



News Brief to the Parishioners of

Saint Luke Orthodox Church

Erie, CO

February 2024

stlukeorthodox.org

Normally, February is when we start talking about preparing for the Great Fast. This year the start of Great Lent falls especially late (the evening of March 17 to be specific). That means that almost all of February is still “normal time” and the saints of the month (Sts. Photius, Haralambos, Theodore, etc.) get their day without losing it to preparations for the Fast. The Triodion (the book with all our Pre-Lent, Lent, and Holy Week hymns) season doesn’t start until the last Sunday of the month. When Lent falls this late, we have no Apostles’ Fast. February kicks off with the Feast of the Presentation/ Meeting of our Lord. This Feast, which falls 40 days after Christmas, completes the last piece of the Nativity season. On it we commemorate how our Lord was brought to the Temple in fulfillment of the requirement of the Law, and how His arrival there was met with prophecy from the Elder Symeon and Anna the Prophetess.

When a new baby is born to an Orthodox family, we continue this tradition by bringing the child to be “churched” on the 40th day (or the Sunday nearest thereto). Typically held before the start of the liturgy, the prayers of the churching are for the health and protection of the mother and

child, and in thanksgiving that God has brought a new person into the world (just as it was in the Old Testament).

Also, because we’re in a Leap Year, we conclude the month by celebrating the fourth century father, St. John Cassian the Roman, whose feast day falls February 29. Although St. John gets a bit

shortchanged by the calendar (afterall, somebody had to be on the 29th), his importance for Western Christianity cannot be easily overstated. He traveled the world, visiting monasteries throughout the Middle East, the Egyptian desert, and Pontus.

He was ordained (likely by St. John Chrysostom) to the diaconate. When St. John Chrysostom was deposed and exiled, St. John Cassian brought all the monastic experience he learned to the West, where he wrote in Latin for monks and nuns there

-laying the foundation that St. Benedict would build upon. Virtually all Western monastic life is indebted to St. John Cassian for explaining the most fundamental elements of what it means to be a monk or nun. He reposed peacefully in the Lord around the year 430 in the monastery he founded in Massalia (known today as Marseilles, France)



Chronology of Events

Please note: Events are in addition to every Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9 AM and Saturday Vespers at 4:00 PM; Wednesday Night Liturgies: February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at 5:30 PM.

Adult Education: Thursdays 10:30 AM.

Thursday, February 1

10:30 AM Adult Education

5:30 PM Great Vespers with Lity & Artoklasia followed by potluck

Friday, February 2

8:30 AM Orthros

9:30 AM Liturgy for the Presentation of Christ

Sunday, February 4

11:00 AM Myrhhbearers Meeting

Monday, February 5

10:30 AM St. Luke Homeschool Co-op

6:30 PM HOPE meeting

Tuesday, February 6

11:00 AM Ladies Lunch Bunch at Chili's

1:00 PM Caregiver Support Class

Saturday, February 10

2:30 PM Catechism Class

Sunday, February 11

10:30 AM Memorial Prayers for James Hynes, Lydia Shiller, Doris Raineault, Theodora Benson, Ty Luke McCartney, JeanFrascona, JimKing, JeanLandis, and Kh.PatriciaPierce.

10:45 AM Potluck Fellowship: Bring favorite brunch item to share

Tuesday, February 13

6:00 PM Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, February 17

9:00 AM Antiochian Women's Retreat

Monday, February 19

10:45 AM St. Luke Homeschool Co-op

6:30 PM HOPE meeting

Wednesday, February 21

7:00 PM Saint Study for Youth Group

Saturday, February 24

2:30 PM Catechism Class

News Updates

Update on our parish financial situation

from Rob Bell, Parish Council Treasurer

- Offering statements mailed Fri Jan 26th. If you don't receive yours within about a week, or have any questions, email Rob at treasurer@stlukeorthodox.org.
- 2024 budget has been approved as follows: the \$589,000 expected income will fund \$545,000 of operating expenses, \$20,000 of capital projects and \$32,000 to move our working cash & reserves closer to target. ~\$8,000 of designated funds for the new youth leader's pay will provide a balanced budget. Thank you to all those who helped in developing the budget, and, those who approved it.

Ministry Updates

We need Ministry Leaders to fill vacancies in the following Ministries: Building Maintenance, Grounds Maintenance, Web/IT Team, Audiovisual team, Feasts/Festivals, Medical Response Team, and Safety Team. If you are a part of these ministries (or want to join) and would like to lead, please talk to Fr. Raphael.

- The Temple Cleaning Teams needs more volunteers to help keep our church clean and tidy. Please contact MaryDel if you can help: mdhiskey@comcast.net
- The Greeting Team needs volunteers to help give a warm and informative welcome to our members, friends, and visitors. Please contact Kelly Hesse if you can help: hessfam9@gmail.com

Request from Kh. Linda Mustian

If anyone might have some photos or videos from Fr. David's retirement party, it would be much appreciated if you could please send them to: dlmustian@gmail.com

Thank you.

