

PETRA NEWS

A PUBLICATION SUPPORTED BY THE STEWARDS OF
STS. PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8TH 2019

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH 2019

HOSTS & VOLUNTEERS

MYRRHBEARERS

Cassie Tinsley & Demetra Gregory

EPISTLE READER

Niko Tsiouvaras

UPCOMING SERVICES & FEASTDAYS

Wednesday, September 11

Orthros (Morning Prayers) & Special
Memorial Service _____ 8am

Saturday, September 14 (Fast Day)

Feast of the Holy Cross
Orthros _____ 8am
Divine Liturgy _____ 9am

Saturday, September 14

Great Vespers _____ 5pm

MEMORIAL SERVICE TODAY

We offer memorial prayers for Michael Chervonnyi (son of Larissa). He fell asleep in the Lord on September 16, 2018. May his memory be eternal.

CONVENT MONASTERY VISIT

Saturday, September 14

A visiting sister from the Convent in Minsk, Belarus will give a presentation on the history and service of their community that helps children without parental support, the patients of the psychiatric hospital and the sufferers from drug and alcohol dependence.

The Monastery Presentation will take place immediately following the service. There will be refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

HYMN FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

*“Your Nativity, O Theotokos, imparted joy to the entire earth,
for out of you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God.
He nullified the curse and instead gave His blessing;
and causing death to be neutralized, He granted us eternal life.”*

RESURRECTION HYMN

(3RD TONE, P. 83-84 GREEN HYMNAL)

*“Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on
earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal
deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down
death by death, and first born of the dead had He become.
From the womb of Hades has He delivered us,
and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.”*

HYMN OF SAINTS PETER PAUL

*“Oh 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

*“Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility’s stigma, and Adam
and Eve from their mortality’s ruin have been set free, O immaculate
Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration,
redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you,
“The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”*

COMMUNION HYMN

“Bless the crown of the year, O Lord, with Your goodness. Alleluia.”

SPECIAL MEGALINARION HYMN

*“Virginity is a state alien to mother’s,
and childbirth is foreign to those who are virgins.
But in you, Theotokos, have both of these been accomplished.
And therefore we of every race on earth
unceasingly pronounce you blest.*

SPECIAL COMMUNION HYMN

*“I will take up the cup of salvation,
and call upon the name of the Lord. Alleluia.”*

DAILY READINGS - SUNDAY BEFORE HOLY CROSS

THE ELEVENTH ORTHOS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 1:39-49, 56

In those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.

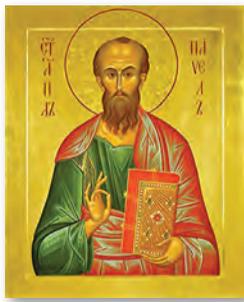


And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

EPISTLE READING: ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS 6:11-18

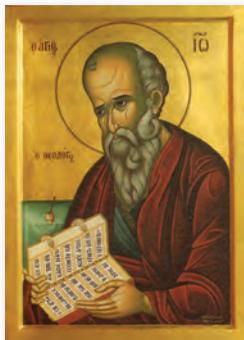
Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Je-



sus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

SAINTS & FEASTDAYS

THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

Commemorated on September 8

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcame the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse

from their own countrymen. On one of the feastdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.



THE MIRACLE OF THE PANAGIA SKRIPOU IN ORCHOMENOS ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1943

On 8 September 1943, the day of the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, the Italians capitulated and in the beginning refused to surrender their weapons to their German allies. In Orchomenos of Boetia the regional organization E.A.M. felt they could capitalize on this and accept the Italian arms. The Italians refused this and went with their weapons to Livadia. On the way the Germans surrounded them and disarmed them, and the Italians betrayed the people of Orchomenos by stating their intentions. When the Germans learned of the intentions of the people of Orchomenos they sent against them the next day, September 9th, armored vehicles. When the people of Orchomenos heard this they left and arrived at the crossroads of Agios Andreas, unprepared and disorganized as they were, and scattered throughout the surrounding area to the most remote Dionysus (Tsamaliou). The Germans continued the chase, to retaliate against Orchomenos, as was their usual tactic.

