SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 4 April 2017

March Council Highlights

- ▼ February's Operating Income was \$12,747.70 and Operating Expenses were \$12,162,24 resulting in a positive balance of \$585.46 for February. We have a Y-T-D net operating income of \$5,536.02.
- T/YAL reached their fundraising goal of \$1,500 for the trip to Project Mexico.
- ♣ "Spring cleaning" tentatively scheduled for May 13, 2017. See Nick Bock for further information.



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Christ is Risen!

countless churches and in many languages, Orthodox Christians proclaim the Paschal greeting and its confident response, "Indeed He is Risen!" This day also marks the beginning of the period during which we will sing joyous words to the Mother of God: "The angel cried to the Lady full of grace,

Rejoice, O Pure Virgin! Again I say, rejoice. Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead. Rejoice, rejoice all ye people!"

These words the hymn establish the communion between Christ, His

mother the Theotokos, and us His people. They remind us that Mary rejoices in a special way—as a loving mother. After the anguish of seeing her Son suffer and die, He has risen in triumph over death. We, His people, rejoice because as He rose He raised us all from the final power of death. Of course, Mary too is one of "the people" because like the rest of us she stands in need of salva-

only Birthgiver of God.

In the centuries following the Resurrection, the Orthodox Church would acknowledge this When Leo later became Emperthe Life-Giving Spring.

> In a grove of cypress trees near Constantinople was a garden dedicated to Mother of God. The garden contained a miraclearea

fifth century, a soldier named once again, and that is why we

Leo came upon an exhausted blind man who had lost his way. Wanting Leo around for water but could find none. He heard a voice

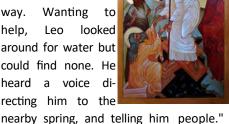
not only to give the man water CHRISTIAN

Across the world today, in tion. But she is also the one and but to apply some of the spring's mud to the man's eyes. Leo did so, and the man regained his

> communion between Christ, His or, he remembered the loving mother, and us in many ways. voice of the Theotokos and the One example comes on Friday miracle of healing. He had the of this Bright Week, when we spring and its surroundings will commemorate the Icon of cleaned, and built a chapel there. Over the following centuries, the chapel would be destroyed more than once (its bricks one time being used to build a mosque), and the spring would be filled in with earth. But each time, local Christians repaired the site, and continued to draw water.

> working spring. As The icon shows the Mother of years went by, the God standing with her Son in a became large chalice, from whose sides overgrown and the spring wa- healing water pours. She is with ter got muddy. One day, in the her beloved Son, now risen,

> > sing to her, "Rejoice, O Pure Virgin." The Son and the Mother of God together bless us with healing and grace. And that is why we sing to each other and to the whole world, "Rejoice, all ye



Message From Our Rector

Beloved in Christ,

With next Saturday's commemoration tomb. of the Raising of Lazarus (April 8),

we will enter into our annual observance of the week we

refer to as "Great and Holy." The beautiful and solemn services of Holy Week offer us the opportunity to accompany the Lord in His last days, the saving days of His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The Divine Services of Holy Week offer a

unique vantage point that allows us to not only observe, but to fully ention in the services of Holy Week. The +Bishop Daniel ter into the experience of the Lord's schedule of our parish Holy Week and salvific death and life-giving resurrec- Pascha Services is included in this

cross to

that the tomb is empty and and life-changing

that Christ is risen.

found outside the Ortho- unto us.

dox Church. And there is like one that has been pre-voluntary Passion,

pared for beforehand by participation. We walk with the Lord as He en- monthly newsletter and may also

ters Jerusalem in triumph, carries His found on our parish website; feel free Golgotha, and is laid in the to copy it and share it with family and And then, with the Holy friends and others you might wish to Myrrhbearing Women, we discover invite to share in this deeply spiritual experience.

