



*News Brief to the Parishioners of*

# Saint Luke Orthodox Church

Erie, CO

April 2024

[stlukeorthodox.org](http://stlukeorthodox.org)

**A**pril this year is entirely taken up by the Fast and Holy Week. Along with the observance of Lent, we have two significant events in the life of our community coming up: In the first week of the month, we will have new iconography installed in the Narthex -a depiction of the Last Judgment from the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. In the Traditional iconographic layout of an Orthodox Church, we place the Last Judgment in a place visible to people departing the church. On April 14th we will host pan-Orthodox vespers at St Luke's. On the last Sunday of the month, we will join our Saviour in his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Solemnly observing the Great Week of our Lord's Passion is more than merely a nice custom, and more even than a religious obligation. Being present in church during Holy Week is *defining* for Orthodox Christians and has been so since the Holy Apostle John established the custom in Ephesus. By their procession on Palm Sunday, Christians throughout the world, throughout the centuries, have turned every city they inhabited into the heavenly Jerusalem. The Church is the gathering of the friends of the Bridegroom, ready to meet Him in the hour of His arrival. The services of Holy Week are served earlier than they normally would be -orthros is the morning service, but at this time the Bridegroom orthros services are served the night before. Presanctified liturgy, an evening liturgy, is served Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning. The middle of the week is dedicated to the Last

Supper and the institution of Holy Communion. We serve the Unction Sacrament on Wednesday to prepare for the Eucharist. Thursday morning we serve the Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. The commemoration of the Crucifixion begins Thursday night with the Orthros of the Twelve Passion Gospels. These services are longer and less abbreviated than is normal: we watch and wait, praying that we not enter into temptation.

This year, our Metropolitan Saba has directed us to add to our Holy Week schedule the three presanctified liturgies of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (in prior years these were recommended but optional). If (when) you attend, you will discover that the gospels of the presanctified liturgies connect with the hymnography of the preceding Bridegroom orthros. The course of the Scripture readings alternate between a narration of the events of the week of our Lord's Passion and His eschatological preaching of the Last Judgment.

On Friday morning we serve the Royal Hours. At the end of the Royal Hours, our Catechumens begin their entry into the Church with either exorcisms (for those being baptized) or renunciation of heresy (for those being chrismated). The tomb is decorated for the Vespers of Unnailing that falls early Friday afternoon and the Lamentation service in the evening. On Holy Saturday, the beginning of the Resurrection, we have another Vespereal Divine Liturgy at which we baptize and chrismate our catechumens who are prepared to be made Orthodox Christians.

# Chronology of Events

## Monday, April 1

6:30 PM HOPE Group

## Tuesday, April 2

11:00 AM Ladies Lunch Bunch

1:00 PM Caregivers Support Group

## Wednesday, April 3

5:30 PM Presanctified Liturgy & Fasting Potluck

## Friday, April 5

9:30 AM Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 PM Third Akathist

## Saturday April 6

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM All Parish Work Day (including Youth Group)

12:00 PM Youth Group Hike

4:00 PM Great Vespers

## Sunday April 7 Sunday of the Holy Cross

7:50 AM Orthros

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross & Potluck Fellowship

11:00 AM Sunday School for all

11:00 AM Myrrhbearers Meeting

5:00 PM Pan-orthodox Vespers @ Sts. Peter and Paul (and movie "Sacred Alaska")

## Monday, April 8

10:45 AM St. Luke Homeschool Coop

## Tuesday, April 9

6:00 PM Parish Council Meeting

## -Fourth Week-

## Wednesday, April 10

5:30PM Presanctified Liturgy & Fasting Potluck & Youth Group

## Friday, April 12

9:30 AM Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 PM Fourth Akathist

## Saturday April 13

9:00 AM Men's Group

4:00 PM Great Vespers

## Sunday April 14 Sunday of St. John Climatus

7:50 AM Orthros

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Memorial Prayers for Paige Clyker, Audrey Khan, Joseph Worth, Imogene King, Donna McLean  
Coffee Fellowship

11:00 AM Sunday School for All

5:00 PM Pan-orthodox Vespers @ St. Luke

## -Fifth Week-

## Monday, April 15

6:30 PM HOPE Group

## Tuesday, April 16

1:00 PM Caregivers Group

## Wednesday, April 17

6:00 PM Great Compline with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt

## Thursday, April 18

5:30 PM Presanctified Liturgy & Fasting Potluck

**Friday, April 19**

9:30 AM Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 PM Fifth Akathist

**Saturday April 20**

9:30 AM Pysanky Workshop for Women and Youth

10:00 AM Orthodox Day of Service

4:00 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday April 21 Sunday of Mary of Egypt**

