

# SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 10, Issue 4

April 2010

## February Council Highlights

- ✘ February's Operating Income was \$10,830.45 and Operating Expenses were \$9,248.34, resulting in a positive balance of \$1,582.11 for February. Positive YTD Operating Fund is \$7,694.12.
- ✘ Discussion ensued regarding parking lot fence location.
- ✘ Council approved Youth Symphony usage of Cultural Center for board meetings and auditions.
- ✘ Council adopted "Policies, Standards, and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct."
- ✘ Landscaping project complete. Thanks to Greg Smith & Joe Gala.



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## The Friend of the Bridegroom

**On April 10, Bright Saturday, we read verses 22-33 in Chapter 3 of John's Gospel. Earlier in the chapter, Jesus has had an encounter with Nicodemus, who does not understand His words about being born again.**

Jesus asks Nicodemus, a well-known teacher of Israel, "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" It's significant that Our Lord puts the question not in terms of understanding, but of believing. He then tells us how to strengthen our belief, making reference to the Old Testament. He refers to Numbers 21:9, when fiery serpents were biting the complaining people of Israel as they followed Moses through the wilderness. God told Moses to raise a bronze serpent on a pole, and promised that everyone "who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." Jesus says that just as Moses lifted up the serpent, "so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eter-



nal life." We are to look up to Jesus, lifted on the cross, as the people looked up at the serpent raised on the pole. Making the effort to look at Him, to see Him and keep looking to Him, will lead us to belief and to salvation.

Bright Saturday's reading shows that John the Baptist, the Forerunner, truly looked up to Christ. In these verses, John's disciples come to him and tell him that the one to whom he bore witness, Jesus, is outdoing him. John was used to having many followers and being a leader, but now the people are following Jesus. Certainly John might have been tempted to feel jealousy and resentment. But he refers to himself as the "friend of the bridegroom." This was a position like that of the best man at a wedding. The "friend" had important responsibilities during the marriage ceremony, but once it was over he stepped down and gave the bridegroom

the prominent place, rejoicing for the bridegroom's joy.

John reminds his disciples that he had always said he was not the Christ. Then he makes a wonderful statement of humility: "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease." In other words, he will now look up to Christ, as many people had looked up to him. He further compares himself to Christ by saying, "He who is of the earth belongs to the earth, and of the earth he speaks; he who comes from heaven is above all." Jesus is the One, John knows, who is "from heaven" and so He is the only one who can claim authority over every person and thing. That authority is based not on coercion but on love: "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand." As the true friend of the Bridegroom, John humbly steps down from his own position and encourages all of us to look up to the One whom the Father loves.

*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>.*



## Message From Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen!

Just as we have asked in the *Prayer before the Ambo* at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, we have once again been blessed to "complete the course of the Fast" and "attain unto and worship the Holy Resurrection." Our response to the glorious victory that Jesus won for us by His life-giving and triumphant Resurrection is one of joy and jubilation. It is also a response of action, of putting our faith in the Risen Lord and our paschal joy into practice in our daily lives. If we carry this joy with us every day, throughout the forty days of the Paschal Season and beyond, the lives of many will be touched by our own. They will witness our joy and desire to share it with us. Our joy in the Lord's Resurrection will become their joy.

But Pascha is not a just one Sunday of the year nor is it only a week or a forty-day season; rather, it is the unending statement of God's love for us and His desire for us to share His



life with us forever. And so it is with our response to the Lord's Resurrection. We might greet ourselves with the joyful news that "Christ is risen!" for only forty days. However, each day of the year we are called to proclaim the good news of the Resurrection, by the words we speak, the deeds we perform—by the way in which we live our lives.

