

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 16, Issue 6

June 2017

May Council Highlights

- ✘ April's Operating Income was \$21,090.69 and Operating Expenses were \$18,623.17 resulting in a positive balance of \$2,467.52.
- ✘ T/YAL groups leaves for Project Mexico on May 25, 2017.
- ✘ MBAS to provide corsages for Mother's Day.
- ✘ Church School youth working on gifts for Mother's Day.
- ✘ His Eminence, Archbishop BENJAMIN will lead us in the celebration of the Festal Divine Liturgy for SS Peter & Paul. On June 29th.



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Project Mexico 2017

Mara Hecht team leveled the ground, mixed and poured cement for the foundation, erected the metal frame of the home, put up the roof,



attached chicken wire siding, applied keys of their new home!



Project Mexico 2017 was a truly humbling experience! Mara, Alex, Shae, Nick, and Juliana spent 7 days just outside Tijuana, building a 13' x 27' home for a wonderful local couple and their two children! Over the course of that week the



two coats of hand-mixed stucco to the exterior and finished it off with a whitewash paint!

** The project Mexico 2017 team will be doing a slideshow presentation on Sunday, June 11 during coffee hour.✘



It was a truly life-changing experience on that last day when Father Nick and Father Andrew blessed the home presented of the family with an icon, a Bible, and



Message from Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Troparion — Tone 8

Blessed art Thou, O Christ Our God / Thou hast revealed the fishermen as most wise / By sending down upon them the Holy Spirit / Through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net / O Lover of Man, Glory to Thee!

Kontakion — Tone 8

When the most High came down and confused the tongues, / He divided the nations; / But when He distributed the tongues of fire / He called all to unity. / Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All-holy Spirit!

With these words we greet the Great and Holy Feast of Pentecost! We gather in our temple, beautifully festooned with greenery, to recall the moment when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Church and hear the Apostle and Evangelist Luke recount for us what took place that day in Jerusalem:

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” (Acts 2:1-4).

And we hear how the Holy Apostle Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, fearlessly preaches to the people, proclaiming to them the fullness of the Good News that is ours in Jesus Christ and concluding his sermon with these

words: *“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” (see Acts 2:14-36).*

As we recall the wondrous events of the first Pentecost, we are compelled to recognize that Pentecost is an event, a moment in the life of the Church that does not remain in the past history of Christ’s Holy Church. Rather, Pentecost continues each and every day—and it continues in and for each and every one of us. Gifted with the Holy Spirit, the Heavenly King, Comforter, and Giver of Life, the Baptized and Chrismated Christian is called, like Saint Peter and all the Holy Apostles, to proclaim that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior who came into the world for us and for our salvation.

May this year’s Feast of Pentecost provide each one of us with the opportunity to renew our commitment to the work of the Church which is, as seen on that day of the first Pentecost, the work of proclaiming the Good News of all that God has done for us in and through His Son, our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ!

With love in the Lord,

+Bishop Daniel



MOTHER’S DAY



Never a Deserter

On June 24th the Church celebrates the Nativity of John the Baptist.

John grew up to be more than an energetic servant of God, preaching and baptizing. He also attracted numerous followers with his strong faith and absolute integrity. He fearlessly challenged people to "bear fruits of repentance" and he had a message for each person. He told tax collectors to take no more than the pre-



scribed amount of revenue. Soldiers were admonished to be satisfied with their pay and never extort money through threats or false accusations.

But despite his ability to draw loyal crowds to himself and effectively challenge their behavior, John was a profoundly humble man. When he recognized Jesus Christ as the Savior, he didn't hesitate to withdraw and say, "I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." He was astonished, but obedient, when Jesus requested baptism in the Jordan at his hands.

During this week when we celebrate John's birth, we read Chapter 11 of Matthew's Gospel. It contains Jesus' words about John: "...among those born of woman no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist."

The chapter begins with John in prison. He sends word to Jesus to ask, "Are you the One who is to come, or are we to

wait for another?" It seems a strange question, coming from John. Having done so much and given up so much to prepare the world for the Messiah, is he still unsure that Jesus is the One? Must he die at Herod's hands without certainty?

Jesus' answer at first seems merely a statement of the obvious. He tells the inquirers to share with John what they "hear and see"—His healings and the good news He brings to the poor.

But there is deep significance in Jesus' response. He describes the things He is doing in words that reflect Isaiah's description of the coming Savior (Isaiah 35:5, 26:19, 29:18 and 42:7). He is assuring John, who is intimately familiar with Isaiah's words, that He is their fulfillment.

