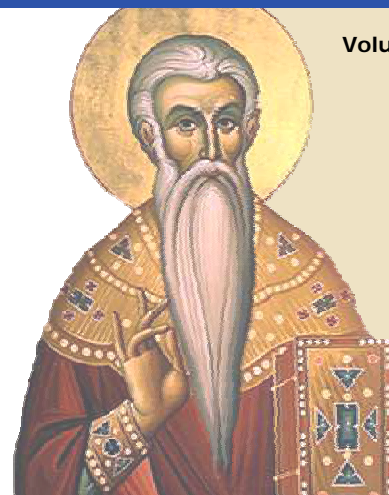


in Touch

Volume 20, Issue 8

August 2012



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Dormition of the Theotokos

Wednesday, August 15



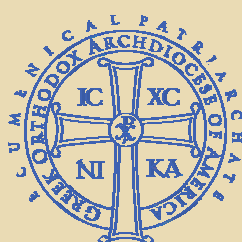
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*In birth you preserved your virginity; in death
you did not abandon the world, O Theotokos.*

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

Youth Kick-off Dinner

You are invited to join us

Saturday, August 25

4pm - 6pm

My Greek Corner Restaurant

13746 W. Bell Rd., Surprise, AZ 85374

"Dutch Treat"

PRIZES

PRIZES

25th Anniversary Parishioner Profile

Each month of 2012 we'll spend some time with a member of our parish to get their memories, views and insights about the history, development and future of our parish as part of this year's 25th Anniversary celebration. This month's interview is with **Chrissy King**.

Question: How many years have you been a steward at St. Haralambos?

Answer: Five years.

Q: Are you a native Arizonan?

A: Yes, I'm a native Arizonan and was born and raised in Phoenix.

Q: What activities and groups have you been involved in at St. Haralambos?

A: I have two little boys and I enjoy serving the youth of our parish. It continues to be a privilege to serve as a Sunday School teacher and I enjoy developing activities and events as co-director of our Church's Youth Group.

Q: What do you like most about St. Haralambos parish and what it offers?

A: I enjoy the variety of things that St. Haralambos offers to everyone. One of the major attractions to the parish for me was the friendliness and warmth of the people. Everyone is family-oriented and another appeal



of our Church is that it is just the right size where one doesn't get lost.

Q: What would you like to see happen in the next 5-10 years of our parish?

A: I would like to see us keep the

momentum going and continue to build upon and provide activities for all of our parishioners. We need to be sure and offer something for everyone from infants to seniors. Doing this will allow us to continue to be a close-knit community.

Q: What legacy would you like today's parishioners to develop and leave for future generations during the next 25 years?

A: By continuing to do the things we're doing and taking a leap of faith to continually improve what we are doing, adding needed activities to support parishioners and building a larger community, including a new church building. All of these things will allow us to be a self-sufficient orthodox church in the West Valley.

Q: Anything else you would like to share?

A: I'm always impressed with the love and zeal for the Orthodox faith that our children receive in Sunday school. This will make an important and lasting imprint on their education and rest of their lives.



Patience is a virtue worth cultivating

There is a current advertising campaign for an insurance company that uses an adult male who, in a variety of ways, tries to distract the driver of a car and cause an accident. The message the ad tries to make is, if you had the type of insurance offered by the ad sponsor, you'd have no worries, and, of course, be covered under the most bizarre, and sometimes pretty hilarious, situations.

One particular ad has the adult portraying a toddler who is throwing a temper tantrum in the back seat, throwing his food, even his sippy cup, at the driver. The coverage, apparently, in this case is for "mayhem" (appealing, no doubt, to the "young parents" demographic).

Parents of young children certainly have more than their share of patience-testing on any given day, but as most, if not all of us know, impatience is found not only in toddlers, but - shocking as this may sound - in adults as well.

Would it take much effort to list the numerous ways adults (not just parents with young children) have their patience tested on a daily basis? Dealing with family issues, co-worker issues, driving in traffic, waiting in line, being put "on hold," and having too much to do during the day all make for a good beginning.

