

# PETRA NEWS



**ST ANTHONY THE GREAT**

**WEEK OF JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

# SUNDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2021

## STS PETER & PAUL WEEKLY SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

**Paraclesis to the Mother of God**

Paraclesis Service \_\_\_\_\_ 6pm

SATURDAY MORNING, JAN 23

**Sts Clement & Agathangelos**

Orthros \_\_\_\_\_ 8am

Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ 9am

SATURDAY EVENING, JAN 23

Great Vespers \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

## THE PRAYER FOR THE CATECHUMENS

“Lord our God, Who dwells on high and watches over the humble, You sent forth Your only-begotten Son and God, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of the human race. Look down upon Your servants, the catechumens, who have inclined their necks to You, and grant them at a proper time the baptism of rebirth, the remission of sins, and the garment of incorruption. Unite them to Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and number them among Your chosen flock.”

Baily, Chad, Justin, Natasha, Yehor

## TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

### RESURRECTIONAL 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. ANTHONY THE GREAT

“Imitating the manners of Elijah the Zealot,  
and following the straight paths of John the Baptist,  
O Father Anthony, you colonized the desert,  
and you supported the Empire by your prayers.  
Therefore intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.”

### HYMN FOR STS PETER PAUL

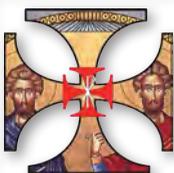
“O Leaders of the Apostles, and teachers of the world,  
intercede with the Master of all that He may grant peace  
unto the world, and to our souls His great mercy.”

### KONTAKION FOR THE PRESENTATION

“You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord,  
and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God;  
and even now You came and saved us.  
Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war,  
and empower our Leaders, so loved by You,  
the only one who loves humanity.”

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Orthros Gospel; John 21:1-14  
Epistle Reading; Hebrews 13:17-21  
Gospel Reading; St. Luke 17:12-19



Philoptochos will have a special tray in the Narthex and by the south exit door where all proceeds go to **St Basil Academy** orphanage in Garrison, New York. Thank you for your donation and support.





## TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

### TENTH ORTHROS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 21:1-14

At that time, being raised from the dead, Jesus revealed himself to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others

of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the

quantity of fish. The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

### EPISTLE: 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 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud

voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

## THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIA

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Our thanksgiving is Jesus Christ Himself. This emerges from that special New Testament word for Thanksgiving: eucharisto, eucharistia. Christian thanksgiving is eucharist and its perfect expression in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the thanksgiving of the Lord given by Him to His Church. Jesus' entire life is one long act of thanksgiving or Eucharist - begun in Bethlehem, carried to completion on the Cross, and supremely expressed at the Last Supper. That same thanksgiving has now become our constant lifestyle as Christians. "Through Him, and with Him, and in Him" our hearts give praise and glory to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We see this especially in the early liturgies that are still celebrated in the Orthodox Church. They

are replete with doxologies and praises to God for His incredible love to Him wayward children.

Paul Evdokimov (book 'The Sacrament of Love') captured this when he wrote:

*"It is not enough to say prayers;  
one must become, be prayer, prayer incarnate.  
It is not enough to have moments of praise.  
All of life, each act, every gesture,  
even the smiles of the human face,  
must become a hymn of adoration.*

It translates the message of the Gospel: chaire, 'rejoice and be glad,' 'let everything that has breath praise the Lord.'

## THE FRUITS OF THANKFULNESS

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St Mark the Hermit says that remembering God's blessings daily and thanking Him for them will make us want to commit our lives to Him. He writes, "You will want to give yourself entirely to God prompted by remembrance of the great gifts you have received from such a generous and loving Lord."

Fr Anthony Coniaris wrote,

"We need more eucharist, praise, doxology and thanksgiving in our lives today not only because it is our chief end in life as Christians, i.e., to glorify God; but also because it contributes to the abundant life God wants us to live."

