



# Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

## Weekly Bulletin Week of July 30th, 2017



### Contact Info

**Sts. Peter & Paul  
Greek Orthodox Church**  
5640 Jay Rd.  
Boulder, CO 80301  
Office: 303-581-1434  
[www.stspeterandpaulboulder.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulboulder.org)  
Rev. Fr. Jordan Brown

### Service Schedule & Parish Activities

Tuesday, August 1st	Blessing of the Waters Paraclesis	9 am 6pm
Wednesday, August 2	Paraclesis Bible Study	9 am 10 am
Thursday, August 3	Paraclesis	6 pm
Friday, August 4	Paraclesis	9 am
Saturday, August 5	Choir Practice Great Vespers	4 pm 5 pm

### Recurring Services

**Orthros**  
Sunday @ 8:30 am  
**Divine Liturgy**  
Sunday @ 9:30 am  
**Great Vespers**  
Saturday @ 5 pm  
**Confession by appt.**

### Welcome to Our Parish!

The mission of Sts. Peter & Paul is to be a beacon of Orthodox Christian spirituality in the greater Boulder area. We strive together to live our Orthodox Christian Faith by having a devoted prayer life, through fasting and almsgiving, and through regular participation in the services and sacraments of the Holy Orthodox Church.

### Hosts & Volunteers

Fellowship	Jacques & Amanda Nader
Ushers	Tony Sammoury
Myrrhbearers	Demetra G., Sophie
Choir	Alexandra, Elizabeth, Georgia
Epistle Reader	Nicholas

### Have an Announcement?

Please contact Aaron Wall:  
[awall609@yahoo.com](mailto:awall609@yahoo.com);  
(720) 400-6579  
Deadline is every Wed. before Divine Liturgy.

# The Dormition Fast: Ending Another Year of Grace in Our Lord

The Byzantine Church since at least the 5th century has practised a period of fasting prior to the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. This ancient custom has much to offer contemporary Christians. Christians of the East have always recognized the mystery of Our Lady's Dormition, her 'falling asleep' at the end of her natural life when in a miraculous way she was assumed into heaven to sit with her Lord and our Lord. Recognized in the West as Our Lady's 'Assumption' into heaven, the passage of Mary the Virgin Mother of God from this life to life eternal is a cause for reflection for Christians.

Mary, the God-bearing Mother of God, was the first Christian and is a model for the followers of her Son, Jesus Christ. The Church venerates Mary for being the chosen vessel of the New Covenant, preserved from sin from the very moment of her natural conception to the very end of her days. Since God is perfect and will not countenance sin, how could He be incarnated in a woman wherein resided any kind of sin? Mary's life was totally consecrated from its very beginning to God and so it was she was chosen out of all women to bear the Incarnate Word into the world.

Any Christian's calling differs not from Mary's. We too are to bear Christ into the world and bring his Light to dark places. Wherever we go, whatever we do, we are to serve the Lord in whatever task we are assigned. It is on the journey or pilgrimage that is life that we are called at waystations such as the Feast of the Dormition to reflect on our vocation and the paths we have taken. Just as we come to the end of secular year with resolutions and hopes for renewal, the Fast of the Dormition comes at the end of the church year provides a time for change in our spiritual and eternal lives.

The fast begins on August 1 and continues until August 15 at which time is celebrated the vigil of the Feast. For some churches the fast is optional. In others, Christians are called upon to solemnly fast not for bodily benefits but as a spiritual medicine that serves to remind us of our total dependence on God. Coptic Christians, for example, who in Egypt make up one of the oldest churches of all, observe the fast faithfully, along with Lent and Advent. A fast in the summer, as autumn approaches, is indeed a tonic for our souls. The Universal Church, the hospital for sinners wherein Jesus Christ is the ultimate Physician, prescribes the fast for our eternal benefit. It is on August 1 that the Church prescribes the Lesser Blessing of Waters to begin the Fast of the Dormition and thus recalling our baptism and cleansing of our souls.

## **The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary**

Already in the 2nd century, we hear St. Justin Martyr, one of the Fathers of the Church, refer to the Virgin Mary as the "new Eve." The book of Genesis recounts that the first Eve received her name because she was the "mother of all the living." (Genesis 3:20). In this Old Testament framework, Eve's motherhood begets generations of disobedience and selfishness. If we continue reading the Old Testament, the progeny of Eve – such as Cain – certainly reflect these vices.

