



Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of November 12th, 2017



Contact Info

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

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.

Service Schedule & Parish Activities

Tuesday, November 14	Church Cleaning	9:30 –12
Wednesday, November 15	Nativity Fast Begins	
	Bible Study	10 am
	Orthros	5 pm
	Divine Liturgy	6 pm
Saturday, November 18	Choir Practice	3 pm
	Great Vespers	4 pm
	Family Stewardship Event	5:30 pm

Hosts & Volunteers

Fellowship Host	Zwierzynski - Lymberopoulos
Ushers	Matt Melonakis
Myrrhbearers	Alexandra, Elizabeth, Sophie
Choir	Demetra G., Georgia
Epistle Reader	Xander

Have an Announcement?

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

Spiritual Reflection from Father John Angelis

Our Church starts preparing us for the great Feast of Christmas from November 15, with the special fast for this season. On November 21, we begin to hearing the Christmas Katavasiai, the special beautiful hymns for Christmas. They announce Christ's Birth and invite us to "glorify Him, to come out to meet Him and to spiritually strive to live a godly life." The special hymn to the Theotokos depicts Mary as leaving Nazareth to come to Bethlehem to give birth to her Divine Son. All the liturgical services of the Church for this season make reference to the approaching Birth of Christ.

The biblical readings found in the Church services speak of fulfillment of God's promises. The appropriate passages from the Psalms, the first five books of the Old Testament and the Prophets are read, and the corresponding passages from the New Testament (especially Matthew and Luke) show how these predictions were fulfilled in Christ. The theme of "promise and fulfillment" is celebrated in exquisite poetry and inspiring music in the beautiful hymns of our Church, which are read and sung in the Matins Services.

Our Church strives to prepare body and spirit for the Birth of Christ. With fasting, we make our bodies willing instruments of our spirit. With prayer, we come to our Father to lay our burdens on Him, to ask Him to forgive our sins through the Sacrament of Confession, and to feed us with His heavenly food, Holy Communion. The divine services of the Church become our havens where we meet our brothers and sisters in heavenly fellowship. With almsgiving and visiting the sick and those confined to their homes, we put into action the second part of the Great Commandment of Love.

Follow our Church's lead and find a quiet place to read your Bible and meditate on the hymns of our Church, and you will discover a new meaning for Christmas and for your entire life.

With our desires and passions under control, we pray fervently to God as He taught us in the Holy Bible. What we save from eating expensive foods, we give to the needy as almsgiving. We examine our lives in the presence of God's holiness and, in contrition and repentance, we seek God's forgiveness in the sacrament of Holy Confession. We feed our spirit with God's Holy Bread of Life. We approach the Holy Chalice regularly and receive Holy Communion. God's gifts sustain us in our spiritual struggle to do His holy Will. We also feed our spirit daily with the reading of the Holy Bible.

Our Saints, along with fasting, used all of the above disciplines and, with God's grace, became golden vessels of the Holy Spirit. Thus they reached their true goal in life, theosis, the acquisition of the Holy Spirit. As the Saints imitated Christ in their lives, we are also invited to follow Christ, by imitating their example.

The Nativity Fast is a wonderful time to read the bible and spiritual books. Visit the church bookstore today during fellowship. The Winter Pascha by Fr Thomas Hopko, and Meditations for Advent by Fr Vassilios Papavassilou, are wonderful books to read during the Christmas Fast. The Christmas Fast is a good time to receive the sacrament of Confession. The weekday services will increase during the Fast. Make it a priority to attend the evening services and Saturday Vespers during the Christmas Fast.

St. John Chrysostom as a Model for Our Lives (November 13)

By Protopresbyter Fr. George Papavarnavas

The divine Chrysostom is one of the most known Saints of the Orthodox Church. He was born in Antioch in 354 from pious parents. His father was the commander Sekoundos and his mother was Anthousa. Very early he was left fatherless and his mother took care to raise him with the sacred laws of the Gospel. In Antioch he studied rhetoric and philosophy. At the age of eighteen he was baptized and studied three years at the Theological School of Antioch. After the death of his mother he retired to the desert, where he remained six years. The first four years of his ascetic life were spent near an elder ascetic and the next two he stayed alone in a cave. His biographer, Palladius of Helenopolis, writes: "Most of the time he spent without sleep, learning Holy Scripture. He did not lay down to sleep for a period of two years, neither night nor day." His breakdown in health from excessive asceticism caused him to return to Antioch, where in 381 he was ordained Deacon then Presbyter. As a Presbyter he served in Antioch until 397, the year in which he was elected and consecrated Archbishop of Constantinople. From this "bastion" he held great battles against the pagans, as well as heretics who were breaking the unity of the Church. He organized missions and philanthropy for Gothia, Scythia, Persia and Phoenicia. Steady and unwavering as he was in the faith and in the struggle against sin and every form of injustice, he was exiled three times and finally reposed in exile in the Caucasus of Armenia on 14 September 407. His memory, due to the Feast of the Cross, which is equivalent to Good Friday, was transferred to November 13th, that he may be celebrated brilliantly and joyfully.

