

# SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 2

February 2015

## January Council Highlights

- ✘ December's Operating Income was \$16,854.85 and Operating Expenses were \$10,328.22, resulting in a positive balance of \$6,526.63 for the month of December, and YTD Net Operating Income of \$48.87 for 2014.
- ✘ David Bieber presented results of Parish Survey to council.
- ✘ Proposed 2015 budget discussed



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)

**The Right Reverend DANIEL**  
 Bishop of Santa Rosa  
 Rector

480.287.0240 Mobile  
 frdaniel@sspeterpaulaz.org

**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

Marty Gala  
 Myrrhbearers Altar Society  
 602.803.0280

# Do Not Rely On Your Own Insight

The title words are from Proverbs 3: 5b, which is read on February 26.

That verse begins: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart," and the following verses continue: "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones."

On this same day, the readings from Genesis that began on the first day of Great Lent continue, as they will until Palm Sunday. This day's verses include some of the most beautiful and fundamental in Genesis, telling us how Adam and Eve were created to be together.

Genesis 2: 17 gives the story of God forming Adam from the dust of the ground and "breathing into his nostrils the breath of life" and then planting the Garden of Eden with every tree that is "pleasant to the sight and good for food." The garden is watered by four rivers.

God puts Adam in the garden to till and keep it, and gives him the commandment to enjoy everything except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Almost as soon as He has done this, God declares that "it is not good that the man should be alone."

God presents all the beasts of the field and birds of the air to Adam, who has the privilege of naming them. But among all of these there isn't found "a helper fit for him." So finally God takes Adam's own ribs while he sleeps, and fashions Eve. Adam pronounces her to be that fit helper, "bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh."

All this beauty and true companionship, so perfectly planned by God, still depends on the free will that God has also given to His creatures. In the very next day's reading, Adam and Eve will, as we know, undo all the good things God planned for them. How we wish they could have heeded

those words from Proverbs: "Do not rely on your own insight; be not wise in your own eyes," and "Trust in the Lord with all your heart."

In the Greek Orthodox Church's calendar on this day, another woman who needed to trust the Lord is commemorated. She is Photini, the Samaritan Woman who meets Christ at Jacob's Well. She has many questions, but she also has patience and she doesn't rush ahead to act on her "own insight." Once she understands that Christ is the promised Messiah, she humbly becomes one of His servants as an evangelist, and does great work in spreading the Gospel.

What about Adam and Eve? We know that the icon of the Resurrection will greet us at the Lenten journey's end. There on the icon they will be, the first two people, no longer outcasts from Paradise. Christ is stretching out His hand to take them to the Kingdom.



# ADDRESS OF THE RIGHT REVEREND ARCHIMANDRITE DANIEL BISHOP-ELECT OF SANTA ROSA ON THE EVE OF HIS EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces; Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers; Honorable Deacons in Christ; Venerable Monastics; Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

lent way in which these gifts are exercised and realized.

*And now, this call to serve Christ and to build up His Church is given to me in a*

merciful love will continue to work within me and through me as I take up the yoke that is now being laid upon me.

Throughout the history of salvation, the Lord has called His people to draw near to Him, to hear His voice, to speak His word, and to serve His



*new and remarkable way as I am asked to receive episcopal ordination and to serve Christ's Holy Church as a bishop. In responding to this call, voiced by the Holy Synod of Bishops, I*

In the Orthodox Church, we understand the importance that the office and role of bishop has in the Church's life and mission. The Bishop is Shepherd, Teacher, Priest, Successor of the Apostles, Overseer, Pastor, Father, Celebrant, Steward, Administrator, Unifier, and Holy Servant. These are but some of the roles ascribed to him in the exercise of the archpastoral ministry. And among the external marks and symbols that express these roles is that a bishop is vested in liturgical vestments distinctive of Bishops, I

people. That constant call, proclaimed in the Scriptures and echoing through the centuries, continues in our own day and has been given to each one of us in Holy Baptism. Each one of us is called to serve the Lord and to build up the Church, each using our own talents and abilities and gifts in their uniqueness and in their variety. As the Holy Apostle Paul reminds us in the twelfth chapter of his First Epistle to the Corinthians, we have been given a diversity of gifts for this building up of the Church. "And God has appointed these in the church: first