Children, Youth and Family

- **Sunday School** In the beginning of February, youth and children will create projects for the Creative Festivals. This year's theme is "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Children and youth can compete in several categories: visual arts, photography, digital arts, and poetry. Last year, many of our children and youth received awards. Projects are due on Sunday March 10. Artwork will be on display from March 15-24. We will offer work time with art supplies on Wednesday evenings (February 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 6) after liturgy and our potluck for those students wanting to complete their work at church.

Beginning on February 11th, youth and children will return to their study of the Book of Romans and Orthodox Saints. Adults continue their study of Romans with Fr. David. Fr. David will be in Egypt on February 25 and March 3 and adults will have extended fellowship time.

- **St. Luke Home-school Co-op** 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 Shelli Sittler if you are interested skstittler@gmail.com

- **Youth Group**

Mimi Sawaked, our Youth Director, will be reaching out to families to schedule time to talk with youth. In addition, Mimi has scheduled two activities:

- ~ Saint Study: Wednesday, February 21 after Divine Liturgy during Potluck
- ~ Local Hike: Saturday afternoon, March 2nd. Stay tuned for time and place.

Matt Richardson will lead a group to Project Mexico July 30-August 5. Contact Matt Richardson: cirrusio@pm.me.

Fr. Raphael will be attending Camp St. Raphael June 23-29 and Antiochian Village Camp July 14-26. If you are interested in these summer camps contact Mimi Sawaked: mimisawaked@gmail.com.

Talk to Steve Knudtsen to learn about Rocky Mountain Orthodox Camp July 22-25. sknudtsen8@gmail.com (*or see Poster*)

As in past years, the St. Ignatius Parish Financial Assistance is offered to campers in need of scholarships. Complete information online by clicking on this link: <https://forms.gle/1zzEfa1pd7qxrP7RA> We encourage you to use this financial assistance for campers from your parish who are in financial need, so we may assist as many children as possible to attend camp. If you need help applying for a scholarship, talk to Mimi or Frances.

Girls' Basket Ministry

Friendly reminder: If you know you will not be in church on the Sunday your daughter is assigned, please try to switch with someone else. If your daughter wants to participate, please contact Janelle Payne, dj72002@comcast.net

Adult Education Class with Fr. Daniel

As Orthodox Christians, we have an appreciation and affection for our Divine Liturgy. The scripture readings, the prayers, and the hymns are spiritually nourishing. We know the Divine Liturgy arose from the Last Supper, but how did it come to be the liturgy we know now? Thanks to historians, the history of the Divine Liturgy is accessible. If you would like to learn about this history, please join us beginning on Thursday, February 1 at 10:30 AM for six weeks. There will be no classes during Great Lent. Fr. Dan will offer a series of classes on the later Church Fathers sometime in the future. All are welcome to the classes.

Antiochian Women

- Ladies Lunch Bunch: There will be a women's luncheon on Tuesday, February 6, at Chili's, 11:00. This is just for fun and to get to know each other. Please RSVP to Rita via text or phone at 303 875 2314.

- "More Precious Than Rubies" Women's Retreat on the topic of the Holy Spirit in women and the path of virtue to be held on Saturday, Feb 17, 2024, 10 AM to 3:30 PM. Come hear from several St Luke women, including Kh. Annette, Kh. Elfriede, Sh. Margaret, Aimee Colyer, Nancy Knudsen, Kathryn Morkunas, and Bee Sturgis, and become better acquainted with each other. We will interactively explore the Orthodox approach to the pursuit of virtue and ways to abide in Christ. We'll discuss how to obey God's command, "Be holy, for I am holy," through Christ Himself, the Holy Spirit, and our choices. There's an opportunity for you to share something about your patron saint as well (see RSVP form for details). Lunch + a special something: \$20 Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/AWRubies>.

- Sign up for the AW of St Luke newsletter here: <https://tinyurl.com/AWStLukeneews>. The last newsletter went out on Jan 16, so check your spam filters if you haven't seen it!

- Are you a woman who has experienced trauma, difficult relationships, or challenging life events and find that they are still impacting your life? If so, you're not alone! We invite you to join a supportive community where understanding and healing come together.

HOPE is:

- A safe space where your experiences are understood within the context of our Orthodox Christian faith.
- A community where you can seek healing and join in a journey of support, understanding, and recovery.
- A way to connect with other women who have faced similar challenges, where you can share your story and find strength in solidarity.
- A group which values confidentiality, creating a secure haven for sharing and healing.
- A supportive network of women who share similar experiences, providing a sense of belonging and connection.

Discover the power of shared faith and experiences! Our group focuses on mutual support, understanding, and growth within the framework of Orthodox Christianity. Join our peer support group, where empathy and compassion pave the way to healing, reminding you that you are not alone in your journey. Our group meets twice a month to share, support, and strengthen each other. Come be a part of this uplifting community!

