



METROPOLIS
OF DENVER

Sts. Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301

Office: 303-581-1434

www.stspeterandpaulboulder.org

Reverend Father Jordan Brown

frjordanbrown@gmail.com

Weekly Bulletin Sunday, March 10th, 2019

Welcome To Sts. Peter & Paul!

We welcome visitors worshipping with us today. Please introduce yourself to our priest and members of our community. Thank you for joining us this morning for prayer and fellowship. Sts Peter and Paul is a Greek Orthodox Church. We are proud of our cultural heritage, but please do not think that one must be Greek, Arab or Russian to be part of the Orthodox Church. The foundation of the Orthodox Church are the teachings and Holy Tradition of Jesus Christ. We follow the first Christians who began to worship Jesus Christ after the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Please join us for our fellowship after services in the parish hall. We invite you to visit our bookstore which is located in the parish hall. Our diverse church family encompasses many converts to the Orthodox Christian Faith, as well as Greek, Arab, Romanian, Serbian and Russian Orthodox Christians.

If you are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please visit with our priest, Fr. Jordan (see contact info above)

The sacrament of Holy Communion is reserved only for baptized and / or chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared by prayer, fasting and confession. The Orthodox Church understands the reception of Holy Communion to be the highest expression of our faith. Everyone is invited at the end of the Divine Liturgy to receive the blessed bread 'antidoro.'

Service Schedule & Parish Activities

Week of March 10th, 2019

Sunday, March 10	Forgiveness Service	5 pm
Monday, March 11	Clean Monday / First Day of Great Lent Great Compline & Canon St Andrew	6 pm
Tuesday, March 12	Great Compline & Canon St Andrew	6 pm
Wednesday, March 13	Great Compline & Canon St Andrew Presanctified Liturgy	8 am 6 pm
Thursday, March 14	Great Compline & Canon St Andrew	8 am
Friday, March 15	Presanctified Liturgy Salutations / Hairetismi	8 am 7 pm
Saturday, March 16	Divine Liturgy / Memorial Saturday of the Souls Great Vespers	8 am 5 pm

Hosts & Volunteers

Ushers	Dion & Kiki Cheronis
Myrrhbearers	Demetra, Cassie
Epistle Reader	Niko

Offertory Prayer

“O Lord our God, You created us and brought us into this life. You showed us the way to salvation and have granted us the revelation of the heavenly mysteries. Accept our Stewardship Offering as an acceptable sacrifice and in return send down upon us the grace of your Holy Spirit. Look down on us, O Lord, and accept our Stewardship Commitment as You accepted the gifts of Abel, the offerings of Noah, the burnt offerings of Abraham, the priestly sacrifices of Moses and Aaron and the peace offerings of Samuel. Accept also now, in your goodness, O Lord, these gifts from the hands of us sinners, making us worthy of the reward of the faithful and wise stewards on the fearful day of Your just judgment. For You are the God of mercy, love and salvation and we glorify You, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen”

News & Events

Welcome Committee

**Are you new to Sts. Peter and Paul? Do you have questions about stewardship?
Please visit our Welcome Table during the Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall.**

If you have any questions about Stewardship and how to get involved in the parish, please contact Nick Karis @ (908) 698-3635 or nickandsandy77@gmail.com

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival - Sunday, March 10th, 12:30 pm

Join us to support our middle and high schoolers as they present their topics for the St. John Oratorical Festival! The Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides teenagers with an opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The Oratorical Festival Program has two levels: a Junior Division for students in the 7th through 9th grades and a Senior Division for those in the 10th through 12th grades. The top speakers in each division from the parish will advance to the Metropolis level. The Metropolis Oratorical Festival is on April 5-7th; and will be hosted by St. Spyridon Parish in Loveland, Colorado.

Forgiveness Vespers - Sunday, March 10th, 5 pm

The last service in preparation of the Great and Holy Fast is the Forgiveness Service which we will celebrate this evening at 5 pm. Jesus Christ shares with us that if we want to be with Him in the Heavenly Kingdom, we must forgive others. The Forgiveness Service reminds us that we are all connected to one another and that we are part of the Body of Jesus Christ. It is very important as a Church Family to build up healthy relationships with one another.

Sacrament of Confession

Father Jordan will be available for confession prior to Monday Evening Compline, Friday Evening Salutations, and Saturday Great Vespers. Father is also available during the day. Please visit or contact Father Jordan to schedule your confession. The children are encouraged to come for confession on either Friday evening or before Saturday Vespers.

