

# SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 18 Issue 5

May 2018

## April Council Highlights

- ✘ March's Operating Income was \$12,048.30. Operating Expenses were \$17,748.26, resulting in a **\$5,699.96** for month of March.
- ✘ Pascha card proceeds will be used for scholarships to All Saints Camp.
- ✘ Archbishop BENJAMIN will join us to celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Consecration of the current SS Peter and Paul Church temple.



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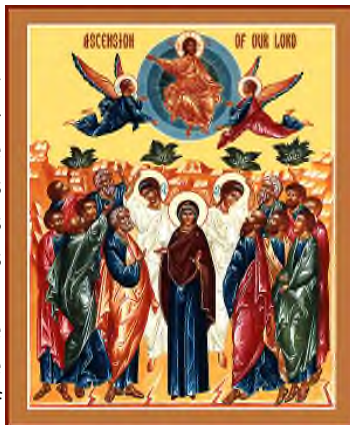
## The Ascension: a Beginning, Not an Ending

Fr. Lawrence Farley

If one read the four Gospels as if they were four separate biographies of Jesus, one might be forgiven for thinking that the Ascension narrated the end of the story. We have read narratives of Christ's birth, His baptism, His temptation in the wilderness, His ministry, His crucifixion, His resurrection, and now at the last we come the narrative of His ascension, concluding the story of His life with a heavenly happy ending. Everyone loves a happy ending, and this one rounds out the story of Jesus by saying in effect, "And He lived happily ever after at the right hand of God." In this way of thinking, the story is not finished without the Ascension.

It might therefore come as a surprise to learn that three out of the four canonical Gospels do not end with the Ascension or even narrate it at

all. Matthew's Gospel ends not with Christ ascending from us, but with His remaining with us, uttering the words, "Behold, I am with you always, even to the close of the age" [Matthew 28:20]. The authentic ending of Mark's Gospel ends with the discovery of the empty tomb (the last part of Christ's public ministry, just as His baptism was the first part), and with the words that the wom-



en "fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid" [Mark 16:8]. John's Gospel ends with a third appearance of the risen Christ to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (scholars debate about whether or not it first ended with the earlier appearance to Thomas) and with John's observation that if everything Jesus had done were to be written up, the world itself could not contain those books. John clearly knew about

the ascension, for he records Christ's words to Mary Magdalene, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father" [John 20:17], but he does not narrate that ascension any more than Matthew does or Mark does. Only Luke narrates the ascension, adding almost as an afterthought that "while He was blessing them, He went away from them and was carried up into heaven" [Luke 24:51], the ascension event itself expressed in a mere five words in the Greek. Luke narrates it at somewhat greater length in his second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, saying with a similar economy of words, "while they were looking, He was taken up and a cloud received Him from their eyes" [Acts 1:9] — the event expressed in nine Greek words. What does all this mean?

For one thing it means that the Gospels are not biographies as we understand the term. But more importantly it reveals that the ascension was not the ending of a story, but the beginning of one, not the conclusion of Christ's life so much as the beginning of the life of the Church. It is no coin-

(Continued on page 6)

# Message From Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Christ is risen!

*“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:4-5).*

The founder of this parish, the ever-memorable Archimandrite Peter (Zaychenko) fully understood the deep meaning of this verse from the first letter of the Holy Apostle Peter. Indeed, throughout his many years of priestly ministry here in the United States, he worked diligently to establish and to build up already-established church communities and to found them, as well. Our own parish of Saints Peter and Paul here in Phoenix, Arizona, was his last effort in this regard. Even in his retirement, after having faithfully served Christ and the Church for over forty years, he worked to lay the foundation of a new church community here in the northern Sonoran Desert and, in 1951, our parish was founded and canonically established, built upon *living stones*.

In its first few years, the parish began to grow and began to flourish and it came to the moment when it was prepared to

build a new temple... the one in which we now worship. And, as we commemorate this month, this temple, this house of the Lord, was consecrated on May 12, 1968.

Our parish church, having been consecrated fifty years ago, has been faithfully cared for, worshipped in, and beautified throughout these past five decades. And so, we gather to give thanks to God for



the Mercy has shown to so many people in this “holy house.” As we gather to commemorate that event five decades ago, we are grateful for all the “founders, builders, and benefactors of this holy house” who built our church fifty years ago. We remember them with the hope that, fifty years from now, those who gather to commemorate the centenary of this consecration will also remember us and give thanks to God for us, for what we, through our abilities, have also been

able to accomplish. May they see us, as we see those who have gone before us, as people who, in words printed on the occasion of the consecration fifty years ago were “dedicated to serving God and promoting the Holy Orthodox Faith.” As they prayed fifty years ago, so we, too, pray today: “Grant forgiveness of sin to them that have diligently completed this building and the consecration of a church by Thy word, granting unto them such petitions as are unto salvation. Stir them up to the fulfilling of Thy commandments; grant unto them the renewal of the gift of Thy Holy Spirit, that uncondemned they may worship Thee, the only True God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou has sent: through the prayers of the Theotokos, of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and of all Thy Saints. Amen.”

