

in Touch

Volume 23, Issue 4

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The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

We Worship Your Holy Resurrection, O Christ

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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

Forever Young

By Julie Karoutas

At a recent gathering, the West Valley Hellenic group voted to disband and to become part of our "Forever Young" ministry. They also voted to donate the balance of treasury to several of our church's projects. Please join me in welcoming our brothers and sisters, many of whom are already part of the "Forever Young" group.

We have had a very busy holiday season, followed by our Greek Festival, now during Great Lent, we are now again busy getting ready for Holy Pascha

both spiritually and for many, planning, baking and cooking; preparing for our glorious Easter Sunday when we share the joy of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ with our families and friends. On Palm Sunday, Philoptochos is having its Annual Fish Dinner after church service. Please sign up to attend. Also in the works for later in May, will be a "Koukla's Kitchen" Potluck luncheon for one and all. Details are still being worked out, check the May "In Touch" and to those of you whose email address I have, I will send out a notice.



The main activity for our group this month will be held on Saturday, Apr. 18, the annual Agape Ball (benefiting "Kids with Cancer, Camp Agape", to be held at St. Katherine's Greek

Orthodox Church in Chandler, sponsored by St. Haralambos, Holy Trinity, Assumption and St. Katherine's. Let's gather our friends and help to support this worthy cause. There will be an abundance of good food and good music, and best of all our fellowship, all for this worthy cause. The tickets are only \$40, you would spend more than that at a restaurant for what you will be receiving; not to mention the good feeling of helping to support a worthy cause. Contact Julie Karoutas at 623-972-2382, text at 623-313-8720 or email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com to make your reservations. If you

cannot attend and have an item that you can donate for the raffle or Silent Auction; sponsor a child, the information will be on the church's bulletin. Please respond as soon as possible, the event is not very far away and a count is needed to know how many people to plan for. Thanking you in advance for your timely consideration.



Please mark your calendars for May events; Arizona Winds Concert, on Sunday, May 10, at Mountain Ridge High School, 22800 N. 67th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85310; doors open at 2:30 p.m., concert begins at 3 p.m. Please join us in paying tribute to one of America's Greatest National Parks, Yosemite! This is a free concert, will be great for the entire family, and will feature a variety of Patriotic tunes. Also in the works for later in May, will be a "Koukla's Kitchen" Potluck luncheon for

one and all. Details are still being worked out, check the May "In Touch" and to those of you whose email address I have, I will send out a notice.

We have much more coming up, concerts, pot-lucks, speakers, join us, and do not miss out.

Wishing you All a very Blessed and Holy Pascha.



Sharing 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 the dates of Easter for Christians of Western and Eastern (Orthodox) traditions are just one week apart, April 5 in the West, and April 12 for the Orthodox. We can take this opportunity 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 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,

(Continued on page 4)

*open our minds
and hearts to the
unique traditions
of other Christians*



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship

Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

Office

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Hours

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

Parish Council

Evanne Cuccorelli
Dennis Georgen
Kathy Harvey

Timothy Harvey
Russel Skocypec
Russell Zook

Birthdays



Noah Woldesilassie (3)
 Paula Sallas (4)
 Sophia Karandreas (6)
 Dorothy Vordos (7)
 Barbara Savaidis (12)
 Dennis Germenis (14)
 Paula Farr (15)
 Kimon Ayan (18)
 Chrissy King (18)
 Jackson Savoy (18)
 Jeff Farr (20)
 David Rodriguez (20)
 Georgia Trakas (20)
 Katelyn Pritchard (22)
 Melanie Singleton (22)
 Roy Christian (28)
 Katherine Janofsky (28)
 Frank Samawi (29)
 Eve Devolites (30)
 Elisabeth Rodriguez (30)

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

Congratulations to Gary and June Nicholas on the baptism of their daughter, Brooklyn Athena on Sunday Feb. 22. Her

godmother is Kara Martin. May God grant her many years of good health, growing faith and happiness.

Eternal Memory

May God grant eternal rest to the souls of his servants, Meropi Ferkiotes, mother of Sandra Amoroso, who was laid to rest on Friday, Feb. 6.

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of his servant, Bella Danos, who was laid to rest on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of his servant Lee Feutz, who was laid to rest on Thursday, Mar. 12.

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of his servant, Ourania Gero, who was laid to rest on Thursday, Mar. 19.

Our sincere condolences and prayers for the peace of God to the families who grieve the loss of their loved ones. May their memory be eternal.

Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

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.)*

Name Days

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

St. Mary (of Egypt) (1)	St. George (23)
St. Joseph (the Hymnographer) (3)	St. Mark (25)
St. Alexandra (21)	Sts. Jason and Sosipater (29)

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

Bake Sale

If you would like to purchase some baked goods for your Pascha feast, we will have the following available on Palm Sunday:

- Tsourekia, \$6 per loaf
- Koulouria, \$5 for 10 cookies

Holy Friday

You are invited to help decorate the epitaphio following the morning services.

Resurrection Service

We welcome any finger foods you would like to share at the resurrection reception,

so please bring your dish to the kitchen before the service begins.

Agape Ball

The Agape Ball is fast approaching. It will be held on Apr. 18 at St. Katherine's. Please reserve your seat by giving your name to Julie Karoutas or Valla Wrona. See the weekly electronic bulletin for further information.

Annual Diaper Drive

We have pushed back the deadline for the diaper drive to May. If you are able to pick some up, please bring them in to Charlotte Servetas or Valla Wrona.



Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts/sponsors.

March

- 1: Philoptochos
- 8: Philoptochos
- 15: Sandra Amoroso & Deno Danos
- 22: Donna & Ted Manos
- 29: Marina Finch

April

- 5: Philoptochos Fish Luncheon
- 12: Easter
- 19: Available
- 26: Pat Stamnas

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



Thank you to Father Michael and fellow parishioners who expressed and showed their love and sympathy for my mother Ourania who was recently lifted to our Lord. It was a great comfort to know she was recognized for her child-like joy in life as well as for her acts of love and passion for our faith and church community. Her memory is eternal, especially in the naming of the Philoptochos group, "Forever Young!"

My deepest gratitude, Irene Nathanson

APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	2 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	3 7:00pm Film: Forks Over Knives	4 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Lazarus Lenten Breakfast Palm Crosses
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon 6:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	6 Holy Monday 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	7 Holy Tuesday 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	8 Holy Wednesday 9:00am Pre Sanctified Liturgy 4:00pm Holy Unction (children)	9 Holy Thursday 9:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm 12 Passion Gospels	10 Holy Friday 9:00am Royal Hours 12:00pm Youth Retreat 3:00pm Vespers: The Descent from the Cross 7:00pm The Lamentations	11 Holy Saturday 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:15pm Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy
12 Holy Pascha 1:00pm Easter Agapi/ Love Vespers Children's Easter Egg Hunt	13 Bright Week (no fasting)	14 7:30pm Parish Council	15	16 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	17	18
19 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. Thomas Sunday IOCC Offering Tray	20	21	22	23 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	24	25
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	27 7:00pm Executive Council	28	29	30 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir		