

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 17 Issue 5

May 2017

April Council Highlights

- ✘ There was no Church Council meeting held in April.
- ✘ We plan to hold the 3rd annual kitchen deep cleaning on Saturday May 20 beginning at 8am. We still need a handful of able-bodied men, and several additional hard working ladies. We hope to finish by noon. Please contact David Bieber if you can help!



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So That Everything Might Be Fulfilled...

On May 21st we read the story of a blind man healed by Jesus Christ. The first words of the passage remind us of a basic Christian teaching: Things do not happen because of "karma" - a word that is thrown around by many people today. They happen in order that God's will may be fulfilled.

We know this from Jesus' own words. The disciples ask Him why the man has the misfortune of being blind—was it his sin or his parents' that caused it? They are expressing an idea that is similar to karma, the idea that adversity in this life is due to some sin in a former life.

Jesus declares a firm "no" to this. He tells the disciples that "it was not that this man sinned, or his parents." Rather, the man was born blind so that God's works could be openly shown (manifested) in him.

The rest of the reading shows us how this happens. Try as they may, the Pharisees and some hostile onlookers can't

destroy the power of the miracle, and the healed man comes to worship Jesus Christ as Lord.

No doubt his example encouraged some who were present that day to do the same. So through his blindness he came, and brought others, to



faith in Jesus Christ as God. As Jesus said, his misfortune was the means by which God's works were manifested.

But there are many ways of facing adversity. The blind man is told to walk to the pool of Siloam, with muddy clay on his eyes—clay formed and placed there by Christ. Jesus had healed others with a word, not making them stumble through the streets with eyes covered in mud. Why, the blind man might have asked, couldn't he be healed without having to make himself conspicuous in public?

What certainty could he have that it would be "worth it" in the end? But the blind man

didn't ask those questions. He was faithful and obedient when faith and obedience were not easy. He was ready to trust God to work in His own way—to trust, even when not necessarily understanding.

On Thursday of this week we will celebrate the Ascension. At Pascha we witnessed the greatest example of faith and obedience with its wonderful result: the death, and then the resurrection, of Jesus Christ. Those two events still puzzle some people. They cannot understand why the Son of God would demean Himself with a brutal death. They ask why God would bring salvation in this way.

But again Jesus Christ gives the answer. In Luke's 24th chapter He reminds the disciples of everything written in the Old Testament about Him. Those writings included prophecies of pain and death, but also of repentance and forgiveness for people everywhere.

Out of that greatest of adversities, human redemption would come. It all had to happen, He tells His followers, so that "everything...might be fulfilled."

Message From Our Rector

Christ is Risen!

The liturgical life of the Orthodox Christian has its own special ebb and flow. It is marked by feasts and fasts as well as the times in between. Through the course of the year we commemorate those moments and events in the life of the Lord that are significant because they are the story of our salvation. Of course, the greatest moment in salvation history and the most significant of our commemorations is that of the Lord's victory over death in the glories of His Resurrection.

We recently celebrated this on Pascha, we continue to celebrate it now during the forty days of the Paschal Season (until the Eve of the Ascension), and we commemorate it every Sunday throughout the year.

In the next few weeks, however, our focus will change as we celebrate the Great Feast of the Lord's Ascension into Heaven (May 25th this year). Then, having celebrated the Lord's return in glory to His Father's right hand, we spend ten prayerful days in anticipation of the Feast of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Lord's apostles and disciples. The days between these two feasts are quiet, simple, still days of prayer. There are no specially-appointed Divine Services. During these days nothing out of the ordinary that takes place in the liturgical life of the Church.

For some, these inter-festal days might be seen as somewhat boring. But, then, there are a lot of people who do not know how to live without excitement, without the sense that something "special" is happening. Whether it comes from the pleasures

of life, leisure, or from crisis, there are those who simply thrive on activity, on doing things, on solving problems, on getting things done, on adrenalin.

In the Book of the Acts of the Apostles we're told that, after the Lord's Ascension, the disciples found themselves in this kind of situation, in a period of quiet waiting - now they found themselves having to face a period in which they would simply have to wait for Christ's promise to them to come true.



The Lord had taught them, he encouraged them, he commissioned them to do a job, and then - on the day of his ascension into heaven, when they were anxiously asking him when his kingdom would be established, when the next phase of the divine plan would take place, he tells them that it is not for them to know the times or periods established by God - but that they should go back to Jerusalem - and wait, wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit - wait for the power they would need to witness to him there, and in Judea and all of Samaria, and ultimately in all the world.

Living between times, living between oc-

casions in which all of our minds and hearts and energy are absorbed can, in fact, be quite wonderful. It can be for us a "pause that refreshes," a time in which we gain strength, a time in which we quietly grow and are prepared for that which will come next. God knows that we too need periods of rest - periods of waiting - periods in which we can be changed, refreshed, and renewed.