Thank you to all who have made this celebration possible. We are grateful to His Eminence, Archbishop BENJAMIN, our Archpastor, for his presence with us, for leading us in prayer and worship, and for the archpastoral care he shows to us and to all those throughout the Diocese of the West whom the Lord has entrusted to his care.

With love in the Risen Lord,

*+Bishop Daniel*

# Images of Our Journey to Pascha

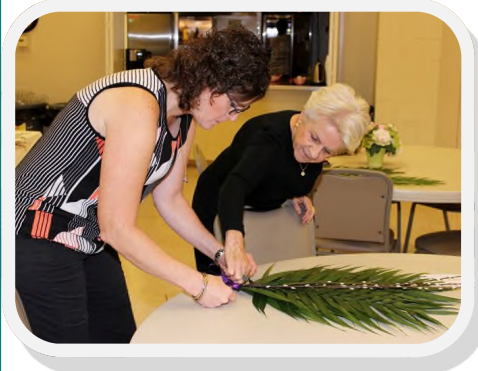
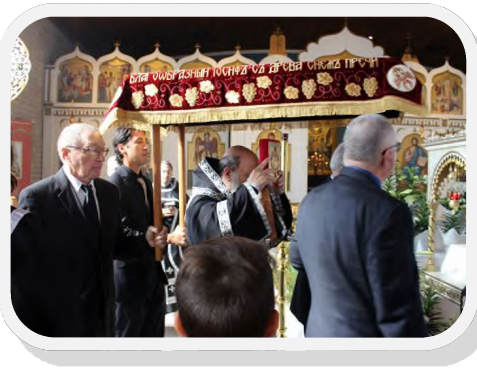
*Lazarus Saturday*



*Holy Thursday*



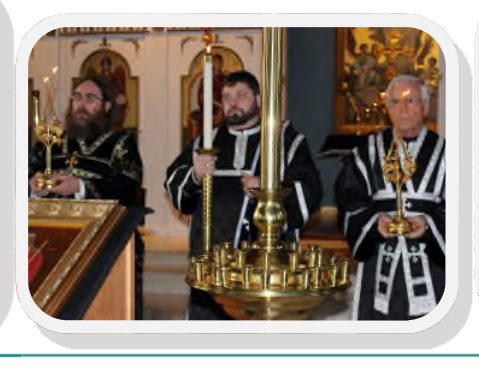
*Holy Friday*



*Palm Sunday*



*Bridegroom Matins*

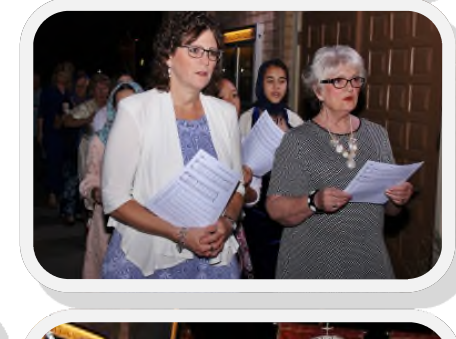


# Images of Our Journey to Pascha

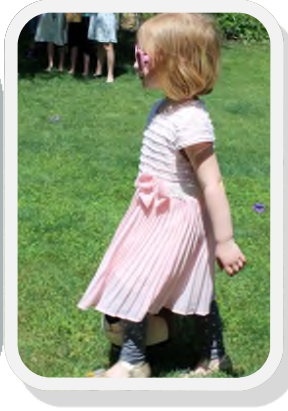
## Holy Saturday



## Pascha



# Easter Egg Hunt



# All Saints Camp



June 3<sup>rd</sup>-

## ALL SAINTS CAMP

June



9<sup>th</sup>

For campers entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade through Senior in High School.

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.

Regular registration closes on May 11, 2018:

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

Supported by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches

# The Ascension, a Beginning Not an Ending

(Continued from page 1)

cidence that the Evangelist who narrated the ascension also narrated at great length and repeatedly the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, so that Luke is the Evangelist of the Holy Spirit as well as the Evangelist of the Ascension. The two events are connected, for one is the cause of the other. Christ foretold it during His last night with His disciples prior to His arrest: "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" [John 16:7]. Luke narrated the fulfillment in the words of Peter's Pentecostal sermon: "Being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this which you both see and hear" [Acts 2:33].

The temptation is to regard the Holy Ascension as if it were the Holy Absence, as if

Christ has gone away and we now have less of His presence than was available when He walked the earth. It is not so. While He walked the earth, the apostles could be with Him, but this nearness was conditioned by time and space, and there were times when they were not with Him. When He was not physically in Judea, for example, Mary and Martha could not be with Him. Now that He has been exalted to the Father's right hand and has sent His Spirit, we can be near Him always, for His presence is no longer conditioned by time and space. Everyone can now be close to Jesus and by the power of the Spirit can be with Him every waking hour and even every sleeping hour. The ascension and the sending of the Spirit means that we now have more of Jesus, not less of Him. That is why the Lord said at the end of Matthew's Gospel that He would be with us until the close of age. These words were not a denial of a future ascension, but a promise of it. The

challenge for us now is to live as children of the ascension, and as children of the Spirit. Our Lord's presence and power are always available to us. The question is: how often do we avail ourselves of them?

