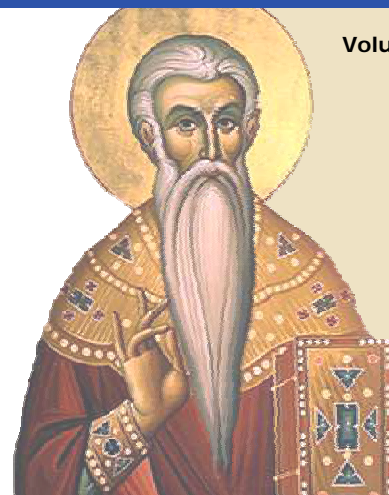


in Touch

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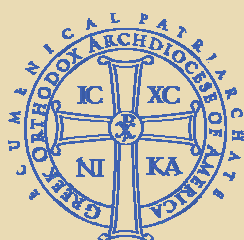
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Come Receive the Light

The Resurrection Service
Saturday, April 23rd, 11:00pm

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

YOUTH NIGHT



Everyone was given a drawing of an easter basket with dozens of eggs, each with a different lenten challenge. Coloring the egg meant that the challenge had been met. All parishioners are invited to participate in this lenten challenge by coloring eggs of their own choosing on the wall outside the social hall.



Last month Youth Night had lessons on Tolerance and on Lent. A poster with everyone's hand print served as a visual commitment to be more understanding of others. Elements of Great Lent including fasting, prayer and doing good works were discussed.



Youth Night this month: Thursday, April 14 at 6pm.

The theme is "I am the Resurrection" and we will also be discussing the Sacrament of Confession.

Youth Retreat All our youth are invited to attend a Youth Retreat on Good Friday, Apr. 22, from 11am to 3pm. Following the retreat, our young people will also take part during the 3pm Vesper service.

In order to make the necessary preparations, please fill out the registration form below for the retreat, and let us know which young ladies will be participating as Myrrh-bearers for the Friday evening Lamentations service.

Please see Lindsay Vardalos or Chrissy King for more information.

Good Friday Youth Retreat Registration

Friday, April 22, 11am – 3pm

Games, Lessons, Activities and Lunch

Child's Name _____ Age _____ Peanut Allergies: Yes No

Child's Name _____ Age _____ Peanut Allergies: Yes No

Child's Name _____ Age _____ Peanut Allergies: Yes No

Parent Name _____ Contact Phone _____

For girls: Planning on participating as Myrrh-bearers for the 7pm Lamentations Service on Friday evening? Yes No

Please return this form to the church office by Palm Sunday, April 17. Thank you!

*Letters excusing students from school for this religious holiday are available at the church office.



Our Lord's Holy Resurrection

The resurrection of Christ was never an undeniable fact proven beyond any reasonable doubt, and many non-believers have used that (poor) excuse for refusing to believe the Christian gospel. If, at some point, the resurrection of Christ is proven to be a myth, well then, we – and a long history of followers – will be seen as having fallen prey to one of the greatest cons in history. St. Paul, writing in his first letter to the Corinthians makes the same point, saying, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile... and we are of all people most to be pitied.” (1Cor.15:17, 19)

Something more powerful than the personal testimony of believers had to touch the hearts of countless martyrs of the Church; something that convinced them that death was preferable to denying their faith in Christ. It is the same presence of the living God today through whose Holy Spirit new believers are continually encouraged in their faith despite times of personal hardship and doubts. Stories of believers living in so-called “atheistic” countries continue to be discovered and offer further

testimony to the presence of God and the Christian gospel.

Read the following account of one by Gary Thomas writing for the Christian Times in October, 1994.

“In the fall of 1982, Vice President, George H.W. Bush represented the U.S. at the funeral of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. Bush was deeply moved by a silent protest carried out by Brezhnev's widow. She stood motionless by the coffin until seconds before it was closed. Then, just as the soldiers touched the lid, Brezhnev's wife performed an act of great courage and hope, a gesture that must surely rank as one of the most profound acts of civil disobedience ever committed: She reached down and made the sign of the cross on her husband's chest. There in the citadel of secular, atheistic power, the wife of the man who had run it all hoped that her husband was wrong. She hoped that there was another life, and that that life was best represented by Jesus who died on the cross, and that the same Jesus might yet have mercy on her husband.”

