

# SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 12, Issue 5

May 2012

## April Council Highlights

- ✘ March's Operating Income was \$9,744.99 and Operating Expenses were \$9,339.97 resulting in a positive balance of \$405.02.
- ✘ Seventy-five new service books have been placed in the pews.
- ✘ Arrangements have been made to seal-coat and restripe the old parking lot after Pascha.
- ✘ As the parking lot addition nears completion, we still need \$11,000 to pay off the balance on the project. Thank you to all who have contributed!
- ✘ Adult Education classes will resume in June.
- ✘ The Church School is collecting donations for Child Crisis Center.



Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church  
 1614 E. Monte Vista Rd.  
 Phoenix, AZ 85006  
 602.253.9515

[www.sspeterpaulaz.org](http://www.sspeterpaulaz.org)  
[www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)  
[www.orthodoxfellowship.org](http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org)

Archpriest David Brum  
 Rector  
 602.274.6794 Home  
 480.287.0240 Mobile  
 Frdbrum@aol.com

Protodeacon Alexis Washington

Andrew Evans  
 Council President  
 480.948.7929

Barbara Harp  
 Choir Director  
 bharp@vosymca.org

Stephanie A. Homyak  
 Church School Director  
 Newsletter Editor  
 623.869.0470

Stephanie\_Homyak@yahoo.com

Mike Wagner  
 Web Master

Mike@sspeterpaulaz.org

## Coming From Two Different Places

**On May 15 we read the final verses of the eighth chapter of John's Gospel. In these climactic verses, Jesus so disturbs His hearers by the things He says that they take up stones to throw at Him.**

The verses leading up to this climax (8: 12-42) were read last week, and they record a conversation between Jesus and some Pharisees. This dialogue is an example of people seriously misunderstanding what Jesus is telling them. It happens because they and He are coming from two different places. While He speaks to them of heavenly realities as God's divine Son, their comprehension is limited by the thought patterns and realities of this world.

Jesus makes a startling claim: "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (8: 12). The Pharisees don't really respond to His claim, grand and provocative as it is. Instead they raise an objection they've brought up previously: Jesus is bearing witness to Himself, and it takes the testimony of two men to make witness true.

Willing to accede to their insis-

tence that two witnesses are needed, Jesus points out that "I bear witness to myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness." But once again, rather than asking what He means, they ask a m u n d a n e , even insulting, question: "Where is your Father?" The question implies either that He is illegitimate and doesn't know His Father, or that Joseph, the one they know as His father, is too unimportant a person for Him to be making such lofty claims. But Jesus still tries to raise their level of understanding. They would know the Father, He tells them, if they really knew Him.



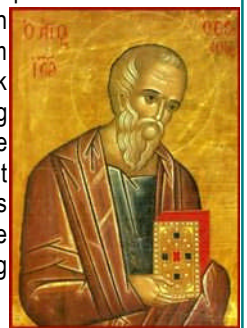
Then Jesus tells the Pharisees that "I go away, and you will seek me and die in your sin; where I am going you cannot come." Instead of taking this as a challenge to their sinful behavior, they fall back for the third time on a superficial understanding: they speculate that He must mean He is going to kill Himself.

The next verses show that Jesus doesn't simply consign the Pharisees to damnation. He says, "I

told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he." His hearers have every chance to know Him and gain salvation, and He gives them the means of doing so: by paying attention to "what I have told you from the beginning."

In the chapter's final verses, Jesus says that "if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." The questioners indignantly challenge Him. They ask, "Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died?"

When He replies that "before Abraham was, I am" they take up those stones. Much easier to destroy Him with earthly questions and earthen stones than to follow Him and risk accepting that all He says about Himself is the plain, life-altering truth.



