

THE TEN LEpers

PETRANEWS

1 • 19
2025

S T S P E T E R & P A U L



This Week's Services

Tuesday, January 21

St. Maximus
Orthros _____ 8:30am
Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Saturday, January 25

Vespers _____ 5:00pm

Sunday, January 26

Orthros _____ 8:30am
Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Fellowship Hour

Thank you to the Andreyev family for hosting fellowship today!

1/26: Ileana Barbu and Dana Gall
2/2: OPEN
2/9: Sunday School

Fellowship hosts are needed! We invite you to sign up to host Fellowship Hour by visiting our website at stpeterandpaulboulder.org/fellowship. Pair up with a friend or another family, and plan to offer something easy, such as donuts or bagels!

Hymns for the Memory of St Macarius the Egyptian

Resurrection Apolytikion

Mode Plagal I

*Let us worship the Word,
Who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit,
and from a virgin was born for our salvation,
O believers, and let us sing His praise.*

*For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh,
and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died,
by His glorious Resurrection.*

Apolytikion for St. Macarius

*Thou didst prove to be a citizen of the desert,
an angel in the flesh, and a wonderworker,
O Macarius, our God-bearing Father.*

*By fasting, vigil, and prayer thou didst obtain heavenly gifts,
and thou healest the sick and the souls of them
that have recourse to thee with faith.*

*Glory to Him that hath given thee strength.
Glory to Him that hath crowned thee.*

Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

Apolytikion of our Patron Saints

Mode 4

*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 for the Meeting of Christ in the Temple

Mode I

*Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth,
and didst bless Symeon's hands as was meet,
by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God.
But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth
and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved,
O only Friend of man.*

The **Orthros Gospel** according to **John**, 20:11-18

At that time, Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus has lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing him to be the



gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Epistle: **St Paul's letter to the Colossians**, 3:4-11

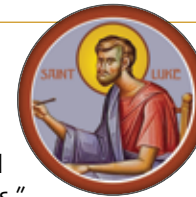
Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were



that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The **Gospel** according to **Luke**, 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God



with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

The Ten Cleansed Lepers

Luke 17:12-29

Jesus Christ came to seek and save those who were lost. He came to heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick, and recognizing our own need of Him is the first step towards healing. We are born into a fallen human condition, and it takes faith to understand this, and ask the Lord for help. When we do, our faith, through Christ, makes us well.

Before His crucifixion, on His final journey to Jerusalem, Jesus enters a village, and ten lepers approach Him. No doubt, they had heard of Jesus' ability to heal the sick. At that time, for about three years, He was ministering with the Holy Spirit and with power, going about doing good and healing all because God was with Him.

Knowing this, when the lepers heard that the Lord was near their village, they ran to meet Him. Leprosy, known today as Hansen's Disease, can be cured with early diagnosis and proper treatment and is not as contagious as once believed. In ancient times, however, leprosy was thought to be highly contagious and could not be cured. In those days, leprosy brought great physical suffering, banishment, and isolation from society. Lepers were removed from any contact with family or friends. Under Mosaic Law, they were not permitted to enter the Temple nor participate in Israel's religious or liturgical life.

These lepers lived at the outskirts of the village, but when they heard of Christ's arrival, they entered the town and, standing at a distance, addressed Him as "Master" and asked for His mercy. They come to Jesus with a cry from their hearts. It was not a quiet, tentative request but an urgent cry from those dying and suffering on society's fringes, alone and miserable.

When Jesus saw them, He immediately told them to go and show themselves to the priests. This might

have been a very puzzling command to the lepers. In the Old Testament, the Mosaic Law required that people with leprosy be isolated. Still, if they were ever to be cured by a miracle, they were to go back to the priests for restoration (see, for example, Leviticus 14:3-31).

The lepers knew of the Law that regulated their condition, but now Jesus sends them to the priests without curing them first — at least as far as they could understand. Notice that Jesus did not touch them, as He often did in other healings. This is because the Lord heals us in His way and in His time.

Here is where faith and obedience come into play. The lepers obey the word of Jesus without questioning why they were asked to show themselves to the priests while they were still apparently diseased. They did not question the Lord, nor oppose His command, but with faith went as He told them. We read that as they went, they were cleansed.

Notice that their healing came about while they were, first, exercising their faith in Him. Secondly, they were obeying Jesus without question. They believed and obeyed Him as they departed and made their way to Jerusalem, where the priests resided. This was a display of faith and works. They had faith in Christ and His words and showed their works through obedience. The virtue of obedience (in Greek, ὑπακοή) is essential in our relationship with God, and is often mentioned in the writings of the Church Fathers. Saint John of the Ladder (also known as John Climacus, or Κλίμακος in Greek) says, "Obedience is ... a voluntary death ... the tomb of the will and the resurrection of humility." Voluntary obedience, in other words, is the means through which we set aside our personal cares and self-interest and arise as true sons and daughters of God.

