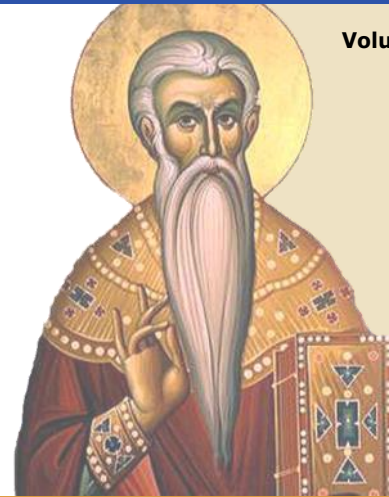


in Touch

Volume 22, Issue 8

August 2014



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

History of the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States

Third Installment

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Begins Classes • 4**



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

Take me out to the Ballgame

"Faith and Family" Night



Saturday, August 23 at 5:10 p.m.

Forever Young

Dear fellow "Forever Young" members, we are planning an exciting outing to Chase Field to see the Arizona Diamondbacks vs San Diego; stay for a post-game concert featuring the Grammy & Dove Award winning band "Third Day" and for a spectacular display of "fireworks".

Please make your reservations ASAP; payment by check (made out to Julie Karoutas) or cash in the amount of (amount has not yet been finalized; the cost per person will be printed in the Sunday, Jul. 27 bulletin) per person to be paid in full by Friday, Aug. 15, we must have a minimum of ten people to

get the group pricing, and I will have to pay a deposit up front and coordinate carpooling for our transportation; contact Julie at home: 623-972-2382 or juliekaroutas@gmail.com. Please let me know if you will be able to carpool and all share in traveling expense (gas & parking) Julie will also be available at church on Sunday.

On our outings we have enjoyed not just the food or the music, but the "fellowship".

Please feel free to invite your family or friends, let us all have fun together!

New Backyard Play Structure!

We have an opportunity, through our new friends with Bayer School, to purchase a children's playground structure (pictured below) for our backyard, which would replace our current structure.

This new play structure meets city codes for educational playgrounds, whereas our current structure does not.

The cost, including installation, is \$11,200. Bayer School is willing to split the cost with us, so our share would be \$5,100, and has also offered to leave the structure here when they move to their new campus. (The cost to install a similar new play structure is nearly \$30,000.)

This is something that will be enjoyed by our children and grandchildren for many years to come! Please consider contributing whatever amount you can towards the cost of this purchase. If you will be sending a check, please indicate that your gift is designated for this purpose. Thank you!





Orthodox Christianity in America

We present the third installment this month of Fr. George Nicozisin's article on the Mission of the Greek Orthodox Parish in America. Fr. George presents a frank and honest look at the history and development of our parishes, and the challenges it faces in the future.

Definition of a Greek Orthodox Parish in America

The original Certificate of Incorporation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America in 1921-1922 proclaimed that the communities/parishes have the charge and responsibility to: "Edify the religious and moral life of the Greek Orthodox Christians in North and South America on the basis of the Holy Scriptures, the rules and canons of the Holy Apostles and of the Seven Ecumenical Councils of the ancient and undivided Church as they are or shall be actually interpreted by the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople."

The definition, aims, purposes and mission of the parish have gone through a development and an evolution since 1922. The most significant change took place at the 1964 Clergy-Laity Congress in

Denver, Colorado. Under the aegis and persistence of Archbishop Iakovos the new Uniform Parish Regulations are presented in a concise and clear language as follows: "The parish is the local eucharistic community of the Church in a given locality, organized under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese, whose ecclesiastical authority is its canonically consecrated Bishop. The aims and purposes of the parish are to keep, practice and proclaim the Orthodox Christian Faith pure and undefiled."

Assimilation versus Integration

Our Archdiocese has grown tremendously since the immigration period. Nevertheless, she has lost a significant number of her members, actual as well as potential, since the immigration period. It is my contention that confusion between assimilation and integration have contributed.

Assimilation means "to be absorbed, incorporated, to become synthesized, to become just like everybody else, to have no identity any longer." If we have lost a significant number of actual and

potential members of Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church and admittedly we have it is because we have chosen to be "just like everybody else," as a Greek Orthodox faith, as a culture and as a heritage. Assimilation leads to extinction!

