

Gospel in Palestine, Asia Minor, Illyria and Italy. Peter worked many powerful miracles: he healed the sick and resurrected the dead, and the sick were healed even from his shadow. He had a great struggle with Simon the Magician, who proclaimed himself to be a god, but who was in reality a servant of Satan. Peter finally shamed and defeated him. By order of Simon's friend, the evil Emperor Nero, Peter was condemned to death. Having consecrated Linus Bishop of Rome, and having counseled and comforted the flock of Christ, Peter proceeded joyfully to his death. Seeing the cross before him, he begged his executioners to crucify him upside down, for he considered himself unworthy to die as had his Lord. Thus, this great servant of the Great Lord reposed and received a wreath of eternal glory.

The Holy Apostle Paul: Paul was born in Tarsus and was of the tribe of Benjamin. At first he was called Saul. He studied under Gamaliel, and was a Pharisee and a persecutor of Christianity. He was miraculously converted to the Christian Faith by the Lord Himself, Who appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He was baptized by the Apostle Ananias, named Paul and numbered in the service of the Great Apostles. With fiery zeal Paul preached the Gospel everywhere, from the borders of Arabia to Spain, among the Jews and among the Gentiles, and received the title "the Apostle to the Gentiles." As horrible as his sufferings were, so much greater was his superhuman patience. Throughout all the years of his preaching, Paul hung from day to day as on a weak thread between life and death. Having fulfilled all his days and nights with labor and suffering for Christ, having organized the Church in many places, and having attained such a degree of perfection, he was able to say: *It is now no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me* (Galatians 2:20). Paul was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Emperor Nero, at the same time as the martyrdom of the Apostle Peter.

Reflection

Simon Peter and Simon the Magician. The enemies of Christianity frequently like to cite examples of great miracle-workers among the pagans in order to deceive the gullible, denigrate the Christian Faith and exalt paganism, sorcery, soothsaying, satanism and every other charlatanism. There is no doubt that Satan through his servants also attempts to perform miracles, but none of the miracles of his servants proceed from love for man, compassion, mercy or faith in God, but rather from pride, selfishness, vanity and hatred for mankind. A Christian should learn from the story of the apostles to differentiate divine miracles from satanic deceptions and fantasies. Only let the Christian recall the Apostle Peter and Simon the Magician. Let him compare the miracles of Peter with the so-called miracles of Simon. The apostle converted the stony hearts of men into noble hearts, he cured the sick, and he raised the dead—and all of this by prayer and faith in the Living God. However, Simon the Magician amazed the people with diabolical illusions. The Apostle Peter was a friend of God, and Simon the Magician was a friend and protégé of the perverted Emperor Nero, who ended his life by suicide. The miracles of the pagan fakirs belong to the same category as the illusions and deceptions of Simon the Magician. Just as from a distance hot sand resembles water, so also the "miracles" of the fakirs resemble the life-creating miracles of Christianity.

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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June 29, 2025

Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

Apostolic Reading: 2 Corinthians 11:21 – 33; 12:1 – 9

Gospel: St. Matthew 16:13 – 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: 3rd Sunday After Pentecost. Apostles Peter and Paul

Order of Service

Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 2

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, "O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!"

Apolytikion for Saints Peter and Paul Tone 4

Preeminent Apostles and teachers of the universe, intercede with the Master of all, to grant peace to the whole world, and great mercy to 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 to the Theotokos Tone 4

A protection of Christians unshameable * intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering * reject not * the prayerful cries of those who are in sin * instead come to us, for You are good * Your loving help bring unto us * who are crying in faith to you * Hasten to intercede * and speed now to supplicate* as a protection for all time * Theotokos, for those who honor you.

Divine Services

Mon., June 30: Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for the Holy Apostles

Wed., July 2: Paraklesis 5pm

Sat. July 5: Great Vespers 5pm

Communion Hymn

Their proclamation went forth into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. Alleluia.

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.

Bookstore and Library

There is something for everyone in our Church Bookstore! New books, Icons, and beautiful Orthodox gifts and items for your home are arriving weekly. We are ordering from various publishers, Orthodox websites, and even Etsy! Handmade items from Edward and Rose Lewis are available for sale too! If you can't find what you are looking for, I'm more than happy to place a special order. See you at our bookstore!

Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

June 29: Parish Community

July 6: Brawner Family

July 13: Sponsor Needed

July 20: Johnson Family

Festival Donation Request

The AMGOC Greek Festival Committee is seeking donations to defer the costs of increased off-hour security at this year's festival. The committee has decided to hire an extra-duty CSPD officer with a police car presence to protect our equipment and supplies overnight during the festival. Please make checks payable to AMGOC and add "Festival Security" on the memo line. Thank you for your assistance.

Stewardship 2025

The 2025 Stewardship Sunday was on Sunday December 22nd and a presentation was offered by Ruxandra Georgescu and Nathan Pesch co-chairs. Stewardship Packets are available today. Please see Ruxandra Georgescu for more information. You may return your filled out card in the offering box.

Philoptochos Outreach

The next meeting will be on Saturday, July 19 at 10am. (*No meeting in June*). All women are invited to attend.

Ronald McDonald House Pull Tabs: During the months of June - August, Philoptochos asks for participation in "Pulling for the Ronald McDonald

House." The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado keeps families together when their child needs medical care. Beverage tabs can be placed in the "Ronald McDonald Houses" available in the Church Hall. Please take one and return the pull tabs throughout the summer, that are to be placed in the large Ronald McDonald House, also located in the Church Hall. The pull tabs will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House in early September for recycling.

Taverna Night—OPA! The Philoptochos will be hosting Taverna Night on Saturday, August 16th. Please join us for a night of fellowship, food, and Philoxenia to celebrate our vibrant Greek heritage and the AMGOC community we cherish.



Tickets are on sale NOW through August 3rd! See the flyer on the candle stand for ways to purchase, or ask a Board Member for details. There will be no ticket sales at the door on the day of the event.

As we're hoping to keep costs low and for all parishioners to be able to attend, donations of any kind are welcome. Please scan the QR code to make a donation directly, or contact us at AMGOCPhiloptochos@gmail.com. We are so appreciative of our generous community.

Capital Campaign

King Soopers Cards has established a new program by using their Loyalty Program. You may sign up online and our parish will receive 5% of you purchase.

Greek Dance Practice

The next Greek Dance Practice will be on Tuesday, July 1, 6pm at the church. Please see Dina Vasiliades for more information.

Orthodox Catechism Class

Class will be held on TBA, following coffee hour. *All are welcomed to attend!*

Saints of the Day

The Holy Apostle Peter: Peter was the son of Jonah and the brother of Andrew, the First-called. He was of the tribe of Simeon, from the town of Bethsaida. He was a fisherman and was at first called Simon, but the Lord was pleased to call him Cephas or Peter: *And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, He said, You are Simon the son of Jonah: you shall be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a rock* (John 1:42). He was the first of the disciples to clearly express faith in the Lord Jesus, saying: *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God* (Matthew 16:16). His love for the Lord was great, and his faith in the Lord became gradually stronger. When the Lord was brought to trial, Peter denied Him three times; but after only one glance into the face of the Lord, Peter's soul was filled with shame and repentance. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Peter showed himself to be a fearless and powerful preacher of the Gospel. Following one of his sermons in Jerusalem, three-thousand souls were converted to the Faith. He preached the