This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.✘

# Message From Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Christ is Risen!

The liturgical life of the Orthodox Christian has its own special ebb and flow. It is marked by feasts and fasts as well as the times in between. Through the course of the year we commemorate those moments and events in the life of the Lord that are significant because they are the story of our salvation. Of course, the greatest moment in salvation history and the most significant of our commemorations is that of the Lord's victory over death in the glories

of His Resurrection. We recently celebrated this on Pascha, we continue to celebrate it now during the forty days of the Paschal Season (until the Eve of the Ascension), and we commemorate it every Sunday throughout the year.

In the next few weeks, however, our focus will change as we celebrate the Great Feast of the Lord's Ascension into Heaven (May 24<sup>th</sup> this year). Then, having celebrated the Lord's return in glory to His Father's right hand, we spend ten prayerful days in anticipation of the Feast of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Lord's apostles and disciples. The days between these two feasts are quiet, simple, still days of prayer. There are no specially-appointed Divine Services. During these days nothing out of the ordinary that takes place in the liturgical life of the Church.

For some, these inter-festal days might be seen as somewhat boring. But, then, there are a lot of people who do not know how to live without excitement, without the sense that something "special" is happening. Whether it comes from the pleasures

of life, leisure, or from crisis, there are those who simply thrive on activity, on doing things, on solving problems, on getting things done, on adrenalin.

In the Book of the Acts of the Apostles we're told that, after the Lord's Ascension, the disciples found themselves in this kind of situation, in a period of quiet waiting - now they found themselves having to face a period in which they would simply have to wait for Christ's promise to them to come true.

The Lord had taught them, he encouraged them, he commissioned them to do a job, and then - on the day of his ascension into heaven, when they were anxiously asking him when his kingdom would be established, when the next phase of the divine plan would take place, he tells them that it is not for them to know the times or periods established by God - but that they should go back to Jerusalem - and wait, wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit - wait for the power they would need to witness to him there, and in Judea and all of Samaria, and ultimately in all the world.

Living between times, living between occasions in which all of our minds and hearts and energy are absorbed can, in fact, be quite wonderful. It can be for us a "pause that refreshes," a time in which we gain strength, a time in which we quietly grow and are prepared for that which will come next. God knows that we too need periods of rest - periods of waiting - periods in which we can be changed, refreshed, and renewed.

During these days as we transition from Pascha to the Lord's Ascension, to Pentecost (June 3), and beyond; as we prepare for the coming summer months with their

own special focus of rest and respite, let's attempt to quiet down a bit, to enter more deeply into the spirit of hopeful prayer and waiting for the Lord's promises to us to be fulfilled. Let us "wait upon the Lord." After the Lord's Ascension, the apostles and disciples stayed together and they prayed - and in so doing, they prepared themselves for the job Jesus had told them that they would do when the Holy Spirit came upon them as He had promised it would.

As Jesus told the disciples, the Lord also tells us: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you - and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria—and to the ends of the world." May these days be prayerful days of reflection and preparation as we prepare to celebrate the Great Feast of Pentecost and as we prepare ourselves anew for the mission the Lord has entrusted to us.

Indeed He is Risen!

With love in the Risen Lord,

Father David



*Father David and the kids pose for a picture before the start of the annual Easter Egg Hunt.*



**MORE EASTER EGG HUNT PIC-**



# Images of the Journey to Pascha



Father David reads the Passion Gospels.



Father David blesses palms to prepare for Palm Sunday, the Entrance Into Jerusalem.



Elena and Katiya greet Antonia with palms; the church is adorned with palms for the Entrance into Jerusalem.



The procession carrying the body of Christ to the tomb on Holy Friday as "The Noble Joseph" is sung.

Protodeacon Alexis reads the Gospel.



"Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight . . ."



Father David kneels and prays before the plaschinitza.