Out of the ten lepers who were healed, only one, a Samaritan, thanked the Lord. He turned back,

praising God with a loud voice, and fell to his knees at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. To the Samaritan, Jesus was no longer just a "Master," but his "Lord" — not simply the One Who commands, but his Benefactor. His heart was filled with gratitude, and he expressed his love for the Lord in a personal way. He was thankful not only for the healing itself, but for the love of the Lord Jesus.

This leper was a Samaritan, and Samaritans were considered non-canonical Jews and unclean because they did not follow Jewish Law in the same way that the rest of the Jewish people did. They were deemed "heretics," and foreigners. Jesus uses the expression "foreigner" here ironically, as a criticism of the Jewish way of thinking by some at that time, and says, "Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

The word the Lord uses is translated as "foreigner" (ἀλλογενής in Greek) and is the equivalent of the modern Greek word "xenos" (ξένος), which is a stranger or outsider. The Lord emphasized that prejudice was unhelpful and misleading because it was precisely the "foreigner" who came back to thank Jesus.

The Samaritan's thanksgiving was an act of love, and Christ honors the gratitude of the Samaritan while remarking on the ungratefulness of the others. The Lord does this to show us that faith alone will not save us because genuine faith includes obedience and thankfulness. That is why it is essential to show our gratitude to God. Love for Christ leads us to be grateful and obey His commandments (John 14:15).

The Church teaches us to be thankful even during difficult times and to say, "Glory to God" (in Greek, Δόξα τῷ Θεῷ), no matter what might happen. As Saint Peter of Damascus says, "Be mindful of God at all times, in all places, and in every circumstance. For

no matter what you do, you should keep in mind the Creator of all things . . . everything you do becomes for you an occasion for glorifying God."

The Samaritan's faith, obedience, and thankfulness are a model for all of us. And this is true especially because, without the grace of God, and if we are not near Him, our spiritual condition is not healthy, and we need His healing. Saint Gregory Palamas says, "The ten lepers are like the entire human race. All of us were lepers because we all had fallen into sin . . . but when the Lord descended from heaven and assumed our nature, He freed it from the condemnation which came from sin."

In other words, none of us are perfect. We still struggle with our sins and weaknesses. In that metaphorical sense, we are lepers in need of healing. However, the unconditional love God has for us is shown by the fact all we need to do is ask, and Jesus will heal us. If we trust and obey, He will continue the process of our healing by His grace.

It is by our faith in Christ that we hear His word, and we believe in Him and His love for us. He is always compassionate, and because of His love for us, He gives us the grace and the means to healing by His power. By obeying Him, we keep His commandments and do what He teaches us to do — even when we do not understand our circumstances and even when prayers seem to go unanswered.

It is by our love for Christ that we express our gratitude when we come to the Lord to worship at His feet and praise Him for His great love for us. With open and sincere hearts, we express our thankfulness to Him and His abundant provision for our lives. May we strive to be like the Samaritan and former leper who believed, obeyed, loved, and was grateful. Then we will hear the Lord say to us also, "Your faith has made you well!"

Events & Announcements

Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30am

Fr. Gabriel will continue the study of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. If you would like to get caught up with the study, you can listen to Father's podcast "Alive in Christ" by visiting our website at www.stspeterandpaulboulder.org/podcast.



Wednesday Wonder Workers

January 22nd – 11am-2pm

Join the WWW this week following Bible Study. We will take care of small tasks around the hall, including light clean up, putting dishes away, and organizing as needed. A light lunch will be served. We hope to see you then!



Stewardship 2025

Due by Sunday, January 26th

Every year we ask our members to complete a new stewardship card for the upcoming year. This card reflects not only your financial support to the church, but it also gives you a chance to consider where you would like to participate in the life of the parish. It is most helpful if every person (or family) completes a card every year. Paper copies are available in the narthex, or you can complete one online by clicking the button below. Please submit your card by Sunday, January 26. Also be sure to pick up your 2025 calendar from the narthex. If you have any questions, contact Nicole Tsiouvaras at 303-489-4491. Thank you!



Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 9th

Sunday School welcomes the parish to help them tackle hunger! Please consider bringing in a nonperishable food item or making monetary donation between now and February 9th. 100% of every dollar or food item collected will go directly to Harvest of Hope Pantry. To thank you for your generosity, we'll be serving up home-cooked chili and fixin's in preparation for the big game! Put your game face on and don't miss this big event!