> I look forward to celebrating and pray-Those who have attend- ing the Divine Services of Holy Week ed these services can with you all. May our participation in attest to the power of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the experience—there Our Savior bring all of us to the eternal is no experience like it joy of the Kingdom He has opened

no celebration of Pascha With love in the Lord Who goes to His

ove Overcomes Fear!

we read Acts 4: 13 to 5: 33 in sections. These share. "Great grace" is upon them all, and verses are filled with wonderful evidence of there "is not a needy person among the power of love in the young Church.

the apostles Peter and John, who preach used for the common good. to growing crowds that there is "salvation" But the Book of Acts is not a naive descripin no one else" except Jesus Christ. When tion of idealized human behavior. So the the chief priests and elders warn them to very next verses tell us of a married couple, stop, their response shows that they are Ananias and Sapphira, who succumb to not the same fearful men who hid away temptation and betray this communal trust when Christ was crucified. They are com- and love. They sell their property and bring pelled, they answer, to share the truth what they claim is the total of the proceeds, they have seen and heard.

hostile enemies trying to instill fear in their property, she too dies immediately. to overcome it with love.

During the week of Thomas Sunday, April 19th, sults of the love God has enabled them to them." Everyone gives their property or The first verses describe the "boldness" of money, laying it at the apostles' feet to be

while actually keeping back some.

The two apostles return to their friends, Peter says solemn words to Ananias: "You and everyone prays together that God will have not lied to men but to God." He is look upon the threats made against them, not pronouncing judgment, but seems to and "grant to Thy servants to speak Thy be saying that in the atmosphere of love, word with all boldness." The place where deceit cannot survive. Ananias falls dead they are gathered is "shaken" and they are on the spot. When his wife Sapphira confilled with the Holy Spirit. There will be tinues to lie to Peter about the price of them, but the Spirit will strengthen them Following both deaths, we read that always overcome fear. "great fear" fell upon those who heard The next verses describe the practical re- about them, and indeed upon the whole

church. But even this fear is overcome by God's love, the love uniting His people. The next verses tell us that "more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women..."

On April 22nd the Church commemorates the Holy Martyr Leonidas, the father of the prominent theologian Origen. Leonidas, a brilliant Christian philosopher, was imprisoned during one of the thirdcentury persecutions of Christians. His wife and seven children, of whom Origen was the oldest, were terrified, especially when all their possessions were confiscated by imperial decree, leaving them in abject poverty.

Yet Leonidas had nurtured in his eldest son a deep love for God. Origen wrote to his father in prison: "Do not worry about us, and do not flee from martyrdom on our account." He was one more person who knew that love centered in God can

Preparing a Pascha Basket



First you start with a straw basket (it doesn't have to be elaborate) and then you fill it with traditional food and cover it with a white embroidered cloth. It is also customary to have a blessed candle in it to be lighted at the Blessing. Then bring the basket to church to be blessed.

PASCHA. The large round loaf of bread, made of white flour, eggs, milk and raisins, symbolizes our Lord Himself, who is the Living Bread, He has come down from heaven to give eternal life in the Eucharist. Just as bread is the "staff of life," Christ is our spiritual nourishment for eternal life.





COLORED HARD BOILED EGGS were always considered a symbol of The Resurrection, the emergence of new life. At Pascha our Savior came forth from the tomb just as the chick emerges after breaking the shell at birth. The eggs are colored because of a tradition that says that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, wanted to take something to Pilate so that he would not let Jesus be crucified. All that she had were some eggs and her gift did no good. When Mary saw that Jesus was condemned, she began to weep and her tears dyed the eggs into many colors. After our Lord's Resurrection these eggs were a sign of joy, reminding Mary that her son lives forever.

BUTTER shaped into the form of a lamb (or just a stick of butter) represents the Lamb of God who was offered on the altar of the Cross for the life of the world.



