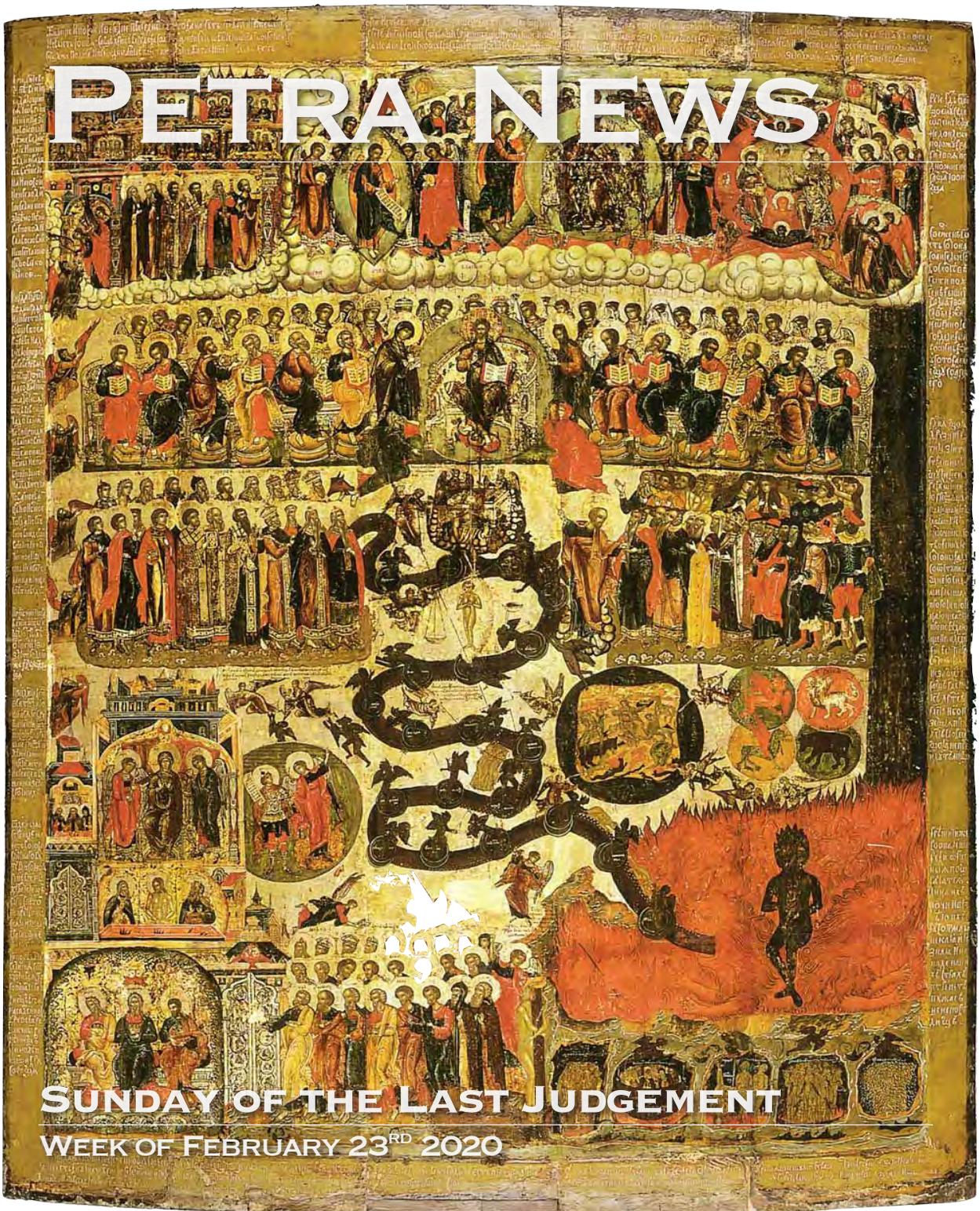


PETRA NEWS



SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23RD 2020

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD 2020

HOSTS & VOLUNTEERS

MYRRHBEARERS

Cassie & Katie Tinsley,
Demetra Gregory

EPISTLE READER

Niko Tsiouvaras

USHERS

Lis & Alex Troicky
(Jim Azar - 3/1)

