

# *in* Touch

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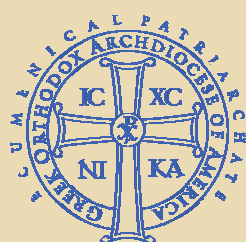
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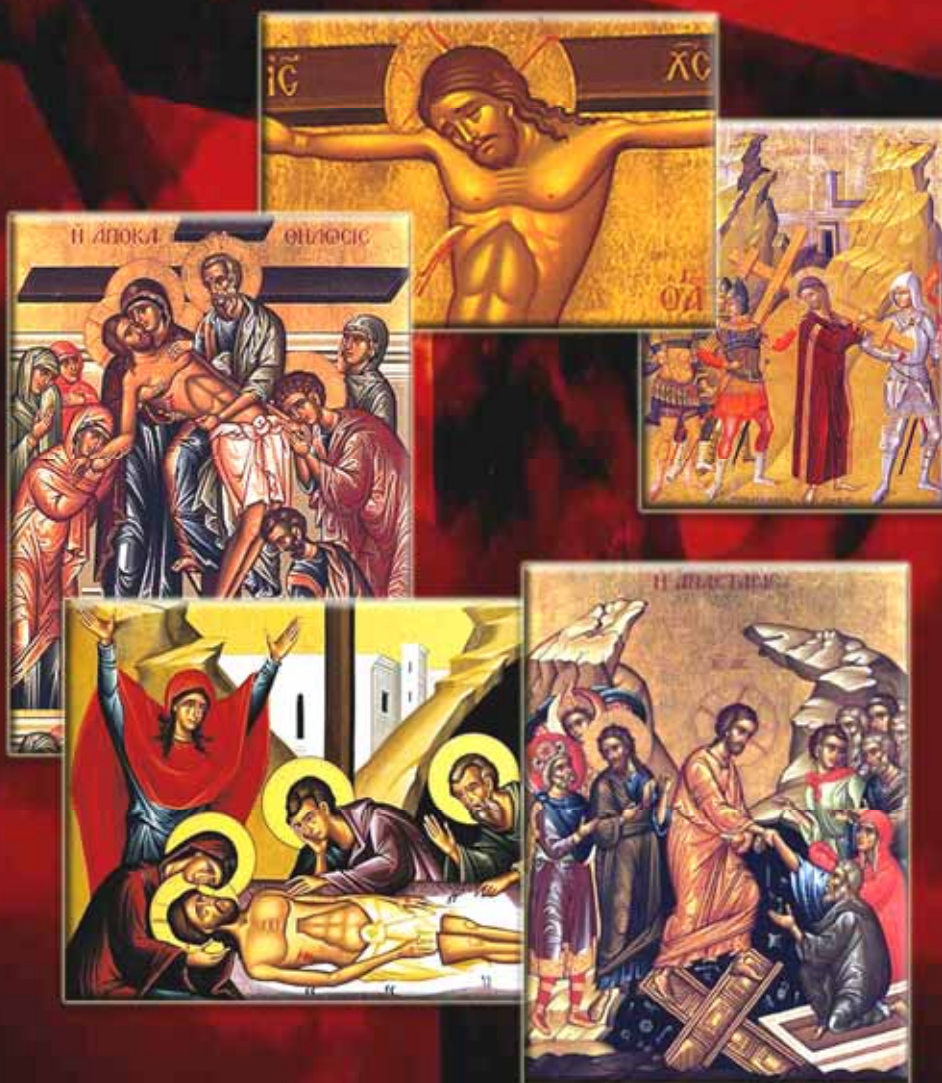
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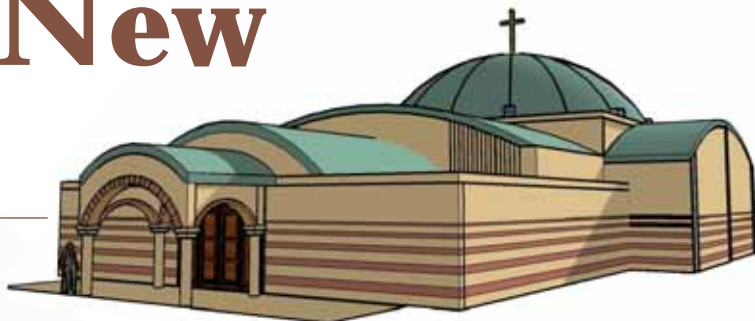


## HOLY PASCHA



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

# For Everything a Season: **Building a New Church**



## **The Building Team (BT)**

In October 2006, Father Michael contacted several members of our community and asked if they would explore the possibility of constructing a new Church. The members of this committee became known as the Architectural Selection Committee.