*have just repeated the words spoken by so many before me: "Inasmuch as the Holy Synod of the Holy Autocephalous Orthodox Church in America has found me worthy of the office and dignity of a bishop, I respond with a grateful heart. I humbly accept and I say nothing to the contrary."*



omophorion, the wide band of fabric that is placed

apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, and varieties of tongues" (1 Corinthians 12:28).



The Holy Apostle then urges us to desire the best gifts and reminds us that love is the most excel-

many mercies he has shown me throughout my life and I pray that His

I accept with fear and with a deep sense of my unworthiness at having been called to serve Christ's Holy Church in the Order of Bishops. And I express my gratitude to Almighty God for the

upon the bishop's shoulders. It is often made of very fine fabrics and beautifully decorated and sewn. We should remember, however, that the omophorion that is placed upon the bishop's shoulders was originally and traditionally made of simple wool, and is meant to signify that the bishop takes upon his shoulders the sheep entrusted to his care; he takes the sheep upon his shoulders, in imitation of that Good Shepherd "who lays down his life for his sheep" (John 10:11), the Good Shepherd "who knows his sheep and whose sheep

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ADDRESS OF THE RIGHT REVEREND ARCHIMANDRITE...

(Continued from page 2)

know him" (John 10:14). By symbolizing that sheep that is gathered up and carried on the Good Shepherd's shoulders, the omophorion recalls that the bishop is called to embody the image of Christ Who is the "Shepherd and Bishop of our souls" (1 Peter 2:25).



I fully realize that as a bishop I am also being called to reflect the image of Christ the Servant, the one who came "not to be served but to serve" (Matthew 20:28). And we find this image of Christ as Servant most eloquently expressed when the Lord, gathered with His Holy Apostles and Disciples in that Upper Room on the night before He died, washed their feet.

There in the Upper Room, facing His Passion and Death, the Lord Jesus Christ, in a last example of loving service, in a last gesture of teaching, as a last testimony, knelt on the floor—He got down on his hands and knees—and humbled Himself before His followers, He who was Lord and Master, He Who had healed the sick and raised the dead and proclaimed the message of God's saving love in word and



in deed, lowered Himself to the floor

and went from apostle to apostle and washed their feet. Something that not even the lowliest of slaves wanted to do. The Master of All became the Servant of all.

and Holy Thursday...

"The Master shows to His disciples an example of humility; **He who wraps the heavens in the clouds** girds Himself with a towel; and **He in whose hands is the life of all things** kneels down to wash the feet of His servants" (Holy Thursday Matins, Fifth Ode of the Canon). The Lord and Master of All, the Savior and Redeemer condescends to perform this self-effacing

with humility, who puts himself in the

place of the last and the least.

Undergirding, upholding and defining every other role of the bishop, is that of servant, the servant who readily responds to the call and commandment of Christ given on that night in that Upper Room: "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to

you" (John 13:14-15). I hear these words clearly today and accept them as of Great

spoken to me very directly and very personally—as the Lord has done, so I am also to do.



Although I am limited and unworthy, it is my hope, my aspiration, and my prayer that my call to the Office of Bishop and my living out of this call will be based and modeled upon the example of humble service of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Shep-

herd Who lays down His life for His sheep; the Servant Who serves humbly and Who commands us to do the same.

I wish to thank His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON and the Holy Synod of Bishops for calling me, in the name of the Church, to take up the yoke of Christ as a bishop. And I want to express my special and heartfelt gratitude to His Eminence, Archbishop BENJAMIN, for his trust, confidence, and sup-

Continued on page 4

# ADDRESS OF THE RIGHT REVEREND ARCHIMANDRITE ...

(Continued from page 3)

port in calling me to serve as his Auxiliary Bishop in this God-protected Diocese. And what a blessing it is to be called to episcopal ordination in this City which once was the Episcopal See of Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and the Enlightener of North America, the Confessor,

and which witnessed the arch-pastoral labors and is the resting place of the Relics of Saint John of Shanghai

and San Francisco—both archpastors who were Shepherds and Servants in the very image of Christ.

