

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 15 Issue 5

May 2015

April Council Highlights

- ✘ March's Operating Income was \$17,202 and Operating Expenses were \$16,306 resulting in a positive balance of \$896 for March. We have a Y-T-D net income of \$1,978.
- ✘ Delegate and Alternate selected for All American Council in July.
- ✘ SS Peter and Paul hosted meetings of the Desert Deanery, Clergy Council, and Diocesan Audit Committee.
- ✘ Youth/Young Adults volunteered at Andre House on May 2, 2015.



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A Courageous Cinderella and a Fool for Christ

On May 10 the Church honors the Holy Mother Isidora, who lived in the sixth century.

Isidora spent most of her life in the monastery of Tabenna in Egypt. She chose to serve God in an extreme way, as a fool for Christ, living in complete self-denial and base servitude. In this way Isidora, like others who chose this way, made sure she would not be praised for her virtues, her constant prayer, or her service to God. When she ate thrown-away scraps and drank used dishwater, others treated her with contempt rather than honor. When she took on the most menial and unpleasant tasks she wasn't thanked; others considered that such an odd person might be expected to demean herself with those jobs.

A monk named Pitirim was told about Isidora in a blunt way. An angel directed him to find her, comparing her to Pitirim himself: "She serves others and bears their contempt every day. Her heart and thoughts are always with God.

You have the ease of solitude with nobody to disturb you, yet your thoughts and your heart are constantly distracted."

Pitirim found Isidora, bowed before her, and revealed her holiness to the other nuns. But she fled from their praise, and they never saw her again.

The recent movie "Cinderella," directed by Kenneth Branagh, has a few interesting parallels to this saint's life.

The young heroine, Ella, loses the parents with whom she shared a deep love and a happy life. Her dying mother gives her a standard to live by: "Have courage and be kind."

When her father remarries and then dies, Ella honors her mother's words, rather in the same way that saints live in a way that honors the commands of Christ. She cheerfully does the chores forced on her by a cruel stepmother and her daughters, who contemptuously call her Cinderella because she is constantly dirtied by ashes and soot. She doesn't seek revenge against their

meanness, but takes comfort in the animals whose trusting companionship she wins, again like some well-known saints.

The patience to endure unjust suffering in life takes courage, even if some critics of the movie have wrongly said that this Cinderella is weak because she doesn't stand up to her stepmother. But the movie is realistic about how hard it is to maintain this courage. At one point, when her harsh life has become unbearable, she rides away on a horse to escape. She meets a young huntsman named Kit, not knowing that he is actually the prince who will change her life. It's noteworthy that she first meets him not in a dazzling ballgown, as in the animated 1950's Disney version, but in her servant's clothes. He falls in love with a lowly servant, just as Christ loves us in our lowly sinfulness.

Near the end of the movie, Cinderella confronts her stepmother, not to gloat in triumph at having won the prince's love, but to forgive this woman who has caused her such suffering. She knows that forgiveness is another act of courage and kindness—and of true strength.



Message From Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Christ is Risen!

This time of the year is particularly beautiful here in our parish community—the temperatures have not quite reached the blazing highs of the summer, our daily schedules and routines are fairly predictable, and we continue to rejoice in the joy the Lord's Resurrection. Although the eggs and candy and other special



treats have been eaten, it is still Pascha and the Paschal hymns which we continue to sing and the Paschal greeting with which we continue to greet one another are reminders of the fact that the Paschal season continues for a full forty days—The joy with which our parish community celebrated the Feast of Feasts continues, until right before the vigil of the Feast of the Lord's Ascension. Our celebration was particularly beautiful this year—and so many people are to be thanked for all that was done to make it as beautiful as it was. May the Risen Lord bless all who prepared for the Feast, all who labored, served, sang, and participated in the moving services of Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha.

Without a doubt, the Church's celebration of Christ's triumph over sin and death through His own death and resurrection from the dead is the

annual highlight of our year. At the same time, we can say that the Church's proclamation of the Lord's Resurrection is the highlight of each and every day of the Church year. It is not limited to the 40 days after Pascha. It is not limited, even, to our Sunday celebration of the Lord's Paschal Mystery which is the Divine Liturgy. After all, how can we limit the message that is at the heart of the

Gospel. How can we contain in a few days, a few hymns, and a few words, the message that even death has been overturned? Indeed, the Gospel itself—proclaimed daily by the way we live our lives—is the proclamation that God has intervened in human life and human history and, through this intervention, human death has been destroyed and human life has been transformed.