Five months, 11 meetings, four interviews, and hundreds of hours later, we selected our architectural firm, *CALLAHANstudios*. Once the architect was selected, the next task was developing a Master Plan for our 75th Avenue and Greenway Road property. The natural progression was for the Selection Committee to be transformed into the Building Team. The seven members of St. Haralambos' Building Team are: Kim Ayan, Angie Cholas, Mike Danielek, John Obren, Fr. Michael Pallad, Presvytera Kristin Pallad and Ray Wysmierski.

## **The Design Focus Group (DFG)**

Kevin Callahan of *CALLAHANstudios* coached the BT on how to involve as many of our parishioners in the design process as we possibly could. He recommended that we invite all of our Church family to a meeting where the design process would be introduced and discussed.

Callahan advised us on how to develop the DFGs. Each BT member was given the task of soliciting – from the community – five volunteers to serve on the various DFGs. The DFGs were: Worship and Music (Fr. Michael); Fellowship Hall (John Obren); Festival (Angie Cholas); Landscape and Grounds (Presv. Kristin Pallad); Administration (Kim Ayan); Education (Mike Danielek); and Capital Enrichment (Ray Wysmierski).

The BT spent two weeks contacting parishioners. Team members then composed a DFG for their area of responsibility.

We then mailed a letter of invitation to everyone in our community (over 300 names on mailing list). *EVERYONE* was invited to attend our first design meeting on Saturday, May 5, 2007. Seventy-eight parishioners came together to begin the preliminary design process for our new Church property.

## **The Preliminary Master Plan**

During the afternoon design session, the DFGs met, discussed and revised each of the specific elements of the Preliminary Master Plan in their area of focus. Callahan and Helen Keating, Interior Liturgical Designer, moved throughout the room and assisted each group with ideas, questions and sketches.

The afternoon session closed with each DFG presenting to the whole group the specific comments and design changes they requested. Callahan and Keating took copious notes and closed the meeting by scheduling a June 11, 2007 meeting where all revisions were incorporated into the Preliminary Master Plan and presented to the DFGs.

Then on June 11, nearly 50 community members gathered to see the Preliminary Master Plan unveiled by Callahan. It was exciting to see the changes and sketches our parishioners created and introduced into the Preliminary Master Plan.





## Sharing the good news of the resurrection of Christ.

Over the years at a few birthday parties my girls have been invited to, the guest of honor made the unusual (in my opinion) decision to postpone opening the gifts until after the party was over and everyone had gone home. (Thinking back, it is possible that this decision may have come at the urging of well-meaning but over-protective parents.) I have to admit, this was a very different tradition than I was used to. As a child, at my birthday parties - as well as at every party I was invited to - the highlight was tearing into the gifts with everyone watching. Most of the time, my friends watched with nearly as much excitement as I had.

When the parents of the birthday girl explained the reason for putting off gift-opening until after the party was over, the answer was typically that it would spare any potential embarrassment for a friend who didn't bring a gift, or any hurt feelings in case their daughter didn't really like a particular gift. Besides, the thank-you notes would make sure everyone who did bring a gift was properly acknowledged.

I don't know how prevalent this particular birthday party tradition has become, but it will

not gain a following in at least one household. I enjoy watching my girls open birthday gifts with their friends all watching, laughing and sharing. No one invited to a party has ever come without a gift, and all the children seem to enjoy watching the wrapping paper get torn to shreds in anticipation of something they brought for the guest of honor. Even in the case of a duplicate, there is laughter and the understanding of the ease of exchanging it for something else. Hurt feelings? Potential embarrassment? A concern, perhaps, of the parents, but not from the children.

It is very natural to want to share good experiences with friends: a great movie, a concert or a simple dinner at home. When shared with friends, these experiences create good memories, and strengthen the bonds of friendship.

