**Sts Peter & Paul Weekly Services**

**Tuesday, February 2**

- Presentation of the Lord
- Orthros / Matins _____________ 5pm
- Evening Liturgy _____________ 6pm

**Wednesday, February 3**

- Paraclesis Service
- & Holy Unction _____________ 6pm

**Saturday, February 6**

- Great Vespers _____________ 5pm

**Sunday, February 7**

- Orthros _____________ 8:30am
- Divine Liturgy _____________ 9:30am
- Sign-up required

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**Fourteenth 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 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 Saints Cyrus and John, Holy Unmercenaries**

“You have given us the miracles of Your holy Martyrs as an impregnable fortress, O Christ our God.
At their entreaties, frustrate the plots of foreign enemies, and strengthen our nation, for You alone are good and love humanity.”

**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; 28:16-20
- Epistle Reading; 1 Tim 4:9-15
- Gospel Reading; St. Luke 19:1-10

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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_
Fifteenth Sunday of Luke

First Orthros Gospel According to Matthew 28:16-20

At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen.”

St. Paul’s First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.


At that time, Jesus was passing through Jericho. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”
How long are you willing to wait: Feast of the Presentation

By Fr John Angelis

It takes only a few weeks to grow a pumpkin. But to grow an oak tree, it takes decades. The reaching of our eternal destiny requires a daily discipline and a lifelong struggle. We live in the midst of a society that expects instant gratification, and the idea of patiently while awaiting to achieve our goal might not be easily accepted.

Saint Simeon and Saint Anna, whom we commemorate on February 2, together with Jesus’ Presentation to the Temple, waited patiently all their lives to see God’s promise to them fulfilled. God had reassured them in the Spirit that they would not die until they saw His salvation, His Incarnate Son. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple to dedicate Him on the fortieth day from His birth, Simeon recognized Him in the Spirit as being God’s Messiah, and his elderly heart leaped with joy. He praised God for keeping His promise to him and uttered the beautiful hymn which we repeat in every Vespers Service:

“Lord, let now Your servant depart in peace according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people, Israel.”

In the Spirit, together with the elderly Anna, Simeon also prophesied the suffering of Jesus and the pain that Mary would experience.

God has invited all of us to live our lives in the perspective of eternity and in anticipation of the fulfillment of all His promises at His appropriate time. Saint Paul wrote to Timothy that his earthly life was drawing to a close. But he had lived it like a good athlete, running God’s race. He had kept the faith and was looking forward to the crown of glory that God would bestow on him in His Kingdom. Our real goal must be as high as heaven and touch eternity. It must not be limited to our planet earth and the unstable experiences of our everyday lives.

One of the reasons that people experience boredom in their lives is that they lack a worthwhile goal. They set up small goals for themselves, materialistic and sensual. They are continuously looking for instant gratification. If they do not find it, then in their boredom they resort to drugs, sexual aberrations, abortion, euthanasia, and suicide.

We were not created to selfishly please ourselves. We were created to find meaning and fulfillment for our lives in relation to God and our fellow man: to love God and our fellow man as we love ourselves. But to love myself means that I know who I am, where I came from, and where I am going. I know that I came from God, that I have a specific purpose and goal to fulfill in this life, and that my destination is Heaven, God’s Kingdom. To reach my destination I need to be in constant contact with God, who placed me here to achieve my goal. I need to build a character that seeks to do only the Will of God and not my selfish will.

Someone asked an old monk what he needed to do to find salvation. The wise elder told him: “Keep the presence of God continuously before you, stay a long time in the place where you are, and never consider yourself better than your brother.” To achieve our goal, we need to heed the elder’s advice: To keep the presence of God continuously before us, to create a good character in ourselves that seeks to do only the will of God, and train our children to follow our Lord’s example. For He alone loved us and gave us even His life for us to help us inherit eternal life.
The Importance of Frequent Communion

By Abbot Tryphon

Eternity is an everlasting banquet that takes place in the heavenly realm. Every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy, we are transported into a place where there is neither time nor space, and we participate in that very banquet. As we receive the Holy Mysteries (Christ’s Body and Blood), our brokenness in both body and soul are treated with the healing medicine that we so very much need.

God is everywhere present and fills all things. There is nowhere He is not. Hellfire is none other than the fire of God, burning those who are unloving and unresponsive to His invitation to commune with Him. God does not send anyone to hell, for we sentence ourselves. Eternity with God necessitates a transformation of our souls, that we may be purified in order to be engulfed by God’s uncreated light. Our fallen nature cannot withstand the presence of God without having been purified.

The Eucharist is the very medicine God designed for this transformation. Our response should be one of humble submission to this invitation to commune with the God who created us. Holy Communion is meant to be the agent that changes us, making us whole. The Holy Mysteries give us life. Frequent confession and communion are the means we have for change.

The Eucharist is both mystical and symbolic and is understood to be the genuine Body and Blood of Christ, precisely because bread and wine are the mysteries of God’s true and genuine presence and His manifestation to us in Christ. This defies analysis and explanation in purely rational and logical terms, precisely because it is a mystery. The Eucharist is a mystery of the Kingdom of heaven, as is Christ Himself. It is “not of this world,” as Jesus tells us (John 18:36).

St John of Damascus said, “If you inquire how this happens, it is enough for you to learn that it is through the Holy Spirit … We know nothing more than this, that the Word of God is true, active, and omnipotent, but in its manner of operation unsearchable.”
The Church is always seeking to sanctify and renew all of human existence. The important events of birth, marriage and death are observed by the offering of special prayers and services. At the time of birth there are three blessings for the mother and baby.

The Forty Day Blessing or Churching of a Mother and Baby follow the example of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple by Joseph and Mary when He was 40 days old (Luke 2:22-38). The parents of a new baby and, if possible, the prospective godparent(s) also, bring the child to Church on the fortieth day after birth or shortly thereafter to present him or her to God and to receive a blessing. Although this custom is in part a continuation of a Jewish tradition, it contains new meaning. It is no longer a question of ritual purification in the Jewish sense but a blessing of God through Christ within the realm of the New Covenant. The Forty Day Blessing includes the thanksgiving of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32) and several prayers. Among them is the following:

O Lord, Almighty God, the Father our Lord Jesus Christ, Who by Your Word has created all things both reasoning and unreasoning, and has brought all things from nothingness into being, we pray to You: Having preserved Your servant (mother’s name) by Your will, bless her and cleanse her from every sin and impurity as she now enters into Your Holy Church and make her worthy to receive without condemnation of Your Holy Mysteries. Bless also this child which has been born of her. Increase him/her, sanctify him/her, enlighten him/her and endow him/her with a good understanding. For You have brought him/her into the world and have shown him/her the physical light, that in due time he/she may also be granted the spiritual light through Baptism and may be counted among Your holy flock, through Your Only Begotten Son with Whom You are blessed, together with Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

Amen

COVID-19 GUIDELINES UPDATE 1/31/2020

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 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 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, 11:30pm - 12:30pm. 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 (5:45pm / 6pm). Discussion 6:30pm - 7:30pm. We will gather in a safe distance manner. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan.

**Bookstore**

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

**Bible Study: Lenten Series**

**Friday Mornings During Lent:**  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
Beginning in March

Questions please contact Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com

**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 preschool 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 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.

**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.

Petra News, Week of January 31st, 2021
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 ‘antidoro’ (blessed bread ) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.