It is my prayer that these Forty Days of Pascha will continue to bring joy to you, your homes and your families. And once these Forty Days have passed that the message and reality of Christ's victory will continue to bless your lives and give you hope.

Indeed He is Risen!

With love in the Risen Lord,

+Bishop Daniel

EASTER EGG HUNT



Images of Our Journey to Pascha

Lazarus Saturday



Holy Friday



Bridegroom Matins



Palm Sunday

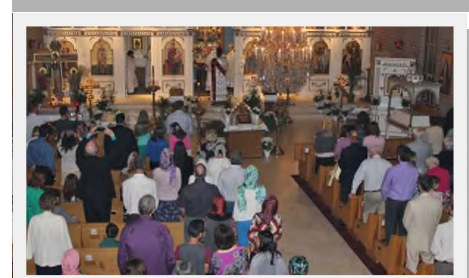


Images of Our Journey to Pascha

Holy Saturday



Pascha



Images of Our Journey to Pascha



All Saints Camp



ALL SAINTS CAMP



Sunday May 31st- Friday, June 5th
For campers entering 4th grade through Senior in High School.

Download application: <http://allsaintscampaz.org/>

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.

All applications are to be submitted with payment by May 22, 2015 to:
Holy Trinity Cathedral
1973 E. Maryland Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85016
Attention: All Saints Camp

Supported by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches

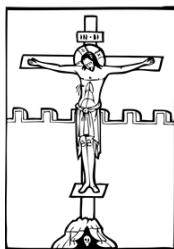
The Hour Has Come

On May 19 we read the Gospel of John 12: 19-36. In these verses Jesus announces, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." He goes on to tell the listening crowd what those words mean.

Jesus has, the passage tells us, gathered a large following despite the efforts of His enemies. The Pharisees admit that they "can do nothing" because "the whole world has gone after Him."

Up to now, Jesus has said that His time has not yet come (7:6).

But the moment to reveal His purpose has come. He speaks about it in a way that the crowd doesn't expect—there's nothing about resistance to Roman oppression or creating an earthly kingdom. He describes a grain of wheat as being able to bear fruit only if it falls into the earth and dies. Then He says something so significant that it is quoted in all four Gospels: "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."



This paradoxical statement is a warning to those who intend to be Jesus' followers. They must be ready for suffering in this world, and not be so attached to earthly life that they forget or reject the Kingdom they

have been given. He calls us to "hate" our life in this world, meaning that we don't cling to it and concentrate on it as if were the whole of life. If we always remember where wholeness really is, we will have eternal life with Him. We will be honored by

the Father Himself.

Jesus expresses, as He will again in the Garden of Gethsemane, the troubling of His soul as He faces the end of His life on earth. He knows that humiliation and suffering are coming. But He goes on, "And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Thy name." At this, the crowd hears a voice like thunder coming from heaven and

saying, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." That glorification will come in only one way, as Jesus then says:

"...I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." This lifting up from the earth refers to His death on the cross as well as His reunion with the Father in "the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made" (17: 5).

Though the heavenly voice has come, Jesus tells the people, "for your sake and not for Mine," they still don't understand. They ask, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of man must be lifted up?"

JESUS does not remind them that the Old Testament ("the Law") prophesies the death of the Christ, the Messiah. He simply urges them to "walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you." Simple, stark, and urgent words for every one of us to take to heart.

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

May 8	Marina Harrelson
15	George Masten
17	Vi Wasilenko
19	Timofei Kadyrov
21	Linda Walters
23	Anastasia Melendrez
24	Katiya Golowatsch
24	Amy Blischak
25	Nina Kinney
26	Ann Garza
27	Marty Gala
28	Rose Kurowski
	Katrina and Joseph Delsante
30	Carol Yavornitzky
31	Katie Enoch

Mnogaya Leta! Many Years!

TEEN/YOUNG ADULT UPDATE

We had our first community service event this Saturday at Andre House for the homeless. This is amazing organization in downtown Phoenix, is a non-profit program that offers support to the community and a truly humbling experience for its volunteers. The T/YAL had 8 wonderful volunteers represent our church.



PRAYER LIST

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

Ted Demos
Larry Gardner
Ann Carroll
Vicki Mendez
Protodeacon Alexis
Cassandra Wagner
Rose Kurowski
Rose Koval
Ann Garza

May Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician of our souls and bodies, reach out his healing hand and bless these, His servants.