One area of sharing, however, that may be in real danger of being lost on this generation is that of religious faith. It has become for many, slowly but surely, a taboo subject not appropriate for casual conversation, even among friends, and even among friends of similar faith. Among the variety of possible reasons, I

believe one follows the same reasoning as postponing gift-opening until after the guests have gone home: the fear of hurt feelings or potential embarrassment. Do we feel the fear or guilt that might result by speaking openly of our faith (or lack of faith) that may come across on the one hand as spiritually inadequate or, on the other, with a "holier-than-thou" attitude? Isn't it better not to take the risk, and avoid the subject altogether?

The unfortunate consequences of this philosophy are lost opportunities to share, among friends, honest and deeply held feelings of spirituality. This is precisely the value of good friendship; not being afraid to speak your mind even on subjects as personal as religious faith. Nobody wants to hear that their faith is weak or to hear their beliefs demeaned; but the point of sharing is not to convince or to disparage, it is simply to share, to uplift and encourage. Just like wanting to share the experience of receiving

***the point of sharing is not to convince or to disparage, it is simply to share, to uplift and encourage...***

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**St. Haralambos  
Greek Orthodox  
Church**

**Rev. Michael Pallad**

[www.stharalambos.org](http://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  
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345  
[Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com)  
[FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com)

### Hours

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

### Parish Council

George Retsinas, President  
Ray Wysmierski, Vice-President  
Roberta Szklarsk, Secretary  
Stella Pagos, Treasurer  
George Christie  
Mike Danielek

Olga Fredericksen  
Mary Manos  
Peter Retsinas  
Katherine Tally  
Peter Tremoulis  
Mary Wysmierski

## Lenten Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos

Parishioners from all the Phoenix valley Greek Orthodox Churches are invited to attend the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Wednesday, Apr. 2, at 6p.m. presided by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. All Greek Orthodox clergy will be in attendance, therefore, no liturgy will be celebrated at St. Haralambos Church on Apr. 2.

In honor of His Eminence's third anniversary as bishop of the Metropolis of San Francisco, there will also be a Lenten fellowship dinner following the liturgy in the Speros Community Center.



## Parishioner Profile

Greg and Michele Krochta and their three daughters, Alicia (16), Mikhala (12) and Alexandra (8) of Goodyear are all excited about the growth of the church.

"We are excited to be part of the growth of the church, helping with the momentum for both our spiritual growth and the building of the new church property," explained Greg. "In fact, while residing in California we witnessed the exact same thing happen in building up a new church property and how exciting it is to see these events become a reality. We look forward to it happening here at St. Haralambos."

Parishioners since 2004, Greg has served three years on the Parish Council including last year as president. He was also the 2007 chairman for the Greek Festival. Michele is a Sunday School teacher, and the girls are Sunday school students and have started participating in the choir.

Greg is a pilot, first officer, for Southwest Airlines while also serving as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force as the Arizona Admissions Liaison Officer for the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Michele is a stay at home mom but also provides tax advice to clients part-time at H&R Block.

Greg has served on Air Force active duty for 15 years at Elmendorf AFB in Alaska, Holloman AFB in New Mexico, Langley AFB in Virginia and Edwards AFB in California. Additionally, he spent one year in Larissa, Greece on a remote NATO assignment.

"We have been blessed in many ways by God throughout my career, but one of the most amazing blessings was when I was stationed in Greece," he explained.



"During that year, the family resided in California while I was in Greece. Michele came to visit me for two weeks in Greece and one of the many things I took her to see included the monasteries on the high cliffs of Meteora. While in one of the monasteries, a nun gave us a 'personal tour' since we were both Orthodox and she showed us several things, but the most amazing thing was hidden behind a locked, wooden icon. These were the relics of St. Haralambos. This was before we even knew we would be attending St. Haralambos in Peoria. This was truly an amazing blessing and an incredible foreshadowing of our future."

Currently, Alicia is at the top (number two) in her junior class at Estrella Foothills High School and enjoys playing piano and soccer. Mikhala and Alexandra both attend Estrella Mountain Elementary School and Mikhala's hobbies include music, playing volleyball and computers, while Alexandra participates in piano lessons and is a girl scout. The family enjoys numerous outdoor activities including hiking, skiing and fishing. Greg and Michele recently celebrated their 20th anniversary.

## 2008 GOYA and FDF Lenten Retreat

### Survivor: Escape the iLAND

Apr. 4-6

Camp Wamatochick - Prescott, AZ

The Metropolis of San Francisco invites all GOYAns, FDF dancers and anyone else in middle school and high school for a crash course in survival skills for teenage life. The theme of the weekend will be "Survivor: Escape the iLAND".