The question that also needs to be asked, for us as well as for the non-believer, is, “What if the gospel is true?” This, I think, is why Brezhnev's widow made the sign of the cross over her husband's body, as a sign of faith but also a prayer for mercy.

The Old Testament King David, author of the Book of Psalms wrote in Psalm 25, “Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” He expresses the common human desire to know, love and follow God, hoping that this is the true way of life.

“Glory to You, Christ our God and our hope, O Lord, glory to You,” is said by the priest at the conclusion of every service in the Orthodox Church.

May our celebration this month of our Lord's holy Resurrection be another opportunity for us to express not only our hope, but our faith in our good, loving and merciful God.

“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”



**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

Dennis Georgen, President
Ray Wysmierski, Vice President
Dean Milonas, Treasurer
Mike Danielek, Secretary
Angie Cholas
David Durgam

Dimitri Gryparis
Mary Manos
George Miller
Katherine Tally
Ken Wrona

Lost and Found

Can't find those keys? Wondering where your sunglasses went? Every now and then personal items are left at the church. When we find them, we put them in the church office, hoping their owners will call looking for them. But we can't hold onto them forever!

Currently there are a set of keys, sunglasses, earrings and a bracelet. If they might be yours, call the church office during the week and ask about them. After six months, we'll be taking them over to Good Will.

Maintenance Ministry

First impressions are vitally important to the success of any organization. At St. Haralambos, these first impressions are usually visual. A message is being sent even before the first word is spoken. The 'maintenance ministry team' makes sure that this message is a positive one. We work to ensure that our Church is safe, friendly and an enjoyable experience for our stewards and visitors.

Our team will be responsible for the general care and upkeep of our Church building and grounds. This includes maintenance of the building, care of the parking lots, maintaining all safety features and the landscaping of the grounds.

If you can paint, make small-scale drywall repairs, glue floor base, shampoo carpets, sweep sidewalks, mop floors, remove wax from upholstery and carpet, clean and oil cabinetry and wood surfaces, change air filters, change light bulbs (fluorescent tubing, can lights in worship space), prune trees & shrubs, spray weeds, dust surfaces, lubricate door hinges and locks and many other minor maintenance procedures, we need your help. By helping

perform these duties we would be creating a positive impression for all who worship and those who visit with us.

Mission Statement: To ensure that our church building, parking lot and grounds continue to meet the needs of our growing stewardship.

This is a 'hands-on' ministry where we will meet quarterly to perform routine maintenance as scheduled or on an as-needed basis (changing burnt out light bulbs, wall repair & paint etc.).

To contact the Maintenance Ministry, please call the church at 623-486-8665 or Michael Danielek at 602-978-1573.

You will be making a difference for our Orthodox Community and enhance our worship experience while participating in a team effort to help our Church.



Community Easter Card



The St. Haralambos Youth Group has created an original, full color Easter Card for our parish. It will be mailed to all parish families. If you would like your name included in the card, please return this form with your payment of \$10 payable to St. Haralambos Church. All proceeds benefit our youth program.

Please print your name clearly, exactly as you would like it to appear on the card. You may mail this form to the church office or sign up on Sundays during the Coffee Hour. **The deadline is Sunday, Apr. 10, 2011.**

Please include my family's name in this year's Community Easter Card.

Enclosed is my check for \$10.

(Please return to the church office)

Names (please print clearly)

General Assembly

All parishioners are requested to attend the Spring General Assembly which is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, after services. Agendas will be mailed which highlight the various parish organizations that will be reporting on their progress.

The assembly is the time to hear about the progress of our parish as well as to voice any concerns you may have. Make the time to stay informed about the activities and plans of your church!

District Leadership Seminar



St. Haralambos Church will be hosting His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and parishes of the southwest district on Saturday, Apr. 2, for the annual Parish Leadership

seminar. Fr. James Kordaris, director of the Archdiocese Department of Outreach and Evangelism will be the keynote speaker. The seminar is open to leaders of parish organizations such as Parish Council, Sunday School, Philoptochos and youth. The seminar will begin at 10am and conclude by 3pm.

