders. He pleaded their cause before the imperial throne. He was beaten and persecuted by his own people for his condemnation of their injustices and sins. He identified wholly with the afflicted and oppressed. He died in obscurity, foretelling his glorification in future years by the Church that would emerge from his own humble efforts and those of the waves of immigrants who would inhabit the continent. And he revealed himself from heaven to those who, like him, remained faithful to God, including the great missionary bishop, the widowed priest and “apostle to America,” St. Innocent.



American Christianity desperately needs the witness of St. Herman, for the American way of life is so radically opposed in so many ways to the life of this man and the Lord Jesus whom he served. Power, possessions, profits, pleasures: these are the things that Americas are known for. These are the goals that

we are schooled to pursue. These are the things in which we take pride. And, sadly enough, these are also the things that many of us are taught to value and our “religious leaders,” both by their words and their example. But this was/is not the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. And it is not the way of His Saints.

By American standards, St. Herman of Alaska, like the Lord Jesus Himself, was a miserable failure. He made not name for himself. He was not in the public eye. He wielded no power. He owned no property. He had few possessions, if any at all. He had no worldly prestige. He played no role in human affairs. He partook of no carnal pleasures. He made no money. He died in obscurity among outcast people. Yet today, more than a hundred years after his death, his icon is venerated in thousands of churches and his name is honored by millions of people whom he is still trying to teach to seek the kingdom of God and its righteousness which has been brought to the world by the King who was born in a cavern and crucified on a cross. The example of this man is crucial to the celebration of Christmas - especially in America.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year has been a year of challenges: to our health, to our wallets, to our sense of safety. But as we reflect back, there are also many reasons to be grateful, such as a small, but very dedicated team of people who stream the services for us, chanters who fill the church with their beautiful voices during every service, and a priest who tirelessly visits the homebound and high-risk members of our parish.

We are also immensely grateful to those who generously contributed to our parish this year to keep the doors open, to help fund the new HVAC system, to cover the income lost by not hosting the festival, and other unplanned expenses that came up through the year. Those efforts made a significant difference; thank you all.

As always at the end of the year, we find ourselves falling a bit short of the income needed to meet our budgeted expenses.

As we approach the Nativity of our Lord, please prayerfully consider making an additional gift to Sts. Peter and Paul to help us meet our expenses for 2020.

May the Lord richly bless you all as we prepare for his Nativity,  
George and Nicole Tsiouvaras, Stewardship Chairs

## COVID-19 GUIDELINES UPDATE 12/13/2020

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 weekend services** (Divine Liturgy). 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, please contact Father Jordan (frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 720-329-5212. Arrangements can be made to receive Holy Communion during the week.

**The weekly schedule of services are as follows:**

- Tuesday, December 15, Divine Liturgy 9am  
*(no sign-up required)*
- Wednesday, December 16, Holy Unction 5pm  
*(no sign-up required)*
- Saturday, December 19, Divine Liturgy, 9am  
*(please sign-up)*
- Sunday, December 20, Divine Liturgy, 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 Study 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 16, 10AM**

Please join us via live stream zoom. We will be discussing the Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Nativity gospel readings (St Luke 2:1-10 and St Matthew 2:1-12) will be the focus of the study.



### ORTHODOX FAITH SERIES

If you are interested in learning about the Orthodox Faith, please contact Father Jordan at [frjordanbrown@gmail.com](mailto: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 Dzilvelis at [ashleydz1@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:powerjulie@gmail.com)), and put "Our Center" in the memo line.



## CHRISTMAS CAROLING FOR OUR HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

We need your beautiful Christmas Carol Voices!

On Wednesday, December 23, Father Jordan will be dropping off Christmas Care Packages to our elderly shut-ins. Families will travel on their own to each residence.



We will sing Christmas carols outside their doors on the front porch maintaining 'safe distance.' We plan to leave the church after the Nativity Royal Hours around 10:30 am.

Please let Father Jordan know if you are able to help out.

Christ is Born! Let us Glorify Him!

## 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.



## GROCERY GIFT CARDS

Remember to purchase your grocery gift cards and old Chicago pizza Palz from Julie Powers on Sunday or contact her directly at [powerjulie@gmail.com](mailto:powerjulie@gmail.com)



## SAINTS PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

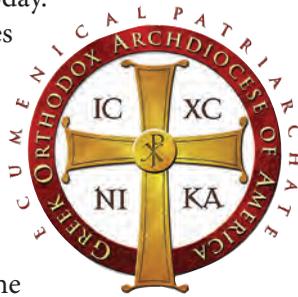
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5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301  
303.581.1434 • stspeterandpaulboulder.org

### ABOUT OUR PARISH

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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

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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

### 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.