Then Jesus adds a word of encouragement: "Blessed is anyone who takes no offense at Me." The phrase "take offense" can also be translated as "fall away" or "desert." Jesus is telling John not to lose heart; since he has not fallen away or deserted Jesus, as even the disciples of Jesus will, he is blessed.

In the same chapter, Jesus describes people who have fallen away and deserted. They weren't satisfied with John who "came neither eating nor drinking," nor with Jesus who came

"eating and drinking" and who could therefore be rejected as "a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!"

People still find fault with Jesus and those who serve Him, and use their fault-finding as an excuse to desert Him. But John the Baptist, despite being required to give his life, didn't fall away or desert the Lord. And despite the firm way Jesus describes fault-finding "deserters" in Matthew 11, the chapter ends with His wonderful invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."✠

Kontakion - Tone 3

Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ's Forerunner, who is the fulfillment of every prophecy; for in the Jordan, when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the prophets, he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.

"In spite of our sinfulness, in spite of the darkness surrounding our souls, the Grace of the Holy Spirit, conferred by baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, still shines in our hearts with the inextinguishable light of Christ ... and when the sinner turns to the way of repentance the light smooths away every trace of the sins committed, clothing the former sinner in the garments of incorruption, spun of the Grace of the Holy Spirit. It is this acquisition of the Holy Spirit about which I have been speaking."

St. Seraphim of Sarov

49 plus I: Pentecost and the Life Beyond Time

At the Vespers of Pentecost that will be celebrated in all of our parishes on Pentecost Sunday—which falls on June 19 this year—we will implore the Risen Lord, Who sat down at the “right hand” of God the Father, to send the Holy Spirit upon us, as He did upon the apostles who “were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1). It is quite significant that Pentecost occurred exactly 50 days after the Resurrection of Christ. In the ancient world, there was a deep symbolic—or even sacred—character to the use of numbers, and this is fully shared and reflected in the Scriptures. Father Alexander Schmemmann explains this “sacred numerology” as it relates to the Feast of Pentecost. He writes, “Pentecost in Greek means 50, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number 50 symbolizes both the fullness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fullness of time by its first component—49—which is the fullness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component—49 + 1—this one being the new day, the “day without evening” of God’s eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ’s disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fullness revealed, all gifts bestowed; it belongs to us now to “appropriate” these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.”

This reality that takes us beyond the fullness of time as experienced in this world, we call eschatological—the fullness of the Kingdom of God which is “not of this world” but yet experienced here and now within the grace-filled life of the Church, herself the Temple of the Holy Spirit. The “appropriation” of the gifts of the Holy

Spirit, referred to above by Father Alexander, implies the rejection of a way of life that is described as “fleshly.” In an extraordinary passage of the Apostle Paul found in his Epistle to the Galatians, we encounter the contrast between the “works of the flesh” and the “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16-24). Saint Paul emphasizes this contrast at the beginning of this passage: “But I say to you, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law” (Galatians 5:16-17).

It is essential to realize that the Apostle Paul does not mean by “flesh” what we would call our “bodies” or physical existence. He is not attacking our bodily, physical existence as such. That would introduce us to the realm of dualism, an artificial and non-Scriptural conflict between the spiritual and the material. By “flesh,” the Apostle Paul means the human person in rebellion against God, that results in a self-centered way of life that further results in perversions of both the body and soul. As this passage continues, you can clearly discern the comprehensive nature of the “flesh” as encompassing both the mind and body and directing them to sinful activities or attitudes: “Now the works of the flesh are plain: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like” (Galatians 5:19-21).

My intention is not to be discouraging, but if anything here sounds self-descriptive or reminiscent of one’s most recent confession, then one is still contending with the “works of the flesh.” According to the Apostle, the long-term prospects for such a

way of life are not very promising, if not altogether bleak: “I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:21).

However, the “good news” is that there exists another way of life, one that is “spiritual” but expressed through our bodily existence in the rhythms of our daily life: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23). There is no mention in these “fruits of the Spirit” of miracle-working, visions, ecstatic and/or mystical experiences. Saint Paul calls upon very human virtues, but with the implication that they are heightened—or deepened—by the Holy Spirit in such a way that a new manner of living is being manifested, one he calls elsewhere a “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17). This newness of life in the Holy Spirit distinguished the early Christians from their environment, and is meant to distinguish Christians to this day.

Failure to live by the “fruit of the Spirit” is essentially a failure of our Christian vocation. Saint Paul implies as much when he writes with confidence: “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24). And a final exhortation with behavioral consequences concludes this remarkable passage on the newness of life made possible by the Holy Spirit: “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another” (Galatians 5:25). As members of the original Pentecostal Church, Orthodox Christians have every opportunity to both “live by the Spirit” and “walk by the Spirit.”

