

in Touch

Volume 15, Issue 4

April 2007



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

HOLY PASCHA

Sunday, April 8

*"Come receive the light from the unwaning light,
and glorify Christ who is risen from the dead"*

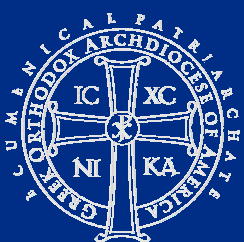
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*"Lord, You know that men
are flesh and blood; forgive
them their sins and pour out
Your blessing on all."*

St. Haralambos

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 1

- ◆ 6:00 p.m. Evening Matins Service

Holy Monday, April 2

- ◆ 7:00 p.m. Evening Matins Service
with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos

Holy Tuesday, April 3

- ◆ 7:00 p.m. Evening Matins Service

Holy Wednesday, April 4

- ◆ 9:00 a.m. Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy
- ◆ 6:00 p.m. Sacrament of Holy Unction

Holy Thursday, April 5

- ◆ 9:00 a.m. Liturgy of St. Basil
- ◆ 6:00 p.m. Evening Matins Service

Holy Friday, April 6

- ◆ 8:30 a.m. Royal Hours
- ◆ 10:00 a.m. Decorating the Epitaphios
- ◆ 3:00 p.m. Vespers
"The Descent from the Cross"
- ◆ 7:00 p.m. Lamentations
"Procession of the Epitaphios"

Holy Saturday, April 7

- ◆ 10:00 a.m. Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- ◆ 11:00 p.m. Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy (Reception following in the Social Hall)

Easter Sunday, April 8

- ◆ 1:00 p.m. Vespers of Love
(Easter Egg Hunt for children)



St. Haralambos' 20th Anniversary

Open House and Family BBQ

Join fellow St. Haralambos parishioners on Saturday, May 12 at 11 a.m. at the Church back yard for a 20th Anniversary Parish Family BBQ.



- WHO:** All St. Haralambos parishioners
- WHAT:** 20th Anniversary Family BBQ
- WHERE:** Church back yard
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 12 at
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- WHY:** Celebrate Our Past, Present
and Future

Look for additional information in upcoming Church bulletins.

2007 EVENTS

Jan.	Gathering of Church Archives
Feb. 10	Kick-off Celebration Event
Feb. 15-17	Parish Directory Family Portraits Taken at Church
May 12	Open House/Family BBQ
Nov. 2-4	Annual Greek Festival
Dec. 1	Gala Event

PASTOR'S COLUMN

FR. MICHAEL PALLAD



A Common Easter: An Opportunity to Share and Enrich Traditions

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear.

What a privilege to carry, everything to God in Prayer.

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry, everything to God in Prayer.

This familiar Christian hymn was based on a poem by Joseph Scriven of Dublin, Ireland who wrote it around 1855 to console his sick mother. Reading about Scriven's personal life reveals the story of a man who undoubtedly needed a bit of consolation himself.

A few years prior to writing his poem, he experienced the tragedy of losing his fiancé, on the night before his wedding, to accidental drowning. This, in part, prompted his decision to leave his homeland and start a new life in Canada. After a short time he fell in love, was engaged to be married, and again tragedy struck: his second fiancé died of pneumonia shortly before their wedding day.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Returning to Dublin to care for his mother after having experienced such heartbreak, it's not difficult to imagine the release of emotion as he began to write. It only takes one reading to understand the clear message of his poem: the importance and comfort of prayer. A few years later in 1886, the text was set to music by Charles Converse, giving us the familiar melody of a hymn many of us have heard time and again.

You won't find this hymn in any Orthodox service book. The reason, I hope everyone will understand, has nothing to do with its content, which shares many sentiments common to Orthodoxy, but is simply

because its author comes from a western Christian tradition. Once the hymn was published, it became very well known throughout Great Britain and Western Europe. It is not an Orthodox hymn, but it would be very close-minded of any Orthodox Christian to dismiss it because of a label, and miss out on its inspirational message, beneficial for people of any Christian tradition.

This year Christians throughout the world celebrate the Resurrection of Christ on the same date: Sunday, April 8, a coincidence of the two Christian calendars. Let's use this occasion to open our minds and hearts to the unique traditions of other Christians that can enrich our own.