Military Care Packages

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.

Military Moms Support Group

Military Moms Support Group would like to invite all Moms with active duty children to our coffees at The Corner Bakery at 83rd Ave. just south of Bell Rd. in Peoria. We meet on the second and fourth Sundays at 6pm. If this is your hero's first deployment, they have just enlisted or they are stateside, and you

haven't any idea about what you need to know or any anxieties you are having, then please, come talk to us. We have all been through it (many more than twice) and we know what you are going through. Please call Frosene Bravos at 623-341-2260 if you have any questions.

JESUS OF NAZARETH

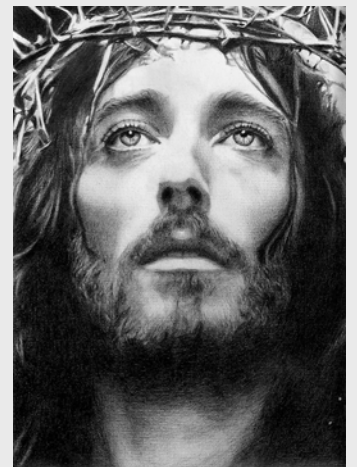
Come experience an excellent, scripturally based portrayal of our Lord's life in the movie, 'Jesus of Nazareth'.

Please try to make the time and join us, you will not be disappointed. This movie is very accurate, enlightening, moving, and beneficial as we approach Holy Week and Pascha.

It is 6 1/2 hours long and will be shown in the church in 2 parts. If you would like to attend or have any questions please call Dean Milonas at 602-548-9900.

Part 1- Saturday April 9, 3:30 - 6:30 pm

Part 2- Saturday April 16, 2:30 - 6:00 pm



ORGANIZATIONS



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)
St. George (23rd)
St. Mark (25th)
Sts. Jason and Sosipater (29th)

Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

We are halfway through the Lenten Journey, and I hope you have made yourself available for the extra services. For the dinners following the Wednesday evening Pre-Sanctified liturgies this month, the hosts are:

- Valla and Ken Wrona (April 6)
- Aphrodite Devolites and Florence Curran (April 13)

On Friday, Apr. 15, at 9am, we will be baking Easter Tsourekia to be sold on Palm Sunday.

On Palm Sunday, Apr. 17, we will be hosting our annual Fish Dinner immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Reservations are required. See Charlotte

Servetas to add your name to the list by Sunday, Apr. 10. Adults: \$12, Children 12 and under: \$6. Proceeds benefit the Philoptochos ministries.

A Bake Sale will also be held on Palm Sunday to help support the Giannias Emergency Fund. (See accompanying article) Please help by baking your favorite item for the bake sale, and plan on buying some goodies for your Easter celebrations.

Friday, Apr. 22, Holy Friday, we will be decorating the Epitafio with flowers from 10am to 2pm.

Next meeting is Monday, May 2, at 7pm. Elections for new officers to be held at that time. Have you renewed your Philoptochos membership for this year?

Happy Easter To All!

Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Director

Where will we be sitting?

As we journey through Great Lent, we should contemplate where we will be sitting when the Lord requires our soul. Parents have a difficult task each Sunday waking the children, dressing them and getting them to Divine Liturgy on time.

When you have accomplished your mission by getting to Church with your children, it feels good. When you don't, you should think about where you will be sitting in eternity.

The smoking... or... the non-smoking section?

Where are your children on Sunday morning?

Easier Method for Parish Contributions

Parish Pay is a means of sending stewardship, building fund, or any church contributions electronically to the church.

Contributions can be a one-time gift or regular monthly payments deducted from a checking account, savings account, or credit card.

There is no cost to parishioners, only benefits: no more writing checks, earns points, bonuses, or mileage when coupled with credit card accounts.

Go to www.stharalambos.org and click on the "Parish Pay" button. For further information, please contact Stella Pagos at 623-975-0027.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Mathewes-Green, Frederica. **The Illumined Heart; The Ancient Christian Path of Transformation.** Hardbound edition. 2001, 112 p.