Pre-Sanctified Fellowship Evenings

During Great Lent, the church celebrates the pre-sanctified liturgy Wednesday evenings at 6 pm, and Friday mornings at 8 am. It has been a parish tradition to have a Lenten Supper after the Wednesday evening service. Parishioners are encouraged to bring a lenten dish (please, no dairy or meat). Philotochos will be hosting the first dinner on March 13th.

Sunday of Orthodoxy – March 17th

There will be a traditional Icon Procession with the Sunday School children at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Please have your children bring an icon from home for the special procession.

Homily on Forgiveness Sunday

Great Lent is about to begin. The Lord asks us to forgive one another. And first of all I must ask for forgiveness. Forgive me, fathers and brethren, my sins I committed today and all the days of my life.

Translated by John Sanidopolous

How St. Dionysios Sheltered His Brother's Murderer

There was a period in Zakynthos when a deadly enmity arose between two prominent families. The efforts of St. Dionysios had so far been in vain. Things had reached a point where murders had been committed and the population was divided into two factions.

The incidents between the two families continued to the point where in one of them the Saint's brother, Constantine, was killed. The murderer, in despair, sought refuge in the Anaphonitria Monastery, without knowing that the Abbot was the brother of his victim. In reply to the Abbot's questioning, he admitted the murder and told him that Sigouros' relatives were pursuing him. Dionysios was plunged into the most profound sorrow, both as a man and as the brother of the murderer's victim. His grief was all the greater because Constantine had been his only brother. However, he said nothing of all this to the murderer, asking him only, in a fatherly way: "Tell me, what wrong had that noble man done to you that you should unjustly slay him?"

The Saint, when he had shed tears for the cruel loss of his brother, gave the murderer food and water and spoke to him in an effort to induce him to repent of this grave crime and so escape eternal punishment. Then the Saint led him out of the Monastery and down to the seashore. There he provided him with the necessary supplies, giving him money and food, and put him on a boat for the Peloponnese. Thus the Saint rescued the murderer of his own brother, demonstrating at the same time his own great forbearance.

Hymns for Sunday

Resurrection Hymn (Plagal 4th Tone p. 89-90 Green Hymnal)

“From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure, three days in the tomb that we may be, released from passions in this world, You who are our resurrection and our life Glory unto You O Lord.”

Hymn for Saints Peter and Paul

“O leaders of the Apostles, and teachers of the world, intercede with the Master of all that He may grant peace unto the world, and to our souls His great mercy.”

Kontakion Hymn for Forgiveness Sunday

“O Thou Guide unto wisdom, Bestower of prudence, Instructor of the foolish, and Defender of the poor: establish and grant understanding unto my heart, O Master. Grant me speech, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying unto Thee: Have mercy, O Merciful One, on me who have fallen.”

Epistle Reading

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

Forgiveness Sunday The Gospel According to Matthew 6:14-21

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Homily on Forgiveness Sunday By St. Luke of Simferopol

My brothers and sisters, we must have engraved in our hearts and always remember the words of Christ: "If you forgive men their offenses, then our heavenly Father will also forgive you; if you do not forgive men their offenses, neither will our Father forgive your offenses" (Matt. 6:14-15). These words of the Lord are very fearsome. If we do not forgive the offenses of our neighbors then Christ, at His Fearsome Judgement, will place us on His left and will not forgive our sins, because we did not forgive the offenses of our neighbor. You see, truly it is a fearsome thing to not forgive other people.

In the lives of the saints there are several examples of people who were punished because they did not want to forgive. Hieromonk Titus of the Kiev Caves Lavra was on his deathbed. The whole brotherhood of the Monastery gathered around him. Everyone knew there was an old enmity between Titus and the Hierodeacon Evagrius, so they brought Evagrius to reconcile with Titus before he died.

The blessed Titus raised himself up on his bed, leaned his head before Evagrius and asked for forgiveness. But hard-hearted Evagrius responded with these terrible words: "I will not forgive you either in this life or the next." As soon as he said this, he fell down dead, and the blessed Titus stood up healthy from his bed. He told the brothers that he saw angels and demons gather around his bed. The demons wanted to take his soul, because he was in enmity with Evagrius, while the angels wept for him. However, as soon as Evagrius said those terrible words, an angel with a flaming spear struck Evagrius, and he immediately fell down dead. The same angel took the hand of Titus, and healed him and raised him from his bed.