During these days as we transition from Pascha to the Lord's Ascension, to Pentecost (June 4), and beyond; as we prepare for the coming summer months with their own special focus of rest and respite, let's attempt to quiet down a bit, to enter more deeply into the spirit of hopeful prayer and waiting for the Lord's promises to us to be fulfilled. Let us "wait upon the Lord." After the Lord's Ascension, the apostles and disciples stayed together and they prayed - and in so doing, they prepared themselves for the job Jesus had told them that they would do when the Holy Spirit came upon them as He had promised it would.

As Jesus told the disciples, the Lord also tells us: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you - and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria—and to the ends of the world." May these days be prayerful days of reflection and preparation as we prepare to celebrate the Great Feast of Pentecost and as we prepare ourselves anew for the mission the Lord has entrusted to us.

Indeed He is risen!

With love in the Risen Lord,

+Bishop Daniel

Images of Our Journey to Pascha

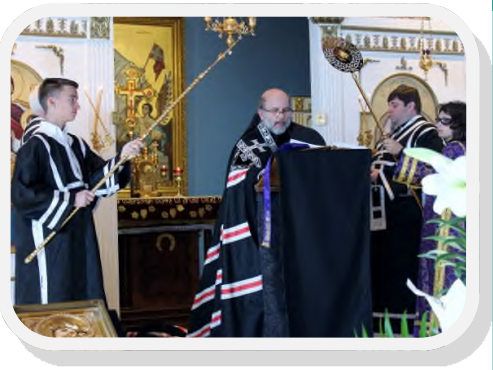
Lazarus Saturday



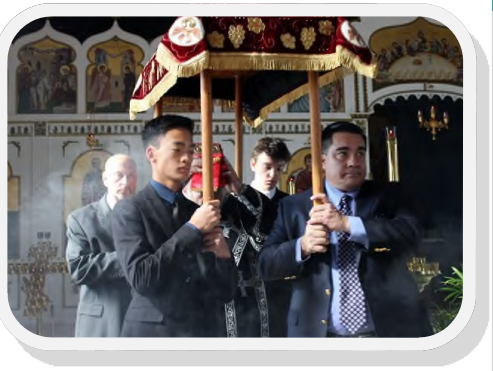
Holy Thursday



Holy Friday



Bridegroom Matins



Palm Sunday



Images of Our Journey to Pascha

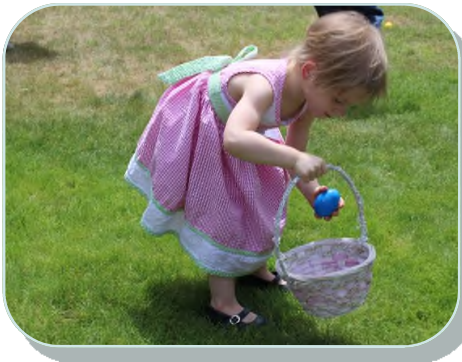
Holy Saturday



Pascha



Easter Egg Hunt



All Saints Camp



June 21st

ALL SAINTS CAMP

- June



26th

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 June 15, 2017:

<http://www.allsaintscamparizona.org/registration/>

Supported by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches

The First Ecumenical Council

On May 28 we remember the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, convened at Nicaea in 325. The results of the Council were very important, but so was its personal meaning for those who attended, as Father Alexander Schmemmann described:

For the first time, after centuries of semi-subterranean existence, prelates gathered from all parts of the Church, many still with the marks of wounds and mutilations received under [the persecutions of the emperor] Diocletian. The unprecedented magnificence of their reception and the hospitality and kindness of the emperor [Constantine] confirmed their joyous assurance that a new era had begun and that Christ was indeed victorious over the world. Constantine himself was the first to interpret the council in this way.

The great accomplishment of the Council was to refute Arianism, a widely-held heresy that threatened to divide the Church. It was a dispute, as the emperor

said, that was "more dangerous than war and other conflicts" because it called into question Jesus' ability to be our Savior.

The Arians claimed that Jesus was not eternal, not equal to His Father, but a created being. The Church insisted that He had to be the divinely powerful Son of God in order to be able to save us. So, opposing Arianism, the Fathers of the Council at Nicaea proclaimed that Jesus Christ is of the same substance as His Father, and there was never a time when He did not exist. His perfect divinity, therefore, was able to assume perfect humanity, and save all who are human.

This teaching is squarely Biblical. In one verse of the reading chosen for this day, John 17:5, Jesus prays, "And now, Father, glorify me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made." Father and Son have the same glory, and have had it forever.

Despite its clear Biblical basis, there are

many who don't accept the Church's teaching, including Unitarians, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Mormons whose work is so generously supported by the devout Marriott family's hotel empire. Even immediately after the decisive declarations of Nicaea, there was conflict. Saint Athanasius was the hero of the Council because he formulated the term "homoousion" (meaning "of one substance" and referring to Christ and His Father.) But Athanasius was hounded ever after by his Arian enemies; they managed to get him condemned and exiled.

