

DETROIT NEWS

9.15
2024

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



Memory Eternal

Join us in prayer for the 6-month memorial of Catherine Panagoulis; the 5-year memorial of Jesse Hoefling; and the 7-year memorial for Edith (Eleni) Doukas. May their memory be eternal.

This Week's Services

Tuesday, September 17
St. Sophia & 3 Daughters
 Orthros _____ 8:30am
 Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Wednesday, September 18
 Paraklesis _____ 6:00pm

Saturday, September 21
 Vespers _____ 5:00pm

Sunday, September 22
 Orthros _____ 8:30am
 Divine Liturgy _____ 9:30am

Fellowship Hour

Thank you to the Callas and Doukas families for hosting fellowship hour today!

- 9/22: OPEN
- 9/29: OPEN
- 10/6: OPEN

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

Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Cross

Apolytikion for the Holy Cross

Mode 1

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.

Resurrection Apolytikion

Mode 3

Let the heavens rejoice, and let things on earth be glad, for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm; He hath trampled upon death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead. From the bowels of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

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.

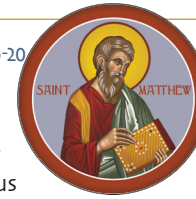
Kontakion for the Holy Cross

Mode 4

Thou Who wast raised up on the Cross of Thine own will, O Christ our God, do Thou bestow Thy compassions upon this, Thy new commonwealth named after Thee. Gladden with Thy sovereign might our most Orthodox hierarchs, and vouchsafe them victory over every false teaching; and as Thy help in war may they possess the weapon of peace, the trophy invincible.

Scripture Readings for the Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Cross

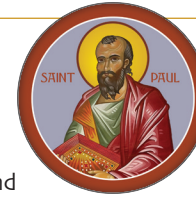
The Orthros Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20



At that time, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make

disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Amen."

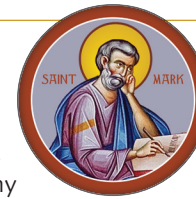
Epistle: St Paul's letter to the Galatians 2:16-20



Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not!

But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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."

Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Cross

Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Jesus' First Prophecy of His Passion

After feeding a multitude of thousands of people, Jesus begins to teach His disciples, saying to them, "Who do men say that I am?" His disciples answered that people had various opinions. Then the Lord asks them very specifically, saying, "But who do you say that I am?" The Apostle Peter answers and says to Him, "You are the Messiah," which is to say, "You are the Christ." This sets the context for this passage, as the Lord teaches us what it means to follow Him.

Immediately after Apostle Peter confesses that Jesus is the Messiah, the Lord begins to teach them that the Son of Man will suffer many things, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and after three days, rise again. This seems almost contradictory to the revelation that Jesus is the Messiah. In the minds and hearts of the Jewish people at that time, the Messiah was expected to be a conquering warrior who would defeat the enemies of God's people and set them free forever.

The Messiah, they thought, was meant to be the One anointed with the power and glory of God. He would be the One who would liberate Israel from its oppressors and rule from His throne in Jerusalem over a free and prosperous Israel. However, after confessing that Jesus is the Messiah, the disciples hear from Him that, instead of defeating enemies and setting up His throne, Jesus would rather suffer many things and be killed. Saint Peter reacted to this, took the Lord aside, and began to rebuke Him. He told the Lord that He should not speak of pain, rejection, or crucifixion. He is the Messiah!

However, the Lord rebukes Peter, telling him that he was thinking with a worldly mindset. The way to freedom, glory, and eternal life is through the Cross. That is why the Lord tells His disciples that whoever wants to follow Him must take up their own cross. He says that whoever puts the desires of this life as the priority, will lose them. On the other hand, whoever puts the desires of eternal life first, will receive it. The Lord teaches that achieving all things in this world cannot be compared to receiving eternal life.

To love Christ means to follow Him. Jesus teaches us that to follow Him means to walk with Him on the path He Himself has walked. This path leads to the Resurrection and eternal life. However, this path goes through the Cross and the grave before it reaches the morning of Pascha (Easter). We need to descend into the tomb with Christ before we ascend with Him into Heaven. When the Lord allows suffering in our lives, which is inescapable, it is to make us more like Him. Christ is the eternal Son of God Who voluntarily took on human nature and its suffering. The pain inflicted upon Him is for our redemption. He suffered for our sake. When He calls us to take up our own cross, He invites us to walk with Him so that we can live with Him forever.

This is not always easy because it requires that we say to Him, not as I will, but as You will, Lord. We are called to embrace our cross, whatever it may be, for each one of us individually. This does not mean that we seek to suffer for suffering's sake. It does not mean that we do not seek solutions for our problems, nor that



we refrain from asking Christ to help us, and the Mother of God and the Saints to intercede for us when we encounter difficult, even desperate, situations. It means, however, that we trust the Lord, and "...commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God" (as we pray during the Divine Liturgy). This is not always easy, but all God asks is that we try. We never have to do it alone, since God is always with us.

Saint Augustine of Hippo says, "The Lord has required that 'whoever will come after him must deny himself.' But what He commands is neither hard nor painful when He helps us in such a way so that the very thing he requires may be accomplished . . . For whatever seems hard in what is enjoined, love makes easy." In other words, the Lord helps us with His grace, which the Holy Spirit gives us in many ways. Christ tells us that His grace is sufficient for us, that His strength in us is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). Ultimately, He gives us the great promise: that He will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5).

