

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 16 Issue 5

May 2016

April Council Highlights

- ✘ March's Operating Income was \$15,285.70 and Operating Expenses were \$9,977.36 resulting in a positive balance of \$6,308.34 for March.
- ✘ T/YAL to host Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 8th.
- ✘ WiFi for Cultural Center discussed bids from Cox and Century Link to be presented in May
- ✘ Overflow parking is available across the street at Bamboo Bakery.



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Who is Junia?

Today we remember two women who followed Jesus Christ. The first is the Samaritan Woman who met Christ while drawing water at Jacob's Well. She was surprised by His love and concern for her, since she was a Samaritan, with whom the Jews "had no dealings." She was further surprised by His knowledge of her crowded personal life.



But unlike some others, she was neither offended nor frightened by the depth of His insight, and so eventually she became His follower and strong witness. She is traditionally known by the name Photini. With her sons and sisters, she was arrested by the Emperor Nero and later suffered martyrdom, but not before she brought the cruel emperor's own daughter to the faith.

A few years ago, Newsweek Magazine, as well as other more academic publications, trumpeted the news of a "remarkable discovery" concerning another of Christ's female followers. The discovery was made by a feminist professor of Christian Stud-

ies at Brandeis University. By reading older versions of the Bible, this professor had found out that the person mentioned by Saint Paul in Romans 16:7 is a woman named Junia, not a man named Junius. According to the Newsweek article, her name had been "masculinized" over the centuries by Biblical translators "with their own agenda"—presumably a misogynistic agenda.

But Saint John Chrysostom, in the fourth century, wrote this about Junia: "Oh, how great is the devotion of this woman, that she should be counted worthy even to be called an apostle." The so-called discovery of Junia's identity as a female really reflects only incomplete knowledge and superficial research on the part of some modern scholars, not a brave uncovering of deliberately-hidden truth.

Saint Paul writes about Junia with obvious admiration, calling her and her husband his "countrymen and fellow prisoners" and saying that they are "of note among the apos-

ties." He also writes that they were both Christians before he was. One modern scholar who is reliable and respected, Ben Witherington, has speculated that Junia is the same person as Joanna, one of the Myrrh-Bearing Women. He believes it is possible that she broke with her first husband Chuza (King Herod's steward) and later married Andronicus. Then together they worked with Paul to spread the Gospel and teach.

But whether Junia is Joanna or a different person really makes little difference. She is honored on this day as someone who, like the Samaritan Woman, believed in Jesus Christ deeply enough to be imprisoned for her faith. She is recognized as His apostle.

The Orthodox Church has never hidden or attempted to alter facts about Junia. As we have noted, Saint John Chrysostom singles her out for praise. And the reason she comes to our attention in the first place is that Saint Paul does the same. He appreciated any person—woman or man—who shared his dedication and readiness to suffer for Christ. Junia is a shining example of just such a person.

Message From Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Christ is risen!

As in the early morning hours of Holy Pascha, I greet you with the joyful announcement of Christ's Resurrection, wishing you the continued joy of the Feast of Feasts.

Memories of our parish observance of Holy Week and Pascha are still fresh in our minds as we walk with the Risen Lord during these 40 full



days of celebration. Having completed our 40 days of fasting, we now rejoice in our 40 days of feasting.

I am grateful to each and every one of our parishioners who made our Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha to be spiritually uplifting and fulfilling... and so very beautiful and inspiring. So many people were involved in so very many aspects of those days that it would be difficult (and risky) to attempt to prepare a list of names of those who should be thanked. There were so many areas of dedicated involvement and service—cleaning, decorating, singing, praying, reading, directing, traveling to and from church, serving in the Altar, baking and cooking, dyeing eggs, ironing and changing covers and servers robes, setting up and taking down and setting up again... and so many additional things taking place “behind the scenes” in order for everything to be prepared as a fitting offering to the Lord. All of this time, energy, and resources were all for one purpose: to give glory to the Lord Jesus Christ in celebration of His victory over darkness, sin, and death itself. All was done to give glory to the Triune God.