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Bits and Pieces

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL FAST

The Church's annual Fast in preparation for the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul begins each year on the Monday following the Sunday after Pentecost, this year it begins on Monday, June 12 and concludes after the Divine Liturgy on Thursday, June 29.

FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

Our annual patronal feast will have the added blessing of the presence of our Archbishop, His Eminence, Archbishop BENJAMIN. The Archbishop will join us for Vespers on Wednesday, June 28, at 6:00 p.m. and will lead us in the celebration of the Festal Divine Liturgy on Thursday, June 29, at 9:00 a.m. The Festal Liturgy will be followed by a festal luncheon. Mark your calendars and plan on being present. The patronal feast of a church is celebrated like a little Pascha. Join us for this special feast!

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.

FATHER'S DAY

There will be a special luncheon in honor of the Fathers of our parish on Sunday, June 18, following the Divine Liturgy.

WELCOME BACK

We welcome home the members of our parish community who recently traveled to Project Mexico and Saint Innocent Orphanage. While there, they participated in the building of two new houses for needy families on the outskirts of Tijuana, Mexico. We look forward to hearing more about their experience and their good week on Sunday, June 11, following the Divine Liturgy.

MYRRHBEARERS ALTAR SOCIETY

The MBAS will be holding a luncheon to celebrate our patronal feast on Thursday, June 29. Marty Gala will be organizing the event. Please contact Marty to volunteer to help with set-up, meal preparation, and clean-up. "Many hands make light work."

KITCHEN CLEANING

So much delicious food comes out of the kitchen that sometimes we forget that we still have

to maintain its cleanliness. David Bieber assembled a core group of parishioners to tackle this task. Unfortunately, David injured himself and I offered to be his assistant. It was an easy transition since he did most of the organizing and deserves a pat on the back for his effort. I would also like to thank Barbara Peterson for getting all the supplies that we needed and having them ready for us to use upon arrival. On May 20th, Elizabeth, Gina, Rita, Nick E., Luka, Barbara H., Bill, Susan, Teddie, Don, Azariah and Heather met in the kitchen and commenced to moving, removing, organizing, cleaning, scrubbing, vacuuming, mopping, and deciding on whether items stayed or were to



be removed. I would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work for this project. It was labor intensive but the group finished the checklist items within 3.5

hours. We enjoyed a wonderful meal of lasagna and salad. We locked up at 12:15 pm and departed with a sense of accomplishment. It was truly a blessing to gather together and fulfill this mission. *Nick Bock*

Around SS Peter & Paul

JUNE BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

June	1	Elena Kerr
		Irina O'Brien
	3	Nancy & Dennis Tarasevich
		Anne Elise Ferbrache
	6	Noah Phillips
	8	Marilyn Bezkorovainy
		Sadie Phillips
	10	Yelizaveta Gallagher
	12	David & Sue Bieber
	15	Olga Bahleda
	20	Larry Gardner
	21	Alan Burns
	25	Polina Novitskaya
	26	Betsy Begian
	27	Rita Mudrenko

Many Years!

Memory Eternal

Mary Kelemen, a long-time member of our parish family, fell asleep in the Lord on June 3, 2017. May the Lord grant rest with the Saints to His newly-departed servant, Mary, and may her memory be eternal!



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

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>CLASSROOM CLEANING</p> <p>The Classrooms are scheduled for cleaning on Saturday, July 1. If you have any items in the classrooms and would like to ensure they remain, please identify those items and tag them. A yellow sticky note with your name on the item will suffice. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at: nickbock@hotmail.com.</p>				1	2 Leavetaking Ascension	3 5:00pm Vespers
4 PENTECOST 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <i>Kneeling Prayers</i>	5 Holy Spirit	6 3rd Day Holy Trinity	7	8	9	10 5:00pm Vespers
FAST—FREE WEEK						
11 All Saints Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Project Mexico Presentation	12 Beginning of SS Peter & Paul Fast	13 6:00 Parish Council Meeting	14 	15 Marianica Icon	16	17 5:00pm Vespers
18 All Saints of America Bogoliubskaya Icon 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	19 Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord	20 Hodogitria Icon at Mt. Athos	21	22	23 Vladimir Icon	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist 5:00pm Vespers
<p>WELCOME</p> <p>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.</p>						
25 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	26 Tikvin and Sedmiyezerskaya Icon	27	28 "Three Hands" Icon	29 Holy Apostles Peter & Paul 9:00am Divine Liturgy SS Peter and Paul Luncheon	30	1 CLASSROOM CLEANING 5:00pm Vespers