His works are timeless, because they are divinely inspired. When one studies them, they think they have before them a contemporary and timely author. He is an excellent interpreter of Holy Scripture, which is to be interpreted not by anyone, but by the divinely-inspired Holy Fathers of the Church, who as purified and "filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit" are infallible interpreters of Holy Scripture. The sacred hymnographer characterizes him as a "golden trumpet and divinely-inspired organ, a heavenly nous and depth of wisdom".

One could speak for many hours or write whole volumes about the Saint of golden speech. In this short article I will highlight just three points that are related to this explosive and majestic personality:

First, he was a great theologian, but also a true shepherd. As His Eminence Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos stresses: "He shepherded theologians and theologized shepherds". He is characterized by many as social because he dealt with people and social problems. He was indeed social, precisely because he was a neptic and ascetic. He was constantly praying. His discourses and sermons had a vibrancy and immediacy about them and are very popular because he truly loved people and cared for them; for their spiritual progress, as well their material needs, since people are psychosomatic beings. He sought, however, to heal them of their physical and psychic passions. For example, when he spoke about avarice he urged the rich not to detain the goods of God only for themselves, but to also help the poor. He does not remain only there, though, but he goes deeper trying to heal the one and the other from this terrible passion, because there are poor people who are also avaricious, just like there are rich people who are not.

Second, the center of his life was a life of worship and from this perspective he struggled to integrate the "reason of his flock". He attached great importance to worship because he believed that when we participate in the Divine Liturgy and commune of the Immaculate Mysteries, we participate in a Paschal Dinner with the disciples of Christ, eating of the same bread and drinking of the same cup, together with all those whose hearts, from all time and all places, burn with love for Christ, and know Him as His disciples knew Him from the "breaking of bread". The Divine Liturgy he wrote is the most known since it is celebrated almost all year long. Of course, over the centuries it has gone through certain changes and some additions, but the prayers are the same as they were recited by the Archbishop of Constantinople himself. He sought to man the Sacred Altar with worthy Priests, and his discourse "On the Priesthood" is unique and deserves to be studied by all the faithful, Clergy and Laity.

Third, that which occupied him especially was the spiritual progress of his flock, as well as the glorification of the Triune God and His Holy Church. He did not receive glory for himself, because he did not deem himself worthy of honor. Besides, he considered it an apostasy and a sin. And things could not have been differently, since he was most humble and by his behavior he taught and showed to all of us the heights of humility. "Grace shining forth from your lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. It has shown to the world the riches of poverty; it has revealed to us the heights of humility" (Apolytikion).

The "tongue and heart of gold" Saint John, by his life and words urges us to love prayer and the life of worship, in order that our hearts also "burn" with love for Christ, that we may be made worthy to know Him in the "breaking of bread".

Source: *Ekklesiastiki Paremmasi*, "ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ Ο ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤΟΜΟΣ", November 1999. Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

Events & Announcements

We welcome Father Theodore Dorrance to Sts Peter Paul today. Father Theodore serves the St Catherine's Greek Orthodox Parish in Greenwood Village and is the Director of Missions and Evangelism for the Metropolis of Denver.

Church Cleaning - Tuesday 9:30 am - 12 noon

Thank you to the handful of dear parishioners who offer their stewardship gift of taking care of our beautiful church, parish hall and grounds. **FYI - The cleaning of the church, parish hall, and upkeep of the grounds are all done by volunteers.** Please prayerfully consider helping out with cleaning on Tuesday, between 9:30 am - 12 noon. **One hour can make a big difference.** If you have any questions and may be available to help with cleaning, please visit with either Presbyteria Kedrann Dotson or Joanne Ashmun.