Now that Great Lent and Holy Week have passed and we are fully into the

Paschal Season and heading toward the 50th day celebration of Pentecost, the challenge before us is to preserve the brightness, joy, and excitement of the Feast of Feasts! We do not want to allow our paschal greeting, “Christ is risen!” to be a mere habit or something that is simply routine, even though

we've all returned to our normal schedules, everyday duties, and maybe even the monotony of our daily lives. No, we want to make our daily lives, in and out of season, to be true reflections of the joy of Pascha Night itself. (We re-

member that Saint Seraphim of Sarov greeted the people who came to him with the paschal greeting, no matter the time of the year). All we do, whether during Pascha or throughout the rest of the year, is to be done for one and the same purpose: to proclaim Christ's victory over sin and death in the glory of His Resurrection- to proclaim the Good News that is the Gospel. And to give glory to God.

Let us, each and every one of us, do our part in keeping the joy of Pascha alive and vibrant in our parish, in our homes and families, with our friends and acquaintances, and in our daily lives—throughout the 40 days and throughout the entire year. I wish to express my gratitude to God for all of you, (priests, clergy, and faithful alike) for your participation in the life of our parish, and for your many personal kindnesses to me—and, most importantly, for how your lives and faith inspire me to walk ever more closely with Christ, our Crucified and Risen Savior.

Indeed He is risen!

With love in the Risen Lord,

+Bishop Daniel

EASTER EGG HUNT



Images of Our Journey to Pascha

Lazarus Saturday



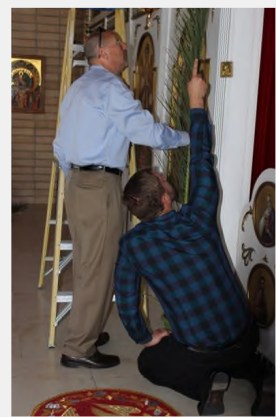
Holy Thursday



Holy Friday



Bridegroom Matins



Palm Sunday



Images of Our Journey to Pascha

Holy Saturday



Pascha



Mother's Day



Bits . . .



ALL SAINTS CAMP



Sunday May 29th- Friday, June 3rd
For campers entering 4th grade through
Senior in High School.

<http://www.allsaintscamparizona.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 online by May 27, 2016:

app.campdoc.com/register/allsaints

Supported by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches

MOTHER'S DAY

Mothers certainly celebrated in style at SS Peter and Paul on Mother's Day. First, they were greeted by Jane Evans and Rita Mudrenko with a corsage, compliments of the Myrrh Bearers Altar Society. After liturgy, they Sunday School youth presented them with a gift of either a lavender sugar scrub or brown sugar scrub. The children made and decorated the jars for all the women who have influenced their lives in a positive and supportive manner.

Last, but certainly not least, the teens and young adults hosted a brunch for Mother's Day. Mother's were feted with an assortment of egg bake casseroles, fresh fruit, and baked goods. Proceeds from the brunch (\$125) went to the OCMC Walk for Missions to support Project Mexico. Everyone certainly outdid themselves this year! I wonder what's in store for next year?

The Good News and Bad News About Longsuffering

On May 6 the Church remembers Righteous Job the Longsuffering. Scripture tells a lot about that quality of "longsuffering" which is often ascribed to God in Church prayers, and sometimes refers to Job and other human beings.

A modern definition of longsuffering might be "putting up with a lot for an extended length of time." That is what God the Father does, according to the Old Testament. We read in Joel 2:12-13 an urgent plea to the wayward people of Israel to "return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." God asks His people to "rend your hearts and not your garments."

The Book of Nehemiah speaks about God's patience, His warnings, His punishment when His people absolutely refuse to listen, and His unchanging love: "Many years Thou didst bear with them, and didst warn them by Thy Spirit through Thy prophets; yet they would not give ear. Therefore Thou didst give them into the

hands of the peoples of the lands. Nevertheless in Thy great mercies Thou didst not forsake them; for Thou art a gracious and merciful God" (9:30-31).

