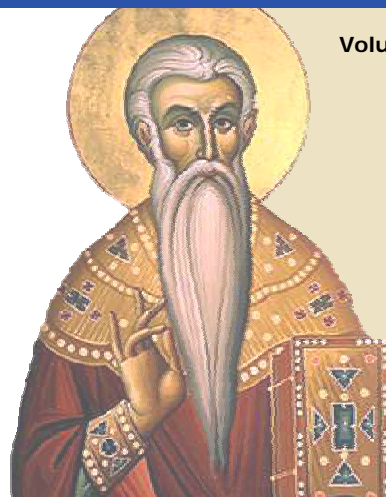


in Touch

Volume 17, Issue 4

April 2009



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

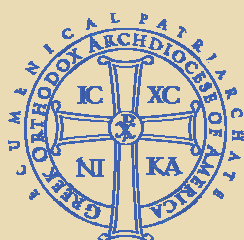
**Philoptochos
Fund Raiser • 2**

**Understanding
God's Love • 3**

**Parish Council
Corner • 4**

**Children's
Books • 6**

**Festival
News • 7**



“Come, receive the light...”

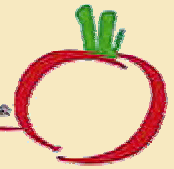


The Resurrection Service
Saturday Evening, April 18, 11 p.m.

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

Sweet tomatoes®

salads • soups • bakery



EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Everyone is invited to dinner at Sweet Tomatoes in Peoria (SW corner of Bell and 75th Ave.) on Thursday, Apr. 2 from 5 p.m. – 8p.m. Be sure to bring the “Fun-raiser” flyer (available during Sunday coffee hour) with you, and a portion of all receipts will be donated to support the ministries of our Philoptochos!

See you there.

FUND RAISER



Sweet Tomatoes

Arrowhead

7565 W. Bell Rd., Peoria

Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday



All are invited for wonderful family fellowship with a

pancake breakfast following the Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, Apr. 11. After breakfast everyone's help is needed to prepare the palm crosses for Palm Sunday. The more the merrier!

On Palm Sunday, Apr. 12, our Philoptochos is preparing a wonderful Baked Fish Luncheon. Adult tickets are \$10; children tickets are \$5.





Understanding God's Love for Us

The Christian gospel is, ultimately, a story of love, God's love for us. Our participation in fasting, praying and good works during Great Lent help us to reflect that love in our relationships with one another, and with Christ. Experiencing our Lord's arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection during Holy Week really helps us understand God's love for us, hopefully filling us with joy and hope.

In the following sermon of Fr. Anthony Coniaris, see how the conflict of despair and hope are resolved through the Resurrection, not only for the disciples, but for us as well.

"Three of the saddest words in the English language are: *'We had hoped...'* They capture some of the deepest pain, loss, and disillusionment human beings can feel.

"We had hoped that our marriage would work out... We had hoped that our business venture would be more successful... We had hoped that life would treat us more fairly than it has... We had hoped that our son or daughter would turn out the way we wanted... We had hoped that illness would not be such a constant source of sorrow and financial drain... We had hoped that death would not separate us so soon or so unexpectedly... We had hoped that our child would be normal and healthy.

"Easter began as a *'we had hoped'* experience. Christ had warned his

disciples that he would rise from the dead, but they missed the meaning of his promise. And who wouldn't? We just don't expect the dead to rise. Nothing seems so permanent to us as death. We had hoped!

Right after Jesus was killed, a couple of his disciples were slowly making their way to the town of Emmaus with very heavy hearts. Their dreams about the way life was going to be had been shattered. They saw the crucifixion of Jesus as an end to all their hopes and dreams for the future. They didn't remember the words of Jesus when he had told them, "You have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and then you will rejoice and no one can rob you of that joy." (John 16:22)

"The disciples were not looking forward to seeing Jesus again, and when they were told that He was no longer in the tomb, they thought His body had been stolen. As the two disciples walked along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, they were talking about Christ's death when suddenly Jesus Himself came and walked beside them. But they didn't recognize Him.

"He looked at their sad faces and said, 'What are you so concerned about?' 'Haven't you heard?' one of them named Cleopas said. 'You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about the terrible things

that happened there last week.'

"Jesus listened as they poured out their sad tale to Him, about the wonderful Jesus of Nazareth who had done such great miracles that they were sure He was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel, but the religious leaders had handed Him over to the Roman government and He had been crucified. The men spoke as if they had just witnessed the greatest tragedy the world had ever known. 'We had hoped,' they said, 'that this Jesus was going to liberate Israel.' On top of it all, they said, the body of Jesus was missing from the tomb. And some women said they'd seen angels who told them that Jesus was alive. The men seemed certain that the last bit of news could only be a fairy tale.