To refresh our memory, patience (as

defined by Dictionary.com) is, "the quality of being patient, as the bearing of provocation, annoyance, misfortune, or pain, without complaint, loss of temper, irritation, or the like." No complaining, no losing your temper, and no irritation... that pretty much defines most of us, doesn't it?

"Patience" as the old proverb goes, "is a virtue." But it is also a learned behavior and takes time to develop. Is it hard to imagine what type of behavior young children will imitate if they are surrounded by parents who quickly lose their temper, and rant and rave when they don't get their way? And how about years later as students, employees, spouses and, eventually, parents?

One characteristic of a mature adult is patience. We know it when we see it; we appreciate it, and it can help lower our own personal level of stress. I can't say I've ever heard anyone refer to patience as an undesirable human characteristic.

It is a virtue that we, as Christians, try to cultivate because of the benefits it produces, particularly with respect to faith. The Old Testament Psalms are filled with references of waiting patiently on the Lord, waiting for Him to respond to prayer, waiting for His justice when seeing evil come to pass, waiting to be lifted from times of

spiritual doubt or weakness.

"I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps." (Psalm 40:1-2)

We have so many avenues available to us today where we can expect (even demand) immediate results. In fact, a standard feature of home/personal entertainment is "On Demand" movies, etc. The thought of having to wait for anything has become more than annoying; we just won't tolerate it and will quickly decide it's not really worth having!

A tough sell when talking about the benefits of patience; tougher still when the subject turns to faith in God.

An impatient man wants to know immediately, if not sooner, that God hears his prayer. When he doesn't get the answer he wants, he throws his hands in the air in disgust, convinced that prayer is useless and that God cannot possibly exist. (Sounding a little like the kid throwing a temper tantrum in the back seat of the car: Dad isn't listening!!).

Learning patience means realizing that the world does not revolve only around our needs and wants;

(Continued on page 4)



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

www.stharalambos.org

Sunday Worship

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

Roy Christian
David Durgam
Dennis Georgen
Dimitri Gryparis
George Miller
Dean Milonas

Tony Panousopoulos
Chris Theotocatos
Peter Vardalos
Dorothy Vordos
Lee Vordos
Ken Wrona

Land Sale Update

By Dean Milonas, Parish Council Treasurer

The process is moving forward as planned. We have a projected closing date of Aug. 31. Please donate as much as you possibly can towards our refinancing of the loan. This will greatly benefit our community moving forward, allowing us to invest more capital towards 'the good works of our faith, that are most pleasing to God'. Please write 'mortgage reduction' on the memo line of your check.

May god bless your generosity.

Soul Food

The Power of Jesus' Name

Jesus, sweet-scented Flower, make me fragrant!

Jesus, Eternal Temple, shelter me!

Jesus, Garment of Light, adorn me!

Jesus, Pearl of great price, beam on me!

Jesus, Holy Light, make me radiant!

Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me!

-from the Orthodox Akathist, Hymn to Jesus

25th Anniversary Banquet

Plans on underway for a very special evening to commemorate the 25th anniversary of St. Haralambos Church. Held at the Arrowhead Country Club in Glendale on Saturday, Dec. 8, a wonderful evening is being planned for all parish families and friends.

Please mark the date on your calendars now! The holiday season fills quickly with other plans, and you're not going to want to miss this special anniversary evening. Invitations will be mailed soon.

Sundays in September

How many ways can someone get involved with church activities, ministries and volunteer organizations? Because the list at St. Haralambos Church continues to grow, everyone will have an opportunity, beginning Sunday, Sep. 9 (and continuing each Sunday throughout the month) during the Coffee Hour following liturgy, not just to see what opportunities exist, but to speak with the leaders of each organization as well.

From well-known groups such as Philoptochos, Choir, Sunday School and

Parish Council, to more recent additions like Caring Friends, Sunday Greeters, Spiritual Gifts Seminars, Youth Ministry and more, there really is something for everyone.