Participants will learn the Orthodox Church's survival skills for dealing with different challenges of teen life such as friendships, relationships, school and peer pressure. Part of the weekend's survival program will include a low ropes course, archery, hiking, capture the flag, dodge ball and campfire.

If you are interested in attending, please

visit the Metropolis Youth Webpage to download the forms at: [www.sanfran.goarch.org](http://www.sanfran.goarch.org).

The Registration fee is \$75 and will include: 2 Nights Lodging, all meals from Saturday morning to Sunday brunch and participation in the low ropes course and archery range.

For further information or questions, please contact the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Scottsdale, AZ at: 480-991-3009 (office), 480-991-3717 (fax) or [www.youth.sanfran.goarch.org](http://www.youth.sanfran.goarch.org)

This is an event you will not want to miss out on! Hope to see you there!



## Our Lenten Journey

A few observant parishioners noticed an unintentional error in last month's article, "Our Lenten Journey." In discussing the various categories of foods for the Fast, one paragraph began, "The Lenten journey includes fasting from certain foods (choose from one or more of the categories) as well as limiting the quantity of foods at each meal."

The sentence should have stated that the Fast traditionally includes foods from all four of the listed categories, but for parishioners (adults or children) fasting for the first time, they may begin with foods from the 1st category, then, over time, they can add foods from the 2nd, 3rd and 4th categories, gradually making a more strict fast.

(It's good to know that parishioners read our newsletter, and we welcome comments or questions seeking further clarification.)

## Why are we Different?

By George Retsinas, Parish Council President

Recently, I read an article that more and more Americans are **not** claiming any specific spiritual home. Because of world conflicts or influences from friends, acquaintances and society in general, or perhaps a little of each, Americans are pulling away from what they have been raised with in terms of religious beliefs.

My first reaction was to wonder whether this was affecting the Greek Orthodox Church, Orthodoxy as a whole, or even our very own Church in Peoria, Ariz. Most likely it is, but not completely in the ways we may imagine. More and more, I am seeing new faces on Sundays. I, myself, am fairly new and I wonder if it's just me...am I just now seeing new people? Why do we still grow?

Orthodox roots run very, very deep. They are not based **solely** on Scripture or music or icons or relevant lessons to our

everyday lives. As Orthodox Christians, we have them all. Our roots run deep because we are fed by more than one type of spiritual food and in more than one way.

We use sight, sound, touch, taste, hearing, smelling...each and every one of our senses. So while we may be threatened by the strong winds of "it not being important how or what we believe or where we worship...just that we believe," we're not just brought back to Orthodoxy by our soul and mind but by our whole body as well.

As we move closer day by day to building our new church, we get closer to making better each of the ways in which we worship God and therefore, help our own Orthodox roots run deeper. Where we worship and how that church looks and sounds have profound impacts that can't be measured. As we adjust with our plans and costs (just some more wind), let's remember how we will become stronger.

# ORGANIZATIONS

## Coffee Hour

### Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Mar. 2	Roberta Szklarski and Kathy Tally
Mar. 9	Gus & Pat Stamnas and Dorothy Masley
Mar. 16	Kalliope Chafoulas
Mar. 23	Peter & Lee Retsinas
Mar. 30	Kimon & Dorothy Ayan
Apr. 6	George & Georgia Trakas
Apr. 13	Tom & Margaret Michailidis
Apr. 20	Palm Sunday Luncheon
Apr. 27	Easter Sunday

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



## Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas

We are well into the Lenten Journey for 2008. There are many services to renew your faith. I hope you are taking advantage by attending the additional services.

The March 1 Mardi Gras Spaghetti Dinner was a success. The "Red Hot clowns" brought out the children in all of us. Prizes for costumes were awarded to: Georgia Trakas, Penny Obren, Ann Yacyshyn, Danny and Steven Hill and Anya Kurilova. Thank you to all who helped.

Elsewhere, we also donated a chocolate gift basket to Beatitudes Center D.O.A.R. for bidding during their annual Jazz Cabaret fundraising event that was held Mar. 30.

