



*News Brief to the Parishioners of*

# Saint Luke Orthodox Church

Erie, CO

March 2024

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

**H**oly and Great Lent returns to us this month on the 17th, bringing “great profit to our souls.” The order of services during Lent is found in the book of the *Triodion*, which contains some of the most sublime and poignant hymnography of the year. Historically, Great Lent developed from a simpler program of comparatively modest baptismal preparation into the God-given greatness of what we have now: 4 Pre-Lenten Sundays (a. Publican & Pharisee; b. Prodigal; c. Meatfare; d. Cheesefare), the 40 days of Lent proper, and then Holy Week. Through the labor of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, Great Lent is a season for growth in piety and understanding -but we have to seize the opportunity with preparation and care. In His parables, our Lord warned us we had to be watchful, let us be found unready and asleep.

The Church wisely readies us with the “themes” of each Sunday. The first God-breathed direction we have already heard at the Vespers of the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: we are exhorted to make our Lentan prayer like the Publican “God be merciful unto me a sinner” and avoid self-exaltation for our prayers and fasting. In the Sunday of the Prodigal, we are also to remember that repentance is not a journey to punishment but

a homecoming to a loving Father. On Meatfare and Cheesefare we commemorate the expulsion from Paradise, the souls of the departed and contemplate how we must all give an answer for ourselves before God’s judgment seat. We conclude our preparation for Lent by lining up and forgiving one another and asking forgiveness.

From the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee (and continuing till the end of Lent) after the Orthros gospel, we chant the penitential troparia “Open to me the gates of repentance...” “Make straight for me the paths of repentance...” and “When I the hapless one...” in place of the normal post-gospel hymnography. The Resurrection gospel is the joy-filled center of the Sunday Orthros service -these beautiful troparia add to it the “bright-sorrowfulness” of the season. We have not lost sight of the Resurrection -far from it- but as we draw near to the Resurrection we know that we must receive it with repentance.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the “effect” of Lent will be with us whether we are observant or careless. But how much sweeter it can be if we expend some effort each year to walk observantly and carefully and make the most of the time.



# Chronology of Events

## ***March 2024 - Antiochian Women's Month***

### **Saturday, March 2nd**

- 9:00 AM Men's Group
- 1:30 PM Youth Group Hike
- 4:00 PM Great Vespers

### **Sunday, March 3rd**

- 8:00 AM Orthros
- 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Memorial Prayers for Athanasios Brian Rodriguez, Metropolitan Philip, and Arlene Tatusko
- 11:00 AM Sunday School for Children and Youth  
No Adult Sunday School: Extended Coffee Hour  
Antiochian Women's Bake Sale Myrrhbearers Meeting

### **Monday, March 4**

- 10:45 AM St. Luke Homeschool Co-op
- 6:30 PM HOPE meeting

### **Tuesday, March 5**

- 11:00 AM Ladies Lunch Bunch at Chili's
- 1:00 PM Caregivers Support Group

### **Thursday, March 7**

- 10:30 PM Adult Education Class

### **Saturday, March 9: Soul Saturday**

- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Trisagion Prayers
- 2:30 PM Catechism Class
- 4:00 PM Great Vespers

### **Sunday, March 10: Judgment Sunday (Meatfare)** *(Spring Forward for Daylight Savings Time)*

- 8:00 AM Baptism for Esther Bourquin
- 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- 10:45 AM Project Mexico Breakfast Fundraiser
- 11:15 AM Sunday School for ALL  
*\*Creative Arts Festival Project Due*

### **Monday, March 11**

- 6:30 PM HOPE meeting

### **Tuesday, March 12**

- 6:00 PM Parish Council

### **Thursday, March 14**

- 10:30 AM Adult Education Class

### **Saturday, March 16**

- 10:00 AM Card-making Workshop
- 4:00 PM Great Vespers

### **Sunday March 17: Forgiveness Sunday**

- 8:00 AM Orthros
- 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Potluck Fellowship
- 11:00 AM Sunday School & Art Display

5:00 PM Forgiveness Vespers

*-Clean Week-*

**Monday, March 18: First day of Great Lent**

10:30 AM St. Luke Homeschool Co-op

7:00 PM Great Compline with Canon

**Tuesday, March 19**

1:00 PM Caregivers Support Group

7:00 PM Great Compline with Canon

**Wednesday, March 20**

5:30PM Presanctified Liturgy & Fasting Potluck & Youth: Saint Study

**Thursday, March 21**

7:00 PM Great Compline with Canon

**Friday, March 22**

9:30 AM Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 PM 1st Akathist

**Saturday, March 23**

4:00 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, March 24: Sunday of Orthodoxy**

8:00 AM Orthros

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Icon Procession, Coffee Fellowship

11:00 AM Sunday School

5:00 PM Pan-Orthodox Vespers @ Assumption Cathedral & OCMC Fundraiser

*-Second Week-*

**Monday, March 25: Annunciation of the Theotokos**

8:30AM Orthros

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday March 27th**

5:30PM Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, March 29th**

9:30 AM Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 PM Second Akathist

**Saturday, March 30th**

4:00 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, March 31st**

8:00 AM Orthros

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM Round Robin Coffee Hour

5:00 PM Vespers @ Transfiguration Cathedral

***Save the date: Saturday, April 6: ALL Parish Workday***

***Save the date: April 14: Pan-orthodox Great Vespers & Dinner at St. Luke***

## News Updates

### *Update on our parish financial situation*

*from Rob Bell, Parish Council Treasurer*

Lenten almsgiving opportunities:

As we look forward to the Lenten season, our Archdiocese will provide several opportunities to engage with almsgiving. We expect the following:

- Food for Hungry program will run throughout Lent. Boxes will be due by the 2nd Sunday after Lent (5/19)
- Seminarian Fund appeal in support seminarians and their families on the Sunday of Orthodoxy (3/24).
- Patriarchate relief work appeal on Palm Sunday. The specific focus for this year has not been announced.

Lent is also a fitting time to re-examine the Church's perspective on the spiritual need for and benefits of our practices of tithing and almsgiving.

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

Please plan on joining us on Saturday at 10 AM to begin our spring cleaning inside and outside. Also, OCLife will be assembling baskets for "Boulder Pregnancy Resource Center". Pack your lunch or bring a potluck items to share.

## Ministry Updates

### *Children, Youth and Family*

• **Sunday School** In the beginning of March, youth and children will finish up 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). Projects are due on Sunday March 10. Artwork will be on display from March 15-24. All classes are working to complete their studies of Romans with supplemental lessons on Baptism, Chrismation, Torah (The Law), Obedience and Faithfulness. Adults will study these themes as well.

• **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 be reaching out to families to schedule time to talk with youth. In addition, Mimi is offering a local hike on Saturday afternoon, March 2 at 2:30 PM. Everyone will walk to nearby Thomas Reservoir and return for Vespers. Mimi will also offer a Saint Study on Wednesday, March 20 during potluck fellowship after Presanctified Liturgy. Mimi can be reached at [mimisawaked@gmail.com](mailto:mimisawaked@gmail.com).

Matt Richardson will lead a group to Project Mexico July 30-August 5. Contact Matt Richardson: [cirrusio@pm.me](mailto:cirrusio@pm.me). On Sunday, March 17, there will be a fundraiser brunch for Project Mexico participants. The team will provide a meal for the parish for free-will donations (nothing required, just an ask). All funds would be kept in hand by St. Luke and disbursed for current or future Project Mexico participants.

• **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)

### *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 for the first three weeks in March. 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***

In February, Antiochian Women hosted a pan-Orthodox, pre-Lenten retreat, gathering together to hear from several St Luke women and discuss, "What is a virtuous woman?" For those who couldn't join us in person, the YouTube playlist of each speaker (plus resources for the "pursuit of virtue" and tributes from St Luke men) is now available. We hope these talks will be an encouragement to you as you prepare for Lent: [www.tinyurl.com/AWVirtue](http://www.tinyurl.com/AWVirtue)

March is Antiochian Women's Month! Look for all the various ways women serve our parish and tell them you appreciate it! The Antiochian Women of St Luke have the following events lined up for March:

- March 3 – As a fundraiser for the 2024 Antiochian Women National Project to create an endowment fund for widowed clergy wives in our Archdiocese, the women will hold a Bake and Craft Sale during fellowship hour! If you would like to offer an additional donation to this fund, please give at <http://tinyurl.com/2024AW>
- March 5 - Ladies Lunch Bunch - a social event. Meet at Chili's on 287 in Lafayette at 11:30 for lunch. Call or text Rita Rosson to let her know you'll be there so she can make sure to get a table large enough.
- March 17 – Several women of the parish will offer a Card-Making Workshop! Sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/AWCards24>
- March 31 - "Round Robin Coffee Hour" – an all-parish activity sponsored by Antiochian Women, that might look a little like "speed-dating" – should be a fun opportunity to meet new people in the parish and get to know one another better!