Come and See! Each Sunday in September, see the various ministry offerings, speak with the leaders and find out how you can get involved, put your talents to use, and enjoy fellowship with others of like interests. You'll be glad you did.

Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

sometimes, we just have to wait, whether it's for a lunch hour pizza or the answer to an evening prayer. The pizza/prayer analogy only works so far, however, because we know exactly when the pizza arrives while the answer to a prayer might not be so obvious.

Patience is a virtue worth cultivating, in all aspects of life. It may seem easier to be impatient, but there are more benefits to being patient, as the Bible tells us. *"...we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who*

was given to us." (Romans 5:3-5)

Things not going your way these days? Be patient, you're not alone. Trust in God just as Christians for centuries before you did, martyrs and saints who lived in times and places much more dangerous than we face here and now.

Learning to be patient takes, well, patience. It takes time to acquire, like most good things. The Lord knows your needs, even better than you do. He also knows your heart, at the root of your needs, and He can fill them like no one or nothing else can.

Keep your faith, trust in God. He hears, and He lives. Be patient, and discover it for yourself.

Sunday School

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School Director

It's nearly Back to Sunday School time again and we are in need of volunteer teachers and snack volunteers. There is an immediate need for Nursery and Pre-K teachers, a 4th-6th grade Teacher Assistant, and volunteers for the 7th-12th grade monthly teacher pool. Should anyone have an interest in teaching a grade level not listed, please see me to discuss other options. Or contact me by email mjstithem@cox.net or phone 623-936-5896.

This fall there will be no Sunday School registration fee; however, for those willing and able, a monetary donation to the Sunday School Ministry would be greatly appreciated. The Sunday School Ministry needs the support and participation of not only the parents, but also other Parish members as well. Please consider sharing your Time, Talent, and Treasure as you are able.

The first day of Sunday School for the new ecclesiastical year starts on Sunday, Sept. 9, following Holy Communion.

Library

By Mary Harrington, Church Librarian

We are blessed to have a wonderful array of books in our church library! Summer is a wonderful time to peruse our selection and use these spiritual tools to learn, grow, and challenge ourselves with. Following is a quick summary on borrowing procedures:

To Check Out a Book

There are two doorways to the library. The check-out instructions for books is on the wall just inside the first doorway (the one closest to the main church entrance). Fill out the sign-up sheet, listing the date, your name, telephone number and title of the book that you are borrowing. Also each book has a charge-out card that should be filled out and placed in the card holder on the desk. Books can be loaned out for three weeks at a time.

To Check Out Films

The sign up sheet and instructions for lending films is on the wall near the second doorway of the library (the one furthest from the main church entrance). Please fill the sheet out completely. Loan time for all films is one week.

Lost Films

We are still missing at least 15 films from our Church Library. Listed below you will see the number and title of the films. Please look around your home and ask family members or friends if they might have borrowed and then forgotten to return them to you.

Number Film Title

05	Hellenic College Holy Cross
11	St. Nicholas Ranch Summer Camp
15	A Greek Orthodox Wedding
21	New Beginning
52	The Story of the Prodigal Son
57	He is Risen
58	The Lion King
59	The Lion King
60	The Land Before Time I
61	The Land Before Time II
62	The Land Before Time III
64	The Land Before Time V
65	The Land Before Time VI

If any of these films are found, please take them back to the Church Library and put them on top of the library desk. I will continue to pray that we receive most, if not all, of these films.

May our Lord bless you all.

Birthdays



Gianna Selles (2)
Irene Nathanson (4)
Dorothy Ayan (5)
Ali Yaghooti (9)
Pierce Retsinas (11)
Raymond Wirsing (11)
Tania Ballas (14)
Aphrodite Devolites (14)
George Christie (16)
Kristian Barbes (17)
Alexis Tremoulis (17)
Chryss Danielek (18)
Fr. Michael Pallad (18)
Thalia Zorbas (18)
Brittany Nicholas (19)
Valla Wrona (19)
Michael Fulghum (22)
Tyler Savoy (22)
Anna Yacyshyn (22)
Parker Rosekrans (24)
Evanthia Vardalos (25)
Val Danos (27)
Elias Caratachea (29)
Louis Pappas (30)
Yvette Nicholas (31)

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.