Our holy Christian Faith is more than a creedal statement, more than a moral code, more than a means of worship. Above all, our Christian Faith is a Person, the Person of Jesus Christ and our profound and intimate love for Him in the depths of our hearts! Of themselves, creeds, moral teachings, church programs and buildings cannot save or sanctify. It is Christ Jesus alone who restores our fallen nature and lifts us up to share His divine life. His glorious Resurrection is *our* victory over sin and death, darkness and fear, guilt and shame. Indeed, it is the "down payment" on *our own* resurrection if we but follow the path that our Lord has trod. It is by the power of His saving death and holy Resurrection that the Sacra-

ments, the teaching, and the good works of our Holy Orthodox Church become themselves a life-giving spring.

This year we can rejoice with even greater joy and enthusiasm as we sing the hymns of the Resurrection and celebrate with paschal joy, for we remember that we celebrate this Holy Pascha with our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world. We pray in a special way that all who sing with one voice of the holy Resurrection of Christ may become united in His one Body by the power of the Holy Spirit unto the glory of God our Heavenly Father.

May our celebration of the Lord's resurrection—all forty days of the Paschal season and beyond—be bright and joyous. May each one of us experience the power of the Lord's victory in our own hearts and lives and in the hearts and lives of our loved ones.

Indeed He is risen!

With love in the Risen Lord,

*Father David*

## The Power of Peter's Shadow

April 11 is Thomas Sunday, when we read the well-known story of the apostle Thomas' encounter with the risen Christ. But on this day we also read a passage that reveals the extraordinary spiritual growth of another apostle, Peter.

This passage, Acts 5:15, tells us that the Spirit-filled apostles were doing many signs and wonders among the people, in a part of the Temple in Jerusalem called Solomon's Portico. The leader in this exciting work was none other than Peter, once so afraid and craven that he denied knowing Christ. But now, people "carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, so that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them."

Some might question the idea that Peter's shadow could have an effect. But Luke makes two other references to such healing power. One is in his Gospel, where we read (8:43-44) about the woman who has had flow of blood for twelve years. She comes up behind Jesus, obviously in fear and trembling, and touches



the fringe of His garment. The flow of blood ceases at once. Far from rebuking her or criticizing what she has done, the Lord receives

her humble declaration "in the presence of the people" that she has been healed of a terrible affliction by touching His clothing. He says, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

Luke also tells us, in Acts 19:11, that God "did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul." The apostle was so revered and trusted as a healer that people took handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his body to the sick, and "diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them."

Some people still have difficulty in understanding this working of God's grace through human beings. Visitors to an Orthodox Liturgy may express discomfort at seeing worshippers venerate the hem of the priest's garment. But the examples in Luke and Acts give us a good basis to explain what is going on. The same explanation could apply to kissing the hand of a

priest and asking for a blessing; the grace that comes is only in God, but it comes through the hand of His ordained servant.

Peter's new courage as he and the apostles worked among the people would soon be needed, as today's passage from Acts reveals. The jealous Sadducees arrested and imprisoned him and the others. They were rescued and released by an angel, but their release didn't mean that they could go home and relax. The angel gave specific instructions: "Go and stand in the Temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." The apostles were to return to the very place where opposition to their message was strongest and most concentrated, and were to continue delivering that message.

It was not an easy assignment, but they carried it out admirably, creating the foundation of the Church to which we can now belong.

*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>.*

# Scripture Fulfilled

Very Rev. John Breck

An unshakable conviction among Jews at the time of Jesus held that the Holy Scriptures had to be "fulfilled." From the time of their exodus from Egypt and their sojourn in the wilderness of Sinai, the people of Israel viewed all of history, including their own personal and collective destiny, as under the authority and control of the One God, who revealed himself to Moses as YHWH, "I (Who) Am," "the Existing One" (Exodus 3). In the people's spiritual consciousness, this God became known as the unique and absolute Lord of all, who guides nations and individuals toward a decisive end, an ultimate fulfillment in accordance with his sovereign will. As the people's hope focused more and more on the coming of a Messiah, an "anointed one" of God who would usher in a new age and a new creation, expectation of that fulfillment grew to fever pitch.