This book deals with "timeless and universal questions "basic to the human condition": Why does none of us really feel at home in the world? Why do we feel a sense of loneliness?

Many of us are wasting too much time in self-pity and self-indulgence to question why the world is so "messed up" and to ask "How am I a part of the problem?" The first step in our healing "is taking a hard look at the cleaning that needs to be done." We must rethink our lives (metanoite). Repentance is a "re-evaluation leading to action...the way back to the Father... both the door and the path."

Many of us compare ourselves to "bad people" in the news such as murderers and thieves, think we are nice enough and have no humility. However, "God does not grade on a curve...The line between good and evil doesn't run between people, but down the center of every heart. This is why Jesus came... Asking for [God's] mercy reminds us that we are still poor [in spirit] and needy, and fall short of the glory of God."

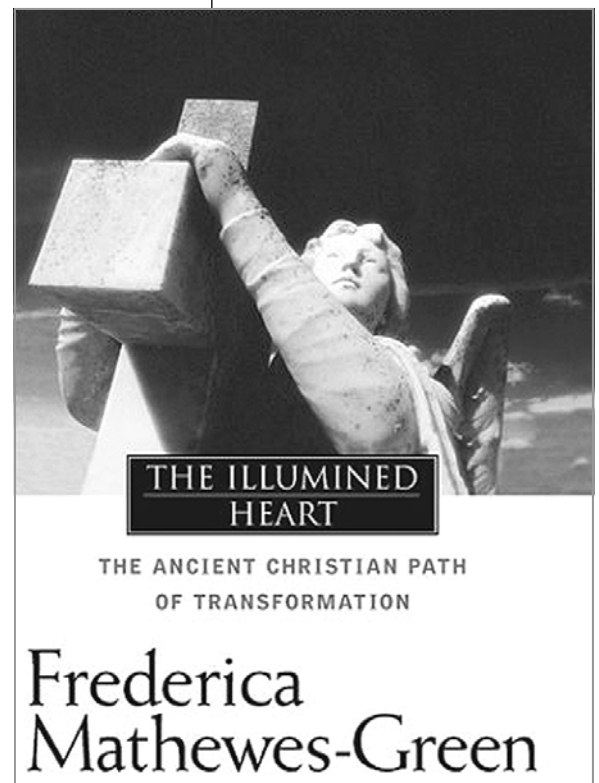
We have two enemies to fight: our "sinful passions and the evil one [Satan] who is ever alert to exploit them... Training or restraining them [passions] is the primary spiritual exercise." This requires both mental and physical discipline since the body affects the mind and vice versa. Spiritual growth

(towards theosis) is the desired outcome.

"God is constantly calling us, but we aren't always willing to listen." In God's presence there is communion, love, peace, and harmony. Why are we doing such a "crummy job" of finding these good things that our hearts desire? "What did previous generations of Christians know that we don't?"

The answers to questions above come from the consensus of first century Christians. St. Augustine said, "God has made us for himself; our hearts are restless until we find our rest in him." The solution is to "live in Christ", not just closer to Christ, but "in Christ". Christ is "within you, illumining you." It's more than "resembling" or "following" Jesus. "It is a transformation."

The voices of early Christians deserve our "special attention" because what they believed has remained consistent for two thousand years. Church leaders "were like museum guards" protecting the "treasure" in order to "pass it on intact...It's because times change that we should especially take notice of that which stands the test of time."



Birthdays



Areti Karandreas (3)
Chris Fredericksen (7)
Stefanos Macrides (12)
Dennis Germenis (14)
Paula Farr (15)
Lee Vordos (16)
Steve Harrington (17)
Kimon Ayan (18)
Jeff Farr (20)
Melanie Singleton (22)
Roy Christian (28)

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.

Sacraments

God's blessings and "Many Years" to the newly baptized Patricia Athanasia Martin, daughter of Dan and Cara (Nicholas) Martin. Patricia's godmother is Misty

Harris; and also to the newly baptized Parker George Rosekrans, son of Randy Rosekrans and Brittany Nicholas. Parker's godfather is Wesley Nicholas.

