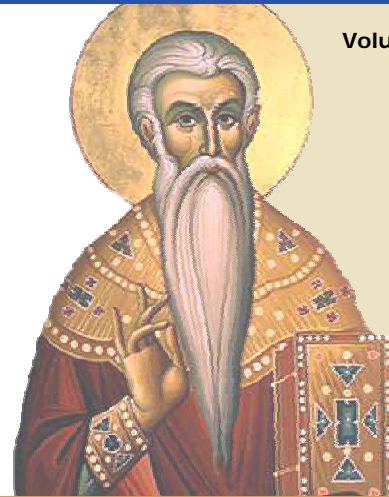


in Touch

Volume 18, Issue 4

April 2010



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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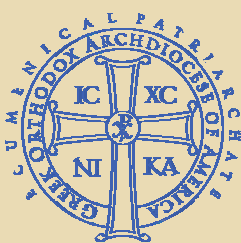
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The Life-giving Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Sunday, April 4



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

Blessing of the New Building

Saturday, March 20





A Historic and Memorable Lenten Season

To say the least, this has been one exciting Lenten season! Weeks of packing up the church office, classrooms, library, kitchen and liturgical items, then unpacking and setting up the new church, classrooms, library and kitchen kept a host of hard-working volunteers extra busy. At the same time we were packing and moving out, the parishioners of St. Mary's Coptic Church were unpacking and moving in; we were literally passing each other in the hallways.

Even with the phone line glitches (did anyone else call the church and get the ear-piercing fax tone on the other end?), getting familiar with new hallways and trying to remember where everything was put, I'm sure all who attended the Blessing and first Divine Liturgy in our new church agreed it was a very memorable weekend. Watching from the social hall the young children make a beeline to the playground equipment afterwards was the icing on the cake.

The week following our first Divine Liturgy, our Philoptochos hosted a wonderful Palm Sunday fish luncheon catered by Brothers Restaurant, and we then moved that evening into Holy Week. No resting, but a lot more excitement.

The new beginning for our parish could not have come at a more fitting or inspirational time of year. The celebration of our Lord's Resurrection is the new beginning for all creation, the ultimate victory of life brought about by God's love for his creation.

For the next seven weeks until Ascension Thursday (May 13), the Orthodox Church celebrates the resurrection season with the traditional "Christ is risen!" greeting, and liturgical hymns such as the Kontakion which states, "Even though you descended into the grave, O Immortal One, You destroyed the power of Hades. And You arose as the Victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, Hail; and to Your Apostles granting peace; You also grant resurrection to the fallen."

Our double Lenten journey comes to an end this month. We have arrived in our new church home, and we have come to the celebration of Christ's Holy Resurrection. My prayer for our parish family is that we will continue to grow in faith, fellowship, service and worship in our new church home. I hope the excitement over moving into a new building is coupled with a sense of responsibility for maintaining it so that it can be a welcoming church home to an increasing numbers of families.

This was one historic and memorable Lenten season. It was great to see parishioners step up to the challenge. May our good and loving God grant us many opportunities to enjoy the fruits of our labor, growing together in faith, worship, service and fellowship.

Our double Lenten journey comes to an end this month. We have arrived in our new church home, and we have come to the celebration of Christ's Holy Resurrection.



**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
7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ 85383
Office@StHaralambosAZ.com
FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.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
David Durgam

Dave Fredericksen
Dennis Georgen
Demetri Gryparis
Mary Manos
Roberta Szklarski
Katherine Tally

Secure Your Legacy

Estate Planning Seminar

You have worked long and hard to achieve success and build wealth for you and your family. Now, your focus is likely to start shifting to preserving your wealth for your family and philanthropic causes.

This seminar is designed to provide you with the information and estate planning tools you need to help you preserve, protect and transfer your wealth to your family or other beneficiaries.

Date: April 17th, 2010

Time: 2:30 pm

Place: Church Social Hall

Speakers

- Dimitri A Spanos, CIMA, CIMC
- Douglas Hodges
- Christine Asimou, PC

Please call us at 623-486-8665 to reserve your place. Admission is free but seating is limited.