"Then Jesus said to them, 'You are such foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted by the prophets that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering His time of glory?'

"Then Jesus quoted them passage after passage from the writings of the prophets, beginning with the book of Genesis and going right on through the Scriptures explaining what the passages meant and what they said about himself (Luke 24:25-27).

(Continued on page 6)



**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
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345
Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com
FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com

Hours

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

Parish Council

Ray Wysmierski, President
Mike Danielek, Vice-President
Mary Wysmierski, Secretary
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
Angie Cholas
Dave Fredericksen

Mary Manos
George Retsinas
Peter Retsinas
Roberta Szklarski
Katherine Tally
Peter Tremoulis



Parishioner Profile

Get to know the members of our parish family.

Charlotte Servetas is originally from Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

After graduating from High School she went to Nursing School, graduating in 1951. She then entered the military in 1953. She married her husband Ernest in 1955. She has 2 children, Michael and Karol and has 4 grandchildren.

She came to Arizona in 1984. Charlotte has been Orthodox since 1964 and has been very active in the Church since then. Her goals are to continue to help the Church in any way. She is currently President of the Philoptochos. Her hobby is volunteering where she is needed. We are certainly lucky to have Charlotte in our parish!

Birthdays



Felicia Papas (1st)
Kyla Waters (3rd)
Stefania Stivaktakis (3rd)
Sophia Karandreas (6th)
Chris Fredericksen (7th)
Reina D. Kennedy-Bautista (10th)
Maria Papamatheakis (12th)
Paula Farr (15th)
Dennis Germanis (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.

Parish Council Corner

By Ray Wysmierski, President

Your parish council has been working hard to deal with the ever-current economic changes that impact the parish. That said, we are working on a feasibility study with the architect, Kevin Callahan, to determine the best option to move onto the property at 75th and Greenway. He is comparing the cost of building a fellowship hall vs. modular buildings until the Church proper is constructed.

It is very important not to forget our **"Leap of Faith"** Capital Campaign. As you are aware, its role is to continue to lead in growing the funds necessary for us to move forward at St Haralambos. We need your help and support in this area. **The Bible defines faith as: "...being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1 NIV).**

We are grateful to the many people who have offered their stewardship for 2009 and thank you for your faithfulness. Please do your best to take a step up in your pledge working towards a tithe (10%) offering. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office, Roberta Szklarski (Stewardship Chair) or one of the Parish Council members. Pledge cards for 2009 are available in the Church

Narthex and Office. Give as a faithful offering to our Lord to the best of your ability. Look for future stewardship testimonials during Sunday fellowship time. If you would like to become involved in the Stewardship endeavor please contact Roberta Szklarski.

We are seeking volunteers to assist with sprucing up the church, as Pascha is around the corner. Please speak with Stella Pagos to offer your time and talents. We are also asking you to be mindful of the financial needs during this spiritual journey and please consider offering as you are able. Thank you all for your dedication to this wonderful community.

"Remember, not all of us have the gifts that enable us to administer, preach, teach or finance important projects. But we all have specific abilities - love, energy, persistence, patience, sincerity, concern, and creativity. We are to exercise these things upon one another and on behalf of one another. We are to care for each other even as much as we care for ourselves. We are to allow our God to reach and touch others even our very enemies, with his care and concern for them through us." (L. Brandt, Epistle Mornings)

Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Director

IN SUNDAY SCHOOL WE LEARN WHAT **GOD IS LIKE**

How do we communicate with our students each Sunday?

All of us have seen TV commercials that, once we view them, leave an imprint on our minds that we can't forget. With that in mind (pun intended), let's look at how TV commercials are like teaching our students about God.

God is like: COCA COLA – He's the 'real thing'

God is like: HALLMARK CARDS – He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like: FORD – He's got a better idea.

God is like: TIDE DETERGENT – He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

God is like: ALLSTATE INSURANCE – You're in good hands (with Jesus).

God is like: UNITED STATES POST OFFICE – Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.

God is like: MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE – Good to the very last drop.

God is like: BOUNTY PAPER TOWELS – He is the quicker picker upper---... can handle the tough jobs... and He won't fall apart on you.

We teachers don't exactly go into class with an ad man's mentality or skill in crafting 'catchy' advertisements but we do teach what **God is like**.

