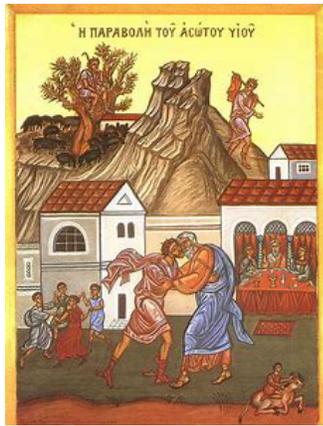




# Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

## Weekly Bulletin Week of February 4, 2018



*Sunday of the Prodigal Son*



### Contact Info

**Sts. Peter & Paul  
Greek Orthodox Church**  
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Rev. Fr. Jordan Brown  
[frjordanbrown@gmail.com](mailto:frjordanbrown@gmail.com)

### Service Schedule & Parish Activities

Monday, February 5	Parish Council Meeting	6:30 pm
Saturday, February 10	Saturday of Souls	
	Orthros	8 am
	Divine Liturgy	9 am
	Choir Practice	4 pm
	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.**

### 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 Host	Sunday School
Ushers	Tony & Rimona Azar
Myrrhbearers	Demetra G., Sophie, Cassie
Choir	Alexandra, Elizabeth, Georgia
Epistle Reader	Georgia

### 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 Holy Prodigal and the Compassionate Father

By Monk Moses the Athonite

## The Scandalous Respect for Freedom

In the Parable of the Prodigal, God the Father amazingly respects human freedom and will. The father of the parable didn't care about his authority, about what others would say about him, that he would lose his support - his child who assisted him. He is saddened by the departure but did not want to prevent it, though he could have. Sometimes the great freedom of God scandalizes.

We would like Him to have more limits on us. We do not know how to appreciate and enjoy freedom. The love of the father is very noble. He wants near him children who love him and not slaves without freedom, frightened and terrified. He allows him to abuse his freedom, a very dangerous game. The fruit of a carob tree, you know, is sweet in the beginning and bitter in the end, just like sin. Without God man hungers, thirsts and is alone. An insatiable hunger and thirst, terrible loneliness. The chase for pleasure brought unbearable suffering. But the great love of his father accompanied him always. It made him not forget and be disappointed. He was completely assured of the love of his father and this saved him. What saved him also was his restless journey and his non-deferment. The salvific thought immediately was put to action.

The father waited for him, so great was his love. The Holy Fathers say the following: if this Gospel passage alone was saved out of the entire Gospel, it would be sufficient for the salvation of humanity. The parable should not be named after the prodigal son, but after the compassionate father.

## The Second Prodigal

We then encounter the eldest son in the parable. He seeks a reward for his work, brags about his moral greatness and feels incomparably better than his brother. He has no desire to share in the joy of his father over the return of his lost brother. These events removed his mask, and presented him as naked of every virtue. Eventually we have two prodigal sons. The first is the youngest, who repents and returns with tears in his eyes. The second, surprisingly, is disclosed to be a prodigal even though he never left his house. He is a prodigal in the courtyard and in his thoughts, and in his heart he makes a robber's cave. Even though he enters his father's house he is a brutal and upright Pharisee, who requires of God the punishment of sinners and the justification of those like himself. Both the publican and the prodigal wept, but the Pharisee and the eldest brother didn't weep at all because they had egos that did not allow them to weep. Caution and prayer are needed that God enlighten us to discern our situation, because it is a tragedy for someone to live within the Church and yet be out of it like the eldest son.

Fathers and family leaders, parents and teachers, must tolerate children, to teach them to be lovers of honor, to teach them by their bright example; they ought to be patient, to be hopeful and to pray.

Eventually the venerable publican and the holy prodigal did this, since they spoke by their deeds of real repentance, while the "righteous" eldest son and the Pharisee required recognition and respect, and are thus unrepentant and hypocrites. They do not participate in the joy of others, and are terrible egomaniacs. Let us therefore imitate the publican and the prodigal in their repentance that we may live in paradise now.