FELLOWSHIP

Nicole Pappas

WEEKDAY SERVICES & MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 29

Readers Vespers _____ 5pm

Sunday, March 1st

Forgiveness Vespers Service _ 5pm

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

TODAY - 12:30 PM



The Sunday School Youth you will be offering their presentations in the church after the Divine Liturgy and Fellowship. Please come and support our youth. Please make sure your cell phones are off, and do not enter or leave the church during the presentation.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

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 has He become.*

*From the womb of Hades has He delivered us,
and to all the world has granted
His great redeeming mercy.”*

HYMN FOR STS 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

*“When Thou, O God,
will come to earth with glory, and all things tremble,
and the river of fire flows before the Judgment Seat,
and the books are opened and the hidden things made public,
then deliver me from the unquenchable fire,
and deem me worthy to stand at Thy right hand,
O most righteous Judge.”*

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS:

March 7 - Erie
April 4 - Boulder
May 2 - Longmont

JUDGMENT SUNDAY (MEATFARE SUNDAY)

EPISTLE: ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 8:8 -13; 9:1- 2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus,

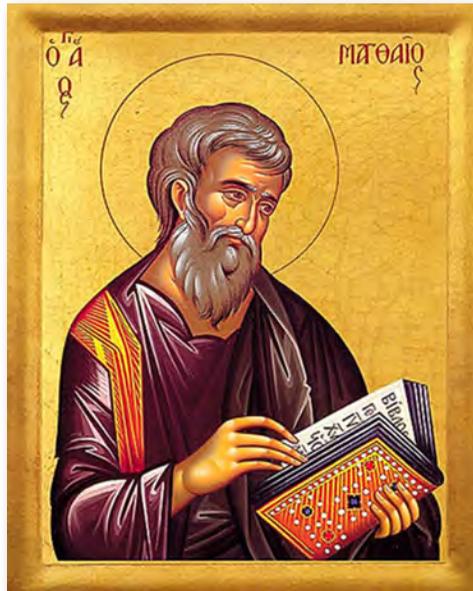
sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 25:31- 46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and

clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT (MEATFARE SUNDAY)

LOVE AND JUDGMENT

The themes of love and judgement are often mentioned side by side in the Bible and in Christian prayers and hymns. In 1 John 4:16-17, for example, we read:

*“God is love, and whoever lives in love lives in union God and God lives in union with him.
Love is made perfect in us in order that we may have courage on the Judgment.”*

In John 3:16-18 we read:

*“For God so loved so much that He gave His only Son ...
God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its Savior.
Whoever believes in the Son is not judged;
but whoever does not believe has already been judged.”*

A hymn that is chanted at Matins throughout the period of the Triodion offers the following personal prayer as a confession of faith:

*“As I ponder in my wretchedness the many evil things I have done,
I tremble for the fearful Day of Judgment.
But trusting in Your merciful compassion (loving kindness of God), like David do I cry to You:
Have mercy upon me, O God, in Your great mercy.”*

How can the Lord of love and goodness be also the Lord of judgment? Is there consistency in the images of God as a Loving Father and God as a righteous Judge? The Church Fathers answered this perplexing difficulty by affirming that God is always a loving Father and remains a loving Father for everyone - both righteous and sinners. The Holy Trinity by nature shines like a spiritual sun-glowing with love, light, and life. During this life, as well as in the next, people who are open to God, who have made room for Him in their hearts, who have developed spiritual attitudes and sensitivities, experience the radiance of God's love as unspeakable bliss; but people who have separated themselves from God, who have imprisoned themselves in their own selfishness and sinful passions, and have not developed spiritual attitudes and sensitivities, experience the same radiance of God's love as fire of judgment - “a scourge of love,” as St Isaac the Syrian put it.