In the New Testament, Mary as the new Eve becomes the Mother of all those who choose to live in Christ. She counters Eve's disobedience with her obediences – the 'fiat' of the "Let it be done according to thy Word" recounted in the Gospel of St. Luke and recalled in the prayers of millions. She was always prepared to do the Lord's will (Luke 1:38). Mary as our Mother becomes our example of Christian living. We walk

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with her throughout the liturgical year from her birth on September 1st to her Dormition on August 15. Her death is a foreshadowing of every Christian death, not as a finite ending but as a passing over into the next world and an encounter with God.

The story of Jacob's ladder, a vision recorded in Genesis 28, is read at the vespers for the feast and offers us the image of a ladder extending from earth to heaven. Traditionally, the Fathers of the Church considered this passage as an image of Mary herself. In a particular way, in light of the feast of the Dormition, Mary's tomb is not a locked grave but a stairway to heaven. Indeed, there is no tomb known for Mary, even though she was the Mother of God. In her modesty and devotion to our Lord she would have forbidden any memorial after death, as surely there would have been since the Apostles recognized her unique holiness that surpasses all the saints.

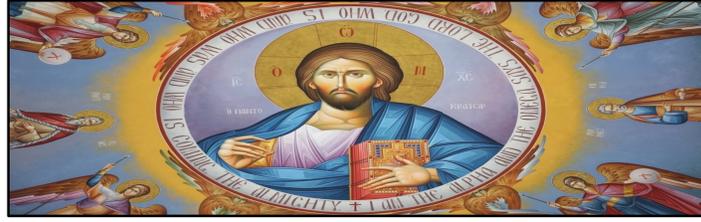
Her Dormition is in a sense a second Pascha and one that shows to us the life that awaits us faithless servants who at the end of our earthly trials seek the face of God for mercy. As we "groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies," (Romans 8:23) we see in Mary's passing a foretelling of the flight of our human nature to rest securely in the divine life of God. In this way, we are assured that every Christian death is not a descent into a cold grave, but an ascent on a ladder to heaven.

On this feast, we bring flowers in the church to be blessed. We do this to pay homage to the Mother of God, who is the first flowering of redemption in Christ. As she was taken up bodily and preserved from corruption, she shows us what is to come to every Christian. Just as the first budded rose hints at what is to come in spring for the rest of the flowers, so too does the Dormition hint at our heavenly future in the celestial Garden.

## **From the Dogmatikon of Vespers:**

*The Holy Apostles were taken up from every corner of the world and carried upon clouds by the command of God. They gathered around your pure body, O source of Life, and kissed it with reverence. As for the most sublime powers of heaven, they came with their own leader to escort and to pay their last respects to the most honourable body that had contained Life itself.*

# Events & Announcements



**Today's artoclasia 'blessing of the five loaves,' is offered to commemorate the life of St Paraskevi.**

## **40 Day Blessing**

We celebrate the 40 day blessing for Amanda and Jacques Nader. This Sunday's fellowship is sponsored by the Nader family in honor of the birth of their child and today's 40 day blessing. May God grant them many years.

## **Panayia Dormition Retreat**

There will be a meeting today after services and fellowship to discuss the schedule for the retreat, August 8 and 9.

## **Bible Study, Wednesday, August 2, 10 am**

Please join us this Wednesday for a special Bible Study which will focus on the Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary, and the meaning of the Great Feast we celebrate on August 15. We will focus on the scripture readings and teachings of the Holy Fathers. A reminder the Paraclesis service will be celebrated at 9 am. Please join us for study and fellowship. Father Jordan will be leading the study.

## **Men's Fall Retreat**

The annual Front Range Men's Retreat is scheduled for September 24-27, 2017. This is a wonderful opportunity for great fellowship, growing in the faith, and enjoying the outdoors. The retreat will take place at the Water Valley Ranch located in Encampment, Wyoming. Please view the ranch website at [watervalleyranch.com](http://watervalleyranch.com). If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan. Registration and schedule to follow soon.