Memory Eternal

Our deepest sympathies to Penny Obren and family on the loss of her husband John, who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, Apr. 4. John was a long-time and

most dedicated member of St. Haralambos Church, and we will miss him dearly. May God grant eternal rest to his soul, and may his memory be eternal.

Sabbatical for Fr. Michael

The Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America allow for a three month paid sabbatical for priests who have served the same parish for at least six consecutive years (Article 17, Section 8,A,9). As was announced last month, Fr. Michael will be taking a sabbatical leave of absence beginning May 1 primarily to pursue the completion of a variety of church music

projects. Sunday services will be celebrated by Fr. Virgil Suciu (May), Fr. Demetri Kavouras (June) and Fr. Theo Anastas (July). In the event of a clergy emergency during these months, please notify the church office, and they will relay the message to other local Orthodox clergy to assist. Fr. Michael will return and resume his parish responsibilities on Monday, Aug. 1.

Parish Family Memorial Fund

The family of Roy Peter Giannias gave a generous donation in his memory to Philoptochos with the stipulation that the money be used for parish families with urgent needs. Hence, the Giannias Emergency Fund was established with Fr. Michael as advisor and St. Anna's Philoptochos as custodian of the funds. Since the fund was established, we have offered help on three different occasions. Our Philoptochos membership voted to keep the fund active by having an old fashioned Bake Sale on Palm Sunday. The Philoptochos ladies will have Tsourekia for sale along with other home-baked items.



Would you help by baking or buying?

APRIL 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00pm Akathist Hymn (4th stanza)	2 10:00am - 3:00PM District Stewardship Leadership Seminar
3 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 4th Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers	4 7:00pm Philoptochos	5 7:00pm Compline Service	6 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	7 7:00pm Choir Practice	8 7:00pm Akathist Hymn (Complete)	9 9:00am Pan-Orthodox Lent Seminar with Frederica Mathewes- Green (Holy Trinity Cathedral) 3:30pm Movie: Jesus of Nazareth (Part 1)
10 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 5th Sunday of Lent 3:00pm Oratorical Festival (Assumption Church, Scottsdale) 6:00pm Lenten Vespers	11	12 7:00pm Compline Service 7:30pm Parish Council	13 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	14 6:00 pm Youth Night 7:00pm Choir Practice	15	16 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Lazarus 11:00am Lenten Breakfast, Palm Crosses 2:30pm Movie: Jesus of Nazareth (Part 2)
17 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon 6:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	18 Holy Monday 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	19 Holy Tuesday 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	20 Holy Wednesday 9:00am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 4:00pm Holy Unction (children) 7:00pm Holy Unction	21 Holy Thursday 9:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm 12 Passion	22 Holy Friday 9:00am Royal Hours 11:00am Youth Retreat 3:00pm Vespers: The Descent from the Cross 7:00pm The Lamentations	23 Holy Saturday 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:00pm Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy
24 Easter Sunday 1:00pm Easter Agapi/Love Vespers Children's Easter Egg Hunt	25 Bright Week No fasting	26	27	28	29	30



The Jesus Prayer

Saturday
April 9, 2011
9am–2:30pm
(Vespers following)

Holy Trinity Cathedral

1973 E. Maryland Ave.
Phoenix, AZ
602-264-7863
Lunch included

\$10/person in advance
\$15 at the door

Please make checks payable
to ACEOC, and mail to
St. Haralambos Church
7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd.
Peoria, AZ 85383

Other books by Mathewes-Green
will be available for purchase at
special discount prices.

Special Guest Speaker:

Khouria Frederica Mathewes-Green

Kh. Frederica is a wide-ranging author, whose work has appeared in such diverse publications as the *Washington Post*, *Christianity Today*, *Smithsonian*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. She writes regularly for the multi-faith web magazine *Beliefnet.com*, and movie reviews for *National Review Online* and *Christianity Today Movies*.



She has published 9 books, including *Facing East: A Pilgrim's Journey into the Mysteries of Orthodoxy* (HarperCollins, 1997) and *The Illumined Heart: The Ancient Christian Path of Transformation* (Paraclete, 2001). In the past, her commentaries have been heard on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and *Morning Edition*.

Sponsored by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches