

PETRA NEWS



SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

WEEK OF MARCH 22ND 2020

**WEEKDAY SERVICES
LIVE STREAM**

Monday, March 23

Great Compline _____ 6pm

Wednesday, March 25

Paracletis _____ 6pm

Friday, March 27

Salutations _____ 6pm

Saturday, March 28

Great Vespers _____ 5pm

Go to our web site,
stspeterandpaulboulder.org
for information about upcoming
and past live streams of services.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

RESURRECTION HYMN

BARIS TONE, P. 88-89 GREEN HYMNAL

*“O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death,
and granted unto the thief blessed paradise.
The Myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy.
The apostles did preach the Good News at Your command,
that You had risen from the dead O Christ Our God,
bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.”*

HYMN FOR THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

*“Save O Lord, O Lord Your people, and bless Your inheritance.
Grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the Faith,
and protect Your people through Your Holy Cross,
Your Holy Cross.”*

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

*“O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you
* triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude,
* being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos.
* Inasmuch as you have power unassailable,
* from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you
* I may cry aloud: Rejoice, o unwedded Bride.”*

SPECIAL MEGALYNARION HYMN TO THEOTOKOS

*“All of creation rejoices in you,
O full of grace: the assembly of angels and the human race.
You are a sanctified temple and a spiritual paradise,
the glory from whom God was incarnate and became a child -
our God, existing before all ages. He made your womb a throne,
and your body more spacious than the heavens.
All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace. Glory to you.”*

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

SEVENTH ORTHROS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 20:1-10

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the

linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

ST. PAUL’S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 4:14-16; 5:1-6

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee”; as he says also in another place, “Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is



ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”

VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Mark 8:34b - 9:1

By St. Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

34-37. And when He had called the people unto Him with His disciples also, He said unto them, “Whosoever desireth to follow after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever desireth to save his life, shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the Gospels, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Since Peter had rebuked Him for wanting to be crucified, the Lord called the people unto Him, and said in the hearing of all, but directing His words mostly towards Peter, “Do you find fault with Me, Peter, because I take up the cross? I say to you, that neither you, nor anyone else, will be saved unless you die for the sake of goodness and truth.” See that Christ does not compel a man to die on a cross against his own will. Instead He said, “Whosoever desireth”. The Lord is saying: “I compel no one. I invite him to something good, not to something bad to which he must be forced. Whoever does not want these things is not worthy of them.” We can learn what it means to deny oneself if we understand what it means to deny another. He who denies another is he who, when he sees his brother, or servant, or father, being flogged or even murdered, does not turn towards him and pity him in his suffering, but acts as if he were a stranger to him. In this same manner the Lord wants us to show no pity towards our own

bodies, so that even if we are flogged, or worse, let it make no difference to us. Let him take up his cross, that is, accept a most shameful death, for at that time to die on a cross was considered the most shameful of deaths. But since many were crucified for being bandits, the Lord added to the crucifixion something else: that one ought to have virtue. This is what it means to “follow Me”. Although His command that one give oneself over to death seemed hard and cruel, the Lord straightway shows this commandment is given out of love for mankind. For “whosoever shall lose his life for My sake shall find” life. (1) (But the death of a condemned man, or of one who hangs himself, is not for Christ's sake and brings no such reward.) And, on the contrary, he who appears to have saved his life, far from finding life,



shall lose it by not remaining steadfast during his time of martyrdom. Do not say to Me, “But he has saved his life” — it means nothing. Even if you say that he has gained the whole world as well, it is of no benefit. No one can exchange money for his salvation, for if that were so, a man who had gained the world but lost his soul, could, while burning in the flames of hell, use his money to buy innocence. But at that time and in that place no such trade can be made. Here let us shut the mouths of those who say, following Origen, that all the souls in hell will be restored [and reunited with those in heaven] after they have been punished in

accordance with their sins. (2) Let them hear that there is no exchange that can be made there for one's soul. No one is kept in hell as a punishment. Rather, it is the weight of his own sins which holds him there.

continued

CORONA VIRUS DIRECTIVES FROM HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN ISAIAH

The Sunday Divine Liturgy may be celebrated “BEHIND CLOSED DOORS”, by only the priest, chanters and altar servers. **The faithful should remain prayerfully at home.**

The Divine Liturgy will be available ‘live stream.’

Father Jordan will administer Holy Communion from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, to those who have prepared and will come on Sunday. A parish council member will help direct the faithful, one at a time, to approach the Chalice for Holy Communion. You will be directed to wash and sanitize your hands as you enter the church.

If you are sick, or any member in your family sick, and experiencing any cold flu like symptoms, please stay home.

Parish Council Member will open the doors of the church at 11:30 am. You are welcome to light a candle. The faithful are welcome to take the andiro (Holy Bread), and Sacrament of Holy Unction, which will be placed in a individual plastic bag, and placed in the Narthex. Divine Liturgy books, the Great Compline Service, and Salutation to the Theotokos Service books will be available for you to take home.

All non-liturgical gatherings have been postponed / cancelled.

The following Lenten Services during the week will be available ‘live stream.’ **All services will be celebrated “BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.” The faithful should remain prayerfully at home.**

Monday, March 23

Great Compline _____ 6pm

Wednesday, March 25

Paraclesis _____ 6pm

Friday, March 27

Salutations _____ 6pm

Saturday, March 28

Great Vespers _____ 5pm

Services will be celebrated ‘closed door.’ All services will be taped live stream.

Confessions and home visitations are to be done taking precautions to avoid transmission of the virus.

Funeral services are to be offered with immediate family members of the deceased only in attendance.

continued

38-9:1. “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And He said unto them, “Verily I say unto you, that there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.”

Intellectual faith does not suffice, but confession of faith with ones mouth is required as well. Since man himself is two-fold, let his sanctification be two-fold as well. The soul is sanctified by faith, but the body is sanctified by confessing. “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed” to confess that the Crucified One is his God, “of him

also” shall the Crucified One “be ashamed”. For the Lord shall judge that man to be an unworthy servant, when He comes with glory, escorted by the angels, and no longer in lowly form. At the second coming He will not appear, as He did before, to be of base origin and circumstance, and an object of scorn. Since He speaks of His own glory, He desires to show that He is not vainly boasting, and says, “There be some of them that stand here,” namely, Peter, James, and John, “who shall not die until” I have shown them at the Transfiguration the glory with which I shall appear at the second coming. For the Transfiguration was nothing less than a foreshadowing of the second coming, and as He appeared in radiance then, so will He shine at the second coming, as will also all the righteous.

DEAR STS PETER AND PAUL CHURCH FAMILY...

As many of you know, His Eminence has issued a directive instructing our faithful to remain prayerfully at home. However, with our parishioners at home it is an especially challenging time for our Church financially and it is essential that we all remember our stewardship gifts to provide for the needs of Sts. Peter & Paul.

Please provide your stewardship gifts to the church in this time of need. One of the easiest methods to give is via the internet. Go to

1. Go to, stpeterandpaulboulder.org
2. Select the “**Donate**” menu item
3. Click on the **easyTithe** icon
4. Select “**Stewardship 2020**” and enter your monthly donation.

You may also mail your Stewardship checks C/O St. Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church, 5640 Jay Road, Boulder, CO 80301 and write “Stewardship” on your check.

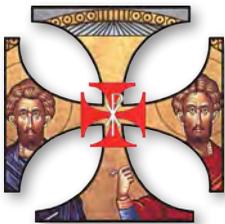
Please pray for all the sick and for God to deliver us from the pain and sorrow of the coronavirus.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Stewardship Chairs, George and Nicole Tsiouvaras

The image shows three screenshots of the church's website. The top screenshot is the homepage with a red header and navigation menu. The middle screenshot shows the 'Donate' page with a blue house icon and a 'Donate' button. The bottom screenshot shows the 'My Donation' dropdown menu with options: 'Choose a Fund', 'Building Fund 2020', 'Stewardship 2020' (highlighted), and 'Heater/ Air Conditioning Replacement'.

PHILOPTOCHOS



As we face the uncertainty of this crisis, let's please remember to pray for and assist others however we can. Whether that means having a little extra patience with people, making phone calls to stay in touch, or shopping for those who are unable. Please also keep in touch with our seniors who are most at risk from this virus and have become more isolated. Remember to care for yourself as well, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Allowing extra time for prayer, spiritual reading, and

quiet time with our Lord is critical so that we may stay strong and continue to help others. Above all, have faith and hope, knowing that God will see us through this dark time.

