

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 15, Issue 6

June 2016

May Council Highlights

- ✘ April's Operating Income was \$15,687.31 and Operating Expenses were \$16,192.76 resulting in an operating deficit of **\$505.45**.
- ✘ Old swing set will be removed due to deterioration in its condition.
- ✘ Installing picnic tables on patio on west side of hall discusses; Osolinskys to donate table and chairs. Thank you!
- ✘ Century Link selected as Wi Fi provider and installation complete!
- ✘ Adult Education will resume after Pentecost.



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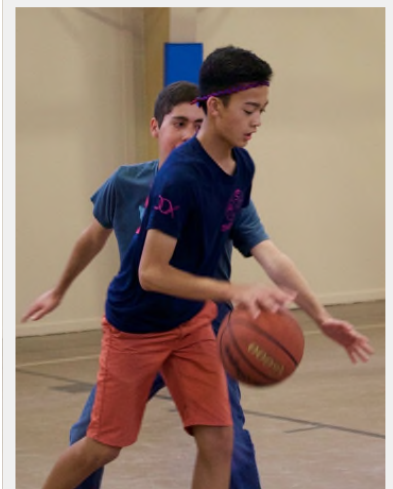
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All Saints Camp

This past week Orthodox Christians from all over Arizona from grades 3—12 came together to learn and grown in their Orthodox faith. All Saints Camp is truly an exceptional opportunity for young Orthodox people to come together and share in the beauty of Orthodoxy! Mara Hecht was a counselor this year and if you have any questions regarding All saints Camp or would like to get information for the summer of 2017, please feel free to ask her.

Here are some pictures that



capture that spirit of fun and fellowship:

The Ascension: Our Destiny in Christ

Fr. Steven Kostoff

In the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed we profess, "Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man.... And the third day He arose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father."

What a wonderful expression of the great mystery of the "descent" and "ascent" of the Son of God. The eternal Son of God becomes the Son of Man, descending into our world to live among us and to teach us about, and prepare us for the Kingdom of God. This is what we call the *Incarnation*. This movement of descent is only completed when Christ is crucified and enters the very realm of death on our behalf. There is "nowhere" further to descend (in)to. Thus, there are no limits to the love of God for His creatures, for the descent of Christ into death itself is "for our salvation." The Son of God will search for Adam and Eve in the very realm of Sheol/Hades. He will rescue them and liberate them as representative of all humankind, languishing in "the valley of death." Since death cannot hold the sinless—and therefore deathless—Son of God, He begins His ascent to the heavenly realm with His resurrection from the dead. And He fulfills this Paschal mystery with His glorious ascension.

As Saint Paul writes, "He Who descended is He Who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things" (Ephesians 4:10). The One Who ascended, however, is now both God and man, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the incarnate, crucified, risen, and glorified Jesus Christ Who is now seated at "the right hand of the Father," far above the heavens. It is the glorified flesh of the Incarnate Word of God which has entered into the very bosom of the Trinity in the Person of Christ. As Saint Leo the Great,

the pope of Rome (+461) taught, "With all due solemnity we are commemorating that day on which our poor human nature was carried up, in Christ, above all the hosts of Heaven, above all the ranks of angels, beyond the highest Heavenly powers to the very throne of God the Father."

This is simultaneously *our* ascension and our glorification, since we are united to Christ through holy Baptism as members of His Body. Therefore, Saint Paul can further write, "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3). Out of our physical sight, we now "see" the glorified Christ through the eyes of faith. Saint Leo further explains how important this spiritual insight is: "For such is the power of great minds, such the light of truly believing souls, that they put unhesitating faith in what is not seen with the bodily eyes; they fix their desires on what is beyond sight. Such fidelity could never be born in our hearts, nor could anyone be justified by faith, if our salvation lay only in what is visible."

The Great Feast of the Ascension, which this year we celebrate on Thursday, June 9, is not a *decline* from the glory of Pascha. It is, rather, the *fulfillment* of Pascha, and a movement upward toward the Kingdom of Heaven. It is the joyful revelation of our destiny in Christ. To return to the opening theme of the marvelous acts of God moving from the incarnation to the ascension, I would like to turn to Saint Leo one more time for his understanding of that entire movement: "It is upon this ordered structure of divine acts that we have been firmly established, so that the grace of God may show itself still more marvelous when, in spite of the withdrawal from men's sight of everything that is rightly felt to command their reverence, faith does not fail, hope is not shaken, charity does not grow cold." ✠

U.S. Marines Care Package 2016

Many of you know parishioner Julie Schaffer of the USMC. She is currently serving a tour of active duty in Kuwait. Based on Paul Hudson's suggestion, the Parish Council feels it would be a nice outreach to send Julie and her unit a gift from our generous parish. There are over 20 servicemen (and women) plus 8 big guard dogs in the unit. The following is a list of items that Julie suggested would be very welcomed. You may purchase items and/or donate cash for us to purchase them and pay for the expensive shipping costs. Bulk packages (e.g., Oreos, nuts, etc.) are OK—Julie says these folks share.