For many, Jesus of Nazareth was an immense disappointment. They, and particularly members of the "Zealot" party of political militants, had long struggled to overthrow Roman authority in Israel, with the aim of establishing an earthly kingdom ruled by the Lord's Messiah. They had hoped Jesus would enter Jerusalem as a victorious warrior, which likely explains the enthusiastic reception he received on what the Church honors as "Palm Sunday." Jesus was no revolutionary, and -- despite attempts by some scholars today to rewrite history -- he was no Zealot (although at least one of his disciples, Simon, had been). His lordship served peace and reconciliation rather than revolt and political restoration. Hopes among the populace that Jesus and his followers would establish a new reign, and renew within Israel the glory it knew under King David, were clearly not to be fulfilled by this itinerant preacher from Nazareth and his small band of close disciples. If it can be said that Jesus was crucified for political reasons, it was less for what he did than for what he refused to do. Messianic hope in much of Judaism, in other words, had lost its transcendent, eschatological character and taken on a "this-worldly" focus. It may have been disappoint-

ment and frustration, then, as much as a perceived undermining of Pharisaic traditions, that finally led the crowd to demand, "Crucify him!"

For Jesus' followers, however, including the Twelve but also large numbers outside that tight circle, this man from Nazareth was precisely the fulfillment presaged by the prophets. They had immediate and personal experience of his living presence with them, following his

tragic and undeniable death on the cross. In the opening verses of 1 Corinthians 15, the apostle Paul declares that the risen Jesus appeared not only to his close disciples, but to more than five hundred people at one time, "most of whom are still alive." Paul's meaning is clear: if you don't believe that Jesus actually, physically, rose up out of death, just ask those who saw him, who walked and talked with him, as did Mary Magdalene (Jn 20:18), the two disciples traveling to Emmaus (Lk 24:32-35), and on several occasions the full body of disciples (Lk 24:33-43; etc.). Even the guards at the tomb saw and bore witness to that awesome miracle (Mt 28:11).

Shortly before the annual feast of Pentecost, Peter led the disciples to "fulfill the Scriptures" by naming a follower of Jesus to take the place of Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:15-26). With the election of Matthias, the number of disciples was restored to twelve, a "perfect" number corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel. Groundwork was thus laid for creation of the New Israel, the Church, which would embrace both Jew and Gentile. As such, this newly constituted body of believers would not "replace" Israel, as many have claimed. It *fulfilled* it, becoming in St Paul's words "the Israel of God" (Gal :16).

Finally, on the day of Pentecost itself, Peter addressed the crowd, declaring about Jesus that "God raised him up, having freed him from death..." (Acts 2:24). This "mighty work," Peter insists, occurred to fulfill "what was spoken through the prophet Joel," and through the entire witness of the Hebrew Scriptures. It is in the person of Jesus, the risen and exalted

Lord, and in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the congregation of believers, that the promises of God uttered through the Law and the Prophets are finally, ultimately, fulfilled.

To experience Pascha and Pentecost as they are meant to be lived within the life of the Orthodox Church, it is essential that we rediscover both the fervor and the conviction of the earliest Christian disciples. This is not first of all a summons to announce to the world the Good News of Christ's death and his victory over death by the resurrection. Even before we can move to that stage, it is necessary for us to make an inward journey, through liturgical worship but also through silence. The true fervor that nourishes faith and enables us "to move mountains" is located in the quiet depths of what the psalmist calls "the secret heart." It comes—as it came for Mary Magdalene, for the Eleven disciples, and for the Mother of God herself—as a fruit of contemplation: a still and yet intense focusing upon the Object of our faith, upon the One who continually pours out upon us the "promise of power from On High," the Holy Spirit. It comes as we distance ourselves from the distractions, noise and confusion that so thoroughly mark our daily life, and listen for the "sound" of the Spirit, become sensitive once again to his presence and movement in our life, and perceive the purpose to which he calls each of us. It comes as we behold the face of Christ with the eyes of the heart, as we see and "know" with a knowledge that surpasses every other, that in the risen Christ, God is truly *with us*. That fervor comes as a sacred and precious gift, as we walk together through the final days of the Lenten journey, in mutual longing and in mutual anticipation of what is to come.

