



Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of January 7th, 2018



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
frjordanbrown@gmail.com

Service Schedule & Parish Activities

Monday, January 8	Parish Council Meeting	6:30 pm
Wednesday, January 10	Bible Study	10 am
	Paraclesis	6 pm
Saturday, January 13	Great Vespers	5 pm

Recurring Services

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

Hosts & Volunteers

Ushers	Pete & Cindy Stamus
Myrrhbearers	Demetra G., Sophie, Cassie
Choir	Georgia, Alexandra, Elizabeth
Epistle Reader	Niko

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.

Have an Announcement?

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

St. John the Baptist As a Model of Our Lives

By Protopresbyter Fr. George Papavarnavas

The Honorable Forerunner is the person who was praised by Christ more than anybody else: "Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist" (Lk. 7:28a). He is the greatest of the Prophets, not in age since he only lived thirty years, but in terms of grace and glory, because he was made worthy not only to see, but to baptize "the proclaimed" Messiah. But then Christ went on to stress that the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than Saint John the Forerunner (Lk. 7:28b). He said this, according to the interpretation of the Divine Chrysostom, to avoid the crowds being dragged away in their exaggerations with this praise and consider John higher than the God-man Christ.

He was born of an infertile woman and was the fruit of prayer. As a fetus of six months in the womb of Elizabeth he received the grace of the Holy Spirit and leaped when the Panagia met his mother who with her mouth had prophesied and named Mary the Mother of God. The name John, which he received, was a gift from God, just as he was.

His ascetic life scandalized many of his contemporaries who could not understand his angelic way of life, and they criticized him as being possessed by demons. This fact, of course, where people criticize another person because they do not live the way they do, but in a different way, occurred in other periods as well, just as it occurs today, since today also there are many who criticize that which they cannot understand by their own reasoning; they can only understand that which exists and what they feel. In other words, beyond logic there also exists the heart, which when it gets drunk with the strong wine of the uncreated grace of the Holy Spirit, renounces all false graces of this fleeting life. The Holy Fathers call this drunkenness "sobriety". When someone tastes of the love of God, then they despise all other loves, towards material things that is, because they find them false.

The Honorable Forerunner prepared the people to receive Christ. His preaching was a preaching of repentance. His words were filled with bravery and power. He did not flinch nor hesitate to take on the establishment of his time. He rebuked the lawlessness of King Herod. Even the Pharisees, who oppressed the people by burdening them with heavy and unbearable loads, he called serpents and a brood of vipers. He was a forerunner to Christ even in Hades and with joy, as we chant in his Apolytikion, he preached to those deceased from ages past that "God has appeared in the flesh".

We will proceed to emphasize three points, taking occasion by the events of his life, as well as his experience and deeds. First, that he was accused of being demon possessed because his life, which he dedicated to God, was different from most others. He did not live in the city, but he fled into the desert, where he lived as an ascetic. He did not eat food, but fed on akrides, which are the tips or edges of plants, and wild honey. And today, unfortunately, there is confrontation from many when someone decides, especially if they are young and educated, to dedicate their life to Christ and His Church as a Priest or as a Monk. And if they do not call him demon possessed, surely they say that something happened to his mind. In most cases people who are opposed and inflict a large number of obstacles and difficulties are not atheists and those outside the Church, but rather those who go to church and honor the Saints who followed the same path. If this isn't an absurdity then what is?

Second, if he rebuked the lawlessness of Herod and hypocrisy of the Pharisees, he did it out of love and not hatred, since he was passionless and "full of the Holy Spirit". His purpose was not to humiliate them, but to correct and heal them.

Today there is the mentality to justify our mistakes and our passions by citing Holy Scripture and the Lives of Saints for support. In this way many curse, slander and taint reputations supposedly for the glory of God. The Saints, when they are forced to rebuke, they did it with pain, love and much prayer for the persons concerned and after having exhausted all other means.

Third, the events of the life of the Honorable Forerunner, both the pleasant and the painful, he considered as coming straight from God, since apart from His will nothing can take place. Indeed, not only his birth but the other circumstances of his life took place because it was the will of God, and his death took place by divine economy, so that he may preach "to those in Hades".

The same happens with every one of us. God knows us even before we were born, since He is the cause of our creation. He loves us more than we think and cares for each of us individually. Nothing happens in our life by accident. Failures, setbacks and even the most painful diseases are allowed by the God of love, because when dealt with properly they can prove to be the greatest blessings. How many did not repent and become authentic people after a hard adventure or a severe illness?

Trust in the love and providence of God is the most stable support even when confronting the greatest setbacks. It removes insecurities and stress and puts us in the right perspective for a calm and proper treatment of the most difficult problems.