Taste of Greece Festival

Reminder: Festival sponsors and boosters are needed to help us get a good start on preparations for the 25th Anniversary Festival. Please see the letter and sponsorship form and send your form to the Church office at your earliest convenience.

Name Days

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

St. Teodosios of Argos (7th)
 St. Laurentios (Laurence) (10th)
 Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15th)
 St. Stamatios (16th)
 St. Theophanes of Mt. Athos (19th)
 St. Irenaios (23rd)
 St. Moses the Ethiopian (28th)

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Repentance and Confession by John Chryssavgis, 1996

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another...that you may be healed." (James 5:16)

In this insightful work, Father John delves with passion into the topic of repentance and presents numerous excerpts from different priests and theologians to help readers prepare and meditate for the important sacrament of confession. The author writes that *"repentance is not a mere incident....rather it is an attitude which colors one's whole life and for which...one must struggle continually. It is a way of life...a continuous pathway, at least in this life...repentance is ultimately a gift of the Holy Spirit who transforms the heart of the human...."*

Repentance is inspired by our trust in God. It is *"through the forgiveness of sins in confession, [that] the past is no longer an intolerable burden but rather an encouragement for what lies ahead. Life acquires an attitude of expectation, not of despondency; and confession becomes the way out of the impasse caused by sin."* Following are some reflections quoted from the various sources in the novel:

From Clement of Rome: *"Genuine repentance according to God annihilates disobedience and abolishes darkness, illumines the eyes and presents knowledge to the soul."*

From Tertullian: *"Confession ... may excite repentance; so that it may honor God by fear of danger; so that it may... stand in place of God's indignation....while it abases a man, it raises him; while it condemns, it absolves...God will spare you!"*

From Clement of Alexandria: *"True repentance is to be guilty no longer but to eradicate at once from the soul the sins through which death is known. For when these are revoked, then God immediately enters within man...To return to God is truly to cease from sinning, and to look back no longer."*

From John Chrysostom: *"Such is the love of God for mankind that He never rejects genuine repentance...It is not He who ever turns away from us, but rather we who detach ourselves from Him."*

From Basil the Great: *"The present life is the time for penance and for the remission of sins;"*

From Isaias of Sketis: *"God saw that man was weak and gave him repentance while he is still in the body, until his last breath. Let us take good care to remain in the protection of repentance, and let us receive nourishment from her holy breasts so that she will nourish us."*

From Theophan the Recluse: *"It is impossible to live at peace with God without continual repentance....we must recognize our need to pray for God's forgiveness until the spirit attains peace."*

From Alexander Elchaninov: *"Confession is not just a talk about your faults and doubts, it is not a way of telling your confessor all about yourself...confession is an act of fervent, heartfelt repentance, a thirst for purification; it springs from an awareness of what is holy, it means dying to sin and coming alive again to sanctity."*

But what of those who go to confession fearfully and afterwards find no peace, for those whose penitent distress torments their heart? The author answers, *"this happens because we forget that when the soul falls into some pardonable sin that is not mortal, it should turn to God with humble repentance and hope, and not torture itself with excessive sorrow, bitterness and stress."* The blessings of confession then are suitable for those who have firm *"trust in divine goodness and mercy...those wishing to reach the highest degrees of Christian perfection."*

The book ends with the Service of the Penitents (Confession) and Psalm 50, the Prayer of Repentance, which are very informative and can be used as a guide to prepare for this life-changing sacrament.



SAINT HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ 85383 • Tel.: (623) 486-8665 • Fax: (623) 486-5290
Web: www.stharalambos.org • E-mail: Office@StHaralambosAZ.com • FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

Spring/Summer, 2012

Dear Friends,

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the “Taste of Greece” Food and Dance Festival at St. Haralambos Church in northwest Peoria. This annual event will be held October 26, 27 and 28, 2012 at the Church grounds located at 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road. The “Taste of Greece” is the only Greek Festival in the greater west/northwest valley and thousands of residents and visitors attend each year from all areas of the valley.