We look forward to welcoming you into our HOPE community, where healing is a shared journey. You are not alone – together, we find strength on our walk with God! For more information or to join HOPE, please contact Sh Margaret Ashton or Frances Reda. Fill out an application form in the office or online here: <http://tinyurl.com/StLukeHOPE>

- Cardmaking Workshop: Join us Saturday March 16 from 10 AM to 12 PM for a fun morning making handmade cards. There will be demonstrations. Supplies provided. <http://tinyurl.com/AWCards24>

Caregiver Support Group

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6 at 1:00 PM. The group meets in Classroom #4.

If you have interest in this group, please call or email Debby Stephan (303-619-1941 or debbyk323@icloud.com) to sign up and receive additional information by January 14.

Mercy Meal Ministry Team

Unfortunately we had 3 of our parishioners fall asleep in the Lord during December and January: December 14, 2023, Frank Kowalik; January 3, 2024, Noreen Kowalik; January 10, 2024, Betty Richter. The Mercy Meal Team provides lunch and desserts for the family and friends attending the funeral service. In this way, St. Luke ministers directly to those suffering with grief with Orthodox Christian love and mercy. The number of family and friends attending during these 3 services ranged from approximately 30 to 70. Members of the team arrived at 9:30 to set up and prepare food. The meal was served after the funeral service before the hearse left for the cemetery. Everyone on the team pitched in to clean up after the meal. It is a pleasure to serve with the Antiochian Women who volunteer as well as those who are on this team: Rita R., Elsa G., Nancy K., Yvonne C., Carol H., Denise M., Kh. Linda M., and Bethany F.

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. As a result, we see the hand of God moving in our lives, and in the lives of those around us. The Myrrhbearers' Intercessory Prayer group is the St. Luke ministry team of Orthodox Christian women communicants who commit themselves to daily prayer in the morning and the evening, fasting as prescribed by the Orthodox Church, daily spiritual readings and reflection, intercession and study, and participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of our parish. We consult with Fr. Raphael, our spiritual director. Every request is held in confidence sharing only with the clergy. Prayer requests are prayed for each day for one month. Orthodox Christians are remembered in Liturgy prayers. Opportunities for corporate prayer are open to anyone who would want to attend Liturgy on Sunday, midweek, or a Vesper service. We know that it's not always easy to open up and share what's going on in your life. But life gets messy, and no matter who we are, we need people to come alongside and support us in prayer. If you need prayer for a specific need, let us know and your request will go to our committed team of prayer warriors. 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.

Bookstore News

True Vine Bookstore has recently added a number of new books and icons, including writings of church fathers and saints, children's books and icons of various saints. The bookstore staff is always happy to order items for you, often

at a significant wholesale discount. Looking for a special gift for a loved one? Check out the hand carved icon in the bookstore by local iconographer, Anna Vander Wall. She resides in northern Colorado and was trained by Jonathan Pageau and Christopher Gosey. She is available for commission requests.

OCF: College Students

Greetings CU Boulder OCF! Students are on winter break this months. Meetings will resume in January. 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

More News

The Holy Cross

Glory to God! Father Ioannis from Crete will be in the Denver CO, with the Holy Wood of the Precious Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The blessing will take place at Saint Dimitrie the New Church, at 6060 Puritan Lane, Frederick, CO, 80516. For more information contact Fr. Ioan Bogdan at 440-668-0010 or email: prbogdan@sfdimitrie.org . Contact Fr. Ioan to schedule a special blessing on Saturday, February 10 or Sunday February 11th.

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/address-updates>

The Great Doxology

Our Parish continues to learn the Great Doxology in all eight tones, as appointed in our Liturgical Guide. All new music settings take time to become familiar, please be patient and follow the chanters as you pick up the melody during parts of it.

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>

Orthodox Pilgrimage to Egypt

Fr David will be part of an Orthodox Tour to Egypt called “Journey Through the Land of the Pharaohs and the Desert Fathers,” February 21 - March 3 (7), 2024. Both classical and Christian sites will be seen. Fr. Illya Gotlinsky of Orthodox Tours will lead this, with around 17 laity from around the country. Fr David would be happy to have a few more local people join him, and is glad to answer questions about this and future pilgrimage ideas. See flyer on the bulletin board or visit: <https://orthodoxtours.com>



Saturday Catechism Classes — 2023/2024

Beginning in September, Fr. Raphael will offer a series of introductory classes for Inquirers and Catechumens at St. Luke. These classes are geared for all those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Church, for those interested in becoming Orthodox, and for our own members who may never have gone through a series of catechism classes. **These classes will be held on Saturday afternoon before Vespers at 2:30PM.**

	Date	Topic
I.	09/16	Introduction & Revelation
II.	09/30	Nicene Creed - Part I "I believe in One God..."
III.	10/14	Nicene Creed - Part II Who is Jesus Christ?
IV.	10/28	Nicene Creed - Part III The Holy Trinity
V.	11/11	The Holy Scripture & Canons
VI.	12/02	Hagiology & Mariology
VII.	12/16	Sacraments and Worship
VIII.	01/13	Divine Liturgy
IX.	01/27	Iconography
X.	02/10	Spirituality
XI.	02/24	Developing a Rule of Prayer
XII.	03/09	Confession & Entry into the Church

*Dates, times and topics are subject to revision. See future News Briefs for updates.