**MorganStanley
SmithBarney**

Military Care Box Program

Items needed

Toiletries - toothpaste, mouthwash, toothbrushes, shampoo, body wash, body powder, razors, baby wipes, dental floss, chapstick, foot powder, lotion, hand sanitizer, toilet paper.

Food items - canned tuna or chicken salad, single serving containers of fruit cocktail/peaches/pears/pineapple/applesauce, Cup O'Noodles, single serving packages of cookies, instant hot chocolate packets, single serving packages of trail mixes, cans of Spaghetti O's, Beef-A-Roni, single serving packages of Mac & Cheese, Ramen noodles, single serving cans of soups, candy bars, single serving cans of chili (with or without beans), single serving containers of pudding, dried soup mixes, single serving packets of coffee/sugar/powdered creamer, tea bags.

Miscellaneous - gallon, quart, pint & sandwich sized plastic bags. Bags of hard candy to use as fillers. Paperback books, magazines, puzzle books, hand-held

games, blank cards they can send home for the upcoming holidays.

Hope this helps... and as always, thank you all so much for your continued support of our troops with your generous donations.

Remember to check the weekly Sunday bulletin for any changes or additions to Philoptochos calendar.



Easier Method for Parish Contributions

Join the families that have signed up for Parish Pay, making donations to our parish safe, beneficial and simple.

Parish Pay is a means of sending church contributions electronically via the internet. By going to our parish website (www.stharalambos.org) and clicking on the "Parish Pay" button, you are directed to the Parish Pay site to easily set up your account.

There is no cost to parishioners, and you decide how much and how often contributions are sent for stewardship, building fund or any other fund you

designate. Contributions can be a one-time gift, or you can set up regular monthly payments to be deducted from a checking or savings account or credit card. It is a safe and secure system.

Benefits are: eliminates the need for writing checks; automatically sends contributions even if you are ill or out of town, earns points, bonuses or mileage when coupled with credit card accounts.

For further information, please contact our Parish Council Treasurer Stella Pagos at 623-975-0027. Consider Parish Pay for all your church donations.

Parish Council Corner

By Ray Wysmierski, Parish Council President

It's April 2010 and we have finally begun to settle into our new worship space. This was only accomplished with all of you who have taken the time to help with packing, moving, and coordinating the moves.

There are countless people who I will personally try to identify and offer my thanks for all the help. However, the coordinator who directed this move, tirelessly, was Dean Milonas and his dedicated crew of workers.

But on a side note as we move forward with a refreshed look and another chapter in our beginning, let me just share with you a personal story on stewardship and giving - most appropriate as we begin to move full throttle to getting our permanent worship space into focus.

Growing up, I was taught that tithing consisted of 10 percent of our increase. In my parent's family, "increase" was defined as gross income, including salary, before taxes. As I got older, I learned what tithing money was used for, and many spiritual and temporal reasons why it's essential to pay 10 percent.

I also learned about taxes. We as citizens might disagree about how our tax dollars are spent, but most of us agree that

it's good to pool our resources in order to accomplish tasks that could not be done as well or as conveniently by private enterprise.

Both tithing and taxes are based on a percentage of our income. We pay tithing in obedience to the commandments of God; we pay taxes in obedience to the commandments of men. It's not the church's job to demand our payroll records or check with our employer or the bank. Ultimately, it's between us and God.

When we account for our taxes, we need to include proof of income, and be ready to stand to be audited by someone of authority to take from us what he thinks we should have paid.

Here is a good rule: Prepare your taxes so honorably you would not fear laying your calculations before the Lord. And figure your tithing so carefully you would not fear an audit from the IRS. It's quite possible that you'll find you can't use the IRS's definition of "taxable income" as the exact basis for the "increase" you pay tithing on.

Look for more on this subject in May's issue of "In Touch." Thanks again to all for all that is given to God's glory and our church in which to worship.

Festival Meeting!

Yasou! Time to get together and begin plans for our annual Taste of Greece Food and Dance Festival!

Everyone is invited to an organizational meeting on Saturday, Apr. 17 at 10:30am.

We'll need everyone's help for our first festival on our new grounds, so please make the time to attend this important meeting.

Efcharisto! Thank you!



