

# SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 14 Issue 5

May 2014

## April Council Highlights

✦ Thank you to everyone who donated to the 2014 SS Peter and Paul Pascha card. We raised \$710. After expense of \$60 (paper and postage), our net was \$650, which has been donated toward the purchase of a new refrigerator to replace the old one which just gave out. Again, thanks you to everyone for your support.



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## Struggling to Believe

### May 8 is the feast day of the Holy Apostle John the Theologian.

Saint John is given the title "Theologian" because his Gospel interprets events and words, delving into their meaning in the light of the divinity of Jesus Christ. Rather than just recording episodes, John (who, by tradition, was aided in his writing by Prochorus) sets them in the context of Jesus the Messiah's coming: "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God...(1: 12).

In the first chapter, John names four people—John the Baptist, Andrew, Philip and Nathanael—who recognize Jesus as the Savior, the One who fulfills the promises of Moses and the prophets. It is clearly a struggle to believe at first, at least for Nathanael, but Jesus rewards their recognition by assuring them that they will see "...heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man" (1: 51).

John had a special closeness to

Jesus; as we know, he is referred to as the "beloved disciple," and he is the only one of the four Gospel writers who records two events involving Jesus' beloved Mother. The first is the wedding at Cana (2: 1-11) at which Jesus responds to His Mother's concern for the bridegroom by changing water into wine.



The second is Jesus' direction to Mary, as He hangs on the cross, to take John as her son, and to John that he care for Mary as his mother (19: 26-27). This loving, familial gesture is quite a contrast to Luke's Gospel, for example. There, Jesus' only words from the cross addressed to mothers are these in 23: 28-29: "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!'" Despite his love for Jesus, John doesn't avoid writing about the hostility Jesus faced,

and about the struggles of some to believe His words. John 6: 35-44 is one of the readings for this day and the previous day, and in these verses Jesus tells the Jews, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever..."

The Jews "murmur" at this, wondering how He can claim to have come down from heaven when they know very well who His parents are. Their doubt is a bit like that of the Samaritan woman, who at first struggles to believe His claim that He has "living water" because He carries no vessel to draw from the well (4: 11).

But the Samaritan woman did come to believe, as did many of the Jews. Struggle on the way to belief is no sin, and should come as no surprise. Jesus Christ warned us about it when He said, as John writes in 16: 4, "I have said all this to you to keep you from falling away."

### Troparion - Tone 2

O beloved Apostle of Christ our God,  
Come quickly to deliver your helpless people.  
He on whose breast you leaned, will accept you as intercessor.  
Entreat Him, O Theologian, to disperse the clouds of darkness,  
Granting us peace and great mercy!

# Message From Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is risen from the dead,  
Trampling down death by death,  
And upon those in the tombs  
Bestowing life!

Χριστὸς ἠνέστη ἐκ  
νεκρῶν,  
θανάτῳ θάνατον  
πατήσας,  
καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς  
μνήμασι,  
ζωὴν  
χαρισάμενος!

المسيح قام من بين  
الأموات  
وطمى الموت بالموت  
و وهب الحياة  
للذين في القبور



Father Daniel and the kids pose for a picture before the start of the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

However we sing or say it, in whatever language or using whatever translation, the Paschal Tropar contains within it the fullness of the Gospel message of Christ's saving mission: Christ is Risen! He has destroyed death by death. And even those in the tombs, those subject to death, have been granted eternal life.

Although the Sunday of Pascha was two weeks ago, we continue to proclaim that Good News that "Christ is Risen!" and we continue to bask in the joyful light of the Feast of Pascha. Indeed, we continue to celebrate the Feast of Feasts, not for just

one day, but throughout the full forty days of Pascha—and beyond.

In the weeks ahead, we will begin to experience and observe the usual annual events associated with this time of the year—the Memorial Day holiday, graduations, family reunions, preparations for vacations, and so forth. Also at this time

of the year we are transitioning from our celebration of the Lord's Resurrection to the Feast of the Lord's Ascension into Heaven (May 29), to the Feast of Pentecost (June 8). How-

ever, whatever the month, whatever the season of the year, whatever the moment in our lives, all our life, all our faith, all our hope is based upon the fact that through His Death and Resurrection, Christ has given us eternal life. May the days and weeks ahead be filled with the joy that also expresses our hope—that we who have died with Christ in baptism will be united with Him in the eternal, never-ending day of the Resurrection.

