



PETRA NEWS

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28TH 2021

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH 2021

STS PETER & PAUL WEEKLY SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Paraclesis to the Mother of God /
Sacrament of Holy Unction ____ 6pm

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 6

Saturday of the Souls

Orthros _____ 8am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9am

Sign-up required

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 6

Great Vespers _____ 5pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Orthros _____ 8:15am

Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Sign-up required

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, Natasha, Yehor, Kate

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

RESURRECTIONAL HYMN (PLAGAL 1ST TONE)

*“Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word,
Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation.
As the faithful we both praise and worship Him,
for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross,
and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead
through His all glorious resurrection.”*

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

*“I revolted senselessly out of Your fatherly glory;
I have squandered sinfully all of the riches You gave me.
Hence to You, using the Prodigal’s words, I cry out,
I have sinned before You, merciful loving Father.
O receive me in repentance, I pray,
and treat me as one of Your hired hands.”*

SPIRITUAL READINGS

*Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 6:12-20
Gospel Reading: St. Luke 15:11-32*

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

EPISTLE: ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to

a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before

you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"



SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son is the second Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. On the previous Sunday, the services of the Church began to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. As with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the theme of this Sunday is repentance, and the focus on the parable of the Prodigal Son leads Orthodox Christians to contemplate the necessity of repentance in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The name for this Sunday is taken from the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Luke 15:11-32. The parable is the story of a man and his two sons.

The youngest of the sons asks his father to give him his inheritance. The father does this, and soon after the son leaves and journeys to a distant country (vv. 11-13).

After the younger son arrives, he squanders all of his possessions with “prodigal” living. Within a short period of time, he wastes everything. A severe famine comes, but he has nothing and falls into great need (vv. 13-14).

He is able to find work feeding swine, but this does not improve his situation. The Scriptures say, “He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, but no one gave him anything” (vv. 15-16).



The parable says that in the midst of his dire conditions, he came to himself. He realized that his father’s hired servants have enough to eat and food to spare, while he perishes with hunger. He says, “I will arise and go to my father and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants’” (vv. 17-19).

He arose and returned to his father. But as he approached, his father saw him at a great distance. The father had compassion on his son, ran to meet him, embraced him, and kissed him. The son admitted his sinfulness and his unworthiness to be called a son, but in his joy at the return of his son, the father called his servants to bring the best robe, a ring for his son’s finger, and sandals for his feet. He also called for the fatted calf to be killed for a feast. He exclaimed, “For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (vv. 20-24).

Continued on the following page.

While they were feasting and celebrating the return of the prodigal son, the older son comes and inquires about what is happening. He is told that his brother had returned and that his father has received him with a feast. The older brother becomes angry and will not go in to the feast. The father comes out and pleads with him, but the older son answers by saying he has been faithful to his father for many years and yet the father never gave him the opportunity for such feasting. He expresses his anger and jealousy over his brother who was received in such a manner after he squandered his inheritance (vv. 25-30).

The father responds by telling his oldest son, “You are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found” (vv. 31-32).

The parable of the Prodigal Son forms an exact icon of repentance at its different stages. Sin is exile, enslavement to strangers, hunger. Repentance is the return from exile to our true home; it is to receive back our inheritance and freedom in the Father’s house. But repentance implies action: “I will rise up and go...” (v. 18). To repent is not just to feel dissatisfied, but to make a decision and to act upon it.

In the words of our Lord, we also learn of three things through this parable: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God’s compassion. The reading of this parable follows the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own sinful condition, we might come to our senses and return to God through repentance. For those who have fallen into great despair over their sins thinking that there is no forgiveness, this parable offers hope. The Heavenly Father is patiently and

lovingly waiting for our return. There is no sin that can overcome His love for us.

Finally, this parable offers us insight into the world in which we live. It is a world where the activities of people are disconnected and not ordered toward the fulfillment of God’s divine purpose for life. It is a world of incoherent pursuits, of illusory strivings, of craving for foods and drinks that do not satisfy, a world where nothing ultimately makes sense, and a world engulfed in untruth, deceit and sin. It is the exact opposite of the world as created by God and potentially recreated by his Son and Spirit. There is no cure for the evils of our age unless we return to God. The world in which we live is not a normal world, but a wasteland.