II Chronicles 33 offers a story of God dealing in a similar way with one specific person, the proud and evil-doing Manasseh. When the Israelites under Manasseh's rule "pay no heed," God allows the Assyrian army to take him with hooks and bind him with fetters, bringing him in disgrace to Babylon. Yet when he repents and entreats God, he is allowed to return to Jerusalem as a humbled and better ruler.

In the New Testament it is clear that Christ's patience caused Him suffering. He asks, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?" (Mark 9:19). Another time He says, "O, Jerusalem...How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not" (Matthew 23: 37). Yet He continues in "perfect patience" as Paul calls it in I Timothy 1:16.

The New Testament gives us several reasons why we ourselves should be longsuffering. One is simply that it is the only way to share in Christ's life as fully as we can. The bad news is that without patience and suffering we can't really become like Christ.

The good news is that our longsuffering can be the means for others to be saved, including those we love. Paul says he endures everything "for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10).

The good news of longsuffering is also for us personally. In I Peter 5:8-10 we are encouraged to resist the devil who prowls like a roaring lion. Then, "after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, establish, and strengthen you."

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

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:

Bishop Daniel
Protodeacon Alexis
Ann Garza
Rose Kurowski
Alan Burns
Tillie (Tatiana) Kulek
Larry Gardner
Ted Demos

Ann Carroll
Vickie Mendez
Anna Michkofsky

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

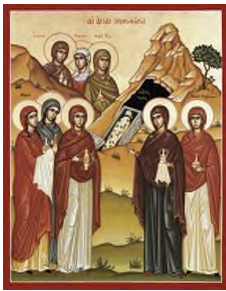
MEMORY ETERNAL

Rose Koval

Mnogaya Leta! Many Years!

... and Pieces

HAPPY FEASTDAY



Happy Feastday to the officers and members of the Myrrhbearers Altar Society who celebrate their annual feastday on the Third Sunday of Pascha (Myrrhbearers Sunday). May the Lord continue to bless them for the wonderful work they do in support of our liturgical life.

ARIZONA WALK FOR MISSIONS

Thank you to the members of our parish community who planned, participated in, and supported the Annual Arizona Walk for Missions, Saturday, May 14, 2016. Most of the local Orthodox parishes participate in this event, the proceeds of which are donated to OCMC and Project Mexico.



MEMORY ETERNAL

ROSE KOVAL, longtime member of Saints Peter and Paul Church and former president of the Myrrhbearers Altar Society, fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, April 16, 2016.

May the Lord grant rest with the saints to His newly-departed servant, Rose, and make her memory to be eternal!

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!

MYRRH BEARERS ALTAR SOCIETY

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

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.

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.

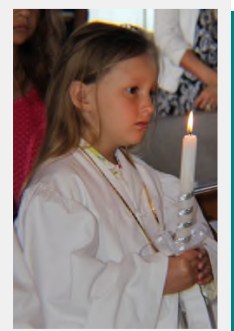
PASCHA LUNCHEON

Christ is Risen! Indeed He has Risen!

Our annual Pascha luncheon was a huge success! Well over 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. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS

We had the joy of welcoming into the Church Bill & Susan Weiss, Lauren, Hailee, and Sophie on Lazarus Saturday. Congratulations and many years to the newly-baptized servants of God!



May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 PASCHA 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	FAST-FREE WEEK					7 Bright Saturday St. Alexis Toth Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in North America 5:00pm Vespers
8 St. Thomas Sunday Holy Apostle John the Theologian 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School Happy Mothers' Day	9	10 6:00pm Council Mtg Meeting	11 SS Cyril & Methodius Apostles to the Slavs	12	13	14 7:30 AM—9:00 AM Kiwanis Park, Tempe MISSIONS WALK 5:00pm Vespers
15 Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School MBAS Meeting	We welcome all of our guests and visitors. Please join us in the Cultural Center for Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy each Sunday.					21 Sts. Constantine and Helen St. Mary's Foodbank 12-3:00 pm 5:00pm Vespers
22 Paralytic 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	23	24	25 3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist	26	27	28 5:00pm Vespers
29 Samaritan Woman 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	30 MEMORIAL DAY	31	1	2	3	4 5:00pm Vespers
			TAYALEvent St. Mary's Foodbank May 21 from 12-3:00 pm			