Here are some of the ways thanksgiving contributes to the abundant life:

- *Thanksgiving is a good way to fight anxiety. It is a good thing to begin each day by thanking God for His many blessings of the past. Could any act be more likely to dispel anxiety feeling than to affirm thankfully each day what God has done for us in the past?*
- *In addition to fighting anxiety, thanksgiving delivers us from one of the worst of all devils: self-pity. There is never room for self-pity in a truly thankful heart.*
- *Thanksgiving will crowd sadness and depression out of your heart. When sad, start giving thanks. Search for something, anything to be thankful for. Once you find*

*the first blessing, others will follow, and soon you will find yourself giving endless thanks. If you want to be miserable, start grumbling. If you want to be joyful, start praising and thanking.*

- *Praise relaxes us. We cannot fume and fret and praise God, all at the same time.*
- *Thanksgiving can enable us to turn a tragedy into a blessing. Whatever calamity happens to you, if you thank and praise God for it, you turn it into a blessing. For God can take that which is evil and make it work for your good. Praise is a melodious expression of our faith that God's power is greater than any evil that can befall us. That is why St Paul writes, "In every thing give thanks" (1 Thess 5:18).*
- *Thanksgiving drives out pride. The person who is constantly thanking God for His blessings will be a deeply humble person, remembering Him Who is the Source of all blessings. "What have you which you have not received?" asks St Paul.*
- *To pray means primarily to give thanks. Thank is why almost all the worship services of our Church begin with doxology and praise. Many prayers never achieve true communion with God because they do not begin with thanksgiving.*

# STEWARDSHIP SERMON

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*“...but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Cor 13:13)*

Jesus spoke of love and showed compassion. He taught by His example to love one another and to be compassionate toward those in need. In the Gospels, we read of the compassion of Jesus:

*When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd,  
He had compassion on them  
and healed their sick (Matthew 14:14).*

*...He had compassion on them,  
because they were like sheep  
without a shepherd (Mark 6:34).*

Compassion can often mean kindness and sympathy. In these verses, it means something deeper and much more powerful. “And He had compassion” is translated from the Greek ‘*epichairete*’ and comes from the root word in Greek for “guts.” In other words, it is compassion and concern that are felt in one’s guts - a compassion that is felt in a deeply physical way. Compassion felt in this way compels us to respond with love and deep concern.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus says *“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him...”* (Luke 10:33)

In the parable of the Prodigal Son Jesus says, *“But when He was yet a great way off, his Father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him”* (Luke 15:20)

These stories reflect the love and compassion that Jesus has for his people. His compassion inspires and challenges each one of us to live compassionately.

This understanding of the full meaning of compassion in the New Testament means that another person’s suffering becomes our own suffering. **Compassion in this sense can change the way we live and care for others and for our community.** When we feel this

physical type of compassion, we are fully and physically engaged. We serve others and care for our community with love.

To love in the way St Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth, when he says, “...the greatest of these is love,” means we can not live without compassion for others. Love and compassion are not expressed only in our offerings of money and other love and compassion.

The love that St Paul describes in his letter to the Christians in Corinth is an expression of stewardship. Stewardship is everything we do after we say “I believe.” **Stewardship is about how we live our lives and make our choices.** That means that stewardship is about love and love is about stewardship.

Love and stewardship are inseparable when we consider God’s blessings in our life. We use God’s blessings with love and compassion for others and to honor, worship and give thanks to Him.

**Our parishes can be transformed, becoming beacons of Christian love as we care for one another, face challenges together, and serve our neighbors. We would be known as Christians by the love and compassion we embody as a parish family.**

We are called to be compassionate stewards, placing the needs of others before our own. Scripture is filled with passages of God’s call for us to be generous, loving, compassionate givers. Saint Paul’s 2nd letter to the Corinthians tells us of God’s call for us to “excel in the grace of giving.” We are “hard-wired” to live as members of the Body of Christ and serve our larger community with compassion and love.