# Images of Our Journey to Pascha



*Protodeacon Alexis reads the Gospel on Holy Saturday.*



*The procession ends at the doors of the church: CHRIST IS RISEN!*



*Paschal Vespers  
CHRISY IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!*



*The Holy Gospel rests on the plaschinitza, surrounded by beautiful Easter Lillies.*



*Holding their candles, the crowd replies: INDEED HE IS RISEN!*



*After liturgy on Holy Saturday morning, parishioners enjoy wine, bread and dried fruit*



*Nick Enoch and Harold Homyak get ready for a delicious feast after the long fast.*



*The procession around the church begins at midnight,*



*As the procession returns to the church, parishioners place their candles in the candle stand.*



*Jane and Christi chat during the Paschal potluck luncheon.*

## Keeping the Life You Hate or Losing the Life You Love

On May 22nd and 23rd we read the Gospel of John (12: 19-47) in which Jesus Christ describes the kind of life His followers should pursue.

His words need careful attention. He says, "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." At a superficial glance, a reader might almost think that what He is saying sounds unkind. It could seem that Jesus is saying that you'll have your life forever if you hate it, but if you love your life you'll lose it.



shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him."

So, what does it mean to hate one's life? It doesn't mean that we should despise or reject God's gift of being born and living as a person in this world. We are meant to live a full, rich earthly life. But if we limit ourselves to this life, never looking beyond it to eternal life with God, we will not be doing His will. To follow Christ means we must be ready to suffer for Him, because this fallen world will bring suffering. If we deliberately avoid suffering for Christ, we will no longer be following Him, and we will not find our way to the Kingdom. We will have loved our life in this world, and tried to preserve it, at the cost of the eternal life God wants to give us.

But this is why a reader should always look more deeply into the words of Scripture than many people do. These words are nothing less than a promise of the eternal joy of the Kingdom—but they place the decision of whether or not that will be our destiny squarely on us. Jesus tells us this by saying, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there

To hate our life means to see that it is brief and fleeting, while eternal life will never end. Loving

that eternal life, we are willing to give up this earthly one. We can endure hardship and tribulation for Christ while we live it, because we know that by so doing we are following Him; we are on the way to the place where we will be with Him forever in joy.

Jesus also says, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? ' Father, save me from this hour.' No, for this purpose I have come to this hour." These words show that Jesus, like us, is fearful and apprehensive at the coming of death. He, too, loves the life in this world that God has given. But He is ready to do what He has called us to do. He will give up this life in certainty that He will be with His Father in eternal life. That life is His by nature. It is ours by adoption and immeasurable grace.

*This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.✱*

## All Saints Camp



# ALL SAINTS CAMP



Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>- Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

For campers entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade through Senior in High School.

All Saints Camp is a sleep-away camp in Prescott, Arizona that offers volleyball, basketball, archery, a tree-top ropes course, Capture-the-Flag, hiking, nightly bonfires, games, arts and crafts, organized Olympics and more—all within an Orthodox setting with daily Matins, Vespers and Christ-centered lessons.

We're at Pine Summit Camp in Prescott!: [www.pinesummitcamp.com](http://www.pinesummitcamp.com)

Contact Kathy Clarke at [kathyclarke@cox.net](mailto:kathyclarke@cox.net) or  
Kristen Vasilarakos at [kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net)

Supported by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches

## The Hard Life of a Prophet

**On May 1st the Church honors the Prophet Jeremiah, a sensitive soul who was called by God to do things that would have been difficult even for a person less easily bruised.**

God instructs His young prophet to warn Jerusalem of foreign invaders from the north. So Jeremiah addresses the people: "In vain you beautify yourself. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life. For I heard a cry as of a woman in travail, anguish as of one bringing forth her first child, the cry of the daughter of Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands, "Woe is me! I am fainting before murderers" (4:30-31).

In popular literature, prophets are sometimes depicted as mirthless killjoys who take pleasure in spoiling everyone's good times and bringing messages of doom. But this is not true of most of the prophets, and certainly not of Jeremiah. His message burdens his heart: "My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! Oh, the walls of my heart! My heart is beating wildly; I cannot



keep silent; for I hear the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war" (4:19).

Through Jeremiah, God accuses the people not only of turning from Him, but of embracing false, powerless gods: "...for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no water" (2: 13). This is in contrast to the good things God has done for them: "When I fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the houses of harlots" (5: 7b).