MEAT (Ham, Sausage, Veal or Lamb): Small portions of any or all of these meats are put in the basket. The meat products symbolize the sacrificial animals of the Old Testament, foreshadowing the true sacrifice of our Savior. He became for us "A Lamb of God" and took away the sins of the world. As we learn from the prayer of blessing, the meat products also symbolize the fatted calf that was preprepared for the Prodigal Son (representing fallen mankind) on his return to his Heavenly Father. Thus, at Pascha, we celebrate our return to God and our joyous participation in the blessings of our Savior, who promised to be our "true food."

EGG, CHEESE, SIRETZ HRUTKA is a special cheese made from eggs and milk and is usually only made at Pascha time. This cheese, and all the dairy products, remind us of the peace and prosperity of the Messianic age which had been foretold by the Prophets. Metaphorically, the milk and honey in the Bible signify wealth, especially the spiritual wealth of God's kingdom. Therefore, as he blesses the dairy products the Priest prays: "as we partake, may we be filled with your generous gifts and unspeakable goodness."





SALT symbolizes the Truth of the message of Jesus Christ. Just as salt preserves food, so the Teachings of Christ preserve our eternal life.

HORSERADISH: A reminder of the bitter drink given Our Lord on the Cross. Take a can of whole red beets, grate finely and add 1/2 bottle of commercial horseradish. Add sugar to taste (about 2 tablespoons) and a tablespoon of lemon juice. Refrigerate.





CHOCOLATE EGGS AND CANDY: Children also share in the joy of Resurrection. The Church takes ordinary food and blesses it as an aid in making us holy. God's blessings change us from children of natural descent into sons and daughters of the Kingdom of God.

Ten Things as We Begin Holy Week

Father Theophan Whitfield

On the weekend of Palm Sunday, we begin the celebration of Holy Week—a 10-day long procession to the Cross, to the tomb, and to the Resurrection. And as we get ready, our Lord extends the same invitation to us as He extended to James and John. To all of us who wish to see His glory, who desire to be by His side at Pascha, Jesus first says to you and to me, "but are you able and willing to drink the cup that I drink from? Are you able to walk with me through Holy Week? Are you willing to be by my side, and to carry my Cross with me?"

I hope your answer is yes. I hope that Pascha is not just a Sunday on which we show up, having given no thought to Christ on the days of Holy Week.

To help us prepare—to help us take up and drink from the Lord's same cup — I wanted to share a list of 10 things to do during Holy Week. These are 10 recommendations for how to be baptized with the same baptism with which our Lord is baptized.

(1) Go to as many services as you can. Most parishes offer a large number—usually at least two each day. And if you can't go to every service, set aside time to read prayerfully through those you cannot attend. It is through worship that we return and unite ourselves to Christ. The services of Holy Week are not just memory exercises. Holy Week is a single, unbroken Liturgy that over 10 days invites us to participate in the saving love of Jesus Christ, not just to remember some events from long ago. The love which Jesus shows is real, it is now, and we are invited through worship to receive it.

Does it seem unreasonable to attend Church so much in a single week? Of course it does! But Christ's love for us is extreme and intense. And so we return that love during Holy Week in a way that is beyond reason!

(2) Intensify your fasting. Each person is called to fast as he or she is able. Some are able to fast more, some less. During Holy Week, each of us should increase the intensity of the fast. Think about how you have followed the fast up to this point. During Holy Week, continue what you

do, and then do a little bit more. Do you fast just a few days a week? Increase the number of your fasting days. Are you fasting from meat only? Consider fasting from dairy as well. Consider eating smaller meals each time. For some, it may be possible to eat only two small meals a day rather than three. Holy Week is a time in which we should increase our hunger for Christ, and physical hunger is one way to do so. Physical hunger reminds us that we need what God offers, and fasting helps us to focus on the love of Christ. Fasting is hard, but remember the good gift which waits for us at the Paschal Liturgy of the Resurrection—the good gift of Christ Himself!