The entire parish is very excited for the 25th Annual Greek Festival and hope to include as many community partners in the celebration as possible. This anniversary year, Abrazo Health Care has agreed to serve as a major Corporate Sponsor and we are currently seeking additional sponsors/supporters to help offset the expenses of the Festival and respectfully request that you consider participating. The attached sponsorship document identifies various sponsorship levels, however, any amount is greatly appreciated and all donors will receive appropriate recognition during the event. For your records, the Federal tax ID number for St. Haralambos Church is 86-0594146.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 623-486-8665. Thank you in advance for your consideration and we hope that you will join us as a Festival supporter and also for a spectacular weekend of homemade Greek cuisine, pastries, live entertainment and fun on October 26-28 at the 25th Annual Taste of Greece. OPA!

Sincerely,

Pam Lemons
Festival Chairman

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

25th Anniversary
2012 "TASTE OF GREECE" FOOD AND DANCE FESTIVAL
October 26, 27 & 28, 2012
SPONSORSHIP FORM

Company Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

FESTIVAL PROGRAM ADVERTISING

AD DEADLINE: September 24, 2012

Check One	Type	Amount	Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOLD	\$10,000	Company name/logo in all promotional materials, news releases, event website, corporate tent and sponsor-provided banner displayed at event, verbal recognition during event; 10 free admission & dinner tickets. <i>(Banner size/ placement determined by event staff.)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SILVER	\$5,000	Company/Name/logo in all promotional materials, news releases, event website, sponsor tent, recognition in event program, verbal recognition at the event; 5 free dinner tickets.
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRONZE	\$1,000	Booth sponsor banner displayed at event, name recognition in event program. <i>(Banner size/ placement determined by event staff.)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	OLYMPIAN	\$500	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	ATHENIAN	\$100	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPARTAN	\$50	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	BOOSTER	\$25	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (please specify - food, gift card, etc.):	\$ _____	Name recognized in event Program

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

Email artwork to: pamruss30@msn.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!

Please return completed form to:

Pam Lemons, Greek Festival
St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Peoria, AZ 85383

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

AUGUST 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Beginning of 14-day fast	2	3	4
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord 7:00pm Office of Supplication	7	8 7:00pm Office of Supplication	9	10 7:00pm Office of Supplication	11
12 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	13 7:00pm Office of Supplication	14	15 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Dormition of the Holy Theotokos	16	17	18
19 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy IOCC Offering Tray	20 7:00pm Office of Supplication	21 6:00pm Great Vespers Scottsdale	22	23	24	25 4:00pm Youth Kick-off Dinner
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	27 7:00pm Executive Council	28	29 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Beheading of John the Baptist	30	31	

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

PARENT INFORMATION Completed by (please check): Mother____ Father____ Other _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT (other than parent or guardian)

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Relationship: _____ Cell Phone: _____

CHILDREN

Name	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	GRADE (Secular School)

MEDICAL INFORMATION Please list medical problems, allergies, restrictions: _____

We Need Your Help! Please make your selection(s):

☐ Snack Coordinator (Scheduling, shopping, set up & clean up)

☐ Snack Volunteer (Set up & clean up)

Pick one or more Sundays of the month e.g.: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th: _____

☐ Christmas Program Director

☐ Christmas Program Volunteer

☐ Holy Friday Retreat

☐ **Teacher**

☐ **Teacher Assistant**

☐ **Substitute Teacher**

Select age group: ☐ Nursery (age 1 1/2 -2 1/2 yrs) ☐ PreK/K (age 3 - 5 yrs) ☐ 1st - 3rd Grade

☐ 4th - 6th Grade ☐ 7th - 8th Grade ☐ 9th - 12th Grade

FOR OFFICE USE: