

ported to Sofia, then to Hungary, then to Trnovo, and finally to the Monastery of Rila, where they repose today. Through the centuries, the Monastery of Rila has been a beacon of light, a place of miracle-working power, and a spiritual comfort for the Christian people of Bulgaria, especially during the difficult time of bondage under the Turks.

**The Holy Martyrs Florus and Laurus:** Florus and Laurus were brothers in the flesh, and in spirit and in vocation. Both were zealous Christians, and were stonecutters by occupation. They lived in Illyria. A pagan prince hired them for the building of a temple to the idols. It happened that, during their work, a piece of stone flew and struck the eye of the pagan priest Merentius's son, who was observing the work of the builders with curiosity. Seeing his son blind and bloody, the pagan priest began to shout at Florus and Laurus and wanted to beat them. Then the holy brothers said to him that if he would believe in the God in whom they believed, his son would be healed. The pagan priest promised. Florus and Laurus prayed with tears to the one, living Lord God, and traced the sign of the Cross over the child's injured eye. The child was immediately healed, and his eye became whole, just as it had been. Then Merentius and his son were baptized. Shortly after that, both suffered for Christ, being tortured by fire. When they completed the temple, Florus and Laurus placed a cross on it, summoned all Christians and consecrated it in the name of the Lord Jesus, with an all-night vigil of hymn-singing. Hearing of this, the Illyrian deputy burned many of those Christians, and had Florus and Laurus themselves thrown into a well. He then filled it with dirt to suffocate them. Their relics were later revealed and translated to Constantinople. These two wonderful brothers suffered, and were martyred for Christ and glorified by Him, in the second century.

## Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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### August 18, 2024

#### Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

**Apostolic Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:10 – 17

**Gospel:** St. Matthew 14:14 – 22

**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: 8th Sunday After Pentecost.** Martyrs Floros and Laurus of Illyria; Venerable Sophronios of St. Anne skete on Athos; Venerable Barnabas and Christopher of Mt. Mela; New-martyr Demetrios; Venerable Arsenios the New of Paras; repose of Venerable John of Rila.

#### Hymns of the Day

##### **Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 7**

You destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women's lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy!

##### **Apolytikion for the Dormition Tone 1**

You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world, O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

##### **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 Dormition Tone 6**

The Theotokos is undying in intercession.\* Immovable is our hope in her for protection. \* Neither death nor burial prevailed over her. \* As she is Mother of Life, she was removed to life by Him, \* the Lord who lived in her ever-virgin womb.

## Divine Services

**Wed. Aug. 21:** Paraklesis 5pm

**Sat. Aug 17:** 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.

## Bookstore and Library

Come downstairs and browse our wonderful selection of new books, Icons, and Orthodox gift items in our well-stocked bookstore. There is something for everyone! *Read often and insatiably the books of the teachers of the Church... ~St. Isaac the Syrian*

## Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

**August 11:** Women’s Fellowship    **August 18:** No coffee Hours: Festival

**Aug. 25:** Smoot/Stauffer            **Sept. 1:** Sponsor Needed

## Greek Dance Group

We welcome children and adults to join our parish Greek dance group. Practice will be for a half hour to prepare for our Annual Greek Festival. Any interested children and adults are welcome to join, as well as help teach. Contact Constadina Vasiliades at: 808-373-0312 or [constadina@shaw.ca](mailto:constadina@shaw.ca) if interested or for questions. For the month of **August practices:** Sunday Aug.: 11 after church, Tues. Aug. 13 7:30pm, practices are at Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church.

## Scam Alert and Cyber Security

We received from our Chancellor, Fr. Lou, there are active and aggressive cyber-actors targeting our Metropolis of Denver and Greek Orthodox Churches across the country. The cyber-criminals are impersonating our Metropolitan, Chancellor and even me, your parish priest. The scammer posing as one of the above named, may ask for money or gift cards. A few of our parishioners over the years have been contacted by a scammer posing as me. **Please know I would not do this or solicit gift cards.** If this happens let me know with a phone call and do not reply to any of these inquiries.

## Capital Campaign

**King Soopers Cards** has a Loyalty Card Program that offers 5% of your

purchase sent to a designated charity which Archangel Michael is an eligible recipient. You may sign up online or go to the customer service desk.

## Stewardship 2024

Remember to be current with your stewardship. If you did not receive a 2024 packet, please see Ruxandra Georgescu.

## Orthodox Catechism Class

Class will meet September 1, following coffee hour. *All are welcomed to attend!*

## AMGOC 26th Annual Greek Festival

Today is the last day of our Festival. May our Lord grant strength to finish well. OPA!

## Women’s Fellowship

The Women’s Fellowship will be meeting on September 7, 2024 in the church hall from 10 to 12 to discuss partnering with the Queen Palmer Elementary School to provide donations and possible other services. Please contact Connie Leonard at 719-660-2190 for further information or if you would like to be added to the email mailing list.

## Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Appeal

On Sunday, September 8 and 15, we will have a collection for our theological students from the Metropolis of Denver.

## Saints of the Day

**The Venerable John of Rila:** *This great ascetic and saint of the Orthodox Church was born near Sofia, Bulgaria, in the town of Skрино, during the reign of King Boris. He was of poor but honorable parents. After the death of his parents, John was tonsured a monk and withdrew to a mountain wilderness, where he lived a life of strict asceticism in a cave. There he endured many assaults, both from demons and men, robbers and his own relatives. Eventually he moved to Mount Rila and settled in a hollow tree. He fed only on herbs and beans, which, according to God’s providence, began to grow in the vicinity. For many years he did not see a man’s face until (again, by God’s providence) he was discovered by shepherds who were seeking their lost sheep. Thus the saint became known to the people, and they began to come to him, seeking help in sickness and in sufferings. Even the Bulgarian King Peter visited John and sought counsel from him. Many who were zealots for the spiritual life settled in the proximity of John. A church and monastery were soon built nearby. St. John reposed peacefully in the Lord on August 18, 946 A.D., at the age of seventy. After his death, he appeared to his disciples. At first his relics were trans-*