**Sts Peter & Paul Weekly Services**

**Wednesday, January 27**
Paraclesis to the Mother of God / Sacrament of Holy Unction ____ 6pm

**Saturday Morning, Jan 30**
Three Hierarchs Feast Day
Orthros ______________ 8am
Divine Liturgy ______________ 9am

**Saturday Evening, Jan 30**
Great Vespers _____________ 5pm

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**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, Kate

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**Fourteenth Sunday of Luke**

**Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal 4th Tone)**

“From on 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 to You O Lord.”

**Hymn for St Nikiforos the Leper & Wonderworker**

Praying for intercessions during the pandemic.

“All the Angels were awestruck by the courage and fortitude of Saint Nikiforos the Leper in ascetic deeds and contests, for like another Job he suffered pains with patience, ever glorifying God, who has crowned him now with glory, granting him grace to work great and wondrous miracles.
Rejoice, O guide of monastics and their aid,
Rejoice, O shining beacon of light,
Rejoice for your relics now exude a fragrance bringing joy to all.”

**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 21:14-25
Epistle Reading: 1 Tim 1:15-17
Gospel Reading: St. Luke 18:35-43
At that time, Jesus revealed himself to his disciples after he was raised from the dead, and he said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go.” (This he said to show by what death he was to glorify God.) And after this he said to him, “Follow me.” Peter turned and saw following them the disciple whom Jesus loved, who had lain close to his breast at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!” So, the word went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die; but Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?” This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Epistle: St. Paul’s First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.


At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” And he cried, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me receive my sight.” And Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.
He was born in 258 in the town of Ancyra of a pagan father and a Christian mother. His devout mother, Euphrosyne, prophesied a martyr’s death for her son, and left this world when Clement was twelve years old. Her friend Sophia took Clement into her son home as her son and saw that he was brought up a Christian. Clement became renowned for his virtuous life that he was chosen as bishop of Ancyra at the age of twenty. He acquired a mature wisdom in his early years, and harnessed and conquered his body by great restraint. He ate only bread and vegetables, and never anything slaughtered or with blood. In the reign of Diocletian, he was tortured as terribly ‘as anyone has even been since the foundation of the world.’ He spent twenty-eight years in torture and imprisonment. Eleven different torturers tormented him. When, at one time, they were smiting him on the face, spitting on him and breaking his teeth, he cried out to Domentian the torturer: ‘You are doing me honor, O Domentian, not torturing me, for the mouth of my Lord Jesus Christ was struck in like manner, and His cheeks slapped; and lo, I, unworthy as I am, am now made worthy of this!’

When he was brought before the Emperor Diocletian in Rome, the Emperor place on one side various instruments of torture, and on the other side gifts - medals, clothing, money - whatever the Emperor was able to bestow, and then told Clement to choose. Christ’s martyr, with a scornful glance at all the Emperor’s gifts, chose the instruments of torture. And he was terribly tortured; piece by piece the flesh was flayed from his body until the bones showed white beneath. He was healed of these wounds, and was finally beheaded by a soldier in 312, while he was presiding at the Liturgy as bishop in the church of Ancyra. Saint Clement’s miracles are without number.

In our day, we often hear parents say that they want to insure the lives of their children. To this end they make such great efforts, amass riches (often illicit riches), educate their children for that vocation which brings the surest physical security and material help. And so-called Christians do the same. They do this because their concept of real life and real security of life is faulty. But this is now a true Christian prepares his child for real life: At her death, blessed Euphrosyne said to her son, Clement of Ancyra:

‘Do me honor, my son, and stand for Christ as a man, and confess Him with strength and steadfastness. I hope, dear heart, that the crown of martyrdom will soon flower upon you, to the salvation of many...Fear neither threats nor the sword, nor wounds nor fire. Nothing can separate you from Christ. But look into the heavens and await thence the great and eternal and rich reward of God. Fear God’s majesty, fear His judgement, tremble before His all-seeing Eye, for those who deny Him will suffer the unquenched fire and the ever vigilant worm. May this be my reward from you, my sweet son, for the pain of giving you birth and for the care of your upbringing - that I may be known as the mother of a martyr. The blood that you received from me do not spare but shed, that that too may give me honor. Give your body to martyrdom, that I may rejoice at that before the Lord, as though I myself alone suffered for Him.’
The Healing of the Blind Beggar

Jesus often urged people to go to God in prayer and persistently to bring their physical and spiritual needs before Him. “Ask,” He said, “and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you” (Matt 7:7). It is true that we do not always receive what we ask for. We must leave room for God to act in our lives according to His perfect will for us. But nevertheless we do receive - a physical or spiritual healing, and unexpected solution to a personal problem, a new opportunity for reconciliation with someone, renewed strength to face a distressful situation or some other blessing that we need. Jesus’ unfailing promise is that “everyone who asks will receive, and anyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to him who knocks” (Matt 7:8).