(3) Create silence. Disconnect entirely from your cell phone, e-mail, internet usage and especially social media. (If any of this is needed for work or school, designate a window of usage of no more than a few hours.) Do not watch TV, or listen to the radio. Cancel all lessons, sports, and social activities. It's only for one week. The world will still be there after Pascha. When we create silence in this way, we give ourselves the space and opportunity to be drawn by Christ more deeply into His words and actions during Holy Week. We remove some of the man-made barriers that separate us from "drinking from his cup" (Mark 10:38). And if we do not create silence, then the noise of this world will easily overwhelm the "still small voice" through which the Holy Spirit speaks (1 Kings 19:12). To hear the voice of Christ, we have to silence the relentless cascade of screed and distraction we otherwise allow the world to pump full force into our hearts and minds.

(4) **Create prayer.** Turn on some church music. In particular, listen to the hymns of Holy Week. And learn something about each hymn you hear. On what day do we sing this hymn? During which service? What is the place and purpose of this hymn? The hymns of Holy Week create holy echoes that help to connect our worship with the rest of daily life. Singing "Behold the Bridegroom" at the services which begin Holy Week is good, but hearing and singing the same hymn while driving, walking, or cleaning the house is

even better. Doing so, we allow the prayer of the Church to become the prayer of everyday life.

(5) Be still. Set aside time each day to sit quietly in front of an icon of Christ, about 20-30 minutes. Light a candle, say a short prayer, and then simply wait in silence for the Lord to speak a word, or to bestow a deeper sense of His presence. Being silent is a way of saying to God, "I am here. And I wait on no other than You. Visit me in my smallness." Stillness during Holy Week is a good practice for the experience of Great and Holy Friday and Saturday. The most eloquent word ever spoken is the silence of our dead Savior while hanging on the Cross and while lying in the tomb. His silence says everything. The stillness of His death is the great action that redeems and sanctifies all the world. His silence on the Cross shouts down hell. His stillness in the tomb explodes the realm of the dead and bestows life on all. When we practice stillness and silence during Holy Week, we are preparing to unite our silence to Christ's. We are preparing to die with our Savior...so that we too might be raised to new life!

(6) Always be with Christ. Occupy your mind as often as you can with a short prayer. If you do not already have the habit of praying the Jesus Prayer, Holy Week is a great time to begin: "O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." This prayer increases our awareness of the nearness of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It reminds us that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God. Christ is always with us, and through continual prayer, we work to do the same—to always be with our Lord Who loves and strengthens us.

(7) **Read a Gospel.** Set aside time each day to read several chapters from either Matthew, Mark, or Luke. (We save John for after Pascha!) And remember that in the Gospels, we do not find words about Christ, we find words from Christ. Each verse of Holy Scripture is a word spoken directly to you by the raised and glorified Lord. Each word is a word for now, each word is a new word that you have never received be-

(Continued on page 6)

Holy Week and Pascha: Schedule of Services



Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church Phoenix, Arizona

Holy Week and Pascha 2017 - Schedule of Services

April 8	Lazarus Saturday	Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m. Great Vespers & Blessing of Branches, 5:00 p.m.			
April 9	Sunday of the Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem - Palm Sunday				
		Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m. Bridegroom Matins, 6:00 p.m.			
April 10	Great and Holy Monday	Bridegroom Matins, 6:00 p.m.			
April 11	Great and Holy Tuesday	Bridegroom Matins, 6:00 p.m.			
April 12	Great and Holy Wednesday	Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 9:00 a.m. Matins, 6:00 p.m.			
April 13	Great and Holy Thursday	Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m. Service of the Passion of Christ, 6:00 p.m.			
April 14	Great and Holy Friday	Vespers and Burial Service, 3:00 p.m. Lamentations at the Tomb of Christ, 6:00 p.m.			
April 15	Great and Holy Saturday	Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m. Blessing of Bread, Wine, & Dried Fruit			
April 16	Great and Holy Pascha – The Resurrection of Christ The Feast of Feasts				
		Nocturnes, 11:15 p.m. Paschal Matins and Divine Liturgy of Pascha, 12:00 midnight			
	Paschal Vespers, 12:00 noon, followed by Egg Hunt & Agape Feast/Pot Luck				