7:50 AM Orthros

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Coffee Fellowship

11:00 AM Sunday School for All

5:00 PM Pan-orthodox Vespers @ St. Elias

**-Sixth Week-****Monday, April 22**

10:30 AM St. Luke Homeschool Co-op

6:30 PM HOPE Group

**Monday, April 22**

10:30 AM St. Luke Co-op

6:30 PM HOPE Group

**Wednesday, April 24**

5:30PM Presanctified Liturgy & Fasting Potluck

**Friday, April 26**

9:30 AM Presanctified Liturgy

**-Holy Week-****Saturday, April 27**

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday

4:00 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, April 28: Palm Sunday**

7:50 AM Orthros

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy with Procession & Coffee Fellowship

11:15 AM Sunday School for All

7:00 PM Bridegroom Orthros

**Monday, April 29**

9:30 AM Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 PM Bridegroom Orthros

**Tuesday, April 30**

9:30 AM Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 PM Bridegroom Orthros

## News Updates

### *Update on our parish financial situation*

*from Rob Bell, Parish Council Treasurer*

- Thank you again to all of those who gave to the Antiochian Women or Project Mexico fundraisers.
- For the seminarian appeal we received \$657 so far. If you would still like to give to the seminarian appeal, please do so by this Sunday. You may put an offering with a note in the plate at Liturgy or via Easytithe. (<https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/stlukeorthodox>, use "Seminarian Appeal" fund)

### April giving opportunities

- As we look continue through Lent, our Archdiocese will provide several opportunities to engage with almsgiving.

We expect the following:

-Food for Hungry People (FFHP) continues. Program boxes & daily suggestion sheets still available in the narthex or the foyer by the parish hall. Or, ask Rob.

-Patriarchate relief work appeal on Palm Sunday (4/28). The specific focus for this year has not been announced.

-FFHP boxes will be accepted through the 2nd Sunday after Lent (5/19)

Our bank only accepts counted & rolled coins. Counting and rolling thousands of coins is a significant effort for our counting team. So, will you please lighten their load by counting your coins and providing bills or a check instead? (Or via easytithe: <https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/stlukeorthodox> , use FFHP fund). We greatly appreciate your help on this! Any questions? contact Rob at [treasurer@stlukeorthodox.org](mailto:treasurer@stlukeorthodox.org) or 240.447.3243

### ***All Parish Workday: Saturday, April 6***

Please plan on joining us on Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM to begin our spring cleaning inside and outside. We will clean windows, change light bulbs, polish brass, work outdoors, clean the kitchen, etc. Pack a lunch or bring something to share. Please let Frances know if you can come.

### ***St. Luke's hosts Vespers Sunday, April 14 at 5 PM***

On the 4th Sunday of Lent, please be a joyful part of welcoming our brothers, sisters, and Fathers in Christ from many parishes throughout our Rocky Mountain region. It is a wonderful opportunity to worship together with the greater Orthodox community, and afterward share a meal together, encouraging one another in our Lenten journey. We will need many hands to prepare for our guests. Look for the sign-up board in the parish hall next to the north wall. We will need many offerings of soup, salad, bread, and dessert (wine and oil allowed). Feel free to bring wine to share with guests at your table.

## **Ministry Updates**

### ***Children, Youth and Family***

• **Sunday School** The youth will finish up Romans with the supplemental lesson on Faithfulness, will learn about the Great Feast of Pascha, and will prepare culminating presentations. Saint studies continue as well. For the adults, Fr. David will offer a few presentations on Egypt, highlights, inspirations, and lessons from his pilgrimage.

• **St. Luke Home-school Co-op** Our group meets every other Monday. We have a few late morning activities: ballet class and handcrafts. Next is lunch and fellowship and then we gather for contemplation and recitation of a Psalm, artist and composer study, folk singing and folk dancing. Depending upon the needs and ages of your children mothers and their child/children can come for both morning and afternoon or just for morning activities or for just the afternoon. Please contact Katriona Wolff: [kwolffMT@hotmail.com](mailto:kwolffMT@hotmail.com)

• **Youth Group** Mimi Sawaked, our Youth Director, will continue to reach out to families to schedule time to talk with youth. Upcoming events include: April 6 at 10am: Help with all Parish Workday at St. Luke's & 12 noon: Boulder hike. Please RSVP to Mimi so she can arrange carpools into Boulder. April 10 after Presanctified Liturgy: Youth Group Study. Mimi can be reached at [mimisawaked@gmail.com](mailto:mimisawaked@gmail.com). Our Youth Group would like to keep Holy Friday Vigil overnight. Chaparones are needed. Please let Mimi if you can help. [mimisawaked@gmail.com](mailto:mimisawaked@gmail.com).