General Assembly

Our annual Spring General Assembly will be held on Sunday, April 18, during the Coffee Hour in the Social Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend to be kept informed on important issues, plans and events of our parish. Our

Philoptochos will be preparing a light lunch beforehand. We look forward to a good turnout for our first General Assembly in our new facility.

Saint Haralambos Church

By George Miller

Our church is St. Haralambos
And Sunday is the day
We go and hear the Liturgy
And we learn how to pray.

Our church is not a new thing
That started yesterday
Its been here for two-thousand years
We go in and learn the way.

We hear the good word preached to us
We listen and we hear
The words of Jesus and the saints
From the Bible we love so dear.

It tells us of The Prodigal Son,
The Virgin Mary and
The Father, Son and Holy Spirit
The Ten Commandments; then

The healing of the blind and sick,
He chased bad spirits away.
Hey, I can tell you more and more
But it might take some days.

So let's all sing the chorus now
To this great song and pray
For St. Haralambos to pray for us
And guide us every day.

(Chorus)

It's down at St. Haralambos
We're glad that we belong
We learn to choose the harder right
Instead of the easier wrong.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

VICTORY IN THE UNSEEN WARFARE

by Rev. Jack N. Sparks. 155 pp.

This book and the other two in the series are adapted from a 400 year-old classic work, *Spiritual Combat*, as edited by Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain and again by St. Theophan the Recluse in accordance with Orthodox beliefs. Fr. Sparks has selected passages that he has reorganized and "recast...in contemporary language [for] the lay reader."

The subject of this book is spiritual warfare, which Fr. Sparks says is "the hardest of all wars—since it is within ourselves that we meet opposition." The conversational tone of the book, like a very kind, wise old friend giving us advice, makes the book fast and enjoyable to read. Here are a couple of examples of his conversational style:

"[H]ow can grace, which comes to enlighten us, enter someone who thinks that he is something great—that he knows everything and needs no outside help?"

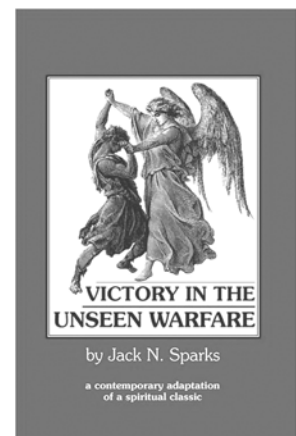
"Our Good Shepherd...shed all His blood and gave up His life [for us]. How is it possible that now —if His sheep...call for His help with hope—He should fail them? No!"

The author states emphatically: "The greatest and most perfect thing a human being can ever desire to achieve is to come near to God and dwell in union with Him...Every action we take should be a step closer to God," avoiding attachments to anything or any activity that doesn't lead to Him.

We must be willing "to shoulder our cross and follow...our Lord on any path by which He chooses to call us to Himself." Even in times of pain, sorrow or tribulation, we must trust in God alone. He allows us to suffer through these hardships so we will gain "knowledge of [our] weakness and to become humble, [for] HUMILITY IS OF ALL THINGS THE MOST...USEFUL TO OUR SOUL" and necessary for our salvation.

Also of vital importance are fervent prayer and repentance if we are to be victorious in our spiritual warfare. If we don't repent immediately after sinning, "our soul becomes like an eye blinded...when dirt and filth have fallen into it, [so] our soul can no longer see its condition...and repentance is abandoned altogether."

Therefore, recognizing our wickedness is as essential as recognizing our weakness. Then we can understand that "God Himself acts in all things and expects nothing from us but humility before Him, and the gift of our soul—freed from all earthly things—with only one wish: to have God's will fulfilled in us."



Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

"Christ is Risen!" - "Truly He is Risen!"

Our Lenten journey is almost completed, the move to our new "home" is done, but much work is needed to be finished.

A huge thank you to many who have helped us pack and move, especially to those amidst all the chaos were able to host the Pre-Sanctified Suppers:

1. Alice Hecht, Ann Yacyshyn
2. Penny Obren, Charlotte Servetas
3. Aphrodite Devolitis, Voula Dodd
4. Chryss Danielek, Voula Dodd
5. Christina Harris, Charlotte Servetas

Thanks to all of you who helped with Pascha preparations, i.e.: decorating icons, Epitaphios, dying red eggs and food for receptions.