God is concerned with more than His people's wandering off to impotent gods. Through Jeremiah He accuses them of unkindness toward one another: "Like a basket full of birds, their houses are full of treachery; therefore they have become great and rich, they have grown fat and sleek. They know no bounds in deeds of wickedness; they judge not with justice the cause of the father-

less, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy" (5: 27-28).

Jeremiah describes what happens to a culture in which people no longer care about each other: "Let everyone beware of his neighbor, and put no trust in any brother; for every brother is a supplanter, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they commit iniquity and are too weary to repent" (9: 4-5).

### Kontakion—Tone 3

Cleansing your radiant heart through the Spirit,  
O great Prophet and Martyr,  
glorious Jeremiah,

You received from on high the gift of prophecy.  
You cried out with a great voice to the nations:

This is our God, and there is none other beside Him  
who became incarnate and appeared on earth.

*This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.*

## Around SS Peter & Paul

### MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Vi Wasilenko  
May 17

Linda Walters  
May 21

Anastasia Melendrez  
May 23

Katiya Golowatsch  
May 24

Amy Blischak  
Nina Kinney  
May 25

Ann Garza  
Frank Kulik  
May 26

Marty Gala  
May 27

### MORE MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Rose Kurowski  
Katrina and Joseph Delsante  
May 28

Carol Yavornitzky  
May 30

Katie Enoch  
May 31

**Mnogaya Leta!  
Many Years!**



### PRAYER LIST

**"I was sick and you visited me."  
Matt 25:36**

We offer prayers to all of our parishioners who are ill or unable to attend services:

Dan Perotto  
Pauline Vinay  
Ann Garza  
Nancy Tarasevich  
Bill and Rose Koval  
Mary Maul

*If you know of anyone else in need of our prayers, please contact Father David.*



# Bits and Pieces

## THANK YOU

I am constantly giving thanks to God for His many blessings to me, especially the blessings that are given me as spiritual father of our parish community. So much is accomplished and so much is done for the glory of God and the salvation of souls—and it often goes unrecognized. However, God the

Father *Who sees all things*, knows the love and sacrifice that so many of our parishioners offer Him in service to His Church.

May the Lord Himself be the reward of all those who serve our parish, all those who participated in our Holy Week and Paschal services, all those who “worked behind the scenes” to prepare and beautify our parish Temple, “those who sing and those who serve” and all those who in any way, made our celebrations the beautiful, joyous, and spiritually-uplifting services they were. May God bless you all!

*Father David*

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Great Feast of the Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated May 23-24, with Vespers on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. and the Divine Liturgy on Thursday morning, 9:00 a.m.

## WELCOME

We welcome all visitors to SS Peter & Paul. We hope your visit was enriching and enlightening. Please join us in the Cultural Center, behind the church, for our Fellowship Hour. It's a chance to meet some of our members, other visitors, and enjoy some coffee and fellowship.

## BOOKSTORE

Christ is Risen! Service books are available for Pentecost. Supplies are limited, so act quickly.

Additionally, the handcrafted egg pendants and pins are only available until Pentecost. In purchasing one of these beautiful items, you not only support our church but also a fellow Ortho-

dox Christian's business.

## PASCHA CARD

Thank you to everyone who donated to the SS Peter and Paul Pascha card. We raised just over \$600 which has been donated to the Parking Lot Project.

## COFFEE HOUR

Please sign up to host a coffee hour by contacting Tania Booriakin. Thank you to everyone who has hosted a coffee hour in the last few

weeks.

## SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE!

Despite what the calendar says, summer temperatures are here. High temperatures mean an increased usage of electricity in conjunction with air conditioning. The Church is on a business rate that is higher than what residences pay. The church gets no reduction for evening and weekend usage. As in your own homes, **please do not prop open doors to the outside** as this practice just vents the cool air out and the hot air in.