When the Germans entered Orchomenos they took 600 hostages, left a section in the village, and sent three tanks against the rest to Dionysus. On the night of the 9th towards the 10th of September, at around midnight, about 550 meters away from the Byzantine Church of the Panagia Skripou (estab-



lished in 874 AD), the three German tanks were immobilized for no apparent reason. As the German commander known as Hoffman later recounted, the form of a woman had appeared in the night sky with her hand raised in a prohibitive stance. Commander Hoffman then requested a tractor to pull the tanks, and he beheld another miracle when the tractor was able to easily pull the heavy tanks like an empty matchbox. He then proclaimed “miracle! miracle!” and asked the residents to take him into the church. From the icon in the church the commander recognized the woman to be the Virgin Mary. He fell down on his knees and said: “This woman saved you! You must honor her and glorify her!”

Orchomenos was indeed saved by the Panagia and the 600 hostages were freed with a vow by the commander that the village would not be harmed. Following the war, Commander Hoffman returned to the Church of Panagia Skripou, donating an icon of the vision he saw along with an large oil lamp. Just about every year he returned on Sep-

tember 10th to commemorate the event and light a candle in the church. For this reason the Panagia Skripou celebrates a feast on September 10th every year. A procession takes place with the icon on this day to the spot where the tanks were immobilized.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

**GOYA FELLOWSHIP,
DISCUSSION & BIBLE STUDY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

ST LUKE'S ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

The teens (middle and high school age children) will come together for Vespers (Evening Prayer), 4 pm at St Luke's. Immediately following prayers the teens will meet for dinner and fellowship. There will be a fireside discussion and Bible Study. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan @ frjordanbrown@gmail.com or (720) 329-5212.

**OCF - ORTHODOX
COLLEGE/CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP
WELCOME CU STUDENTS!**

Please join us for a Greek Dinner, Sunday, September 15, 5pm. We will be meeting on the CU Campus (details TBA). If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan @ frjordanbrown@gmail.com or (720) 329-5212)

MOMS GROUP

The St Luke parish has invited our mothers to join their Moms' group. The Mom's group meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month beginning September 4th, 9:30 am - 11:30 am at the St Luke's Church. There is childcare for the young children, and a lesson / discussion for young mothers.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY

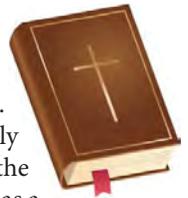
We welcome all women of our parish to join us for a monthly Fellowship and Bible Study / Spiritual Discussion. Please join us on Saturday, September 21, 9:30 am, at the home of Mary Lymberopoulos (address: 4495 Chippewa Drive, Boulder). Please bring a brunch item to share.



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH SERIES

**NEXT CLASS, WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 7 PM**

Class will meet three Wednesdays a month, September thru January 2020. This series will hopefully offer not only an introduction to the Orthodox Faith, the teachings and doctrines, but Orthodoxy as a way of life. What does it mean to be an Orthodox Christian? The class is open to everyone. Cradle Orthodox and those who are new to the Orthodox Church will enjoy this new series. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan @ frjordanbrown@gmail.com.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

STUDENT REGISTRATION

To register your child for the upcoming school year, grab a registration form in the narthex OR register online using the link in the Sunday School email. Hard copy forms can be returned to Aaron Wall or your child's Sunday School teacher.

**FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 15TH**

Sunday School will be held immediately following Holy Communion. Children and teachers should make their way over to the Fellowship Hall to grab snacks and go to their respective classrooms located on the second floor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF POOL PARTY

SEPTEMBER 15TH, 12:30 PM

We invite all youth and parents to join us for a special day to kick-off our Sunday School Ministry! Please bring your bathing suits and towel (girls: please wear a one-piece suit) to the home of Fr Jordan & Presbytera Marika, 7793 Essex Place, Boulder)

SNACK SIGN-UP

We need parents/volunteers to provide snacks throughout the school year. Having snacks on hand ensures that our kids are fueled, focused, and ready to learn! Please sign up using the link in the Sunday School email.

ALTAR BOYS

Serving in the Holy Altar is a great blessing and honor. I encourage our young boys to prayerfully consider serving in the altar, especially our older boys in middle and high school. Parents, please make every effort to be in church on time. I would like all the altar servers to be in the altar at least 10 minutes before the Divine Liturgy begins at 9:30 am. The boys are required to wear dress pants (no shorts are allowed), dress shoes and shirt with a collar. Please remember to enter the south side door of the altar, recite the preparation prayers, and wash your hands. Thank you

ALTAR BOY / ALCOLYTE RETREAT

Saturday, October 12, 3:30 pm - 7
Schedule: 3:30 pm Meet in the Church
Father Jordan will go over the special altar duties and responsibilities.