### Hosts for Pre-Sanctified meals

- ♦ Apr. 2 evening – service held at Holy Trinity
- ♦ Apr. 9 morning – Penny Obren
- ♦ Apr. 16 evening – Georgia Pikoula

### Next Meeting

Everyone is invited to our next meeting on Apr. 7 at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Sharon Forman discussing the topic, "Support Services for Independent Home Living."

### Upcoming Events

- ♦ Bus trip to St. Anthony's Monastery in Florence on Apr. 12. For additional details including registration information and deadline see the flyer in the weekly Sunday bulletin.



- ♦ Philoptochos will host a Palm Sunday Fish Dinner. Check the flyer or bulletin board for details.
- ♦ Philoptochos will also host a reception after Anastasi Service on Sunday morning Apr. 27.
- ♦ Everyone is invited to help decorate the Epitaphio on Holy Friday, Apr. 25 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- ♦ Finally, a sincere plea to all members of St. Haralambos Parish:  
A great need for help from all age levels is needed to help with activities during Lent, especially Saturday of Lazarus on Apr. 19 by attending church services, making Palm Sunday crosses, baking kolouria for sale and assisting in the preparations for Palm Sunday dinner.

For more information or to participate in upcoming events, contact a Philoptochos member or the Church office.

Christos Anesti!

## St. Christopher's Bookstore

The Mountain of Silence: a Search for Orthodox Spirituality, Kyriacos C. Markides, 2001, 256 pages.

The author was baptized an Orthodox Christian during infancy, but calls himself an "agnostic" in 1972 when he began his career as an assistant professor of sociology. At that time, he says, "...the only real world was the world of hard facts, of the concrete physical universe and of ordinary consciousness." Any other beliefs were "fantasies" or "delusions."

Soon a colleague convinced him to study oriental mystical religions. Later on he did 10 years of field research where he encountered a "formidable healer and mystic known as 'Daskalos'" on the island of Cyprus and witnessed various psychic phenomena. The mystical philosophy of the Cypriots centered on Christ and was "within [his] own cultural tradition."

In 1991, the author journeyed to Mount Athos, "a 30-mile-long by 10-mile-wide inaccessible peninsula in northern Greece to meet living saints that radiate the love of Christ...their prayers caused miracles to happen."

Mr. Markides wrote about the ancient monasteries on Mount Athos in Riding with the Lion. In this book, the author follows Fr. Maximos, formerly a Mount Athos monk for several years, to Cyprus where he was sent to establish churches, convents and monasteries.

Though this book contains an interesting history of the Holy Mountain from the Third Century to modern times,

it mostly contains long, but fascinating conversations between the author and Fr. Maximos about monasticism – for which the Apostles set the foundation since they lived communally and gave up everything – and Orthodox spirituality.

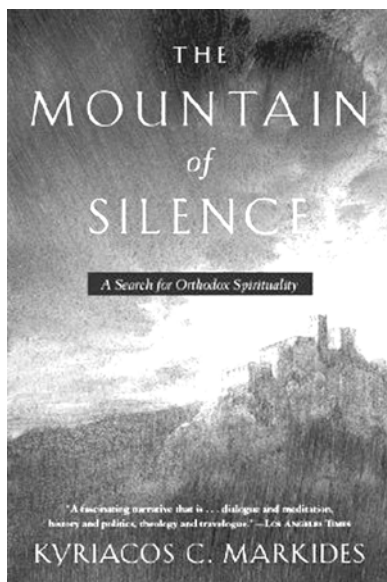
Fr. Maximos says knowing God is beyond our senses, reason or logic. Saints, martyrs, hermits, and monks experience God by systematic prayer and other spiritual practices that purify their hearts of egotistical desires so they can experience "God's living presence." They

provide a living testament to God's existence.

*Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.* The author writes "...now that our scientific, rational faculties have developed to the point that they may threaten our very existence, we need perhaps to bring to the forefront the forgotten mystical tradition as it is preserved [on]...Mount Athos."

Fr. Maximos relates many astonishing events that he calls "extraordinary realities" in the lives of three elders, Paisios, Porphyrios and Ephraim, and others who were "wonderworkers, contemporary saints." These stories are so inspirational that one reviewer said, "The importance of this book is potentially immense."

The tone of the book is casual, the writing style is lively and the content shows us the way to know God.