The HOPE group is currently accepting applications for a new cohort. 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 March, we will meet on Saturday, March 2 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 lots of new jewelry and gifts, including a variety of prayer ropes, rear view mirror pendants and items handmade by Annalisa Boyd. 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***

- **Meatfare Fundraiser for Project Mexico** on March 10, volunteers participating in and assisting with Project Mexico will serve a taco bar during Coffee Fellowship on March 10. During the brunch we will be collecting donations that will directly support Project Mexico participants this year (July 30 - August 5). While donations are encouraged, they are not required to enjoy the meal.
- **Cheesefare Potluck Fellowship** on March 17, we will have a potluck after Liturgy. Please bring a dish to share based on your last name: A-C: Salad; D-J: Sides; K-R: Mains; S-T: Dessert; U-Z: Drinks

### ***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 already 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 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.

### ***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 zklittrell@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)***

Tags are available beginning this Sunday, March 3rd, as you depart Liturgy for items needed to shower newborn babies at BPRC. Your donation supports a mother who is choosing to birth and parent her child with the help and care of the pregnancy center. Last year our parish assembled the items donated into 10 infant layette baskets to gift mothers with an abundance of items needed in the first few months of their baby's life. The mothers felt showered and encouraged! Thank you for your generosity! Please return your infant items by Monday, March 25 (Annunciation of the Theotokos), and place them and the tag in the baskets provided as you enter the parish hall. On Friday, April 5 at 9:30 a.m., we will organize the infant items received to be ready for assembling infant layette baskets on Saturday, April 6, at 10 a.m. Feel free to join in the organization or assembly. See Nancy Knudtsen Bethany Fu, or Rita Rosson with any questions. If you would like to help deliver the layettes to BPRC, which will include a tour of the pregnancy center, please let Nancy know.

### ***OCMC Annual Fundraiser Dinner***

This year's event is Sunday March 24, the Sunday of Orthodoxy at the Assumption Cathedral, after Vespers. Come and learn about the work of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center from Dan Christopholus. Contact Sue Nelson: ssnelson22@aol.com

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

• Over Christmas Holiday break, St. Nektarios Nursery and Primary School broke ground for a new 6th grade classroom and it was built by the first day of school February 5, 2024. When the 5th graders finished school in December they thought they would be having their classes under the mango trees when they advanced to the 6th grade. The students and teachers are very happy in their new classroom. At the end of 2024 we hope to build the 7th grade and final classroom at the school. Also the two kindergarten classrooms that were built early in 2023 were able to be totally finished by adding a cement floor and plastering/painting all the walls. The students, parents and teachers are very happy that naps are no longer on dirt floors. Now the students and teachers are much more comfortable at school and ready to learn. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously for this huge construction project.



St Luke parishioners have sponsored 58 students for all 3 terms of 2024. There are many grateful parents who know their child will not have any interruptions for the entire school year. We are called "St Luke Church in the Rocky Mountains of the US" and they send their prayers of thanksgiving to all of you. Fr George blessed all the students, teachers and parents on the first day of school.

The Community Children's Library had many special programs over the Christmas Holiday break to keep the children interested in reading and learning. Our librarian Daniel organized a Christmas party on the last day of school with singing and dancing, crafts, sports and games for all. This was the first party ever held at the school and fun was had by all. Children in the community who do not attend our school also were invited and tours of the library were given to the children and their parents. Now everyone is hoping for a Pascha party.!

Swahili is now the national language of the 5 countries that make up Eastern Africa. All schools are required to teach Swahili. We are adding many books in Swahili to the Community Children's Library to assist the teachers and students in their learning of this new language.

### ***Save the date: 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>