Here we can see the challenge of life in this world and the alienation from God that can happen when sin reigns in our lives. As a result of sin in our lives, we lose the joy of communion with God, we defile and lose our spiritual beauty, and we find ourselves far away from our real home, our real life. In true repentance, we realize this, and we express a deep desire to return, to recover what has been lost. On this day the Church reminds us of what we have abandoned and lost, and beckons us to find the desire and power to return. Our Heavenly Father is waiting and ready to receive us with His loving forgiveness and His saving embrace.

The icon of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son shows the prodigal being received by his father upon his return. We are presented with an image of a warm and loving embrace, the son showing his need for his father, an attitude that represents repentance, love, and hope for renewal and restoration. The father is shown full of compassion for his son, having born the burden of his sin and suffering, but now filled with joy that he has returned.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES UPDATE 2/28/2021

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:

MASK IS 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.

2021 STEWARDS AS OF FEBRUARY 24TH

If you do not see your name on this list, and you have returned your stewardship card, please contact Nicole Tsiouvaras, tsiouvaras@msn.com or 303-489-4491

Gaynel Andrusko	Michelle Mann
Ileana Barbu	Matt Melonakis
Shanyn & Michael Bateh	Nena & Terry Melonakis
Fr. Jordan & Pres. Brown	Amanda & Jacques Nader
Alekie Cheronis	Nick Pappas & Joanna Johnson
Pres. Kedrann Dotsom	Bill Pappas
Ashley & Steve Dzilvelis	Charleen Pappas
Angela Egeberg	Nick G Pappas
Keity & Eric Elias	Sophia & Ted Piper
Dana Gall	Julie & Jim Powers
Valentina & Nicholas Ganiaris	George Saliba
Mary Garcia	Juli Sarris
Jane Garrity	Samira & Eissa Serougi
Michael Gehmeyr & Olympia Bakalis	Voulas Skodras
Yoana & Steven Georgis	Candy & Mannny Soulakis
Katherine Geracos	Cindy & Pete Stamus
Laila Ghazzawi	Jan Marose & Paul Swiszc
Brian Gregory	Dena & Dean Tinsley
Jennifer & Philip Haratsaris	Lis & Alex Troicky
Melanie & Oliver Huskey	Nicole & George Tsiouvaras
Nicholas Kallan & Danielle Cavallaro	Viktoryia & Aaron Wall
Nuha Kapatayes	Julie & Dave Welker
Rick Leonidas	Photini Westover
Mary Lymberopoulos	Sheila & Jim Zissimos
	Zoe Zwierzynski

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF HOMES 2021

Father Jordan will continue blessing homes this month. If you are new to our parish, please contact Father Jordan to schedule your house blessing. Frjordanbrown@gmail.com 303-581-1434



ADULT EDUCATION

ORTHODOX FAITH SERIES TODAY, 11:45AM

Today's class topic:
'What we believe about Jesus: His Life, Crucifixion & Resurrection' Part 1

"But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." – St Matthew 16:16

The Orthodox Christian Faith Class meet today, Sunday, February 28th. Class will begin at approximately 11:45am and end 12:30pm. We will be meeting in the church. If you are interesting in learning about the Orthodox Christian Faith and/or becoming an Orthodox Christian, please join us for class. Father Jordan will be leading, and providing the reading material. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan @ frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 303-581-1434.

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 MARCH 19TH**

Questions please contact Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SATURDAY!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH
5PM TO 7PM**

Schedule:

5pm Vespers (Evening Prayers)

5:45pm Dinner

6pm - 7pm Breakout Classes
(pre-k thru grade school)

Father Jordan will be meeting with the middle & high school young adults in the church, 6pm - 7pm.



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.





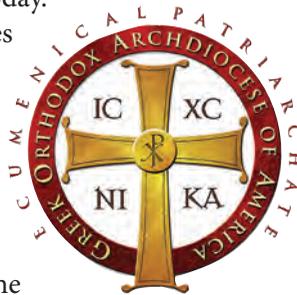
SAINTS PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Icon of the Theotokos “Sweet-Kissing”
by Ileana Barbu

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
frjordanbrown@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL

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

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.