- ✠ Granola bars
- ✠ Pringles
- ✠ Gummy bears
- ✠ K-cups (tea or coffee)
- ✠ Protein bars
- ✠ Beef jerky
- ✠ Gum
- ✠ Big dog treats-natural
- ✠ Trail Mix
- ✠ Tootsie rolls
- ✠ Mints
- ✠ Dog toys (Kong)
- ✠ Nuts
- ✠ Licorice
- ✠ Raisins
- ✠ Tennis balls (dog toy)
- ✠ Oreos & other packaged cookies
- ✠ Fresh baked goodies that can ship
- ✠ Hard or chewy candy

For more information, please contact David Bieber.

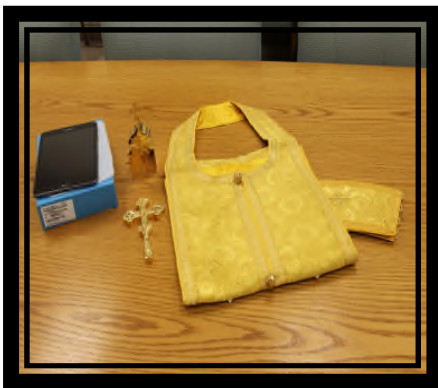
Thank you in advance for your generosity.

FOCA Sends Starter Kits to New Alaska Priests

The end of the school year marks the start of summer vacation in America, but it also means that students at Orthodox seminaries will be graduating and going out to minister to communities all throughout the country.

As part of its continuing efforts to spread Orthodox Christianity through service and fellowship, our parish's Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America chapter is sending clergy starter kits to two new priests in the Orthodox Church in America's Diocese of Sitka and Alaska.

The kits include items any Orthodox priest would need, like stoles, cuffs, blessing crosses and sick call kit. The chapter also included Samsung Galaxy tablets in the kits so that the new priests have constant and convenient Wi Fi access to the information they need in any situation.



The priests receiving the starter kits are recent graduates of the St. Herman Theological Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska. In addition to serving to the spiritual and liturgical needs of the local Orthodox faithful, they will also travel from village to village, helping rural Alaskan communities that struggle with issues like drug and alcohol abuse.

"In many ways, these graduates truly

act as social workers where services might otherwise be unavailable," Chapter President Pat Starkey said. "It's important to our group that we support and empower clergy in even the most remote corners of America."

The starter kits are being shipped to the priests this month with the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa.

What is the FOCA?

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America is an official organization of the Orthodox Church in America, with chapters located throughout the country.

Its mission is to proclaim, share and reveal our Orthodox Christian faith through service, fellowship and example by:

- ✘ studying the tenets of our faith
- ✘ supporting and encouraging Orthodox youth ministries
- ✘ supporting and encouraging missionary growth of the Church
- ✘ encouraging and promoting unity among all Orthodox jurisdictions
- ✘ establishing practical means for Orthodox

Christians to endure lasting friendships on local and national levels

- ✘ providing educational, cultural, social and athletic activities for the



Blessing the Stoles, crosses, and sick call kits and tablets provided by SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Phoenix, AZ. Thank you Bishop DANIEL and Faithful.

people of the Orthodox faith

Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church has been the home of a FOCA chapter since 1975. The chapter meets regularly to plan fundraising, fellowship, education and social programs. To join the FOCA, contact Pat Starkey or Stephanie Homyak. ✘



Arizona Walk for Missions Raises Nearly \$3,700

PHOENIX - On Saturday, May 14, 2016 Orthodox clergy and parishioners representing parishes throughout Arizona gathered for the Arizona Walk for Missions. In it's fourth year, this event raises money for **Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage** and the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center**, two important organizations that work to make the world a better place.



Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage is an Orthodox ministry that provides housing for impoverished Mexican families and operates St. Innocent Orphanage, a

teams all over the world, and trains and supports indigenous Church leaders. Its mission is to bring the gospel

of Christ and His Church to all nations.