Painting Bowls for OUR Center Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Sunday, February 9 at 2:30pm

OUR Center is hosting their 22nd Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser to help benefit their meal program. To help support this event, we invite you to join us at Crackpots in Longmont on Sunday, February 9 at 2:30pm. Each person will pay \$18 to paint a soup bowl that will then be auctioned off at their Empty Bowls fundraiser. We have a room reserved for 8 or more people. All ages are welcome to participate. If you are interested, please see Ashley Dzilvelis to RSVP or email her at ashleydz1@hotmail.com.



GOYA Ice Skating

Sunday, January 26 1pm

Get your ice skates on GOYA families! Mark your calendars and join us for an afternoon of ice skating after Church! We will meet at 1pm at the Longmont Outdoor Ice Rink (725 8th Avenue, Longmont, CO). The cost is \$6.50 for Longmont residents; \$8 for non-residents and \$4 for skate rental. Snacks and drinks will be provided with much thanks to the Tsiouvaras family. We will see you there!



Lost & Found

There are several items that need to be picked up from the table at the entrance of the fellowship hall. Please stop by and see if any of the jackets or other miscellaneous items belong to you. Thank you!



Consecration Registry

The Consecration of Sts. Peter and Paul is a once-in-a-lifetime event in our church, much like our own baptism. Following the ancient Christian tradition, the relics of martyrs will be permanently sealed into the altar table. To make this special weekend as glorious as possible, we are raising funds to purchase new liturgical items, make improvements to the church building, and offer hospitality to our guests. Please grab a flyer in the Narthex to learn more about our needs for Consecration.

If you would like to make a gift towards our Consecration, please visit our website at stspeterandpaulboulder.org/consecration.



Philoptochos

Monthly Service Project

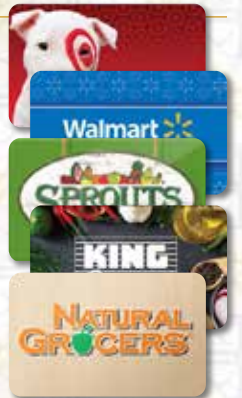
This month our Philoptochos will be offering two opportunities for service! All are invited to join us on Saturday, January 25 from 1-3pm as we come together at the fellowship hall and prep food for our homebound parishioners, or those in need of a meal. Also mark your calendar for Monday, January 27 from 10am-12pm to volunteer at There with Care. We will be assembling care packages for sick children in need with the items that we purchased in December. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Dzilvelis at 303-884-7088 or ashleydz1@hotmail.com!

Grocery Cards

Philoptochos sells gift cards to Walmart, Target, Safeway, Albertsons, Natural Grocers Vitamin Cottage, and Sprouts. See Julie Powers at the Philoptochos table in the Hall to make your purchase.

King Soopers Shoppers:

Create an account with your loyalty card at kingsoopers.com. Then link your account to "Sts Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos" by doing the following: 1) Sign-in to your account and select "community rewards" (left-hand side, under my account); 2) Search for "Sts Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos", under category "faith based"; 3) Select enroll. Remember to use your loyalty card whenever you shop and your Philoptochos will receive a portion of your purchase.



1973



2025



About Our Parish

We welcome visitors worshiping with us today. Our diverse church family encompasses Greek, Arab, Romanian, Serbian and Russian Orthodox Christians as well as many converts to the Orthodox Christian Faith.

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.

Holy Communion

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.

*If you are new to our Parish or just visiting,
please join us for our fellowship hour following this morning's service.*

Priest

Fr Gabriel McHugh

Church Office

Shanyn Bateh, Manager

Choir Director

Presbytera Kedrann Dotson

Petranews

Rick Leonidas & Shanyn Bateh

Parish Council

Steven Dzilvelis, President
Michael Bateh, Vice-President
Jim Azar, Treasurer
Gabriel Chiriach, Secretary
Andriy Andreyev
Chris Artemis
David Dinsmore
Nick Karis
Nicole Tsiouvaras

Philoptochos

Dana Gall & Lis Tricky,
Presidents
Julie Powers,
Treasurer
Olga Coleman,
Secretary & Bookstore
Photini Westover,
Corresponding Secretary

Recurring Services

Sunday Divine Liturgy - 9:30am (Orthros - 8:30am) • Saturday Vespers - 5pm
Visit our website for a complete calendar of upcoming services and events.



Sts PETER & PAUL
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Greek Orthodox Church

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