Bring your students to Divine Liturgy and all of us will see what **God is like**.

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)

Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

"Christ is Risen" ~~~~ "Truly He Is Risen"

We are well on our way in the Lenten Journey: Pascha being Apr. 19.

Hosts for Pre-Sanctified Suppers:

April 1 Charlotte Servetas, Penny Obren, and Voula Dodd.

April 8 Donna Gligich and Sue Charbel.

Hope to see you at Sweet Tomatoes, Apr. 2. Philoptochos will be hosting a Baked Fish Luncheon on Palm Sunday following Liturgy. Reservations are

necessary. Tickets: Adults - \$10, children under ten - \$5. Also on sale Palm Sunday, Tsourekia and Koulouria; baking will be done Friday, Apr. 10.

We will be decorating the Epitaphio will be Friday, Apr. 17 between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to help.

A new cookbook is being compiled and we are looking for recipes of Greek cuisine. Please submit your favorite family recipe to the church office or a Philoptochos member by May 10.

Next meeting Apr. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Happy Easter to All!!

Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Mar. 1 Pancake Brunch
Mar. 8 Roy & Maria Christian
Mar. 15 Philoptochos
Mar. 22 Milonas Family
Mar. 29 Argyro Vasquez

Apr. 5 Available
Apr. 12 Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon
Apr. 19 Easter
Apr. 26 Available

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

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: Orin Davis, Gus Macrides, Fannie Huzinec, Helen Sigel, and John and Mary Karavaras.

Pastor's Column

(Continued from page 3)

"By this time they were coming near the town of Emmaus, and since it was getting late, the two men asked the stranger to spend the night with them. They still had not recognized Him! Jesus came home with them, and when 'they sat down to eat, he asked God's blessing on the food and then took a small loaf of bread and broke it and was passing it over to them, when suddenly – it was as though their eyes were opened – they recognized Him!' (Luke 24:3-31)

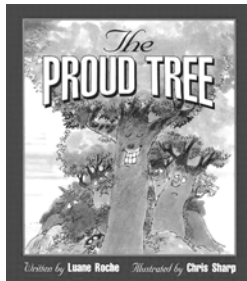
"At last they believed. The Risen Savior had come to them in their despair. In the midst of our shattered dreams and our broken hopes, in the midst of all our "if onlys" and devastated expectations, in the midst of all our "we had hoped" experiences, the Risen Christ comes even today to bring hope and victory.

We had hoped! The risen Christ has liberated us from such pessimism. That is why as we light our Easter candles we sing full of hope and joy: Christ is risen! Christ is risen, and the demons have fallen. Christ is risen, and the tombs have been emptied of their dead. Christ is risen, and life is liberated."

May the joy of Easter, the Resurrection of Christ, be with all of you.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Three more children's books.



THE PROUD TREE

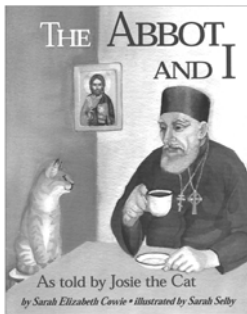
Luane Roche, 1995, approx. 40pp

"He was the straightest and sturdiest tree in the whole forest. Oh, but he was proud—

too proud. 'I'm the greatest,' he would boast."

This is the beginning of the crucifixion story told from the viewpoint of Rex, the tree that became the cross that Jesus carried to Calvary. Rex undergoes a change of heart when he sees how loving and forgiving Jesus is even after suffering cruel treatment, crucifixion and death. Children (from about first grade and up) will learn to be less selfish and more humble and will realize the power of Jesus' love as well as the importance of His sacrifice.

The illustrations are very colorful and show well to a group. Some third graders and most fourth graders could read the simple language and sentence patterns by themselves.



THE ABBOT AND I (AS TOLD BY JOSIE THE CAT)

Sarah Cowie, 2001, 32pp

"The abbot and I live in a monastery...We all love Jesus very

much here, and do everything for Him."

These words, actually the entire story, are from Josie, the abbot's cat. Young listeners or readers get to come along with two children who are visiting the

monastery with their parents. They have tea in the abbot's cell, watch the monks garden and sew, and take part in an all-night vigil. Of course, Josie spends most of her time napping in the sun, keeping the abbot's chair warm while he's at services, or chasing mice.

This delightful book ends with the monks, nuns, and pilgrims joyfully celebrating the monastery's Feast Day. This simple book would engage preschool age youngsters up through second grade. Also, some older students, especially cat lovers, would enjoy reading this book on their own.