Source: Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

# Events & Announcements

## **Souper Bowl of Caring – Sunday, February 4**

The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) helps us to recognize what it means to be a good neighbor and to be merciful, and Christ Himself instructs us be both of these in this parable. On Sunday February 4, our Sunday school youth are once again leading the IOCC Souper Bowl of Caring event. We are asking everyone to please bring non-perishable items and a small monetary contribution. We will distribute the foods collected to Community Food Share, and the monetary donations will be sent to IOCC. This is a great service opportunity for our whole community, and we hope that everyone will participate and support our youth in this effort!

## **Fr. Jordan Out of Town – February 6–9**

Fr Jordan will be participating in the Metropolis of Denver Clergy Retreat, February 6-9. In case of a hospital emergency, please contact the St Luke Antiochian Parish at (303-665-4013) or the Metropolis of Denver (303-333-7794).

## **Meatfare Luncheon - Sunday, February 11**

Please join us for our annual Meatfare luncheon following church. This is the last day to eat meat prior to the start of Great Lent.

## **College Ministry: OCF @ CU – February 13, 6 pm**

Dear Students, please join us for our next campus fellowship. We will meet for dinner, fellowship and prayer at the St Thomas Student Catholic Center (basement room). Questions, please contact Father Jordan @ [frjordanbrown@gmail.com](mailto:frjordanbrown@gmail.com).

## **Sunday School Oratorical Festival – February 18, 12 pm**

This is a wonderful opportunity for our middle and high school youth to share a Christian message in their own words. If you have not received the topics and resource material, please see Dana Gall. If you have any questions, please visit with Presbyteria Marika.

## **Clean Monday Retreat - February 19th, 1st day of Great Lent**

The Retreat will take place at Sts Peter Paul, 10 am - 1 pm. Please join us on the first day of the Great and Holy Lent, Clean Monday, for a morning of prayer, Lenten Reflection and fellowship. Sign up sheet is located in the parish hall.

Retreat Schedule:

10 am	Lenten Orthros Morning Prayers
10:30 am	Spiritual Reflection
11:30 am	Lenten Meal
12 noon	Spiritual Reflection
12:30 pm	Closing Prayers

## **Inquirers Class: Orthodox Q & A**

Do you have questions about the Orthodox Church? Father Jordan will be offering an Orthodox Christian Faith Question and Answer class during Great Lent on Wednesday evenings after the 6 pm Presanctified Liturgy. Father Jordan will be focusing on questions related to Great Lent, Sacrament of Baptism / Chrismation and Spiritual Life.

## **Philoptochos Community Event – February 10, 12:30 pm**

Sts. Peter and Paul Philoptochos will be hosting a community event at Crackpots in Longmont, a ceramic painting studio. [www.ecrackpots.com](http://www.ecrackpots.com) Each year they help Our Center in Longmont by having community members paint bowls which are used for the Our Center Empty Bowls fundraiser in March. **Philoptochos has reserved a room at 12:30pm on February 10th. Each bowl is \$12.00 to paint.** If you finish your bowl and you want to paint something else that works too, we have the room for 2 hours.

This is a family event, so bring husbands and kids. If you want more information please see Ashley Dzivelis, [ashleydz1@hotmail.com](mailto:ashleydz1@hotmail.com). Please RSVP to this email if you can make it. We need a head count! This is a great way to meet others, and help a great cause!

Crackpots is located at 505 Main Street, Longmont 80501

## **GOYA Lenten Retreat - March 16-18**

Attention all teens (middle and high school students)! The GOYA Lenten Retreat will be taking place in the mountains. We will be joining the young adults from our sister parishes, St Spyridon, St Catherine, Assumption Cathedral and Holy Apostles for a wonderful retreat weekend in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Details and registration will be coming soon. Please see Father Jordan with any questions. Attention parents! We need a few parent / adult advisors. Please contact Father Jordan.