Homily on Forgiveness Sunday

We know of another example from the life of the Martyr Nikephoros. There was animosity between him and the presbyter Saprikios, with whom he was once very good friends. However, as it often happens, the devil with his wiles destroyed their friendship. It was a time when there was a fierce persecution against the Christians. The presbyter Saprikios was arrested, tortured and finally led to martyrdom. When they went to finish him off, Nikephoros followed behind, and fell before him, entreating him: "Martyr of Christ, forgive me." But Saprikios did not want to forgive. When they arrived at the place of martyrdom, Saprikios suddenly said: "Do not behead me. I deny Christ." Thus he denied Christ, and lost his soul. His place was taken by Nikephoros, who bent his head down before the ax of the executioner, and having been martyred, he was glorified in the Heavens. A fearsome, truly fearsome event. And I think it should disturb those who do not want to forgive their neighbor.

Remember the Lord who forgave everyone: He forgave the thief on the cross, the publican, the harlot who rained tears upon His feet and wiped them with her hair. Let those who do not want to forgive remember the Parable of the Wicked Servant, for whom the king had forgiven a very great debt. Yet he, as soon as he left the king, found a fellow servant that owed him a small amount, and catching him he went to choke him, saying: "Repay me the debt."

When the other servants saw this, they grieved very much. They went and told their master. Then the king called for him and said: "Wicked servant, I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed (Matt. 18:32-34).

These words are fearsome. They urge us to be merciful, compassionate and to forgive others. But we often become ruthless, insist on our own and do not forgive others. Should we act this way? To be hostile with those who wrong us? Certainly not. If we see our neighbor do some evil to us or offend us, we should not hate them. Rather, we should be compassionate, because they are ill. Their soul is ill and suffers from hatred. This is why we should be compassionate towards them.

We should not have hatred towards them, but towards the devil and the demons, who poisoned their heart with their wickedness and made them ruthless and cruel. If perhaps we respond to their insults with insults, we will ignite in our hearts the flame of hate, therefore let us stop and think a little: Who am I to hate them, as if I am better than them? Am I also not full of sin? Then why do I hate them? By doing this our hearts will immediately calm down. Good words will extinguish hatred.

This is how we must act. We are to be lenient towards our brethren who suffer from malice and are ill, nourishing hatred against us. Let us soften their hearts which have been captured and worked on by the demons with the oil of love.

News & Events

Pan-Orthodox Sunday Lenten Vespers - Sunday, March 17th, 5 pm

Each year the faithful of the Orthodox Christian churches throughout Colorado unite by visiting one another's parishes on the Sunday evenings of Great Lent. The first Pan-Orthodox Vespers will be on Sunday, March 17th; hosted by St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church in Greenwood Village. The speaker will be Michael Colburn who is with the Orthodox Christian Mission Center OCMC.

Parish Lenten Retreat: April 12 & 13

Holy Week - Carrying the Cross with Christ

Speaker: Fr John Angelis

Holy Week is the most important week for the Orthodox Christian. Our guest speaker, Father John Angelis, will offer reflections commemorating the last days of Jesus Christ leading up to His Crucifixion and Resurrection. The retreat is a wonderful opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the Passion of Christ. Father John, a well-respected and beloved clergyman, offers many years of pastoral experience. Please see the full-page flyer in the narthex or on the parish website for full schedule and additional information.

Save the Date! - Midsummer Gala - June 22nd

Sts. Peter & Paul Philoptochos ask you to save the date for the Midsummer Gala on the evening of June 22nd, 2019. Dinner, cocktails, music, dancing, and a silent auction at the Copper Leaf Gardens & Event Center in Broomfield.

Canned Meat Donations Needed

Our parish has committed to supplying 50 cans of meat (ham, tuna and chicken) to the OUR Center in Longmont. Please help by bringing in a can or two each month to help keep their shelves stocked.

Parish Photo Directory

Work is beginning on a new photo directory for the parish! Jim Powers will be taking photos outside on Sundays (weather permitting). Please find Jim after Liturgy to have your photo taken. Families will have their photos taken together. Please also give Jim the correct spelling of all the individuals in the photo. Look for the new directory to be published in the spring!

Upcoming Youth Events

GOYA Lunch w/ Father Jordan - March 31, 12:15 pm

Youth Night with Father John Angelis - Saturday, April 13th, pm

Saturday of Lazarus Retreat - April 20

GOYA Weekend Retreat, June 7 - 9, Hot Sulphur Springs