His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa led the opening prayer, which was followed by guest speakers from OCMC and Project Mexico. John Hrapchak, an OCMC board member, spoke about the importance of combined Orthodox work. "Many groups across the country are trying to emulate what you have started here," Hrapchak said. "It is a wonderful thing to have so many Pan-Orthodox parishes working together to support the ministries of OCMC and Project Mexico."

Ben De La Riva, Executive Director of Project Mexico, spoke about the lives of the boys at the St. Innocent Orthodox Orphanage and the homebuilding ministry in Tijuana, which will celebrate the building of its 300th home this summer. De La Riva thanked all in attendance that had been part of construction teams in Tijuana.

Despite the 80-degree heat, spirits were high as the walkers made their way around the picturesque lake.

"We look forward to this event every



home for abandoned and abused teenage boys. The **Orthodox Christian Mission Center** sends short-term and long-term Orthodox mission



year," Event Coordinator Antonia Adams-Clement said. "It brings our OCA, Greek, Antiochian, Romanian and Coptic parishes together for such good work."

Each year, the walk organizers try to raise awareness for missions and the work of Arizona parishioners and clergy overseas. In addition to participation on numerous construction teams to Project Mexico, Orthodox Christians from Arizona have traveled through OCMC to Kenya, Tanzania, Albania, Alaska, Ghana, Mexico, Guatemala, Uganda, Romania, Cameroon and Poland.

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, and enjoy some coffee and fellowship.

BOOKSTORE

Summer reading starts and ends at the church bookstore and parish library!

Don't fill your free days with senseless drive! Redeem the time! Nourish and refresh your soul! There is something for everyone! Advice for everyday living, stories from centuries ago to present day, history, adventure . . . you name it, we've got it.

And if we don't have it, I can get it for you. So don't fill your head with ridiculous romance or vitriolic political prattle that only infuriates . . . instead satiate yourself with hope, joy and wonder!

All to be found within our humble little bookstore and library.

FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

The celebration of our patronal feast will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 28 and 29. Vespers will be served on Tuesday, June 28, at 6:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Wednesday, June 29, at 9:00 a.m.

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
	12	David & Sue Bieber
	15	Olga Bahleda
	21	Alan Burns
	25	Polina Novitskaya
	26	Betsy Begian

Mnogaya Leta! Many Years!

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Great Feast of the Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated June 8-9, with Vespers on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. and the Divine Liturgy on Thursday morning, 9:00 a.m.

PRAYER LIST

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

Protodeacon Alexis

Ann Garza

Rose Kurowski

Alan Burns

Tillie (Tatiana) Kulek

Larry Gardner

Ted Demos

Ann Carroll

Vickie Mendez

Anna Michkofsky

May Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician of our souls and bodies, reach out his healing hand and bless these, His servants.

Feed My Starving Children

Everyone at SS Peter and Paul is invited to be a part of the T/YAL's July service Project which will be at **Feed My Starving Children**. This is a non-profit Christian Organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children and they are shipped to distribution partners. FMSC meals have reached nearly 70 countries around the world.

WHEN: July 30th 2016 9:00-11:00am

WHERE: FMSC packing site
1345 S Alma School Rd Mesa, AZ 85210

WHO: EVERYONE! But if you are ages 5-8 you must be accompanied by an adult.

RSVP to Mara Hecht by email/phone or in person

Mara.hecht@gmail.com
440-479-4982 (call or text)

***FMSC relied 100% on donations, they ask each group makes a donation to the best of their ability. Any amount you are able to donate can be given to Mara and we will give one check from all of us on the day we volunteer.

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Mark your calendars . . . SS Peter and Paul Luncheon Wednesday, June 29, 2016 following Divine Liturgy Contact: Barbara Peterson</p>			1	2	3	4 5:00pm Vespers
5 Blindman 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	6	7	8 Leavetaking Pascha Forefeast Ascension 6:00pm Vespers	9 Ascension of Our Lord 9:00 Divine Liturgy	10	11 Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas 5:00pm Vespers
12 Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	13	14 6:00 Parish Council Meeting	15 Marianica Icon	16	17	18 Bogoliubskaya Icon 5:00pm Vespers
19 PENTECOST 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <i>Kneeling Prayers</i>	20 Holy Spirit Hodigitria Icon at Mt. Athos	21 3rd Day Holy Trinity	22	23 Vladimir Icon	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist	25 Leavetaking Pentecost 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>						
26 All Saints Tikvin and Sedmiyezerskaya Icon 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	27	28 "Three Hands" Icon 6:00pm Vespers	29 Holy Apostles Peter & Paul 9:00am Divine Liturgy SS Peter and Paul Luncheon	30	1	2 5:00pm Vespers