The Cultural Center is designed with zoned areas for air conditioning and heating. Each room or public area has its own separate air conditioning unit and programmable thermostat. The thermostats are preprogrammed for Sunday's purposes, and other special purposes if known in advance. **Please do not just push buttons** on the thermostats as it may change the preset programming resulting in the units running at times when no one is around. If you have a need to manually cool a room, please find a council member for assistance.

## FOCA

On April 28th the members of F.O.C.A. made 137 dozen of pierogi. Thank you to those who worked so hard in making them and to those who purchased

them. Our tentative future plans are a bowling day for the young and young at heart on May 20th after liturgy and a spaghetti dinner on June



## MEMORY ETERNAL

*Olga Potapenko fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, May 4, 2012. Olga was a long-time member of SS Peter and Paul. The Funeral Service was held at SS Peter and Paul on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 10:00 AM, with burial at Greenwood Cemetery, 719 N 27th Avenue (West Entrance), Phoenix.*

*May the Lord grant peaceful rest and memory eternal to his beloved servant and comfort and peace to Olga's family.*

Christ is Risen!  
Indeed He is Risen!

3rd. Hope to see you at these events.

*Pat Starkey*

## CULTURAL CENTER LOCK-UP

A council member will be designated to ensure that the Cultural Center is locked up and secured each Sunday following coffee hour. A sign-up list will be available in the Cultural Center. Council members are responsible for finding a replacement if they are not available for their designated Sunday.

May 6 Harold Homyak

May 13 Mike Wagner

May 20 David Homyak

May 27

June 3 Walter Booriakin

## FROM THE FATHERS

*"We see the water of a river flowing uninterruptedly and passing away, and all that floats on its surface, rubbish or beams of trees, all pass by. Christian! So does our life. . . I was an infant, and that time has gone. I was an adolescent, and that too has passed. I was a young man, and that too is far behind me. The strong and mature man that I was is no more.*

*My hair turns white, I succumb to age, but that too passes; I approach the end and will go the way of all flesh. I was born in order to die. I die that I may live. Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom!"*



*Elizabeth Michel and Father David pinch the pierogi dough.*



*Alex Homyak and Peter Radjenovich roll the dough.*

# May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Icon "Unexpected Joy"	2	3 Svenskaya Icon	4 Starorusskaya Icon	5 Icon "Inexhaustible Cup"  5:00pm Vespers
<p>The Church School is collecting donations for the Child Crisis Center in Tempe. A Wish List is posted on the bulletin board in the Cultural Center. We ask support for this worthy cause.</p>						
6 Paralytic 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School</b>	7 St. Alexis Toth Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in North America	8 Holy Apostle John the Theologian  6:00pm Council Mtg Meeting	9 Midfeast Pentecost	10 Apostle Simeon the Zealot	11 SS Cyril & Meth- odius, Apostles to the Slavs	12  5:00pm Vespers
13 Samaritan Woman 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School Happy Mothers' Day</b>	14	15	16 Leavetaking Midfeast	17	18	19  5:00pm Vespers
<p> <b>All Saints Camp 2012!</b> Monday, June 4th- Saturday, June 9th Prescott, AZ</p>						
20 Blind Man 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School MBAS Meeting</b>	21 Equal to the Apos- tles St. Constantine and His Mother, Helen	22	23 Leavetaking Pascha  6:00pm Vespers	24 <b>ASCENSION</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy	25 3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist	26  5:00pm Vespers
27 Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	28 MEMORIAL DAY	29 Icon "Surety of Sinners"	30	31	1 Leavetaking Ascension	2 Memorial Saturday  5:00pm Vespers
<p><b>St. George's Vacation Bible School</b> June 11-15, 2012 9:30am- 12:00pm</p> 						
3 <b>PENTECOST</b> 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <i>Kneeling Prayers</i>	4	5	6	7	8 Yaroslavskaya Icon	9 Leavetaking Pentecost  5:00pm Vespers
<p>We welcome all of our guests and visitors. Please join us in the Cultural Center for Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy each Sunday.</p>						