One such tradition common to all Orthodox is the greeting, "Christ is risen!" and the response, "Truly He is risen!" With many of our parishioners having extended families who belong to other

(Continued on page 6)

Orthodox Christianity will always have something beautiful and meaningful to share with other Christians.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

www.stharalambos.org

Sunday Worship

September - May
Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

June - August
Matins: 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Office

623-486-8665
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FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com

Hours
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parish Council

Greg Krochta, President
George Retsinas, Vice-President
Mary Dascalos, Treasurer
Peter Tremoulis, Secretary
Glen Albrant
Tracy Albrant

George Christie
Mary Manos
Dean Milonas
Stella Pagos
Mary Wysmierski

Parishioner Profile



George Christie is serving his second term on the Church Parish Council after serving for six years previously. He is also one of the original signers in 1987 of the Parish Articles of Incorporation. He currently serves as president of the Arizona Cretan Association.

A Cleveland native, he moved to Phoenix with his family when he was a teen because the doctors told his mother to move to the desert to help treat her asthma. George now resides in Surprise and has called the Valley home for 61 years. After high school, he attended Arizona State University and Phoenix College and graduated from Northern Arizona University where he played football and baseball. He also served in the Army and was stationed in Korea for one year.

George worked as a salesman in the electronics and music industries, served as a

finance manager for 25 years at Shasta Pools and worked for 15 years at the State of Arizona Veteran's Service Center.

He and his wife Patty, who also was actively involved in the formation of the Church 20 years ago, will celebrate 45 years of marriage this November. They have a son and a daughter and one grandson and one great grandson. Additionally, George's Aunt Athena Agapos was part of the group that spearheaded the drive to establish St. Haralambos.

For the future of St. Haralambos, George would like to see the new Church, Social Hall, Education Building, a facility for youths and a play area built to help meet the needs of the only West Valley Greek Orthodox Church. He feels it is important to help keep the young children involved to help make them better stewards of our Greek Orthodox faith.

Offering Bread (Prosfora) Baking Workshop a Success!

By Christina Harris

We gathered on Saturday morning, March 3, in the Church Social Hall kitchen and I was pleased to have six ladies and two young girls attend: Lindsay and Eva Vardalos; Tracy and Sierra Albrant; Stella Pagos; Jaimie Contes; Elizabeth and Jim Gorman; and Robin Hyduke.

Everyone enjoyed a "hands-on" lesson and the session went very well. We baked four loaves of bread and two small ones for the young ladies. After basking in the wonderful

aroma of baking bread, we decided to slice one loaf to sample—we had to make sure it was edible. We were pleased with the result and it was delicious.

We also set aside a loaf for Fr. Michael to share with the altar boys. The "students" will participate in baking at home and bring their offering for an upcoming Sunday Divine Liturgy. I will work towards setting up a schedule.

My thanks to the group, it was pleasant working with them.



The Greek Festival... Why Have It?

By Greg Krochta, Festival Chairman

With all the time and effort in preparing foods of every variety, all the heavy lifting for setup and teardown, the heat, the cold...why do we put ourselves through having a festival? Can't we just have a "Super Raffle" and raise the funds we'll need for the upcoming year? Have you found yourself asking these or similar questions? You probably aren't alone.

If you polled the parishioners at St. Haralambos and asked why we have our annual Greek Festival, you would probably receive several different responses. The more obvious responses are usually centered around raising as much money as possible, bringing the Greek culture to our visitors and guests and striving for bragging rights for serving the best Greek foods in the Valley of the Sun.

While all of this is true, there is one reason that rises above all others. It is centered on who we are as Orthodox Christians. We hold the annual Greek Festival to showcase our Church, the people and the love we have for God and one another.

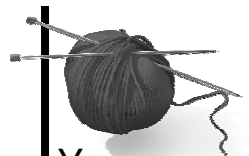


The way we do this is through the time and care we take in our festival preparations, the way we greet our visitors and guests during the festival, the way we treat each other (even when things don't go as planned), the way we calmly clarify to our visitors that, "while you may see Zeus or Apollo in our celebration of Greek history, no, we don't pray to the pagan gods but to the one True God, and you're invited to join us on a Sunday or Feast Day to find out why Orthodoxy has existed since the time of the Apostles."

That is the essence of what our festival is all about. All the other aspects mentioned above, while certainly important, will fall into their rightful place.