A good example of spiritual alertness is provided by the blind beggar named Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46; Luke 17:12), whom Jesus met while coming to Jericho. Bartimaeus had heard about Jesus and His work from others and believed in His royal kingship. As Jesus came by, Bartimaeus eagerly seized on the only opportunity he would probably have in his life to speak to Jesus in person. The people tried to stop him from bothering Jesus, but he persisted until he got His attention.

Commenting on the healing of the blind beggar, St John Chrysostom writes:

“Therefore learn, my beloved that though we be very vile and outcast, but yet approach God with earnestness, even by ourselves we shall be able to bring about whatever we ask. Though God may delay the gift, though there may be many who seek to hold us back, let us not desist from asking. For in this way most of all we shall win God to our side.”

Other Church fathers point out that although Bartimaeus was physically blind, the eyes of his soul were illumined by God’s grace because he had believed what he had heard from others about Jesus. The saints also lift up Bartimaeus as an example of earnest and humble prayer. Each time we come to Christ is prayer, so they teach, we should come to Him as blind beggars and cry out to Him to receive new light day by day.

Saint Marcarios the Great

(commemorated January 19)

When he was asked why he was so thin, both when he ate and when he fasted, he replied: ‘From fear of God!’ He succeeded so greatly in purifying his mind from evil thoughts and his heart from evil desires that God endowed him with abundant wonderworking gifts, such that he even raised the dead from the grave. His humility made men and demons marvel. A demon once said to him: ‘There is only one thing in which I cannot excel you: that is not in fasting, for I never eat, nor in vigils, for I never sleep.’ Then what is it?” asked Macarios. ‘Your humility,’ replied the demon. Macarios often said to his disciple, Paphnutius: ‘Condemn no man, and you will be saved.’

Returning once on the path to his cell, Macarios the Great saw a robber carrying his things out of it and loading them onto a donkey. Macarios said nothing to him, and even helped him to get everything loaded, saying to himself: ‘We brought nothing into this world’ (1 Tim 6:7).
We all have a natural tendency to lay blame on others, when in truth we must blame only ourselves. When facing our own sins and shortcomings, it is easy to put blame on others, yet our faith tells us that spiritual progress can come only with the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart. As long as we put the blame on others for our shortcomings, we remain stagnant on the spiritual path. The saints give a clear witness that progress toward holiness comes when we look only at our own faults.

It is far more comfortable to see the wickedness of others, for in focusing on them, we can forgo the all-important work of changing our own behavior and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our fallen nature. Focusing on others’ shortcomings allows our self-serving pride to grow stronger. So we remain puffed up and wallow in unfounded pride.

When we keep our attention focused on our shortcomings, we keep vigilant until our last day, guarding our souls until the final judgment.

When we take our eyes off our faults and focus on our neighbors’ sin, we deprive ourselves of precious time for repentance. Since we do not know the day or hour of our last breath, we must treat every moment as though it is our last.

**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, Jan 27, Paraclesis Service & Holy Unction, 6pm. No sign-up required**
- **Saturday morning, Jan 30, Divine Liturgy 9am & Great Vespers 5pm. Sign-up required**
- **Saturday evening, Jan 30, Great Vespers 5pm No sign-up required**
- **Sunday, January 31, 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).
Blessing of Homes 2021

Father Jordan will continue blessing homes this month, and if need be, the month of February. 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

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

Youth Ministry

**Fireside Chat with Father Jordan**

(Middle & High School only)

Please join us Saturday, Feb 6th

Sts Peter Paul will host a Fireside Chat for our teens (middle and high school age only) on Saturday, February 6th. We will meet for evening prayer, Vespers at 5 pm, and gather for dinner in the parish hall (5:45 pm / 6 pm). Discussion 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. We will gather in a safe distance manner. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan.

Sunday School on Saturday!

**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

Home Visitation

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.

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 or 303-489-4491.
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 ‘antidoros’ (blessed bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Priest

Reverend Father Jordan Brown

Parish Council

Nick Kallan - President
Steven Dzilvelis - Vice President
Brian Gregory - Treasurer
Philip Haratsaris - Secretary
Michael Bateh
Rick Leonides
Oliver Huskey
Kostas Pagratis
George Saliba

Philoptochos

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.