Family Stewardship Event - Saturday, November 18th, 5:30 pm

Parents and their children are invited to a special Family Stewardship Event at the home of George and Nicole Tsiouvaras. This is a wonderful evening to meet and welcome new families. We look forward to seeing all the families next Saturday! **Address: 5808 Fox Ridge Court, Broomfield**

Wednesday Morning Bible Study - November 15th, 10 am

Please join us for the Wednesday Morning Bible Study. We begin at 10 am, and end around 11:15 am. Everyone is welcome to participate. Please join us as we strive to apply prayer and scripture to our spiritual life, working to grow closer to God. Bible Study is a great opportunity to study the scriptures and have a deeper understanding of the Sunday and Feast day readings as they apply to our every day life.

Adult Education: Orthodox Faith Class - Sunday, November 19, 12 pm

Topic—The First Thanksgiving: The Divine Liturgy

If you are inquirer, interested in the Orthodox Christian Faith or preparing to become an Orthodox Christian through the sacrament of Baptism and Chrismation, please join us. Father Jordan will be leading the class. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 303-581-1434. Class will be held in the Church / Quiet Room.

Make Your Holiday Family Plans Today!

America celebrates the Feast of Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23. Thanksgiving always falls during the Advent Nativity Fast. The church has given a blessing to break and relax the fast on Thanksgiving. **Sts Peter Paul will celebrate Divine Liturgy on Thanksgiving at 8 am. The Divine Liturgy celebrates the most important Thanksgiving for Christians; Jesus Christ.** Come with your family and friends and celebrate the first and most important Thanksgiving, the Divine Liturgy. Please open your homes to our new parishioners, college students and those with no family, on Thanksgiving Day.

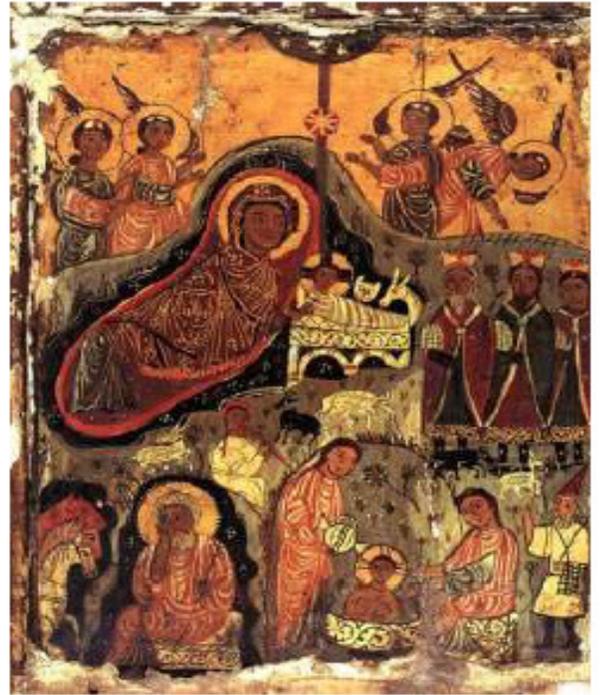
SAT. DEC 9TH

ADVENT RETREAT

**Preparing for the Greatest Gift:
The Birth of Jesus Christ**

Featured Speak Fr. Christopher Xanthos was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on November 1, 2014 at his home parish of the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Hempstead, New York. He then began serving at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Houston, Texas where he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on March 25, 2015 by His Eminence, Metropolitan ISAAH of Denver. Currently he serves as the Presiding Priest at Holy Apostles Orthodox Christian Church of Cheyenne.

Father Christopher grew up on Long Island, New York with his wonderful parents, four sisters, and a large extended family. His grandparents, immigrants from Constantinople and Mani, Greece, helped to instill in him a love of the Orthodox faith and Hellenic language and culture from a young age. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the State University of New York at Cortland. While pursuing his undergraduate studies, he served as a United States Marine, deploying on two tours to Kuwait and Iraq in 2003 and 2005. Upon his second return from Iraq, he enrolled at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts, earning his Master of Divinity in 2009. After graduating from the seminary, he worked for several years in youth ministry in both Denver, Colorado and Norfolk, Virginia. It was in Virginia where he met his wife, Presvytera Annabelle. The two were married in 2013. Father Christopher and Presvytera Annabelle reside in Cheyenne along with their son Petros.



Schedule

7:00 am Orthros
8:00 am Divine Liturgy
9:30 am Coffee & Refreshments
10:00 am Session 1
10:45 am Break
11:15 am Session 2
12:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Closing Prayer

\$25 suggested donation,
includes refreshments.

Childcare available! Please email
lizsoderberg@outlook.com in
advance to reserve a spot.

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ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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