Please note: Next meeting will be on Monday, Apr. 12 at 7 pm. We need your attendance because we have financial business to take care of.

What is Philoptochos?

Philoptochos means "friend of the poor". The Greek Orthodox Ladies Society is the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, and is the largest women's Christian philanthropic organization in the United States! We ladies of St. Anna's (patron saint of our chapter) Philoptochos are dedicated to finding ways to make an impact and a difference not only at the National level, but in OUR own community, as well. Your participation in the organization AT ANY LEVEL OF ENERGY you are willing to commit to, is important in fulfilling this ministry of our church.



Stewardship Committee

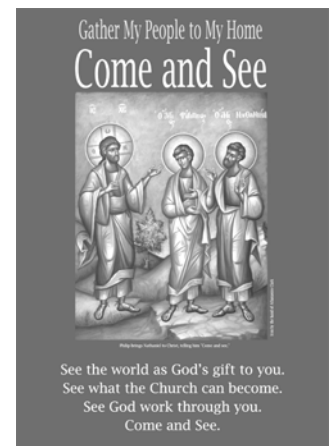
By Roberta Szklarski

We would personally like to thank all of the members that have returned their Stewardship Pledge cards for the year 2010. For those of you that have not, I would like to remind you that you can pick up an additional Stewardship Pledge Card from the Candle Stand or you can request one from any Parish Council Member.

The scriptures quote tithing as 10% monetarily to God. It does not say a fixed amount or a minimum amount. The

giving should be willingly and without regret. We would like to urge you, please fill out your Stewardship Pledge cards and return to the office promptly to continue your commitment to the Lord and our Church.

Do you know or have family members or friends that are un-churched? Please tell them about our Church and our new home; invite them to come and see what we have become and what we are still to become with your support of time, talents, and treasures.



Birthdays



Felicia Papas (1st)
 Kyla Waters (3rd)
 Stefania Stivaktakis (3rd)
 Sophia Karandreas (6th)
 Chris Fredericksen (7th)
 Maria Papamatheakis (12th)
 Paula Farr (15th)
 Dennis Germentis (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.

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, Lee Feutz, Dave Fredericksen, Don Hensen, John and Mary Karavaras, Nikita and Josette Reisler.

Parishioner Profile

Desi Medina was born in the Bronx, New York. She moved with her family in 1970 to Patterson, New Jersey, where she attended Holy Trinity Cathedral. She spent her school years in New Jersey and graduated from school there.

In 1971 she went for a visit to California. She was offered a job there and decided to stay. She met her husband and after they were married she went to Okinawa when he was transferred there.

In 1973 Desi moved to Arizona, and settled in Sun City. She worked for Wincup in Phoenix until 2009 when the company closed the office here and moved to Georgia.

She has a niece in Chandler and is lucky to have twins to fill her life. Some Sundays she is blessed to have her sister visiting and they bring the twins to Sunday School here at St. Haralambos.

She has been a member of St. Haralambos Church for many years. You can see her most Sundays greeting us at the front door. She is an active member of St. Anna's Philoptochos and works at our annual Greek festival.

She is looking forward to the move to the new church. Desi is truly an asset to our parish, and we are lucky that she has found a home with us.



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)

APRIL 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Holy Thursday 9:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm 12 Passion Gospels	2 Holy Friday 9:00am Royal Hours 3:00pm Vespers: The Descent from the Cross 7:00pm The Lamentations	3 Holy Saturday 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:00pm Resurrection Service and Easter Divine Liturgy
4 Easter Sunday 1:00pm Easter Agapi/Love Vespers Easter Egg Hunt	5 Bright Week (No fasting)	6 7:00pm Parish Council	7	8 10:30am ACEOC (Clergy council)	9	10
11 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	12 7:00pm Philoptochos	13	14	15 7:00pm Choir	16	17 10:30am Festival Meeting 2:30pm Estate Planning Seminar
18 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy General Assembly	19	20	21	22 7:00pm Choir	23 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. George	24 6:00pm Kid's N Cancer Banquet (St. Katherine's)
25 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	26	27	28	29 7:00pm Choir	30	

First Divine Liturgy

Sunday, March 21