NICHOLAS MEETS HIS GUARDIAN ANGEL

Eleni Christos and Helen Iakovos-Dalakis, 2001, 18pp

"It was Saturday night... 'Nicholas, don't forget to get your clothes ready for church tomorrow,' said his mom... 'Uhhhh...I don't think I can go to church tomorrow,' Nicholas answered."

Nicholas wants to play basketball with his fiends instead of going to church. But when he dreams that night, he meets his guardian angel and the Lord Jesus appears in church and stares sadly at the empty space where Nicholas usually sits with his family. The end of the story is nothing short of a miracle!

This is a very moving story with excellent illustrations of The Lord, the guardian angel and all the icons in Church. Children about age six and older will no doubt identify with Nicholas and love the ending.



2009 Taste of Greece Festival

Work is already underway on the 2009 Festival and we need your help!

The letter below is being used to solicit sponsors for the upcoming Festival. We would appreciate it if every parishioner could obtain one sponsor to advertise in our program. Any level of sponsorship is welcome! It will have a huge impact on reducing our expenses. Please use the

sponsor form on page 8. Additional copies are also available at the Church office.

If you have questions about sponsorship, want to help in any way or have suggestions to improve our 2009 event, contact Pam Lemons or Stella Pagos.

Spring, 2009

Dear Friend,

The 22nd Annual Taste of Greece Food and Dance Festival will be held October 23, 24 & 25, 2009 in Peoria. The "Taste of Greece" Festival attracts thousands of local and valley-wide residents each year and is the only Greek Festival in the West Valley. Proceeds from this annual event benefit parish ministries and our new Church building project located at 75th Avenue and Greenway Road in Peoria, Arizona.

We write to you today to ask for your support of the 2009 Taste of Greece Festival in the form of either advertising in the Festival program, donation of raffle prize or other monetary donation. A Sponsorship Form indicating levels of participation is attached for your review and consideration. We would, of course, appreciate any contribution that you can provide and all contributors will be acknowledged in the Festival program. All donations are tax deductible. For your records, the Federal tax ID Number for St. Haralambos Church is: 86-0594146.

We do hope that you will join us as a contributor and also for a fabulous weekend of authentic Greek food, dancing and entertainment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Church office at 623-486-8665.

Thank you, again. OPA!

Sincerely,

Pam and Stella

Pam Lemons & Stella Pagos
Co-Chairmen, Annual Greek Festival



ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2009 "TASTE OF GREECE" FOOD AND DANCE FESTIVAL

October 23, 24 & 25, 2009

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Company Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

FESTIVAL PROGRAM ADVERTISING

AD DEADLINE: September 4, 2009

Check One	Type	Cost	Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Page Ad	\$500	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 7 ½" h
<input type="checkbox"/>	Half Page Ad	\$300	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 3 ½" h
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Card Ad	\$100	2" x 3 ½" Standard size
<input type="checkbox"/>	Festival Booster	\$25	Name recognized in Festival Program

Please provide logo, ad or business card in .jpeg format or camera ready artwork.

Email artwork to: pamruss30@msn.com

	Other	Value	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raffle prizes-gift card, donation, etc.	\$	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!

Please return completed form to:

Pam Lemons/Stella Pagos, Greek Festival Chairmen

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345

For tax purposes, St. Haralambos Federal Tax ID Number is: 86-0594146

APRIL 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	2 5:00pm Sweet Tomatoes Fun-Raiser 7:00pm Choir	3 7:00pm Akathist Hymn (complete)	4
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 5th Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers St. John Romanian Church	6 7:00pm Philoptochos	7 7:00pm Compline Service 7:30pm Parish Council	8 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	9 7:00pm Choir	10	11 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Lazarus Pancake Breakfast Palm Crosses
12 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon 6:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	13 Holy Monday 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	14 Holy Tuesday 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	15 9:00am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy Holy Wednesday 4:00pm Holy Unction 7:00pm Holy Unction	16 9:00am Divine Liturgy Holy Thursday 7:00pm 12 Passion Gospels	17 9:00am Royal Hours Holy Friday 3:00pm Vespers: The Descent from the Cross 7:00pm The Lamentations	18 10:00am Divine Liturgy Holy Saturday 11:00pm Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy
19 Easter Sunday 1:00pm Easter Agapi/Love Vespers Easter Egg Hunt	20 Bright Week (No fasting)	21 6:00pm Quilting Class	22	23 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. George	24	25
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. Thomas Sunday	27	28 6:00pm Quilting Class	29	30 7:00pm Choir		