## Pastor's Column

(Continued from page 3)

or giving a gift, when we feel the joy of Christian faith, it is natural to want to share this with others. Of course, not everyone will have similar feelings on the subject. Some will be willing to listen and share, others might not be able to relate, while others might have a desire to learn more.

This is how the apostles began sharing the good news of the resurrection of Christ. Their joy over seeing the risen Lord was too powerful to want to keep it to themselves. They wanted to share this with others. Not everyone wanted to hear it, and some didn't believe it. But many did, and many others wanted to learn more.

Let's remember the joy of the women who first found the empty tomb, the disbelief and then the firm conviction of the apostles, and their desire to share the joy of the good news over and over again. It is natural, encouraging and strengthening to want to share good news with others.

Is it any wonder we proclaim and sing "Christ is risen" so often during the Easter season? It's not just a catchy phrase or slogan: it is the foundation of Christian faith, and the love and the power of God.

May this celebration of the resurrection of our loving Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our Easter celebration, the Holy Pascha, be a source of joy for each of you; a joy that moves you to share this good news without fear or hesitation.

Christ is risen; truly He is risen!

## *Birthdays*



Felicia Papas (1st)  
 Kyla Waters (3rd)  
 Jim Ivanoff (4th)  
 Sophia Karandreas (6th)  
 Chris Fredericksen (7th)  
 Eva Nicolaides (9th)  
 Reina D. Kennedy-Bautista (10th)  
 Maria Papamatheakis (12th)  
 Paula Farr (15th)  
 Dennis Germentis (14th)  
 Ottmar Helmle (14th)  
 Lee Feutz (17th)  
 Kimon Ayan (18th)  
 Alexander Papamatheakis (18th)  
 Roy Christian (28th)  
 Katherine (Pat) Janofsky (28th)  
 Eve Devolites Rosenburg (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 the Queen (21st)  
 St. George the Great Martyr (23rd)  
 St. Mark the Apostle (25th)  
 Sts. Jason and Sosipater (29th)

## Sacraments

### **Baptism**

Don Henson on Dec. 16, 2007, Sponsor: Pamela Lemons

Michael Fulghum on Mar. 9, Sponsor: David Fredericksen

### **Chrismation**

Tony Panousopoulos on Feb. 17, Sponsor: Kay Ehrick

Kay Fulghum on Mar. 9, Sponsor: Christina Harris

Jeremy Scherer on Mar. 9, Sponsor: Deacon and Mrs. Raphael Abrahams

We welcome our new converts and the newly-baptized to the Orthodox Faith, and offer prayers that God grant them many years of good health and growing faith.

## 2008 Festival



### ***Calling all interested Festival participants...***

There will be a general meeting for the 2008 Festival on Sunday, Apr. 13 following Divine Liturgy. This preliminary planning session will be dedicated to outlining our goals for a successful Festival. We need and look forward to your participation. And, as always, everyone is welcome!

Thank you,  
 Pam Lemons and Stella Pagos,  
 2008 Festival Co-chairmen



## Lenten Breakfast and Palm Crosses



Everyone is invited to stay for breakfast following the liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, Apr. 19. After breakfast, we will be making the palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Enjoy the fellowship and help with preparations for Palm Sunday.



# APRIL 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 7:00pm Compline Service	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at Holy Trinity	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Akathist Hymn, 4th Stanza	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy <b>4th Sunday of Lent</b> 6:00pm Vespers at Holy Trinity	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Philoptochos	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Compline Service 7:30pm Parish Council	<b>9</b> 9:00am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Akathist Hymn, Complete	<b>12</b> 10:00am Trip to St. Anthony Monastery
<b>13</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy <b>5th Sunday of Lent</b> 6:00pm Vespers at St. John Romanian	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Compline Service	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Lazarus Saturday</b> Lenten Breakfast Making Palm Crosses
<b>20</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Palm Sunday</b> 6:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	<b>21</b> <b>HOLY WEEK</b> 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	<b>23</b> 9:00am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 4:00pm Holy Unction (Children's service) 7:00pm Holy Unction (Adults)	<b>24</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm The Twelve Passion Gospels	<b>25</b> 8:30am The Royal Hours 3:00pm Great Vespers 7:00pm The Lamentations	<b>26</b> 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:00pm Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy
<b>27</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 1:00pm Easter "Love" Vespers Children's Easter Egg Hunt	<b>28</b> <b>Bright Week</b> No Fasting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			