God does not cause judgment at any time. He doesn't do something in vengeance to evildoers nor does He prepare a place of punishment (hell). God is love and by His very nature He cannot do what is evil, hateful, or destructive to anyone. Judgment and hell are spiritual conditions of sin and darkness. Judgment results when someone is separated from God who is the source of light and life. Judgment results when we willfully shut off ourselves from God's redeeming love. Yes, there is judgment, both temporary and eternal. But we judge ourselves.

What about all the fearful descriptions of hell, fire, and brimstone in the Bible? These are warnings in pictorial representation but they are not to be interpreted literally as geographic or physical places created by God for the punishment of human beings. Rather they are admonitions with a clear and serious message: life outside of the love of God

results in evil, falsehood, hatred, guilt, alienation, and pain. Life apart from God leads to an agony of darkness in which people torment themselves and each other. It is a spiritual hell created not by God but by the willful refusal to turn to God, Who is love, in order to be forgiven, cleansed, renewed

***“Do not deceive yourselves, no one makes a fool of God.
A person will reap exactly what he plants” (Gal 6:7).***

Through the Parable of the Last Judgment (Mathew 25:31-46 which is read for the Sunday of Last Judgment) Christ teaches us that heaven and hell have to do with the fulfillment of each other’s physical and spiritual needs. As we seek to serve each other in His name and by His grace, or as we fail to do so, we experience degrees of true life or degrees of darkness - realities that become permanent beyond the grave. Christ has taught us both by example and teaching, that the main virtues of Christians are faithful obedience and loving service to God and each other.

When we serve one another, we serve Christ Himself. When we see Christ in each other, our eyes are opened to recognize His renewing power at work in our lives. We experience the presence of God’s eternal Kingdom already in our midst:

“Whoever loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and My Father and I will come to him and live with him” (John 14:23).

THE FAST BEGINS

The Sunday of the Last Judgment is also known as Meatfare Sunday because it is the last day before Pascha (Easter) Sunday, the Resurrection, on which the eating of meat is allowed. On the next day the fast begins, first from means and meat products and a week later from fish, milk and eggs and their products as well. The church prepares us gradually for the stricter discipline of Lent.

and set free. Yes, there is judgment. But it is we who judge ourselves by the thoughts we think, the values we hold, the decisions we make, the things we do, the people we are both here and in the afterlife. St Paul warns us:



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN PRESENTATIONS

Beginning Wednesday, March 4th at 7:30pm and each Wednesday evening throughout Lent.

Father Jordan and visiting speakers will offer lenten reflections related to the Sunday themes of Great Lent and the meaning of Holy Week.

Recommended Books: Great Lent by Fr Alexander Schmemmann and the Holy Week Service Book by Fr George Papadeas.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY CELEBRATION

**PAN ORTHODOX VESPERS & MISSION AWARENESS DINNER
SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH - 5PM**

The Assumption Greek Orthodox Cathedral
4610 E. Alameda Ave., Denver, CO 80246

Guest Speaker: Fr. Christopher Rowe, OCMC Development Officer. Contact Stellee Papadeas at vyng4@msn.com

CHURCH CLEANING



We all have a responsibility to keep our beautiful church clean. We are blessed with a handful of faithful servants who take care of the church and parish hall. Please take the time to help keep our church clean and beautiful. One hour of your service after church will make a hug difference. We need help with cleaning on the following Sundays: **March 1, March 15 & March 29**

Please see Presbytera Kedrann after service. Thank you

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR

The Sunday Fellowship is a great blessing. It is a wonderful time to welcome new people, and visit with our church family. We need your help. **Please sign up (sign-up sheet is located in the parish hall)**. We do not have anyone signed up for the month of March. Bagels, breads, cheese, deli meat and fruit are a few examples of what you can offer. Please sign up today. Lent begins March 2nd.