In this way, we are called to take up our cross and follow Christ. This means two things. Firstly, we become ready to give up everything that keeps us tied to worldly things, that is, things that seem essential to us from a secular perspective but keep us away from spiritual growth and Christ. We learn to be mindful of God more than of this world.

Secondly, as difficult as it sounds, we prepare to forgive everyone who might hurt us — and follow Christ in the path of love, grace, and peace. At the Cross, Jesus says, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). Forgiving others who hurt us deeply and unjustly may seem almost impossible. But it is with the grace and love of Christ that it becomes possible. This path is not always easy, and does have challenges and obstacles, but it is this path leading to salvation

where we experience the joy, peace and love of God. It is the path to unity with God.

The way of the Cross leads to eternal glory. This is the path Christ opens for us. He calls us to follow Him to the Cross and share in His glory. The Lord calls us to be courageous in the face of suffering and opposition from this world, knowing that His glory is with us. This refers to the heavenly glory the disciples would witness when Christ was transfigured. He showed His divine glory to them, reminding us that this is our destination — if we follow Christ.

All the generations of holy people who undergo a spiritual rebirth and a transformation, experience the Kingdom of God in their lives here on earth. All those who follow Christ through prayer, repentance, and virtue are transformed. All those who seek theosis, that is, union with Christ, spiritually see the Divine Light of Mount Tabor, the Light of the Transfigured Christ. The way to that glory passes through embracing our cross, denying ourselves, and following Him. He walks with us through pain and suffering, and He leads us to joy, peace, and eternal life.

Events & Announcements

Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30am

Fr. Gabriel will continue the study of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, covering the topics of: How Worship Should be Conducted, The Eucharist, The Body of Christ, Spiritual Gifts, Love - The Highest Gift, and The Resurrection and the Coming Kingdom.



Prayer Class

Wednesday, September 25th

Fr. Gabriel will begin a class on prayer on Wednesday evenings. He will be using the book, *The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer* by Matthew Steenburg. You can purchase the book in our bookstore to follow along with the discussion. Grab a flyer in the Narthex for more information.



Wednesday Wonder Workers

Wednesdays at 11am

Meeting after Bible Study each Wednesday, this group does light housekeeping tasks such as straightening the hall, putting dishes away from Sunday's Fellowship Hour and setting up for the next event. A light lunch is provided. Please join in. Contact Joanne Ashmun with any questions at horizon80501@yahoo.com



Sunday School

Begins Today!

Sunday School begins today! If you have a child that has not attended Sunday School before, please visit our website at stspeterandpaulboulder.org/SundaySchool to register them for the school year. You will also find our school calendar for the year.



Being a Good Samaritan

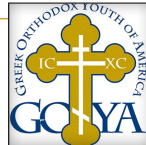
**Saturday, September 28th
9am-4pm**



The Good Samaritan Project's 3rd annual retreat with Adn. Paul Zarahas is only 6 weeks away! As you may know, Adn. Paul was the Chancellor for the Greek Metropolis of Denver for many years and is now the US Country Representative for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Our retreat theme is to explore the links between the Church and service to our community, and the practical steps we can take to make our desire to help others concrete. To learn more or register, please visit goodsamaritancolo.org.

GOYA Front Range Fall Retreat

**October 18-20th 2024
Larkspur, CO**



Save the date. All middle and high school aged children are invited to attend. Registration is coming soon.

Parish Pilgrimage

November 11-15th

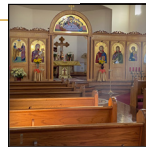
Join us for our annual pilgrimage to St. Paisius Monastery in Safford, Arizona. Space is limited. If you are interested in attending, please contact Fr. Gabriel to reserve your spot.



Church Consecration

June 27-29th 2025

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Constantine of Denver, it is with great joy that we share with you that our Church will be Consecrated next summer over the Feast Day weekend of our parish! Please mark your calendars for this memorable event!



What a humbling experience to watch our community share our faith, love, and joy at the Taste of Orthodoxy Festival. I am so proud of what we can do through God's grace, and so thankful to everyone who worked so hard to make this possible!

– Fr Gabriel

Philoptochos

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.

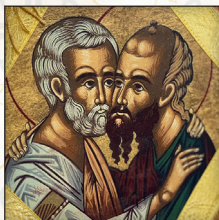


King Soopers Shoppers: Create an account with your loyalty card at kingsoopers.com. Then link your account to "Sts Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos" by doing the following: 1) Sign-in to your account and select "community rewards" (left-hand side, under my account); 2) Search for "Sts 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.

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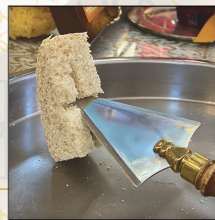
2024



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 'antidoron' (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

Parish Council

Steven Dzilvelis, President
Michael Bateh, Vice-President
Jim Azar, Treasurer
David Dinsmore, Secretary
Andriy Andreyev
Gabriel Chiriac
Nick Karis
Michelle Mann
Nicole Tsiouvaras

Philoptochos

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



METROPOLIS
OF DENVER

Recurring Services

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

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Greek Orthodox Church

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