The faith and the unyielding commitment of those first followers of Jesus can be ours as well. It requires only that we realize and rejoice in the fact that the fulfillment of Scripture is not a thing of the past. It occurs ever again, within our church communities and within ourselves, when we unite ourselves to one another, in faith and in love, to proclaim the ultimate truth, the only truth that matters: *Christ is risen!*

Reprinted from the "Life in Christ" series, March 2010, Article #2, Orthodox Church in America web site, <http://www.oca.org/CHRIST-life-article.asp?SID=6&ID=194&MONTH=March&YEAR=2010> ✧

# Holy Week and Pascha at SS Peter and Paul



Father David introduces Father Alexander Rentel, who led a lenten retreat as we prepared for Holy Week.



Alex Gala greets people with palms and pussy willows on Palm Sunday.



Father Damian joins Father David and Proto-deacon Alexis for the Service of Holy Unction.



The retreat was attended by members of local Orthodox churches.



Over 120 Orthodox faithful attended Palm Sunday services.



Father David anoints the faithful on the head and hands.



Christie carefully listens to Father Alexander's comments.



A lenten luncheon benefitting the church was hosted by members of the church's Russian community.



The faithful gather for the reading of the Passion Gospels on Holy Thursday evening.



The faithful gather for Lazarus Saturday, as they prepare for Holy Week.



With the church lit only by candles, Father David celebrates the Bridegroom Matins.



As the choir sings "The Noble Joseph," and incense fills the air, the plaschintza is carried to the tomb.

# Holy Week and Pascha at SS Peter and Paul



Father David reads from the Holy Bible as he talks about the events of Holy Friday.



At the conclusion of services, bread, wine, dates and figs are blessed for the faithful to consume.



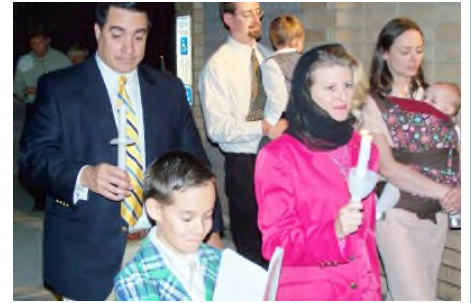
Candles lit, the choir follows, singing "Thy resurrection O Christ our savior . . ."



The faithful venerate the tomb of Christ.



Father David lights the first candles with the light of Christ.



The faithful follow in procession.



Waiting to venerate the tomb of Christ.



Andy Evans and Trinity Smith are all smiles as they begin the procession around the church.



The procession stops outside the church as Father David greets everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!"



Father Alexis reads the Holy Gospel at the tomb of Christ on Holy Saturday.



The altar servers lead the procession around the church three times.



Following services, baskets are blessed in the Cultural Center.

# Vespers, Easter Egg Hunt, & Pot-Luck Luncheon



Father David greets everyone with: *Christ is Risen!*



*They're off...Father David announces the start of the annual Easter Egg Hunt.*



*Friends and family gather...*



*There were eggs everywhere-especially the lawn!*



*The Smith family relaxes on the lawn after the Easter Egg Hunt.*



*Finally, a chance to gather with friends in fellowship and enjoy the feast day.*



*The faithful listen to Father David's remarks about the joy of Pascha.*



## Around SS Peter & Paul

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- Eugenio Golowatsch  
April 1
- Lisa Formica  
April 8
- Mary Maul
- Michelle Golowatsch  
April 14
- Pauline Vinay  
April 15
- Terasa Smith  
April 16
- Julian Melendrez  
April 18
- Zachary Delsante  
April 21
- John Blischak  
April 28
- Sarah Gala  
April 29



**Mnogaya Leta!**

### MANY YEARS

To the newly-Chrismated Servants of God, John Mark and Nina Kinney and Juliana (Christie) Callaway, who were received into the Orthodox Church by Holy Chrismation on Lazarus Saturday.