I also wish to express my gratitude to so many, too numerous to name, and to remember with love the people who have accompanied me through life, who have taught me to know, love, and serve the Lord and his Church through their own examples of generous and committed service: Family; Friends; Spiritual

Fathers; and Co-workers in the Lord's Vineyard. Those here and those who have departed this life in the hope of the Resurrection.

I ask the Mother of God, the most-pure, ever-blessed, Virgin Mary to accept me

under her protecting veil ... and I also ask the prayers of our venerable father Herman of Alaska; of St Tikhon, St Innocent, St Raphael of Brooklyn, St Nikolai of



prayers continue to bless the Church in this Land.

Lastly, I presume to ask each one of you here today for your prayers and your support. As I respond to the call that has been given me and committed myself to serve



mission of the Church. Each one of us is called to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation in our own unique way.



Zhica, St John of Shanghai and San Francisco, who served as Shepherds of the Flock of Christ on this continent ...and of all the Saints who have shone forth in North America. May their example continue to guide and their



Christ's Holy Orthodox Church as a bishop, I am deeply aware that each and every one of us participates uniquely in the one work and common



But no one—bishop, priest, deacon, monastic, or lay faithful—serves in isolation or on their own. Each one of us relies upon the support of those around us—I rely upon you and will

rely upon you for your support and the inspiration your lives give me. Let us, therefore, “encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Gathered here in this revered, all-venerable Cathedral, encouraged by your faith, surrounded by your love and supported by your prayers, I trust that the Lord will accept my willingness to

serve—that the Grace Divine which always heals that which is infirm will, indeed, supply

what is lacking. And that the Lord will grant me, unworthy though I am, to be a Servant in His own image and likeness and to be a Shepherd according to his heart (Jeremiah 3:15). Amen.

# Bishop DANIEL's Episcopal Consecration



# SS Peter and Paul Celebrates



## Around SS Peter & Paul

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

- February 5 Mark and Sanna Littell
- 9 Katrina Delsante
- Maya Stchur
- 11 Joe Delsante
- Anatoly Bezkorovainy
- 14 Jane Evans
- 20 Sterling Sourk

#### Congratulations

to Nicholas and Solamaya (Nick and Sallie) Stchur as they celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of their Marriage.  
Many Years!

### CHEESEFARE LUNCHEON

The Cheesefare Sunday luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 22, 2015.

Please see Pat Starkey to make your reservations.



### 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:

- Cassandra Wenz Wagner
- Protoeacn Alexis
- Rose Koval
- Rose Kurowski
- Ann Garza

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

# Bits and Pieces

## THANK YOU!

I cannot begin to thank everyone in our parish family for the wonderful support you have given me throughout the past few months since my election as Bishop of

Santa Rosa, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of the West, and especially in the weeks and days leading up to my Episcopal Consecration. Your kind words, deeds,

and encouragement, thoughtful gifts, and, above all, your prayers, are all deeply appreciated. Many thanks to those who were able to travel to San Francisco and Santa Rosa for the Consecration and many thanks, as well, to all of you who were present with me in thought and in prayer during those momentous and memorable days. Thank you, also, to everyone who participated in my first Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in our own Saints Peter and Paul Church. It was, I believe, a memorable celebration for all of us. Although, for fear of leaving someone out, I will not mention the names of those who worked hard and prepared for the special Liturgy—all of you know who you are and I know who you are—I wish to offer special thanks to Teddi

Brent and Antonia Adams-Clement for organizing the luncheon that was held last weekend. Thanks as well for the beautiful icon of Saint Daniel of Moscow, my heavenly patron. I will remember each one of you every time I pray before it. As we look ahead to the beginning of Great Lent, I ask your forgiveness for any way in which I have failed you as your pastor. I also ask for the blessing of your continued prayers as I serve you—and the Church—as a Bishop. With love in Christ,  
Bishop Daniel



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and Many Years! To Nicholas and Solamaya (Nick and Sallie) Stchur as they celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of their Marriage. May the Lord continue to bless them and crown them with glory and honor!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and many years to Harold Homyak. Archbishop BENJAMIN presented

Harold with a gramota/certificate of appreciation for his many years of service to SS Peter and Paul.