Blessing of Paschal Baskets will follow the Paschal Divine Liturgy and Paschal Vespers

Ten Things as We Begin Holy Week

(Continued from page 4)

are, each of us has at least a small handful them if you can. Share yourself with some-tion—having lived out our baptism through of relationships in need of healing. During one who needs you. Our parishes, and our the celebration of Holy Week—we should Holy Week, work for that healing. Admit neighborhoods are filled with people who get ready to proclaim the god news in all your mistakes, and forgive the mistakes are dying of loneliness and isolation. Extend that we do. May we remember that every made by others. Offer yourself in love to at yourself and give them the gift of human Sunday is a "little Pascha" and that each time least one other person from whom you are presence. One of the great themes of Holy we gather to celebrate the Liturgy we proestranged. Make a phone call, send a Week is abandonment—how our Lord was claim Christ's death and we confess His Resletter or e-mail—you have a blessing to abandoned by just about everyone, including urrection. And if every Sunday is a little use e-mail in this one case!—or schedule a it seems by His own Father. As we seek to Pascha, then every week is a little Holy coffee date. Remember how much you unite ourselves to Christ through prayer and Week. Each day of the year is a day on love this person, and remember that we worship during Holy Week, may we not at which we give thanks for the Holy Mysteries were created to live in peace and joy with the same time abandon those who need we last received and look forward to being one another. Christ's love for us is ENOR- us. To be united to Christ, we must at the received by Christ once again at the life-MOUS compare to the pettiness we so same time strengthen our solidarity with all giving chalice. Holy Week and Pascha occur often hold on to. And if you have been those around us. We are part of the mystical once a year, but they are the rule, not the deeply harmed by another person, seek body of Christ, and we are called to a life of exception. Holy Week and Pascha are the spouse, another family member or friend, (10) Think about Bright Week and be- Christ touches all of time through the Cross, your priest—and ask for guidance. Search yond! With Pascha comes the true light that and all of time collapses into the eternal now through prayer, fasting, and honest com- enlightens the whole world and each person of His divine love. May we live all of life in munication for a way forward. As they in it. As we unite ourselves to Christ, the the light of the Resurrection! say, holding onto anger (or hatred, or re- radiance of the Resurrection changes everysentment, or vengefulness) is like swallow- thing. The week after Pascha is truly a Bright Reprinted from the Orthodox Church in ing poison and expecting someone else to Week—the Resurrection colors all with bril- America web site, www.oca.org.

die. that has been healed and restored.

(8) Seek forgiveness and healing. Chances (9)Call someone who is sick or lonely. Visit selves to Christ in both death and resurrec-Reach out to someone—your unity and communion with one another.

Seek release from what possess- liance and beauty. Nothing should ever be fore. Enjoy the gift! Jesus wants to give it to es. Enjoy the lightness of a relationship the same. Let this Holy Week be a launching pad into the rest of life. Having united ourmodels for every week of the year. Jesus

Around SS Peter & Paul

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- April 1 Eugenio Golowatsch
 - Lisa Formica
 - 14 Michelle Golowatsch
 - Elisha Ferbrache 16
 - Antonia Adams-Clement 18 Julian Melendrez
 - Zachary Delsante
 - Matushka Elizabeth Kachur **Lubov Phillips**
 - John Blischak
 - Sarah Gala

Mnogaya Leta! Many Years!





PRAYER LIST

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

> Ann Garza Rose Kurowski

Tillie (Tatiana) Kulek

Ann Carroll

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.

Bits and Pieces

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, share ideas, and enjoy some coffee and fellowship.

PASCHA POTLUCK/ AGAPE MEAL

Every year after the Vespers service on the Sunday of Pascha (12:00 p.m.) members of our parish community come together for a shared agape meal/potluck. By sharing food and fellowship we extend our celebration of Pascha. Pat Starkey coordinates this annual event. Please contact her and let her know what you will bring to share.