**Many Years!  
Mnogaya Leta!**

### 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:

- Cassandra Wagner
- Dorothy Yost
- Chuck Ullmann
- Marie Yevin
- Peg Linderman
- Pauline & Dan Vinay
- Bill and Rose Koval
- Beatrice Washington

*If you know of anyone else in need of our prayers, please contact Father David.*

# Bits and Pieces

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS!

To the newly-Chrismated Servants of God, John Mark and Nina Kinney and Juliana (Christie) Callaway, who were received into the



Orthodox Church by Holy Chrismation on Lazarus Saturday.

As we celebrate the joy of the Lord's Resurrection, we also give thanks for our new brother and sisters who



have embraced the Orthodox Faith and have now joined us at the Table of the Lord.

## NEWLY RESTORED PLASCHENITSA

On Holy Friday and Holy Saturday we reflect upon the Lord's Death on the Cross and His Sabbath rest in the Tomb. A focal point of our liturgical prayer on these days is the Winding-sheet (*plaschenitsa* [Slavonic], *epitaphios* [Greek]) which portrays the image of the Lord lying in human death. Our church's *plaschenitsa*, after

being prayed before and venerated for many decades, was recently restored to its original beauty. Many thanks to Ann Garza and the Myrrhbearers Altar Society for their generosity in making this possible.



## FLOWERS FOR PASCHA

Thank you to all who donated for the purchase of the flowers to adorn the Lord's Tomb on Holy Friday and the Church for our celebration of Holy Pascha. *Bless, O Lord, those who love the beauty of Thy House!*

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Greg Smith and Joe Gala for coordinating and also to all those who assisted in improving the landscaping of our church grounds. These improvements have further beautified our parish property and made it more

inviting and welcoming. Thank you.

## THANK YOU

I am constantly giving thanks to God for His many blessings to me, especially the blessings that are given me as spiritual father of our parish community. So much is accomplished and so much is done for the glory of God and the salvation of

souls—and it often goes unrecognized. However, God the Father *Who sees all things*, knows the love and sacrifice that so many of our parishioners offer Him in service to His Church.

May the Lord Himself be the reward of all those who serve our parish, all those who participated in our Holy Week and Paschal services, all those who "worked behind the scenes" to prepare and beautify our parish Temple, "those who sing and those who serve" and all those who in any way, made our celebrations the beautiful, joyous, and spiritually-uplifting services they were. May God bless you all!

*Fr David*

## SPRING BAKE FUND RAISER

At our annual meeting in January, it was brought to our attention that we need to repair a rather large leak in the center dome, which is above the large chandelier in the church. The cost to repair the dome is estimated at \$4,000. Therefore, a suggestion was made at the board meeting to

have a Spring bake of our Ethnic rolls. It will take a large number of rolls to make this goal. All proceeds will go to the repair of the dome. However, we will need the commitment and participation from all of our parish family. Bake days will be Saturday April 17, Wednesday April 21, and Saturday May 8. So far, we have received orders for the first 2 bake days. Please see Elizabeth or Dorothy for the days that you can help with this fund raiser.

Order forms are in the hall. Take one for your family or friends. Please return the form to Elizabeth Michel or Dorothy Yost no later than Sunday April 18th. We need everyone's help.

*Elizabeth Michel  
Chairperson*

## BOOKSTORE

Christ is Risen!

A quick note of thanks to all who patronized the bookstore during Great Lent and Holy Week. We hope all of your purchases were a blessing to you.

The bookstore does carry the service book for the next feast, The Vespers of Pentecost, which of course include the Kneeling Prayers. \$4.

