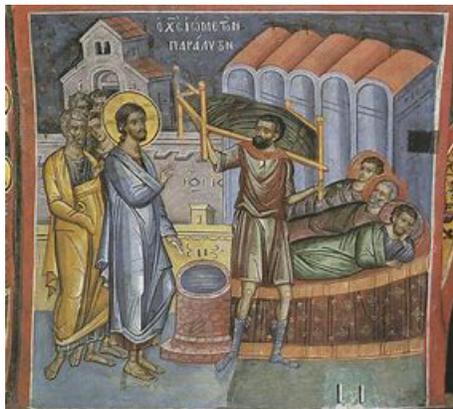




Sts. Peter & Paul Boulder

Weekly Bulletin Week of April 29th, 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.

Have an Announcement?

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

Service Schedule & Parish Activities

Monday, April 30	Church Cleaning	10 am
Tuesday, May 1	Men's Group Dinner	7 pm
Wednesday, May 2	Bible Study Paraclesis Service	10 am 6 pm
Saturday, May 5	Readers Vespers	5 pm

Hosts & Volunteers

Ushers	Tony Sammoury
Myrrhbearers	Demetra, Sophie, Cassie
Choir	Elizabeth, Alexandra, Georgia
Epistle Reader	Alexandra

Homily For the Sunday of the Paralytic

By Metropolitan Augustinos Kantiotis

"And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years."

The question is asked, beloved, what is life? Is it enjoyment? Is it amusement? Is it dancing and fun? Is it "let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die"? Many people think this way, especially the young of our times, who are carried away by materialistic and atheistic ideas and think that the few years they are going to live on this planet must be lived as happily and as hedonistically as possible. They have as a kind of motto the Italian phrase *dolce vita*, which means "sweet life". For them, sweet life means living day and night at various amusement centers, dancing wildly, singing obscene songs, engaging in loud behavior, and taking drugs to achieve a chemical paradise of pleasure for a few hours. Once those hours pass, these unfortunates fall into a terrible state of depression and gloom.

For those who examine things deeper and think philosophically, life has a greater meaning. The life of virtue and duty is not like a smooth paved road, landscaped with shrubs and flowers for passing motorists to admire; it is like a narrow, hilly road, on which motorists shall meet many obstacles, afflictions, and trials. As Job observes, man's life is a trial. And what is a trial? It is a life full of temptations, sorrows, and tribulations. Just as gold comes out of the depths of the earth unclean and is thrown into a fiery furnace where all the worthless elements are burned away and the gold runs pure, in the same way man has to pass through the fiery furnace of affliction and temptation to be cleansed of his faults, vices, and passions.

There was a time, however, when man did not have to be cleaned. He was pure and clean. When? When he lived close to God in paradise. But when man sinned, sin contaminated the world of his soul and he became full of evils and faults, like impure gold in need of cleansing and purification. From then on, after the fall of the first man, the sufferings, the sorrows, and the temptations started. The earth, which was pure and fragrant with the aroma of beautiful flowers, became wild and started to send out thorns; to root out the thorns and make the earth productive, man had to bloody his hands. Tame animals became wild and turned into beasts whose roars frightened man. The rivers filled up and overflowed, causing floods and cataclysms. The earth started to shake with fearful quakes. Man, too, who once was healthy and immortal, was infected by illness, pain, and death because of sin.

Afflictions, then, came to man from the upheavals of the elements of nature, from earthquakes and floods. Afflictions came from sicknesses and death. They also came from his fellow man; these were the greatest. The afflictions hardest to bear are those that come from friends and relatives, who because of the evil within them, pour affliction out like a poison. Out of this evil from his fellow man, man has suffered many and great afflictions. Injustice, theft, insult to family honor, fornication and adultery, lies, calumny and slander, injuries, killings, crimes, horrifying wars that make the earth an endless trial - all of these constitute a great well of affliction for man.

Wherever man goes he shall face afflictions, sometimes from the elements of nature, sometimes from the evil and malice of his fellow man, and sometimes from himself. Some afflictions come from the devil, who tries to destroy man. Finally, some afflictions come from the omnipotent, all-benevolent and all-wise God for the purpose of bringing about the purification of a sinful humanity.

Man travels within an ocean of sorrows. Christ confirmed it when he said, "In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" [John 16:33]. There was not, there is not, and there shall never be a person who does not have to confront affliction. When there is an island that is not surrounded by the sea, then there shall be a man who is not afflicted by sorrows.

The problem is, how does man confront affliction? Many people glorify God when they are healthy, their wallets are full, their children are thriving, and their lives are on course. But when affliction interrupts the tranquility, they lose their composure and curse the day they were born. Some become so desperate that they end their lives through suicide.

Oh man who is afflicted in this world! You have to arm yourself with patience to conquer sorrow. To receive patience, you must open up Holy Scripture and read what it says about affliction and the purpose it serves; read about those superb examples of patience.

In Holy Writ, there are many examples of patience. One such example is the paralytic in this Sunday's Gospel reading. He is a hero greater than those who are victorious on the fields of battle and get medals for courage.