PASCHA FLOWERS

Everyone is invited to participate in beautifying our church for the celebration of Holy Week and Pascha by donating towards the purchase of flowers. Please consider making a donation to help cover this shared expense. Remember, the beautification of the Lord's Tomb on Holy Friday and the Church on Holy Pascha is dependent upon your generosity.

BLESSING OF PASCHA BASKETS

The tradition of blessing Pascha Baskets is an old one that continues to be observed (and enjoyed!) here at Saints

Peter and Paul Church. Baskets will be blessed after the Midnight Service as well as after Vespers of Pascha at 12:00 p.m.

MISSION WALK

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 29th 2017 for this year's Arizona Walk For Missions. Join members of SS Peter and Paul in walking around picturesque Kiwanis Park in Tempe to raise funds for the ministries on Project Mexico/Saint Innocent Orphanage and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center.

MBAS

The MBAS would like to thank everyone who participated in making the Pacha bread. Please pick up your Pascha bread by April 9th if at all possible.

The Myrrhbearers will be selling soup on Palm Sunday.

BOOKSTORE

Don't forget to stop by the bookstore for service books for Holy Week. Supplies are limited!

PARISH PASCHA CARD

Instead of sending individual Pascha greetings, why not list your name(s) on a beautifully designed Orthodox Pascha card and support SS Peter and Paul at the same time? Forms can be found in the Narthex or Cultural Center. Please return forms to Stephanie Homyak by April 9, 2017. Proceeds will be used to purchase a speaker system for the church.

PROCESSION OF ICONS

Parish youth participated in the annual procession of icons on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 5, 2017. Children brought their favorite icon from home to carry in the procession.















April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Pascha Celeb April 16, 2 Following Paschal Easter Egg	017 Vespers and	Proceed	Lenten Taco Bar Sunday, April 2, s will provide Priest duates of St. Herma	2017 Starter Kits to	I Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos 5:00pm Great Vespers
2 St. Mary of Egypt 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School MBAS Meeting	3	4	5	6	7 Repose St. Tikhon Patriarch of Moscow	8 Lazarus Saturday
6:00 Lenten Vespers St Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church 9 Entrance of the	10 Great and Holy	IIC mank or all last	6:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	12 Chart and Hall	IA Create and I lad	5:00pm V spers Blessings of Branches
Lord into Jerusalem 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	Monday	Tuesday	12 Great and Holy Wednesday 9:00am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	13 Great and Holy Thursday 9:00am Vesperal Divine Liturgy	14 Great and Holy Friday 3:00pm Vespers and Burial Service	15 Great and Holy Saturday 9:00am Vesperal Divine Liturgy
6:00pm Bridegroom Matins	J:00pm Bridegroom Matins	6:00pm Bridegroom Matins		6:00pm Service of the Passion of Christ Passion Gospels	Tomb	11:15pm Nocturnes 12:00am Pascal Matins & Divine Liturgy
12:00am Paschal Nins & Divine Litura 12:00pm Vespers Easter Egg Hunt Pot Luck Lunched		18 Bright Tuesday Iveron Icon	Easter 1 April 1 following P	20 Bright Thursday Egg Hunt 16, 2017 Paschal Vespers. The join us!	21 Bright Friday	22 Bright Saturday
CHRIST IS RISEN!		N	NO FAS	S T		5:00pm Vespers
23 ANTIPASCHA Holy Great Martyr, Victorybearer and Wonderworker George	24	25 Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark	26	27	28	MISSION WALK Kiwanis Park, Tempe
8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy		elcome all of our gue ter for Fellowship H		3		5:00pm Vespers
30 Holy Myrrhbearing Women Holy Apostle James, Brother of St. John 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	I Icon "Unexpected Joy"	2 "Svenskaya" Icon	3 Ven. Theodosius Abbot of the Kiev Caves	4	5	6
						5:00pm Vespers