• **Orthodox Christian Fellowship** Join us at the University of Boulder. All meetings are in Ketchum room 1B64. All students, staff and faculty are invited for Bible Study and pizza. Contact Robbie Macdonald [roma9153@colorado.edu](mailto:roma9153@colorado.edu)

### ***Antiochian Women***

The Antiochian Women of St Luke would like to thank everyone for their support during Antiochian Women's month and for donating to the fundraising project to start an endowment fund for widowed clergy wives in our Archdiocese. We appreciate your support!

AW events lined up for April:

Apr 20 - Sh Margaret will be offering a workshop on making pysanky (Ukrainian Easter Eggs) on Saturday, April 20th. There is no cost for this workshop, but registration is required to make sure there are enough supplies available. Everyone will go home with their own beautiful egg! Register at: <http://www.tinyurl.com/pysanky24>

The HOPE group is applications! More information at: <http://tinyurl.com/StLukeHOPE>

If you don't receive the Antiochian Women of St Luke newsletter, you can sign up for it here: <https://tinyurl.com/AWStLukenews>

### ***St. Luke Men's Group***

We started a new book in February: *The Illumined Heart* by Frederica Matthews-Green. Copies are available in our Bookstore. In April, we will meet on Saturday, April 13 at 9 AM. Feel free to just show up! If you have questions, please reach out to George Rabtzow: [grabtzow@1791.com](mailto:grabtzow@1791.com)

### ***Bookstore News***

The bookstore has added books and materials for your lenten journey. There are also many new books and icons. The bookstore staff are happy to order items for parishioners upon request, often at a significant wholesale discount.

### ***Coffee Fellowship Team***

We will have our April Potluck on April 7. Please bring fasting food you would like to share.

### ***Caregiver Support Group***

This group meets every other week at Church in Classroom #4, March 5 and 19. If you have interest in this group, please call or email Debby Stephan (303-619-1941 or [debbyk323@icloud.com](mailto:debbyk323@icloud.com))

### ***Choir News***

Our choir is rehearsing for Holy Week and Pascha! We are always in need of more singers, and at this time, we are especially in need of additional soprano and bass voices. If you have ever been interested receiving the blessing of singing in our choir, please join us for warm-ups on Sundays at 8A in conference room #4, contact a choir member or Denise McIntyre, 303-525-8618 or [mcintyrelaw@comcast.net](mailto:mcintyrelaw@comcast.net).

### ***Groundskeeping Ministry Team***

A message from Zach Littrell, our new ministry leader: We are recruiting for a team of willing parishioners dedicated to maintaining our Church property. Grounds keeping tasks will vary month to month beginning in March and ending in October. Tasks include trash cleanup, weeding, mowing, irrigation maintenance, fertilizing, trimming and pruning, and more. Each month tasks will be coordinated and assigned according to our needs. If you'd like to offer your time to the beautification of our wonderful parish and work outside with others for the benefit of our community, please contact Zach at [zkittrell@outlook.com](mailto:zkittrell@outlook.com).

### ***Myrrhbearer Intercessory Prayer Group***

Here at St. Luke's, we believe in the power of prayer. We are committed to the practice of prayer both individually and corporately. You may submit prayer requests to our group. We pray over many requests each day so please keep it an appropriate length so we can give each request equal attention. In addition to requesting prayer from a Myrrhbearer, there is a prayer box in the Narthex that is checked weekly.

The Myrrhbearer members you may contact are: Sh. Margaret Ashton, Daya Colborn, Margaret Evans, Marilyn Geerdes, Heather Hennigh, Carol Hynes, Sue Nelson, Olga Peyton, Denise Rice, Rita Rosson, Elaine Senko, Heather Wicht, and Kat Wolff.

### ***OCLife St Luke Showering Babies at Boulder Pregnancy Resource Center (BPRC)***

Organization of baby items will happen after Presanctified Liturgy on April 5th, 11AM

Assembly of baby layettes will be at 10am, Saturday April 6th

We will deliver the baskets to Boulder Pregnancy Resource Center, Tuesday, April 9th at 10AM, which will also include a tour of the center, and their work.

Please join us for any of the above. Any questions, contact Rita, Nancy or Bethany.

### ***Lift up Uganda***

• **Save The Date: 13th Eritrean Dinner** August 17, 2024 after Vespers. Come and hear from Deacon Richard Okello as he is about to start his 3rd year at St Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary.