The priority of compassion stewardship is not paying the congregation’s bills. It is about how we live, as a community, can do God’s work with love and compassion. It is less about the parish’s need to receive, and more about our need to give. It is our generosity with the gifts and blessings God has entrusted to us. Compassionate stewardship is an attitude and a way of life.

## SAYINGS OF SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT

When the holy Anthony lived in the desert he was attacked by many sinful thoughts. He said to God, “Lord, I want to be saved but these thoughts do not leave me alone; what shall I do in my affliction” How can I be saved?” A short while afterwards, when he got up to go out, Anthony saw a man like himself sitting as his work, getting up from his work to pray, then sitting down again and plaiting a rope, then getting up again to pray. It was an angel of the Lord sent to correct and reassure him. He heard the angel saying to him, “Do this and you will be saved.” At these words, Anthony was filled with joy and courage. He did this, and he was saved.

“Our life and our death is with our neighbor. If we gain our brother, we have gained God, but if we



scandalize our brother, we have sinned against Christ.”

“Just as fish die if they stay too long out of water, so the monks who loiter outside their cells or pass their time with men of the world lose the intensity of inner peace. So like a fish going towards the sea, we must hurry to reach our cell, for fear that if we delay outside we will lose our interior watchfulness.”

It was revealed to St Anthony in his desert that there was one who was his equal in the city. He was a doctor by profession and whatever he had beyond his needs he gave to the poor, and every day he sang the Victory hymn with the angels.

### COVID-19 GUIDELINES UPDATE 1/17/2020

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:**

- Wednesday, January 20, Paracletic 6pm  
*No sign-up required*
- Saturday, January 23, Divine Liturgy 9am  
*Sign-up required*
- Sunday, January 24, Divine Liturgy, 9:30am  
*Sign-up required*

**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

## BLESSING OF HOMES 2021



Father Jordan will begin blessing homes on the Feast of Epiphany, January 6th. Father will be blessing all the homes of our parish. The house blessing schedule will be going out next week. House blessings will be a little different for 2021. Father Jordan

will be blessing only the entrance of the home. If you are new to our parish or have any questions for Father, please contact him.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Classes will resume on February 3rd

### 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 on Sunday, February 7th, 11:30 pm - 12:30 pm. The class will take place in the church



## 2021 STEWARDSHIP CARDS

Thank you to all who returned their cards last week on Stewardship Sunday. Matt Melonakis and Dana Gall were the winners of the gift cards! If you haven't returned your cards to church, please do so as soon as possible, either in the offering basket or through the mail. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Tsiouvaras, [tsiouvaras@msn.com](mailto:tsiouvaras@msn.com) or 303-489-4491.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SATURDAY, IS BACK!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH  
5 PM TO 7 PM**

### Sunday School on Saturday

classes are back and are being offered for children in pre-school and elementary school. We will start with Great Vespers at 5pm, followed by a meal and classes. Please contact Aaron Wall if you have any questions: (720) 400-6579; [awall609@yahoo.com](mailto:awall609@yahoo.com)



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### FIRESIDE CHAT WITH FR JORDAN (MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL ONLY) SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

Sts Peter Paul will host a Fireside Chat for our teens (middle and high school age only) beginning Saturday, January 23th. We will meet for evening prayer, Vespers at 5 pm, and gather for dinner and discussion in the parish hall (5:45pm / 6pm). We will gather in a safe distance manner. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan.

## 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.



## SAINTS PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

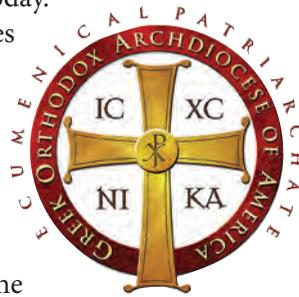
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5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301  
303.581.1434 • stspeterandpaulboulder.org

### 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

### PHILOTOCHOS

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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.