## 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.



*Barbara, Marilyn, and Rita prepare the pussy willows for Palm Sunday.*



*Many worked behind the scenes to*

## FOCA

Thank you for helping make Pierogi on Saturday February 27th. Our next scheduled workshop will be May 1. The goal is to make between 50 and 100 dozen per workshop. See Pat Starkey to place your orders. A luncheon is being planned for April 25th so mark your calendars. Thank you!

## MYRRHBEARERS ALTAR SOCIETY

Thank you to those Myrrh Bearers who helped with the Easter Bake, Presanctified meals, Pan-Orthodox Vesper Services, preparations for Palm Sunday, Dyeing of Easter eggs, and for the beautification of the Tomb on Good Friday and



Pascha.

The next meeting for the MBAS will be Sunday, April 11, 2010.

*Marty Gala, President*

## REQUEST FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The church office is looking for donations of empty printer cartridges from your home printers. We are able to get credit on them for bulletin printing supplies. We have a special need for any empty HP #10 black, or #11 cyan, magenta, or yellow ink cartridges. Please bring them in and leave them in the church office. Thanks

# April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>We welcome all of our guests and visitors. Please join us in the Cultural Center for Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy each Sunday.</b></p>				<p><b>1 Great and Holy Thursday</b> 9:00am Vesperal Divine Liturgy  6:00pm Matins and Passion Gospels</p>	<p><b>2 Great and Holy Friday</b> 3:00pm Vespers and Burial Service  6:00pm Matins and Lamentations at the Tomb</p>	<p><b>3 Great and Holy Saturday</b> 9:00am Vesperal Divine Liturgy  11:30pm Nocturnes 12:00am Pascal Matins &amp; Divine Liturgy</p>
<p><b>4 HOLY PASCHA</b> 12:00am Paschal Matins &amp; Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Vespers  <i>Easter Egg Hunt Pot Luck Luncheon</i>  <b>CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!</b></p>	<p><b>5 Bright Monday</b></p>	<p><b>6 Bright Tuesday</b> Iveron Icon</p>	<p><b>7 Bright Wednesday</b> Repose of St. Tikhon</p>	<p><b>8 Bright Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>9 Bright Friday</b></p>	<p><b>10 Bright Saturday</b>  5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p><b>Mark your calendars . . . FOCA Luncheon Sunday, April 25, 2010</b></p>						
<p><b>11 ANTIPASCHA</b> St. Thomas Sunday  8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy 40th Day Memorial Day Service-Margie Jones  <b>Church School MBAS Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>12 Muron Icon</b></p>	<p><b>13 Day of Rejoicing</b>  6:00pm Council Mtg Meeting</p>	<p><b>14 Vilnius Icon</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16 Il'insko-Chernigov Icon</b></p>	<p><b>17</b>  <b>SPRING BAKE</b>  5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p><b>Join Us for Our Spring Bake</b> Saturday April 17, Wednesday April 21, and Saturday May 8 Place your orders with Dorothy Yost or Elizabeth Michel. Proceeds benefit the dome repair project.</p>						
<p><b>18 Holy Myrrhbearing Women</b>  8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Church School</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>SPRING BAKE</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23 Holy Greatmartyr Victorybearing &amp; Won- derworker George</b></p>	<p><b>24</b>  5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p><b>25 Paralytic Holy Apostle &amp; Evangelist Mark</b>  8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy  <b>Church School FOCA LUNCHEON</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28 Midfeast Pentecost</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30 Holy Apostle James Brother of St. John The "Passion" Icon</b></p>	<p><b>1 Icon "Unexpected Joy"</b>  <b>PIROGHI WORKSHOP</b>  5:00pm Vespers</p>
<p><b>Pierogi Workshop</b> Saturday, May 1, 2010 Sponsored by the FOCA Please contact Pat Starkey to place your order or sign-up to help.</p>						