For those of you not already in touch with a festival booth chairperson, PLEASE let them (Ms. Penny Obren or myself) know how you would like to help out. We need everyone's talents in one fashion or another. This year's Festival will be held Friday to Sunday, Nov. 2-4.

Be sure to clear your calendars and mark the dates to invite your family and friends to the Festival, and at the same time help us celebrate our 20th Anniversary and Annual Greek Festival in style! Opa!



Yarn Collection for Baby Blankets

Reminder

Parishioners can drop off yarn at the Church Office for an on-going community outreach effort. The yarn is used to make baby receiving blankets and when completed are donated to hospitals for mothers to use with their newborn babies.

ORGANIZATIONS



Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

Christ is Risen – Truly He has Risen. A big Thank You to Christina Harris, Stella Pagos, Jean Sgouros, Dina Surnam and Georgia Trakas for joining me in donating dishes of Kolyva for the recent Saturday of Souls services.

Upcoming dates to remember

April 1 Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon

April 6 Decorating of the Epitaphios, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 8 Pascha reception following the Midnight Resurrection Service hosted by Philoptochos

Next Meeting

Due to Holy Week and Pascha, please note date change to Wednesday, April 11, at 7 p.m.

Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Mar. 4 Gus & Pat Stamnas and Anna Yacyshyn

Mar. 11 Carl & Constantina Surman and Jack & Sharon Kelly

Mar. 18 Despina Medina and Mary Dascalos

Mar. 25 Sue Charbel, Donna Gligich and Fannie Huzenic

Apr. 1 Philoptochos Fish Luncheon

Apr. 8 Easter Sunday

Apr. 15 Jamie Contes

Apr. 22 James Kapolas and George Karras

Apr. 29 Glen & Tracy Albrant

Note: Due to publication printing deadlines, any modifications or changes to coffee hour listing will be noted in next month's newsletter.

Pastors' Column

(Continued from page 3)

Christian Churches, this year would be an ideal opportunity to share traditions, not with the intent to convert, but simply to share and enrich.

In the United States, with every Christian tradition under the sun living within its borders, Orthodox Christianity will always have something beautiful and meaningful to share with other Christians, a great number of which have lost faith in "organized" or "mainline" religion or think it has become irrelevant. But before we go looking for potential converts, all of us should make sure we are prepared to converse with others intelligently about our faith; and above all, to show respect for other traditions that just might have something positive (such as hymns, writings, customs and activities) to enrich our own faith.

May the risen Lord Jesus fill our hearts with joy, and a renewed desire to "see [Him] more clearly, love [Him] more dearly, follow [Him] more nearly, day by day." (Adapted from "Day by Day" from the 1971 musical *Godspell*.)



ORGANIZATIONS

Parish Council Corner

By Greg Krochta, President

Hopefully you will be reading this in time for me to say "Christos Anesti!" Have a wonderful and joyous Pascha in celebration of the Risen Christ.

The Parish Council is off and running and, incredibly, we are about to end the first quarter. That means that we have had one General Assembly meeting this year and are approaching another meeting.

It is vitally important for you to plan to attend the next Parish General Assembly meeting on May 6, as the Building Committee will provide a briefing on their progress and plans. Since we are not yet to the April Parish Council meeting (where we anticipate a pre-briefing by the Building Committee), I urge everyone to attend the May meeting. We are at the cusp of making important decisions on the future of St. Haralambos Church, so be sure to be there and get the facts.

Please stop your Parish Council members and say "Hello" and pass along any suggestions or ideas you may have. The members are:

Greg Krochta, President
George Retsinas, Vice President
Peter Tremoulis, Secretary
Mary Dascalos, Treasurer

Glen Albrant
George Christie
Dean Milonas
Mary Wysmierski

Tracy Albrant
Mary Manos
Stella Pagos
Ray Wysmierski

Last year's Parish Council compiled a list of items, and prioritized them, for needed repairs around our Church. We have completed some of the items and will be moving forward on others. If you would like to help out with completing repairs, either financially or physically, please let us know. Items of safety and/or security of our Church are our highest priority.

Fr. Michael and our newest Parish Council member, Ray Wysmierski, recently returned from the Clergy-Laity Assembly at St. Nicholas Ranch in California. They will be briefing the Council at our next meeting.

Finally, we have added committee briefings to our monthly Parish Council meetings to enable the Council and Parish priest to receive updates on actions and activities from Church committees. If you are a committee chairperson, expect a call from Stella Pagos asking you for a brief (5-10 minutes) update for the council on what the committee's goals and plans are for the year, and what the Council can provide for guidance and support.