*The gift you offer is an example of
Christian Hospitality.*

UPCOMING RETREATS

CLEAN MONDAY RETREAT

Host: St Catherine Greek Orthodox Parish
When: Monday, March 2, 1st day of Great Lent

Retreat Master: Father Nicholas Louh (host of Healthy Souls & Healthy Mind on Ancient Faith)

Theme: Jesus's Seven Last Statements on the Cross

Seven Principles for Renewing our lives

Car pool sign up: Please contact Father Jordan

STS PETER PAUL PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

When: Saturday, March 14, 9 am - 1 pm

Speaker: Father Paul Costopoulos

MARRIAGE RETREAT

Host: St Elias Antiochian Orthodox Parish

When: Saturday, March 28

Retreat Master: Father Constantine Nasr

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS



OCF COLLEGE RETREAT

APRIL 3 - 5, 2020

**PROPHET ELIAS CHAPEL,
HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS**

Questions & Registration, please contact
Fr Jordan @ frjordanbrown@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP CARDS RECEIVED AS OF FEBRUARY 16TH

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Andrusko, Gayne | Leonidas, Rick |
| Bateh, Michael & Shanyn | Melonakis, Mathew |
| Cheronis, Dion & Alekie | Melonakis, Terry |
| Dageenakis, Elayne | Nader, Jacques & Amanda |
| Demetropoulos, Peter | Pagratis, Maria |
| Dotson, Pres. Kedrann | Piper, Ted & Sophia |
| Dzilvelis, Fran | Powers, Jim & Julie |
| Dzilvelis, Steve & Ashley | Sarris, Juli |
| Egeberg, Angela | Saliba, George |
| Elias, Eric & Keity | Serougi, Eissa & Samira |
| Garrity, Jane | Serougi, Sam & Adma |
| Geerdes, Bruce & Andreatta | Skodras, Nick |
| Gerakos, Katherine | Skodras, Voula |
| Gerakos, Lee & Erica | Soulakis, Manuel & Candice |
| Gregory, Brian | Tatusko, Kirk & Lisa |
| Haratsaris, Philip & Jennifer | Theodosis, Anthoula |
| Kallan, Nick & Cavallaro, Danielle | Troicky, Lis & Alex |
| Karis, Nick & Sandy | Tsiouvaras, George & Nicole |
| Welker, Julie & David | Zissimos, Jim & Sheila |

If you have returned your stewardship card and your name is not on this list, please contact Nicole Tsiouvaras, tsiouvaras@msn.com.

If you have not yet returned your card, please do so as quickly as possible. Blank stewardship cards can be found in the narthex.

THE ROARING 2020S PHILOPTOCHOS FUNDRAISING EVENT WAS LOADS OF FUN AND A HUGE SUCCESS! THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL GUESTS AND WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE NIGHT AS MUCH AS WE DID. THANK YOU ALSO TO THE MANY WHO DONATED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS FOR THIS EVENT. YOUR GENEROSITY SUPPORTS THE STS. PETER & PAUL PHILOPTOCHOS WITH PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS WITHIN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY AS WELL AS LOCAL AND NATIONAL GIVING. WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



SAINTS PETER & PAUL

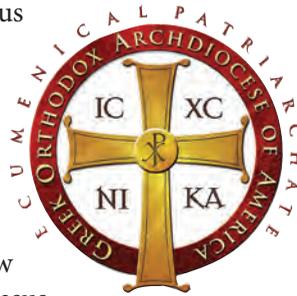
Greek Orthodox Church

5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301

303-581-1434 • stpeterandpaulboulder.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 'antidoros' (blessed bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.



PRIEST

Reverend Father Jordan Brown

PARISH COUNCIL

President - Erica Gerakos
Vice President - Nicholas Kallan
Treasurer - Brian Gregory
Secretary - Phillip Haratsaris

PHILOTOCHOS

Presidents - Dana Gall and Sharon Dzilvelis
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, 8:15am
Divine Liturgy - Sundays, 9:30am
Great Vespers - Saturdays, 5pm
Confession by appointment.