Events & Announcements

Stewardship Sunday: January 7th

The theme of this year's Stewardship Ministry 2018 is **"Whatever you do work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men,"** St Paul's letter to the Colossians 3:23. If you are new to the Sts Peter Paul Church family, please pick up a 2018 Stewardship Packet and church calendar which are located in the church narthex.

Today is Stewardship Sunday, and at the end of service we will offer a special prayer asking our Lord to bless this New Year.

As Christian Stewards we are called to give back to God from the "first fruits" of our labor. We support our parish and her ministries in an intentional way and not with only what is left after everything else has been taken care of.

If you have any questions regarding Stewardship, please visit with Tom Jacky or one of our Parish Council Members. Thank you for prayerfully supporting the Sts. Peter Paul Parish.

Upcoming Feast Days in January

Feast of St Athanasios

Wednesday, January 17th

Evening Liturgy 6 pm (Orthros 5 pm)

Feast of the Three Hierarchs

Tuesday, January 30th

Divine Liturgy 9 am (Orthros 8 am)

Wednesday Paraclesis Services at 6 pm January 10th, 24th and 31st

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins at 10 am and lasts for one hour. Everyone is welcome to participate. Please join us as we strive to apply prayer and scripture to our spiritual life, striving to grow closer to God. This 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 everyday life.

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver

1st Annual Front Range Women's Retreat

Friday, April 20, 2018 - Sunday, April 22, 2018

Cheyenne, Wyoming

Keynote Speaker: Mother Cassiana

(Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Christian Monastery)

For more information please contact Father Christopher Xanthos at

307-514-5347 / frchristopher@holyapostlescheyenne.com

House Blessings

Father Jordan will begin blessing homes after the Feast of Theophany, January 6th. The House Blessing Forms will be available in the church narthex and parish hall. Please do not hesitate to contact Father Jordan with any questions @ frjordan-brown@gmail.com or (303) 581-1434. If you are new to our parish, please call Father Jordan to schedule to your house blessing (business blessing).

House Blessing Schedule:

January 7 - 13 Broomfield, Louisville, Lafayette, Westminster & Thornton area

January 14 - 20 Longmont & Niwot area

January 21- 31 Boulder area

Events & Announcements

How To Prepare For Your House Blessing:

Have ready a bowl about the size of a large soup bowl with about a cup of water, list of family names to pray for during the blessing service, an icon with Christ, candle or oil lamp, sprig of basil (or mint or rosemary) and place them on the kitchen table or prayer corner. Please turn off the TV and stereo. It is not required, but if available, church incense may be lit. **The house blessing is a blessing of your stewardship. You do not have to provide a monetary gift for Father.** If you would like, you are welcome to make a donation to the 'Altar Fund,' which is used to help those in need.

Teen Dance - Saturday, February 3

Hosted by St Luke Orthodox Church (Erie, Colo.)

The St Luke SOYO formal dance brings together over 70 teens from across the Pan Orthodox Front Range. There will be a sit down dinner, root beer floats, dancing. Spread the word, bring your friends, and come ready to dance. The cost is \$15 per person. The deadline is January 28th to register.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) Dinner – Sunday, January 21, 5 pm

The OCF of CU will kick off the New Year with a fellowship dinner. Please contact Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 720-329-5212 with any questions.

Save the Date: OCF Retreat - February 2 - 4

Prophet Elias Chapel, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colo.

Sacrament of Confession

Father Jordan is available for confession on Saturday before vespers or during the week. Please visit with Father Jordan to schedule your confession. You can also reach Father Jordan at frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 303-581-1434 to schedule a time.

Choir Practice

Church music is an integral part of the Orthodox Church. If you have a gift for singing, please share your gift of stewardship, and become part of the choir. If you have questions, please visit with Presbytera Marika or Presbytera Kedrann. Please visit our church website for a detailed schedule. Choir practice meets at 4 pm on Saturday.

Sunday Fellowship Hosts Needed

Sunday Fellowship is a wonderful expression of Christian Hospitality. Thank you to the parishioners who have signed up. The fellowship hour is a wonderful time to visit with friends, and welcome visitors. Please prayerfully consider hosting a Sunday Fellowship. You may consider selecting a Sunday related to a name day, birthday or memorial in your family. You can co host a Sunday with a friend or relative. The sign up is in the parish hall. If you are unable to host a Sunday, please consider helping out during the week at one of our scheduled baking days. We will be preparing baked goods for Sunday Fellowship. Fran Dzielis, Mary Lymberopoulos and Presbytera Kedrann are coordinating the Sunday Fellowship Ministry.