With love in the Risen Lord,

*Father Daniel*

## EASTER EGG HUNT



# Images of the Journey to Pascha

Lazarus Saturday



Holy Thursday



Holy Friday



Palm Sunday

Bridegroom Matins



# Images of Our Journey to Pascha

*Holy Saturday*



*Pascha*



## Images of the Journey to Pascha



Fr. Daniel blesses baskets after the midnight services.  
*CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!*



Friends and family joined for a pot luck luncheon after Paschal Vespers.



Antonia and her husband relax and enjoy the afternoon with church friends.

See [www.sspeterpaulaz.org](http://www.sspeterpaulaz.org) for more pictures.



After baskets were blessed, everyone quickly broke out the eggs, meat, and cheese and feasted!



Katiya, Sasha, and Andrew relax after the Easter Egg Hunt.



Andy, Mike, and Protodeacon Alexis chat before sitting down to a sumptuous feast!

## All Saints Camp



# ALL SAINTS CAMP



Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>- Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>  
For campers entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade through Senior in High School.

Download application: <http://allsaintscampaz.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.

Important: Please get your application in as soon as possible!

For further information contact:

Kathy Clarke- 602.757.1025, email- [kathyclarke@cox.net](mailto:kathyclarke@cox.net)  
Kristen Vasilarakos- 602.332.8809, email- [kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net)

Supported by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches



# Outcasts Working for God

**May 14 is the feast day of the Venerable Isidore, Fool-for-Christ of Rostov, a city north of Moscow.**

This fifteenth-century saint was neither raised in Russia nor in the Orthodox faith. His family lived in Brandenburg, Germany, an area not greatly hospitable to Orthodox Christians. At some point, Isidore moved to Russia, settled in Rostov, and didn't just practice the Orthodox faith but took on one of its most extreme manifestations, serving the Lord as a fool-for-Christ.

This meant abandoning the comforts of the prosperous merchant class to which his family belonged. It also meant being an outcast. He was seen every day wandering the streets in rags, thin and unkempt, shouting out warnings against sin or deliberately behaving in foolish ways to call people's attention to their own foolishness. He occasionally rested on a pile of garbage.

What people never saw was his constant prayer for them, with only an hour or two of sleep a night to interrupt it. Isidore had built himself a ramshackle hut that offered no

protection from the weather, but did hide his ascetical efforts. He knew the danger of praise, and had no intention of letting people see and admire him as a man of prayer. One account of his life says that he went to the home of Prince Vladimir of Rostov on a Sunday and asked a servant for a drink of water. He did so with a specific purpose: he had entreated God to bless Prince Vladimir so that he would govern justly. He had in mind Christ's words: "Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward" (Mark 9:41).

The servant gave him nothing, haughtily and hurriedly dismissing him. There was no time for beggars, because everyone was busy preparing a special dinner, to which the local archbishop had been invited.

As the guests sat at table that evening, the butler discovered a serious problem: the wine containers were completely empty. He nervously whispered the bad news into the prince's ear.

Prince Vladimir questioned the servants

and was told that nothing unusual had happened that day, except for a beggar asking for water. Being a godly man, the prince suspected that the visitor had been Isidore, and sent a servant to invite him to the house. The servant couldn't find him, but he suddenly appeared in the dining room, offering the archbishop some blessed bread from that morning's Liturgy. A moment later he had vanished, but the wine containers were full to the brim. The prince and his household never again forgot the blessing that offering a cup of water can bestow.

On this day we read Acts 14: 6-18, about a man unable from birth to walk, who is part of the crowd listening to Paul's preaching. This man, too, would probably have been an outcast. But Paul looks "intently" at him, perceives his faith, and miraculously heals him.

The outcast may be the very one through whom God works, bringing great blessings to the rest of us.