The truth established at Nicaea remains basic to our faith. But then, as now, truth was accompanied by deceitfulness and the persecution of truth tellers. We must take comfort, as fourth century Orthodox Christians also had to do, in another verse (16:33b) from John's Gospel: "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Around SS Peter & Paul

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- May 1 Anna Hudson
3 Corey and Grace Weiss
8 Marina Harrelson
11 Paul Tiazkun
15 George Masten
16 David Bieber
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

- 27 Elijah Ferbrache
Katrina and Joseph Delsante
30 Carol Yavornitzky
31 Katie Enoch

**Many Years!
Многая лета!**

MEMORY ETERNAL

Five years ago on Friday, May 4, 2012, Olga Potapenko fell asleep in the Lord. Olga was a long-time member of SS Peter and Paul. May her memory be eternal!

**Christ is Risen!
Indeed He is Risen!**

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:

- 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

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

As is always the case, the weeks and days 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.

On Lazarus Saturday there was a great deal of activity in the hall following Divine Liturgy as palms and pussy willows were put together to be passed out and our church 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.

T/YAL

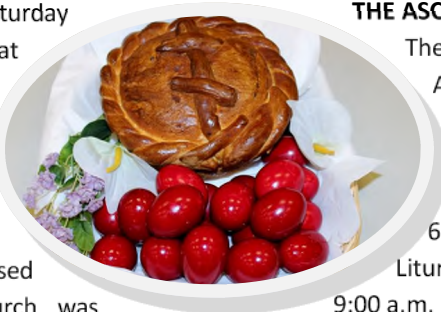
Our project Mexico team is leaving on May 25th 2017 for their 7 day mission trip. Please keep Nick, Alex, Juliana, Shae and Mara in your prayers as they travel.

When the team arrives back to Phoenix, a recap of the mission trip will be held during coffee hours in June.

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, setting up, and cleaning up afterwards. Thank you!



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Great Feast of the Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated May 24-25, with Vespers on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. and the Divine Liturgy on Thursday morning, 9:00 a.m.



ARIZONA WALK FOR MISSIONS

Thank you again to the members of our parish community who planned, participated in (pets optional), and supported the Annual Arizona Walk for Missions, Saturday, April 29, 2017.

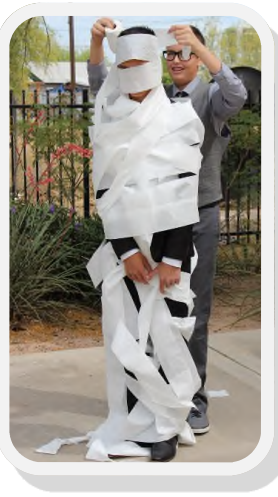
Local Orthodox parishes participate in this event, the proceeds of which are donated to OCMC and Project



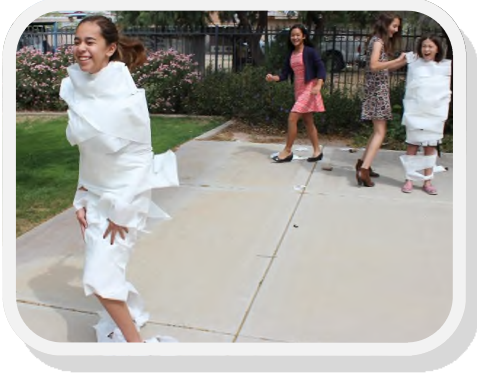
Mexico.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School students took time to enjoy the beautiful weather and have a little fun on Palm Sunday. After finishing their lesson on Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, and the services of Holy Week, everyone headed outside for an activity reminiscent of Lazarus Saturday.



Students paired up into 3 teams, wrapped one person from each team with toilet paper, and then raced to the finish line. The kids quickly found out that it was not as easy as it sounds!



After Pascha, the students quickly got to work created unique gifts for all the women in our church for Mother's Day! I wonder what our little Picassos and Rembrandts have planned for the mothers?

WELCOME

We welcome all visitors to SS Peter & Paul. We hope your visit was enriching and enlightening. Please join us in the Cultural Center for our Fellowship Hour. It's a chance to meet some of our members, other visitors, and enjoy some coffee and fellowship.

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Icon "Unexpected Joy"	2	3 Ven. Theodosius, Abbot of the Kiev Caves	4	5 Icon "Inexhaustible Cup"	6 5:00pm Vespers
7 Paralytic St. Alexis Toth Confessor & Defender of Orthodoxy in North America 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	8 Holy Apostle John the Theologian	9 6:00pm Council Mtg Meeting	10 Midfeast Pentecost	11 SS Cyril & Methodius Apostles to the Slavs	12	13 5:00pm Vespers
14 Samaritan Woman 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School MBAS Meeting Happy Mothers' Day	15	16	17 Leavetaking Midfeast	18	19	20 5:00pm Vespers
<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>						
21 Blind Man Sts. Constantine and Helen 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	22	23	24 Forefeast Ascension 6:00pm Vespers	25 Ascension of Our Lord 3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	26	27 5:00pm Vespers
28 Fathers First Ecumenical Council 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	29 Icon "Surety of Sinners" MEMORIAL DAY	30	31	1	2 Leavetaking Ascension	3 5:00pm Vespers
 <p>All Saints Camp 2017 June 21st - June 26th Prescott, AZ See page 5 for more information.</p>						