5 pm Great Vespers (Evening Prayers)
6 pm Dinner

Please contact Father Jordan with any questions.

PLEASE BRING BASIL: FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS

The church celebrates the Great Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, on Saturday, September 14th. We have a beautiful tradition of adorning the Holy Cross from the Holy Altar with fresh basil. On the Feast of the Holy Cross, we offer a special procession with the Holy Cross.

IOCC ORTHODOX HOMEFRONT

PARISH EMERGENCY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE WORKSHOP

Sunday, September 22, 2019 / 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Greek Orthodox Metropolis Center
4550 East Alameda Ave / Denver

Join the IOCC Orthodox Homefront: Part of IOCC's US Program, the Homefront helps parishes prepare for regional emergencies, disasters, and parish critical incidents, enhances their capability to respond, and connects parishes with a network of organizations and agencies active in emergencies.

Who should attend?

Parish leaders - especially clergy, church council / board members, and laypeople with expertise in emergency response, health and social services, etc.

RSVP at IOCC Homefront Registration by Friday, September 13, 2019

QUESTIONS: Dan Christopoulos (612.308.5407) dchristopoulos@iocc.org

We need fresh basil for the Feast Day. If you are able to help, please bring basil to the church on Friday, September 13, 9 am - 1 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan. Thank you.

PHILOPTOCHOS

THANK YOU, TOO VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all the volunteers for making the 1st Annual, ToO Philoptochos T-shirt drive a huge success! Over \$1,000 was raised to benefit the parish, local, and national philanthropic causes of Philoptochos.

BOOKSTORE NEWS

Order your 2019-2020 planner today! Please see Sharon Dzilvelis or email at sharon_dzilvelis@yahoo.com.

FOOD DRIVE

We need help this month to fill our shelf at the Our Center in Longmont. We are looking for cans of meat. Please put your cans in the bin in the fellowship hall.

SCHOLARSHIP TIME

Time for our annual Philoptokos scholarship! If you are a college student and would like to apply, please send a letter to ashleydz1@hotmail.com Include why you are applying, accomplishments, what school you are attending and include where we can send the scholarship money too.

SHOP AT KING SOOPERS

King Soopers supports non-profit organizations through their "community rewards" program. Stop by the Philoptokos table in the hall for details on how to sign up for this program or contact Lis Troicky with any questions: etroick@aol.com or 720-771-7786.



SAINTS PETER & PAUL

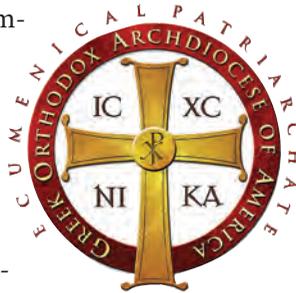
Greek Orthodox Church

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301

303-581-1434 • StsPeterAndPaulBoulder.org

ABOUT OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors worshipping with us today. Our diverse church family encompasses many converts to the Orthodox Christian Faith, as well as Greek, Arab, Romanian, Serbian and Russian Orthodox Christians. 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 introduce yourself to our priest and members of our community. We also encourage you to join us for our fellowship after services in the parish hall and visit our bookstore. If you are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please visit with our priest, Fr. Jordan Brown.

HOLY COMMUNION IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

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. Both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike are invited to receive the 'antidoro' (blessed bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.



PRIEST

Reverend Father Jordan Brown

PARISH COUNCIL

President - George Tsiouvaras
Vice President - Nicholas Kallan
Treasurer - Brian Gregory
Secretary - Phillip Haratsaris

PHILOPTOKOS

President - Ashley Dzilvelis
Vice President - Rola DeGeorge
Treasurer - Julie Powers

BOOK STORE

Sharon Dzilvelis

YOUTH / GOYA

Fr. Jordan Brown

SENIOR MINISTRY

Dena Tinsley

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Presbytera Marika Brown

RECURRING SERVICES

Orthros - Sundays, 8:15 am
Divine Liturgy - Sundays, 9:30 am
Great Vespers - Saturdays, 5 pm
Confession by appointment.