• **Clergy Support:** Thanks to several of our parishioners who donated their prepaid VISA cards for Action/Service Teams from Thrivent. All 18 clergy members in northern Uganda now have each received incense and charcoal for their church services. They are extremely grateful that we are helping them obtain needed church supplies. This was for the project "Christmas kits for the priests". Due to the slow postal system in Uganda the priests just received their gifts mid March. Next is a project "Pascha kits for the priests" of candles for their churches. Due to their lack of candles the priests reserve them for services only when the Bishops visit. Now they will be able to use them also for some Feast Days. Hopefully with ongoing donations from Thrivent members we can continue our projects for Christmas kits and Pascha kits for priests. Thank you.



• **Clean Water for Uganda Update:** Our June 2024 plans are to distribute 600 water filter units for poor families that do not have access to clean water. This is a collaborative project with Global Access 2030 that started in 2022. So far we have been able to service 200 families in 2022 and 400 families in 2023. We have also serviced 2 health clinics and a nursery/primary school. If our 2024 efforts are successful we will have a total of 1200 families who will have clean water for 3 years. Clean water saves lives, especially for infants and children who frequently are "stunted" because of water born diseases. Please see more information on our Lift Up Uganda bulletin board. Thank you.

### ***The Great Feast of Pascha Preparation***

#### • ***Pascha Flowers***

Please consider donating to the Pascha Flower fund to honor a loved, in memory of, or in thanksgiving. Please mark in the memo line Pascha Flowers. Flowers in the church add beauty reminding us of God's creation and the beauty of His handiwork.

• **Procession of Girls on Holy Friday:** Please contact Janelle Payne at dj72002@comcast.net

• **Red Eggs Team:** Please contact Joanna Silosky at jmmiller780@gmail.com

• **Pascha Brunch Team:** Please contact Christine Twining at christinetwining@yahoo.com

• **Ethical Candy for Pascha:** Donations for easter egg hunt are greatly appreciated. Last year, thanks to your donations, we were able to provide healthier, ethically-sourced candy for our children's Pascha egg hunt! By purchasing candy from businesses whose practices align with Orthodox Christian stewardship values, we can avoid the conventional candy brands that use slave labor in their supply chains or contain genotoxins, GMOs, pesticides, and petrochemicals. Shop here: <https://tinyurl.com/paschacandy>. Donations needed by April 27.

### ***Rocky Mountain Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood: Christ's Call to Love***

Good Samaritan Project this year for the 2024 Orthodox Day of Service is Saturday April 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Lunch Provided). The workday will be held at MHM Joshua Station/Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Center (JAMLAC) 913 Wyandot Street, Denver, CO 80204 with various painting, planting, ground keeping, and maintenance projects and prayer at Joshua Station and JAMLAC. Joshua Station is a Christian transitional housing program for families, read more about Joshua Station here: <https://milehighmin.org/joshua-station/> JAMLAC is a Christian poverty law center, read more about JAMLAC here: [www.jamlac.org](http://www.jamlac.org). All St. Luke and Sts. Peter and Paul Parishioners are invited (and anyone from other parishes as well). Must be 18 years old and older. Limited to 30 participants, so RSVP soon to Steve Thompson by email at [sthompson@jamlac.org](mailto:sthompson@jamlac.org) The mission of the Good Samaritan Project is to help Orthodox faithful to understand and serve our brothers and sisters in need consistent with Christ's call to love in deed and truth.

## **More News**

### ***Word Magazine***

The Word Magazine is a free publication for members of our church provided by the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. Paper or digital copies published. Sign up here: <http://ww1.antiochian.org/addressupdates>

### ***Lost and Found Items***

Please check the Lost and Found Closet (across from the bulletin board) for missing items. The contents will be donated Monday, March 4.

### ***Care of our Temple***

We have two weekly cleaning teams that work very hard to keep our temple beautiful. Please be mindful of our shared sacred space. Wipe muddy and snowy feet on mats in the Narthex. It is good to keep an eye on the children when they are eating blessed bread so that unnecessary crumbs are not going onto the floor. Please remove your trash, kleenex, etc. and place in the trash bins in the Narthex.

### ***Live Streaming Services***

Our Sunday 8a Orthros and 9a Sunday Divine Liturgy “live streaming” continues on our YouTube channel “stlukestream”. The link below may be copied and pasted into your web browser. As a “subscriber” to our YouTube channel, you can get an alert - if you wish to know when a live stream is on

<https://tinyurl.com/StLukeStreamChannel>