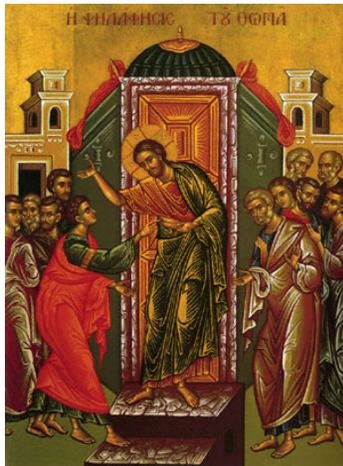




Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of April 15th, 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

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

Sunday, April 15	OCF CU Dinner	4 pm
Monday, April 16	Parish Council Meeting	6:30 pm
Wednesday, April 18	Bible Study Evening Prayer / Paraclesis	10 am 6 pm
April 20-22	Women's Retreat w/ Mother Cassiana	
Saturday, April 21	St George Panighyri (Brotherhood of Saint George, Denver) Orthros Divine Liturgy (Luncheon to Follow) Great Vespers	8 am 9:30 am 5 pm

Hosts & Volunteers

Ushers	Jacque & Amanda Nader
Myrrhbearers	Demetra, Sophie, Cassie
Choir	Elizabeth, Alexandra, Georgia,
Epistle Reader	Elizabeth

Have an Announcement?

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

Thomas Didn't Believe So That All May Believe

By St. Gregory the Great

Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. He was the only disciple absent; on his return he heard what had happened but refused to believe it. The Lord came a second time; He offered His side for the disbelieving disciple to touch, held out His hands, and showing the scars of His wounds, healed the wound of his disbelief.

Dearly beloved, what do you see in these events? Do you really believe that it was by chance that this chosen disciple was absent, then came and heard, heard and doubted, doubted and touched, touched and believed? It was not by chance but in God's providence. In a marvelous way God's mercy arranged that the disbelieving disciple, in touching the wounds of his Master's body, should heal our wounds of disbelief.

The disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples. As he touches Christ and is won over to belief, every doubt is cast aside and our faith is strengthened. So the disciple who doubted, then felt Christ's wounds, becomes a witness to the reality of the resurrection.

Touching Christ, he cried out: "My Lord and my God."

Jesus said to him: "Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed."

Paul said: "Faith is the guarantee of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen."

It is clear, then, that faith is the proof of what can not be seen. What is seen gives knowledge, not faith. When Thomas saw and touched, why was he told: "You have believed because you have seen me?"

Because what he saw and what he believed were different things. God cannot be seen by mortal man. Thomas saw a human being, whom he acknowledged to be God, and said: "My Lord and my God."

Seeing, he believed; looking at one who was true man, he cried out that this was God, the God he could not see.

What follows is reason for great joy: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

There is here a particular reference to ourselves; we hold in our hearts One we have not seen in the flesh. We are included in these words, but only if we follow up our faith with good works. The true believer practices what he believes. But of those who pay only lip service to faith, Paul has this to say: "They profess to know God, but they deny him in their works."

Therefore James says: "Faith without works is dead."

Saint Thomas the Apostle as a Model for our Lives

By Protopresbyter Fr. George Papavarnavas

The Apostle Thomas belonged to a family of fishermen and was numbered among the choir of the Twelve Apostles. He is primarily known from the fact that he asked to see and touch the marks of the nails on the hands and the wound on the side of Christ.

As is known, the Apostle Thomas was absent when Christ, after His Resurrection, visited His Disciples in the upper room where they were gathered together. When he was informed about the visit of Christ, he asked to see and touch the wounds from the Cross on His hands and side. When this meeting finally took place eight days later, Thomas confessed Him to be his Lord and God.

On Resurrection Sunday, during the Vespers of Love, the Gospel reading is read in all the Sacred Churches, even in various languages, which refers to the visit of Christ to His Disciples when Thomas was absent.

The Apostle Thomas, after Pentecost, preached the gospel to the Parthians, the Persians, the Medes and the Indians. His life ended in martyrdom. First he was thrown into prison. Then he was given over to five soldiers, who took him up a mountain where they slew him by piercing his body with spears. The sacred hymnographer, describing the martyric end of the Apostle Thomas, addressed Christ, saying characteristically: "Thomas, who asked to put his hand on Your side, for You is pierced on his side."