Homily For the Sunday of the Paralytic

By Metropolitan Augustinos Kantiotis

Let's look at the life of this hero. He lived inside an ocean of afflictions. Not days, not weeks, not just a few years but for thirty-eight years he was sick, completely paralyzed. And yet he didn't howl, he didn't blaspheme, he didn't curse the day he was born. With a patience that reminds one of the patience of Job, he passed the days of his affliction believing that God had not abandoned him, but would someday show His mercy to him. And God did show His mercy. He came Himself, Jesus Christ, the true God, and cured the paralytic. All who saw were amazed by this miracle. On that day, the paralytic, that hero of patience, received from Christ, the Ruler of All, the reward for patience.

May it be, my beloved, that we all - men and women, any of us who suffer afflictions - be rewarded for patience. In order to endure, let's think of those heroes of patience like the paralytic and especially the king of pain and sorrow, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who said: "In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

From *Drops From the Living Water: Orthodox Homilies On the Sunday Gospel Readings* by Augustinos N. Kantiotis; pp. 60-64.

St. Theodore of Byzantium and the Miraculous Deliverance of Mytilene from the Plague in 1832

In the year 1832, a terrible and deadly disease, the plague, hit the population of Mytilene. Deaths occurred each day and were increasing in number. Residents were forced to abandon their homes and flee to the surrounding hills in the hope that they would not get the disease. And even the city authorities left their offices in the city and took refuge in the mountains. The government had sent for teams of doctors from Constantinople and medicines, none of which had any effect.

But where human efforts failed, the grace of God was successful, by the prayers of the Holy New Martyr Theodore of Byzantium. In these critical days, on the Friday night of the first week of Great Lent, the Saint appeared to the then Chancellor Fr. Kallinikos (who later became the Metropolitan of Mytilene and Patriarch of Constantinople), and urged him to tell the Metropolitan to gather the Christians from the surrounding areas where they had fled, to have a vigil in the Metropolis Cathedral of Saint Athanasios and to remove his relic from the church's crypt. The Chancellor gave no attention to the dream, but after a week, and again on Friday night, he saw the same dream but more lifelike, and the Saint more austere. This time he immediately ran to inform the Metropolitan of the Saint's will. The Metropolitan immediately met with the Turkish Governor and requested the permission to call the Christians to come to the church by any means and for everyone to ask God to save them from the disease. The Turkish doctors, who came from Constantinople, objected. They did not want such a gathering to take place for fear of transmitting the disease further. But the Governor, seeing that everyone was dying despite all the measures that were taken by the doctors, even when the inhabitants fled from their homes, gave permission to gather and hold a vigil.

All the Christians with faith and hope ran to the temple, which was filled within, outside and around the streets. They cried, beseeched God, and sought the help of the Saint, whom they learned had appeared in a dream to the Chancellor. They rose early and they prayed. In the morning hours, the Metropolitan and the Chancellor descended into the church's crypt, and removed the Holy Body of St. Theodore with reverence, and had a short procession around the church.

Since that time, no one else, neither Christian nor Turk, died from that plague. The city named St. Theodore their patron, that is, the protector of the city and of our island [Lesvos]. Turks and Greeks in every way confessed the miracle and showed their gratitude to God and their guardian Saint.

Since then (1832) the venerable relic of the Saint was not returned to the crypt of the church, but was clearly and visibly placed (and as a sign to the Turks) in the Metropolis church, where it is found today, and now, as stated in the Apolytikion of the Saint, is a "valuable treasure" for our place.

As its patron saint, St. Theodore protected the island during the last war in 1940, and while the Italians bombed several targets, including the telephone antenna of the city, the factories of Sourlaga in the Gulf of Gera, the ship "Arntena" in the port, no bomb had achieved its objective and many of them hit the ground without exploding.

In remembrance of the miracle of rescuing the population of the city from the plague, since the year 1936, at the initiative of Metropolitan Iakovos of Mytilene from Durrachiou, a new feast day was established in Mytilene on the Fourth Sunday of Pascha [Sunday of the Paralytic], on which with great splendor and the participation of thousands of the faithful, the procession with the venerable relics of the Saint takes place.

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 Presbyteria 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.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study, May 2

Please join us this coming Wednesday for Bible Study. Everyone is welcome to participate. We 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 every day life.

Men's Fellowship Dinner

The Men's Fellowship Dinner will be Tuesday, May 1, 7 pm. We will be meeting for dinner at LuLu's BBQ in Louisville. We welcome all the men of our parish to join us for an evening of fellowship and delicious BBQ. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan.

Sunday School Update

Spring is here and our Sunday school year is almost over! Our last day of class will be May 6. On May 13, we will celebrate our students and showcase some of their projects. We will also be honoring our seniors and their graduation. I hope all our students and their parents can be there! Please also mark your calendars for our end-of-year pool party on June 3. Thank you to all of our teachers for your hard work. And thank you to parents and parishioners for your support.

Church Cleaning

Thank you to everyone who has been donating their time to clean our church! Even one hour of your time per month is a great help! The cleaning schedule for this month is:

**Every Sunday after church
Mondays (4/30, 5/7, 5/14) at 10 a.m.**

There is a list in the church, and a list in the hall, of the cleaning chores that need to be done

EasyTithe - A New Online Giving Tool For Sts. Peter And Paul

The Stewardship and Finance Committees encourage everyone at Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church to try our new online giving method through EasyTithe. EasyTithe is simple to use and provides a great way to make online contributions and recurring stewardship payments. To use EasyTithe, please visit this link: <https://www.easytithe.com/stspeterandpaul> You can also download the app in the Google Play or Apple App stores.