Please know that Philoptochos will provide assistance to parishioners as we are able. If you, or someone you know has a need, please don't hesitate to reach out to Father Jordan, Dana Gall (720-841-8040), or Sharon Dzilvelis (303-495-8827).

Note: Philoptochos will not be making or selling cookie baskets for Pascha this year.

*“While I fully understand the intent of today’s **“social distancing,”** I am very opposed to the term. Rather, I prefer **“physical distancing,”** because the pandemic requires us to be physically spread out.*

Our social community, the Church family which constitutes the very Body of Christ should not, or better yet cannot be distanced. As these temporary accommodations physically separate us for a time, may our loving and merciful God preserve His people as he has done for almost two thousand years, and ultimately draw us closer to Him and one another in the very near future.” – Metropolitan Isaiah

My Dear Beloved Church family...

Words cannot describe how much I miss you. I have come to church every day to light a candle for you, and thank God for our special church family. Your beautiful faces may not be in the pews, but your faith and love in Christ is present. I ask that you continue to join me in prayer for our church, our country, and the world. The church is much more than a building, but the faithful Christians, the living icons made in the image and likeness of God. These are challenging times, and we live in world largely without faith in God. Please be the light of Christ in the world.

I promise to faithfully come to the church every day, light a candle for you, and keep the light of Christ on His Holy Altar, the life giving tomb. The source of comfort, strength and peace can be found in Jesus Christ. I encourage you to limit your watching of the news, and turn off all sources of media at night. Take this time to grow in your relationship with Christ. You can begin with reading the gospels. Allow the evening to close with prayer. I encourage you to read the lives of the saints, especially the life of St Nikiforos the Leper, Mother Maria of Paris, and Father George Calcuti. They are great sources of courageous saints who remained a light of Christ in the most difficult times.

This Sunday, the mid-point of Great Lent, the faithful are called to venerate the Life Giving Cross of Christ. The doors of the church will be closed during the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Closing the doors for the Divine Liturgy, and all services during this crisis, deeply saddens me. However, for the safety of our faithful, and our neighbors, they are necessary. This is a time that we must be cautious, careful, and follow the advice of responsible individuals, especially the health care professionals.

The closed doors cannot separate us, because we are bound together in Christ. We may be separated by the threat of the Corona virus, but we are bound together as Orthodox Christians. We are always bound together in prayer, and most especially in the sacred Chalice of

our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who has Risen from the dead, and conquered death by death, that we share. Every member of our church family will be commemorated on Sunday morning.

“Remember, Lord, this city in which we live, and every city and land, and the faithful who live in them. Remember, Lord, those who travel by land, sea, and air; the sick; the suffering; the captives; and their salvation. Remember those who bear fruit and do good works in Your holy churches and those who are mindful of the poor, and upon us all send forth Your mercies.

– Divine Liturgy prayer

This Sunday, the church doors will be open at 11:30am. They will remain open for one hour. The faithful are invited to receive Holy Communion from 11:30 - 12:30pm. A table will be placed in the narthex. You are welcome to take the andiro (blessed bread), and Holy Unction. They will be placed in a plastic bag. There will be Divine Liturgy, and a few other service books. Please take a service book for your home. I encourage you to offer these prayers in your home.

There may be some people who feel uncomfortable about coming on Sunday. I want to encourage everyone to only do what they feel comfortable with. I respect your decision either to come, or not to come on Sunday at 11:30 am. I ask if anyone is feeling sick, experiencing any cold like or flu like symptoms, please stay home.

I will do my best to communicate with you. We will do our best to live stream all the services offered during the week. Please join me as we continue to pray to God to be our helper and strength during this health crisis and to protect us. Let us pray for the health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Let us pray for the hands of the nurses, doctors, and all health care professionals. Let us pray to our Lord, to guide the hands of the scientists searching for a cure.

***With love and hope in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
Father Jordan***



SAINTS PETER & PAUL

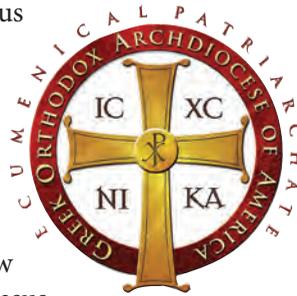
Greek Orthodox Church

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.