## **Pew Donation**

The pews have arrived. The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral generously donated pews for Sts Peter Paul. The pews are in excellent condition. It is estimated that the cost for new pews would be around \$75,000 - \$100,000. The pews are an unexpected and incredible gift for Sts Peter Paul. The donated pews need to be slightly modified in order to properly fit in the church. **The cost to modify one row will be \$300-500. Thank you for your donations. 60 % of the cost to modify and install the pews has been raised.** Please prayerfully consider donating one row. Please visit with one of our Parish Council Members or Father Jordan with any questions. Thank you

## **Choir Practice**

Choir rehearsal will begin on Saturday, August 5, at 4 pm. We will meet in the church.

If you have any questions and would like to join the choir, please contact either Presbyteria Marika or Presbyteria Kedrann.

## **Upcoming Youth Events**

Vacation Church School, Aug 1-4

Sunday School Teachers & Youth Workers Workshop Seminar, Aug 26

Altar boy / Alcolyte Retreat, Sunday, August 20, 12 noon

Sunday School Kick off Pool Party, Sunday, August 27

## **Orthodox Faith Classes**

The Orthodox Christian Faith classes will begin this Fall (mid September). Classes will be led by Father Jordan after church on Sundays. Class will be held in the church beginning at 12 noon. The complete class schedule will be available next month. This will be a 10 part series, beginning in September, and ending early December. If you are an inquirer, interested in the Orthodox Christian Faith or preparing to become an Orthodox Christian through the sacrament of Baptism, please join us. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan at [frjordanbrown@gmail.com](mailto:frjordanbrown@gmail.com) or 303-581-1434.

## **IOCC 5K Run / Walk Fundraiser**

On Saturday, August 19, there will be a 5K Run / Walk held in South Denver. Everyone is invited to participate. You do not have to be a runner. Families are encouraged to participate. The 5K event will benefit the ministry of International Orthodox Christian Charities. The St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Parish of Greenwood Village will be sponsored with Parish family event. Sign up today! Information is on our website, parish announcement board and Petra Newsletter.

## **Community Night – August 12th**

It's the "official" kick-off to the 2017 Taste of Orthodoxy season! Please join us for Vespers and a potluck dinner on Saturday, August 12. After dinner, we will bring down the festival supplies from the loft. You can RSVP and sign up for a dish to share at the following website: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4BADAE2EA75-festival> If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Tsiouvaras.

# Taste of Orthodoxy 2017

## 2017 Taste of Orthodoxy

### **TENT SET UP**

We will be setting up tents for 2 hours after church on the following Sundays: **August 13, August 20, August 27**. Please bring a change of clothes and a water bottle. See Nick Kallan after church to get started. Thank you!

### **COMMUNITY NIGHT – AUGUST 12**

Please join us at 5pm for Vespers, followed by a potluck dinner. We will be breaking down the tables & chairs in the hall and then carrying down all the equipment and supplies from the loft. Please RSVP to Nicole Tsiouvaras.

### **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS**

Online sign-up for the festival weekend will be available the first week of August. Paper sign-up will be available every Sunday in the hall until from Aug 6 – Sept 3. Want to work in the Beer/Wine tent? Please contact Chris Artemis directly to sign up.

### **SODA DONATIONS**

Each year, our parishioners donate the soda and water that is sold at the festival. Please bring your donations to the hall by September 8. **Last names beginning A - E: Coke; F - K: Diet Coke; L - R: Sprite; S - Z: bottled water.** The ToO Committee thanks you!

### **MEDICAL PERSONNEL NEEDED**

We need to compile a list of volunteers who can help in a medical emergency. If you are currently first-aid or CPR certified, or are a medical professional who will be working the festival, please contact Nicole Tsiouvaras to add your name to the list. Thank you!

**POSTERS** are available in the Hall. Please take some to advertise in your favorite local businesses!

### **ORDER YOUR FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS, APRONS, AND HATS**

New this year! Our volunteer t-shirts are being sponsored by a few businesses in the community. This means each volunteer will get a FREE t-shirt to wear at the festival. Please see Nicole Tsiouvaras or Joanne Ashmun to order the correct size of shirt. Hats or visors will be available for purchase. Deadline to add your name is August 13.