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

*Mnogaya Leta! Many Years!*

**Congratulations and Many Years!!**  
to Anne Ferbrache was received into the fullness of the Orthodox Faith before the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday. We welcome Anne and ask the Lord to grant her many happy years living her Christian calling as a member of the Orthodox Church.



**Anne holding Pallas M.**

### 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:

Rose Kurowski  
Rose Koval  
Ann Garza

*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 Father David.

# 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!

## 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 Third Annual Arizona Walk for Missions, Saturday, April 26. Most of the local Orthodox parishes participate in this event, the proceeds of which are donated to OCMC and Project Mexico.

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Many thanks to everyone for your cards, gifts, and the kind words and greetings on the Feast of Pascha. Your many kindnesses are deeply appreciated! Fr. Daniel

## 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.

## BOOKSTORE

Got a Kindle or an electronic device that allows to download a Kindle app? If you do, there are many Orthodox books available for download from Amazon. Also, several of your favorite Orthodox publishers also offer electronic downloads of books... even St. Tikhon's Press! It's fantastic to be able to pull up the Orthodox Study Bible at any place with your phone or tablet. No more excuses as to why you couldn't read your daily scripture!

## FLOWERS

Each month the Myrrhbearers provide flowers to beautify the church. Thank you to the following Myrrhbearers for their donations:

January	Flowers from Christmas
February	Marie Lobb
March	Marty Gala
April	Pat Starkey
May	Marty Gala

## IGUMEN DANIEL

After his recent profession of monastic vows, Father Daniel was elevated to the rank of *igumen* (игумен). But what does that mean. What, exactly, is an *igumen*? *Igumen* (also spelled *hegumen*) is simply a word which means "leader," or "one who is in charge" and is the traditional title for abbots of monasteries (abbesses are called *hegumena*/игуменья). In some cases (as in the case of Fr Daniel), the title is an honorary one and is often given to archpriests who are tonsured into monasticism.

## PASCHA LUNCHEON

Christ is Risen! Indeed He has Risen! 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. We couldn't have done this without you!

Thank you again!

*Pat Starkey*

## 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.

Dear Clergy & Faithful of the Diocese of the West:

Christ is Risen!

May 1st marks the tenth anniversary of ARCHBISHOP BENJAMIN'S consecration to the Holy Episcopate at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco. With heartfelt joy, we congratulate His Eminence on this auspicious occasion, mindful of the depth of his Archpastoral care for the clergy, monastics and faithful of the Diocese of the West....and until recently, in the Diocese of Alaska. In addition, we acknowledge his tremendous contribution to the work of the Holy Synod.

It is clearly evident that Vladyka Benjamin likes, most of all, to be among his people, His Eminence is constantly on the road, visiting the parishes, monasteries and institutions of our immense Diocese. All of this he does with great energy....in a spirit of love, patience and generosity.

So on this historic occasion, we join with His Eminence in celebrating this day. We give thanks to God for blessing us with such a caring Archpastor, whose dedication to the flock provides us all with an example of faithful service to Christ and His Church.

May God Grant our beloved Archbishop Benjamin Many Years!

Axios!

*Archpriest Ian MacKinnon*  
Chancellor

# May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>All Saints Camp 2014!</b> Sunday, June 15th- Friday, June 20th Prescott, AZ</p>				<p>1 Icon "Unexpected Joy"</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Svenskaya Icon</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>4 Holy Myrrhbearing Women 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 St. Alexis Toth Confessor &amp; Defender of Orthodoxy in North America</p>	<p>8 Holy Apostle John the Theologian</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Apostle Simeon the Zealot</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>11 Paralytic SS Cyril &amp; Methodius 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School Happy Mothers' Day</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00pm Council Mtg Meeting</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p>18 Samaritan Woman 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School MBAS Meeting FOCA Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Equal to the Apostles St. Constantine and His Mother, Helen</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>
<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>						
<p>25 Blind Man 3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>26 MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Leavetaking Pascha</p> <p>6:00pm Vespers</p>	<p>29 FEAST OF ASCENSION 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:00pm Vespers</p>