

Welcome Deacon Mark O'dell

This morning we welcome Dn. Mark and his Diakonissa Ina from St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in Loveland, CO. Please give them a warm welcome.

Saints of the Day

The Venerable Maximus the Confessor: Maximus was a Constantinopolitan by birth. At first he was a high-ranking courtier at the court of Emperor Heraclius, and after that he was a monk and abbot of a monastery not too far from the capital. He was the greatest defender of Orthodoxy against the so-called Monothelite heresy, which proceeded from the heresy of Eutyches. As Eutyches claimed that there is only one nature in Christ [Monophysitism], so the Monothelites claimed that there is only one will in Christ [Monothelitism]. Maximus opposed that claim and found himself an opponent of the emperor and the patriarch. Maximus did not frighten easily, but endured to the end in proving that there were two wills, as well as two natures, in Christ. Because of his efforts, a council was held in Carthage, and another in Rome. Both councils anathematized the teachings of the Monothelites. The suffering of Maximus for Orthodoxy can hardly be described: he was tortured by princes, deceived by prelates, spat upon by the masses of the people, beaten by soldiers, exiled and imprisoned—until finally, with his tongue and one hand severed by the torturers, he was condemned to exile for life in the land of Skhimaris [near Batumi on the Black Sea], where he spent three years in prison and gave up his soul to God in the year 662 A.D.

The Holy Hieromartyr [Priest-Martyr] Neophytus: Neophytus was born in Nicaea. While he was still a child, he worked great miracles by the grace of God. Neophytus brought forth water from a rock and raised his dead mother. He was led by a white dove to Mount Olympus, where he drove a lion from its cave and took up residence in it. At age fifteen he was tortured for Christ in Nicaea, during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. By no means would he deny Christ. After beatings and imprisonment, Neophytus was thrown into the fire, but God preserved his life. Then they placed him before a hungry lion, but the lion fawned about Neophytus. The saint, recognizing this lion as the same one in whose cave he had practiced asceticism, began to pet him and ordered the lion to return to the cave. Then Neophytus was pierced with a lance, and his soul took up its habitation in the mansions of the Lord.

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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January 21, 2024

Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

Apostolic Reading: Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel: St. Luke 17:12-19

Services: *Sunday*-8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *Weekdays* 8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy when scheduled.

Saints of the Day: . Venerable Maximos the Confessor, Zosimos and Neophytos; Virgin-martyr Agnes of Rome; Venerable Maxim the Greek.

Order of Services

Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 8

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a three-day burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You!

Apolytikion for St. Maximus the Confessor Tone 8

Guide of Orthodoxy and a sacred teacher of piety and dignity, luminary of the world, and God-inspired jewel of monastics, O wise Maximus, the Spirit's instrument: by your teachings you enlightened all. Intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

Apolytikion of the Archangels Tone 4

Supreme Commanders of the Hosts of the Heavens, we, the unworthy, implore and beseech You that by Your supplications You encircle us in the shelter of the wings of Your immaterial glory, guarding us who now fall down and cry to You with fervor: Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, as the great marshals of the heavenly hosts on high.

Kontakion for the Entrance of the Lord Tone 1

You sanctified the virginal womb by Your birth, O Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now, give peace to our Nation in time of war, and empower our Leaders, so loved by You, the only one who loves humanity.

Divine Services

Tues. Jan. 23: Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for St. Dionysios of Olympos

Wed. Jan. 24: Great Vespers for St. Gregory the Theologian 5pm

Thurs. Jan. 25: Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am: St. Gregory the Theologian

Sat. Jan. 27: Great Vespers 5pm

Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church

Holy Communion of the Orthodox Church is the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is *“With the fear of God, faith and love”* that we approach the Divine Mysteries. Therefore, Holy Communion is reserved only for those baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting, as prescribed by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church. We ask that women, before approaching to receive from the Holy Cup, in respect of our Lord, to please remove lipstick.

Parish Council Elections

Congratulations to the newly elected Parish Council members: Nathan Pesch, Stephanie Winther and Peter Kaloroumakis. Once we receive the Ratification Letter from the Metropolitan, we will have the Affirmation of Office.

Bottle Filling Station

We recently installed a new bottle filling station by the restrooms as approved at our December General Assembly. We are in the process of purchasing reusable plastic cups for the coffee hour. This alleviates the need to bring in water bottles and helps lower more plastic going into landfills.

Women’s Fellowship

Please join us for another Women’s Fellowship on Saturday, **February 3rd**, at **1:00 pm** at Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church. No need to bring anything other than a smile!

Church Bookstore

New books and various orthodox items were ordered last week. Some items have already arrived and others are on their way. The only way to know what’s on offer is to come down and browse our well-stocked bookstore. Look forward to seeing you there! *A little spiritual reading or study, when carried out prior to prayer, is very helpful because the soul is warmed and the mind is transported to the spiritual realm. ~ St. Paisios of Mount Athos*

Stewardship 2024

Following services on Sunday, December 3, our Chairperson Ruxandra Georgescu offered some words of inspiration for us to be faithful stewards of the Church. Please see Ruxandra for a 2024 packet.

Orthodox Catechism Class

Following services and coffee hour on January 21, we will gather in the church for a half hour or so. *All are welcomed to attend!*

Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

Jan 21: McDonald Family

Jan. 28: Sponsor Needed

Feb. 4: Maney and Pesch Family

Feb. 11: Sponsor Needed

Church School

Church School will resumed on Sunday, Sept. 10. Please see Sara LaBrie for more information. Please allow the Church School students receive Holy Communion first as meets then.

Home Blessings

It is a tradition to have our homes and/or our business blessed by the priest every year following the celebration of Theophany on January 6. This practice allows us to bring the feast to our homes and have them sanctified (made holy) with the sprinkling of the Great Blessing of Water. You may schedule a convenient time with Fr. Dennis after Jan. 6.

Benevolent Fund

We are in need of funds to offer Christmas gifts to our fellow parishioners who are shut-ins and are unable to attend services. We will have a basket in the narthex following services. If you know of anyone in need from our community, please see Fr. Dennis.

“Thank You!” from the Capital Campaign Committee

The final numbers are in, and the Capital Campaign Committee would like to say “Thank You!” to everyone who contributed to the challenge match last year. \$10,115 was donated, which will dollar for dollar be matched by the Festival account. This means we have \$20,230 more available in our search for a new home for our parish and pushes us over the next milestone, giving us more than \$400k in the New Building Fund account. Thank you all for helping us take a good step forward as we begin the process of raising additional funds, and please look for more from your Capital Campaign Committee this year.

2024 Souper Bowl

We will participate again in the International Orthodox Christian Charities’ “Souper Bowl of Caring” campaign through February 11th, 2024. There will be two donation options: 1) Bring in non-perishable food items and place them in a designated box downstairs, which will be subsequently delivered to the Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado, and/or 2) Place a cash or check donation clearly marked for this campaign in the narthex donation box, which will be pooled together into an Archangel Michael contribution to the IOCC. These donations will support our local community and IOCC’s work across the globe to “Score a Victory Against Hunger!”