## MEMORIAL SATURDAYS

Upcoming pre-Lenten and Lenten Memorial Saturdays are February 14, March 7, March 14, and March 21. If you need to update your memorial prayer list or submit a new one, please see Bishop DANIEL. All persons whose names are provided are prayed for at the Memorial Services on these Saturdays. It is a

thoughtful and prayerful way to remember your loved ones who have fallen asleep. The Memorial Services/Panihidias will be held on each of these Saturdays, before Vespers at 4:30 p.m.

## LENTEN MEAL AFTER PRESANCTIFIED

Starting Wednesday, February 25th, a Lenten meal will take place (soups, fruit, and bread) following Pre-sanctified Liturgy. There will be a sign up sheet for those Wednesdays. Please see



Barbara Peterson to sign up.

## FIRST WEEK OF LENT

The Great Fast begins on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Forgiveness Vespers will be celebrated on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, after the Cheesefare Luncheon. The Canon of St Andrew will be sung on Monday and Tuesday of that week, at 6:00 p.m. The first Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts of this Lenten Season will be on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. and every Wednesday of Lent. The Pre-sanctified Liturgy will be followed by a Lenten meal and a small presentation, or

Question & Answer session.

## 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


Great Lent is upon us! Nourish your soul with a book! Whether from our bookstore or the parish library, there is no excuse for neglecting this vital component of the fast. Only good things can come from spiritual reading...I promise!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PROCESSION OF ICONS

Youth will participate in the annual procession of icons on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 1, 2015. Icons will be provided for all youth to carry in the procession around the church. The children are also welcome to bring their own favorite icon from home to carry in the procession.



# February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Publican and Pharisee 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>12:00 Luncheon at The Gladly</b>	<b>2</b> Meeting of the Lord in the Temple 9:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>3</b> St. Simeon	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Icons Search of the Lost Rescue of the Drowning	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:00pm Vespers
<b>FAST-FREE WEEK</b>						
<b>8</b> Prodigal Son 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Areovindus Icon	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Iveron Icon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Memorial Saturday 4:30pm Panikhida 5:00pm Vespers
We welcome all of our guests and visitors. Please join us in the Cultural Center for Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy each Sunday.						
<b>15</b> Sunday of Last Judgment Meatfare Sunday 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School MBAS Meeting Election of Officers</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Tikhvin Icon at Mt. Athos	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00pm Vespers
 <b>Cheesefare Sunday Luncheon</b> Sunday, February 22, 2015 Sponsored by the Myrrhbearers						
<b>MEAT FAST</b>						
<b>22</b> Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare Sunday 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School</b> Cheesefare Luncheon Forgiveness Vespers <i>Immediately following luncheon.</i>	<b>23</b> <b>Beginning Great Fast</b> 6:00pm Great Canon of St Andrew	<b>24</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Finding Honorable Head of St. John the Baptist 6:00pm Great Canon of St Andrew	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts Lenten Meal & Reflection	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn	<b>28</b> 5:00pm Vespers
<b>Myrrh Bearers Altar Society</b> Please join us at our next meeting, February 15, 2015 following Fellowship Hour. All are welcome!						
<b>1</b> Sunday of Orthodoxy 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Procession of Icons for Youth</b> Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers Location TBA	<b>Join us for a light lenten meal and discussion following Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Please contact Barbara Peterson to sign-up to bring soup, fruit, or bread.</b>					<b>7</b> Memorial Saturday 4:30pm Panikhida 5:00pm Vespers
			6:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts Lenten Meal & Reflection			