The facts of his life, primarily those related to his faith and the manner in which it was expressed, give us the opportunity to emphasize the following:

First, the view has been held that the Apostle Thomas was an unbeliever, because he asked to see with his eyes and touch with his hands the Risen Christ. Of course, he said the words we all know: "Unless I see... I will not believe", but he was not an unbeliever in the sense that he was an atheist and doubted the Resurrection of Christ. He was informed by the other Apostles about the Resurrection of Christ, as well as His visit "while the doors were shut". He also wanted to have a personal experience of this wonderful event. He wanted a personal encounter with the Risen Christ, to enjoy the blessing of His presence and go from faith by hearing to faith by *theoria* (vision).

"According to the teachings of our Fathers, Thomas was not an unbelieving Apostle in the way we think of or mean by the word unbelief, but he wanted to go from a faith by hearing to a faith by *theoria* (vision). Faith by hearing is the faith associated with information given by others. The Disciples assured the Apostle Thomas they had seen Christ, but he was not content in this belief but he wanted a faith by *theoria*, he wanted to personally see Christ. So Christ gave him a whole week to be catechized and then He appeared to give him the faith by *theoria*. Then Thomas said: 'My Lord and my God.'" (Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos).

Second, when Christ visited His Disciples again after eight days, He invited the Apostle Thomas to touch the marks of the wounds of His Body. Then the Apostle Thomas recognized Him and confessed Him Lord and God. He recognized Him by the wounds of the Cross, which are a sign of His love and His power. The Holy Fathers call the confession of Thomas salvific. Truly it leads to salvation all those who flee to Christ asking humbly for His mercy.

A Christ without the marks of the nails on His Body is not a true Christ. The Antichrist will resemble Christ on the outside, but he will not have the marks of the Cross. According to one Patristic interpretation, the original numbers χ ξ στ' (666), which refer to the Antichrist, means "χρηστός ξένος σταυρού" (christ without cross).

Christ is recognized by the marks of the wounds of the Cross. And the genuine Disciples of Christ are also recognized by the marks of the Cross of Christ, which each one lifts willingly. Besides, there is no one in this life who does not bear their own cross. And when they refuse the light Cross of Christ, then they lift the heavy cross of sin.

True faith is directly connected with love and pain. Anyone who has found Christ within them, through obedience to the Church, they confess Him daily with their lives and literally melt from their love of God and neighbor.

Events & Announcements

Lunch with Fr Anastasios Elekiah from Kenya - Sunday, April 29

Archimandrite Father Anastasios (Holy Cross Seminary Classmate of Fr Jordan), will be making a special visit to Sts Peter Paul. We are inviting our youth (grade school, middle school & high school age children) and their parents to have lunch and a Q & A with Father Anastasios. **The lunch will take place at the home of Father Jordan and Presbytera Marika (7793 Essex Place) after Sunday services.**

Fr Anastasios is the sixth of ten children. He graduated from the St Makarios Seminary (Africa) in 1989. He is graduate of Holy Cross (Boston) 1993, and received his doctorate from the University of Thessalonki. Father is currently the Dean of Embu in Kenya.

Mark your calendar. This will be a great blessing for our youth!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study - April 18th, 10 am

Please join us this coming Wednesday for Bible Study. Everyone is welcome to participate. Class on the 18th will focus on the readings of the Resurrection. This is a great opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the Resurrection of our Lord, and how it relates to our everyday life.

College Ministry

Dear college students, Please join us later in the day for an early BBQ dinner. Father Jordan will be on campus at 4 pm. The OCF will be meeting for dinner and fellowship at the St Thomas Catholic Student Center (15th & Euclid).

The St George Panighyri (Feast Day Celebration)

Come join the Celebration! Saturday, April 21st

Orthros 8 am / Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

(Luncheon will follow)

Where: Brotherhood of Saint George (361 Forest Street) 303-316-7407

1st Annual Front Range Women's Retreat - Cheyenne, Wyoming

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

Keynote Speaker: Mother Cassiana

(Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Christian Monastery)

For more information please contact Father Christopher Xanthos at

307-514-5347 / fchristopher@holypostlescheyenne.com