If you know anyone else in need of our prayers, please contact Bishop Daniel.

Bits and Pieces

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who planned, prepared, and participated in any way in our parish's beautiful Holy Week and Pascha services and fellowship. May the Risen Lord bless you all!

MBAS

The weeks leading up to Pascha were busy ones for the MBAS. Pascha breads were baked, and eggs were dyed and put in net bags ready to be passed out at Pascha.

After Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday there was a great deal of activity in the hall as palms and pussy willows were put together to be passed out and our Temple was beautifully decorated for Palm Sunday.

The tomb was decorated and the alter coverings were changed to black adding to the solemnity of Great and Holy Friday.

On Great and Holy Saturday the coverings were changed to white as we anticipated the service that evening. Joyfully we declare that Christ is Risen!

The MBAS would like to thank everyone that helped with all the preparations that led up to Pascha.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Many thanks to everyone for your cards, gifts, and the kind words and greetings on the Feast of Pascha. Your many kind-

nesses are deeply appreciated!

+Bishop Daniel

SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE!

Despite what the calendar says, summer temperatures are here. 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.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Eli and Anne Ferbrache on the birth of their son Elisha. We look forward to celebrating his Baptism in the near future. The Lord bless them!

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

As per many requests, the bookstore is now stock with several lectures from Fr. Thomas Hopko of blessed memory. From praying with icons to a whole series on the Orthodox understanding of the Apocalypse, Fr. Tom speaks to the listener with great candor and simplicity.

Also, the feast of Pentecost is not too far off. A small number of service books are available for purchase.

PASCHA LUNCHEON

Christ is Risen! Indeed He has Risen!

Our annual Pascha luncheon was a huge success! More than 100 people enjoyed themselves at the Pascha luncheon celebration. It was a wonderful way to spend Pascha with fellow parishioners and guests. A special thank you to everyone who participated with bringing food and in cleaning up afterwards.

We couldn't have done this without you! Thank you again!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Fr. David on being awarded the gold cross. Many years!



STEWARDSHIP

"...We commonly refer to the "three T's" of Stewardship, but one "T" may be missing or perhaps taken for granted: "Truth." Truth in Stewardship means that we make an honest effort to focus on the call of Christ to commit ourselves to prayer, to work, and to give so that the body of Christ, the Church, may live and meet Her mission. Saint Paul writes: "It is required in stewards, that a person be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2). With this thought in mind, we must be willing to meet the challenge to strengthen the sacred work of our Church in America..."

Stewardship is an important part of our Orthodox faith. It is part of our total commitment to Christ. Orthodox stewardship is part of a Christian lifestyle to give back to God for thanks of what He has given us in life.

Stewardship in the Orthodox Faith is to live and practice the teachings of Jesus Christ and the actions in our daily lives confirm our beliefs in our faith. *Adapted from <http://assumptionchicago.org/about-us/what-is-stewardship>.*

We need to ask ourselves: What resources, talents, and abilities has God given me? Do I use them in service to others and the church?

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<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>						<p>1 Icon "Unexpected Joy"</p> <p>2</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>3 Paralytic Ven. Theodosius of the Kiev Caves</p> <p>8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Church School</p>	<p>4 Starorusskaya Icon</p>	<p>5 Icon "Inexhaustible Cup"</p>	<p>6 Midfeast Pentecost</p>	<p>7 St. Alexis Toth Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in North America</p>	<p>8 Holy Apostle John the Theologian</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>10 Samaritan Woman</p> <p>8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Church School Happy Mothers' Day MBAS Meeting</p>	<p>11 SS Cyril & Methodius Apostles to the Slavs</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00pm Council Mtg Meeting</p>	<p>Mother's Day Coffee Hour Hosted by Teen/Young Adults</p>		<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>17 Blind Man</p> <p>8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>Church School</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Leavetaking Pascha Forefeast Ascension</p> <p>6:00 pm Vespers</p>	<p>21 FEAST OF ASCENSION</p> <p>9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>24 Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council</p> <p>8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>25 3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Leavetaking Ascension</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>31 PENTECOST</p> <p>8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p><i>Kneeling Prayers</i></p>	<p>1 Holy Spirit</p>	<p>2 3rd Day Holy Trinity</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Leavetaking Pentecost</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p> All Saints Camp 2015! Sunday, May 31st- Friday, June 5th Prescott, AZ</p>						