Building Committee Update

By John Obren, Building Committee

The St. Haralambos Building Committee submitted architect proposal requests to six architects. Four architects provided a positive document response to our request.

For the past six weeks, Building Committee members have been actively engaged in evaluating the architect's

proposals and conducting detailed individual interviews with each of the architects. Final architect evaluations and preliminary negotiations will be completed during the month of March. Final architect selection recommendations will be submitted for approval to the Parish Council during the month of April and then to the General Assembly Meeting in May.

Stewardship Update

Our parish 20th anniversary celebration can now happily add another milestone. 2007 is the first year for St. Haralambos Church that Stewardship pledges from parishioners have exceeded \$100,000. We currently have received 127 Pledge Cards with pledges totaling \$100,474. This amount far exceeds the 2007 budgeted goal of \$92,000, and that is also welcome news.

Thank you to all our parish families that have returned their 2007 Stewardship Pledge Cards. We would still like to remind those parishioners that have yet to return their 2007 Stewardship pledge card to please join the 127 families in support of St. Haralambos Church. Bring your pledge card with you to services this Sunday. Stay for the coffee hour and enjoy refreshments and good fellowship!

FAMILY NEWS

Birthdays



Felicia Papas (1st)
Kyla Waters (3rd)
Jim Ivanoff (4th)
Sophia Karandreas (6th)
Chris Fredericksen (7th)
Eva Nicolaidis (9th)
Maria Papamatheakis (12th)
Dennis Germenis (14th)
Ottmar Helmle (14th)
Lee Feutz (17th)
Kimon Ayan (18th)
Alexander Papamatheakis (18th)
Roy Christian (28th)
Eve Devolites (30th)

If you don't see your name, or those of family members, and would like to be included on the monthly birthday listing, please send the information to the church office.

Name Days

Many years/*Chronia Polla* to those named after the following saints:

St. Mary (of Egypt) (1st)
St. Joseph
(the Hymnographer) (3rd)
St. Alexandra (21st)
Sts. Jason and Sosipater (29th)

Sacraments

We welcome Margaret Nelson into our parish and the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith. Margaret was baptized on February 24th and took the name Helen as her patron saint. Her godmother is Lee Feutz. May our Lord grant them both many years of good health and happiness.

Assisted Living, Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish, and we ask you to please remember them in prayer: Marianthy Bravos, Orin and Mary-Jean Davis, Alice Massahos, Dema Jean Milonas and George Poulos

Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of Jean Landis, who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, February 24, 2007. Jean was a long-time member of St. Haralambos Church, and spear-headed our first mission trip to St. Innocent Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. Burial services were held in Colorado. May her memory be eternal.

Baptism Celebration

Peter and Sabrina Tremoulis would like to invite all parishioners of St. Haralambos to attend the baptism of the newest and youngest, Church member, Artemesia Xanthe Tremoulis. Alex and Athena Papamathiakis have accepted the honor to be the Godparents to the family's wonderful baby girl. The baptism will be held Sunday, April 15, at 4 p.m. at the Church. Please RSVP your attendance by April 11 if you plan to attend by calling 623-915-7775 or 623-570-8360.



APRIL 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy Palm Sunday Luncheon Palm Sunday 6:00pm "Bridegroom" Service	2 Holy Monday 7:00pm "Bridegroom" Service with His Eminence Met. Gerasimos	3 Holy Tuesday 7:00pm "Bridegroom" Service	4 9:00a.m. Liturgy Holy Wednesday 6:00pm Holy Unction	5 9:00a.m. Liturgy Holy Thursday 6:00pm "Passion Gospels"	6 8:30a.m. Royal Hours Holy Friday 3:00pm Vespers 7:00pm Lamentations	7 10:00a.m. Liturgy Holy Saturday 11:00pm Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy
8 Easter Sunday 1:00pm Vespers of Love	9 (No fasting this week)	10 10:30am Bible Enrichment 7:00pm Parish Council	11 7:00pm Philoptochos	12 7:00pm Choir	13	14
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy St. Thomas Sunday	16	17 10:30am Bible Enrichment	18	19 7:00pm Choir	20	21
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy	23 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy St. George	24 10:30am Bible Enrichment	25	26 7:00pm Choir	27	28
29 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy	30					