## **Troparion — Tone 4**

O Christ God, You have ascended in Glory, Granting joy to Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured That You are the Son of God, The Redeemer of the world!

## **Kontakion — Tone 6**

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,  
And united earth to heaven:  
You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,  
Not being parted from those who love You,  
But remaining with them and crying:  
"I am with you and no one will be against you!"

## Around SS Peter & Paul

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

May 1 Anna Hudson  
3 Deacon John & Mstushka Julianna  
Scott MacPherson  
8 Marina Harrelson  
11 Paul Tiazkun  
16 David Bieber  
17 Vi Wasilenko  
Darya Dolenko  
19 Timofei Kadyrov  
Hailee Behnen  
Tamerlan Kadyrov  
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!**



**Greg and Tessa Smith and family celebrated Pascha with us!**

### **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:**

Bill Osolinsky  
Harold Homyak  
Ann Garza  
Marilyn Bezkorovainy  
Rose Kurowski  
Tillie (Tatiana) Kulek  
Anna Michkofsky  
Frank Kulik  
Vickie Kulik

*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

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS!

We express our congratulations to Father David Balmer who was recently elevated to the rank of **Archpriest** by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America. It was a joy for our community to witness his elevation during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 29. Father David was honored in this way as an expression of our gratitude to God for his fidelity in serving Christ's Holy Orthodox Church. May the Lord grant Father David and Matushka Mary many continued years of service to the Flock of Christ! **MANY YEARS!**



**MEMORY ETERNAL!** As we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Consecration of Saints Peter and Paul Church, we remember all the Clergy and Faithful who founded our parish (1951), who built our "new" church and witnessed its consecration (1968), and who, through all these 67 years since the founding of our parish, have faithfully served Christ's Flock here in our parish community. We especially remember Archbishop JOHN (Shahovskoy), the Archbishop of San Francisco, who founded our parish and placed it under the spiritual guidance of Archimandrite

Peter (Zaychenko). Archbishop John also consecrated the church during the pastorate of Archpriest John Karateev, rector of our parish from 1962 to 1972. And we give thanks to God for the faithful parishioners, gone to their rest before us, who, through their faith, sacrifices, and dedication, have provided us with the gift that is ours as members of this God-protected flock. May the Lord grant them rest with the saints! May their memory be eternal!

**THE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE...** The new church doors are almost finished being installed and the new windows should be installed within the next few weeks! As we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Consecration of our church, we continue to care for, as responsible stewards, for the beautiful gift given to us by those who have gone before us. **Bless, O Lord, those who love the beauty of Thy House...**

**THANK YOU** to all who made our observance of Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha to be so spiritually rewarding, growth-giving, and joyous. May the Risen Lord grant His light and joy to all who work with such dedication to glorify the Most Holy Trinity through our worship and our community life.

**WELCOME** to His Eminence, Archbishop BENJAMIN, as he comes to lead us in prayerful thanksgiving on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Consecration of Saints Peter and Paul Church!

**WELCOME** all visitors to SS Peter and 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.

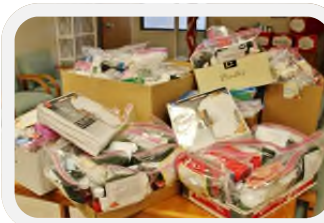
**THE GREAT FEAST OF THE ASCENSION** of the Lord will be celebrated May 16-17, with Vespers on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. and the Divine Liturgy on Thursday morning, 9:00 a.m.

**TYAL RELAUNCH COMMITTEE** held its second meeting in the parish cultural center on April 22, 2018. The committee discussed its plans to host the Mother's Day Luncheon on May 13, 2018 to honor the amazing women we have at church. We will meet in the parish cultural center at 8:30 A.M. to set up before the Divine Liturgy. All dish donations are appreciated. The committee discussed its finances, elected Luka Radjenovich provisional treasurer, and adopted tentative rules for asking the parish board to reimburse select expenses paid by members. Olivia Weiss and Anne Ferbrache will update the pictures on the TYAL bulletin board and Julio Lopez will continue his work managing the League's Instagram page. The committee has adopted a tentative event schedule for the next five months, including a movie night, family camping trip, and service projects (stay tuned for updates).

**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. Also, please close the doors to all interior rooms when leaving.

## HYGIENE KITS DELIVERED!

Ninety-four hygiene kits were delivered to the VA this past week. Thank you to everyone who helped support this project. Stu-



# May 2018

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



**All Saints Camp 2018**  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>- June 9<sup>th</sup>  
Prescott, AZ  
See page 5 for more information.