Conversely, integration means "bring different parts together, to blend, to orchestrate into a whole, yet not lose essence or identity." Integration as a religion and a cultural heritage means that we offer to contribute our values of a time-tested Orthodox Christian faith to this wonderful country. I

I suspect a good number of us, first-generation up to the present time, have not fully understood the difference between, on the one hand, letting ourselves be assimilated into extinction and, on the other, learning about our own Greek Orthodox Christian faith, living that faith and integrating our faith into our American nation.

Conversely, integration means "bring different parts together, to blend, to orchestrate into a whole, yet not lose essence or identity."

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**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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FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

Hours

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

Parish Council

Evanne Cuccorelli	Russel Skocypec
Dennis Georgen	Dorothy Vordos
Kathy Harvey	Lee Vordos
Timothy Harvey	Russell Zook
Lali Mekvabishbili	

Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts/sponsors.

July

- 6: Charlotte Servetas
- 13: Magda & Demetrios Gryparis – Ethel Nicholas
- 20: Anna & Bob Kinniburgh
- 27: Philoptochos

August

- 3: Available
- 10: Mary Manos
- 17: Sunday School Teachers
- 24: Available
- 31: Available

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



Name Days

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

- 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)

Bayer School Begins Classes

The first day of school for Bayer School, with whom we are sharing our building for the 2014-2015 school year, is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 11. Principal Kelly Lovelady and her staff have been hard at work for the past several months getting ready for the start of the new school year.

We first met Kelly, her husband Steve and son TJ, at our Spring General Assembly, when they told us of their need for a temporary location while their new campus is being built, and how appreciative they were to be able to share our building and rooms with them.

Gabriel Gavriiliides, with GCON (the builder of the new Bayer School campus) and member of St. Haralambos Church,

first approached Fr. Michael about the need for a temporary location for Bayer School. Gabriel's introduction began a series of meetings with Bayer School staff members and the Parish Council, who unanimously approved the proposal, which led to a formal lease agreement.

We wish Bayer School a wonderful beginning this month as they begin classes.



St. Anna's Philoptochos Society



By Valla Wrona,
President

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."
Proverbs 16:9

Don't forget our first meeting of the new ecclesiastical year is Sep. 8 at 6 p.m. We will be having a potluck followed by a short meeting and playing games afterwards for those who care to join.

Also, starting in September on the 1st of each month, your Philoptochos will have

available for your convenience bakery items and some deli items (feta cheese, frozen spanakopita, etc.) that you may purchase. There will be a different bakery item each month, such as koulourakia, paximadia, tsourekia, etc.

My favorite saying, "Many hands make light work," has now been replaced by my newest favorite saying (along the same vein): "Two shorten the road." It just means that relationships make the journey better. I hope you'll join us this year on our journey as we develop new relationships and strengthen the old ones.

Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of Constantinos (Gus) Macrides, who fell asleep in the Lord on Jun. 23. Gus was a well-known and much-beloved member of St. Haralambos Church, running the kitchen for our annual Greek Festival for a

number of years. Our deepest sympathies to his wife Kathy, children Erini, Anastasia and Stefanos, brothers Andreas and Savvas, and all his family and friends.

May his memory be eternal.

Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

In his letter to the Romans St. Paul uses a metaphor to illustrate how the Christian Church was "grafted" as a branch into the tree of God's people. In a similar manner, the founders of our Greek Orthodox parishes began "grafting" (integrating) our two-thousand year old faith into our American Nation. I submit to you that perpetuating this integration with the same zeal and dedication is one of the ongoing missions of our parishes.

The Mistake of Presumption

If the immigrant priests, parents and parish leaders share part blame in not understanding and not perpetuating the mission of the parish and the Church, it lies in their inability to perceive what was happening all around them. Their mistake was presumption. They presumed that because they were steeped in their religious faith and cultural heritage that their children would automatically follow suit without question or deviation. Those families that knew the mission of the Church, that lived a Christ-centered life, that shared their faith in the Lord and the values of the Bible, and for whom the Greek Orthodox Church was a vibrant, living spiritual guide had far better results. Those parishes that invested in the future of their youth, through creative

religious education programs and meaningful youth activities that were religiously based, morally oriented, and ethically motivated, had far greater dividends.

On the other hand, those parishes whose parents made very little effort to raise their children in an Orthodox Christian environment were soon disillusioned and embittered when they saw their offspring indiscriminately divesting themselves of the religion and culture of their forefathers because they found them inadequate, antiquated and unimportant; worse yet, irrelevant!

By the same token, those Orthodox Christian parishes that spent more time on politics, bickering, infighting and creating animosities and enmities, did far more to disillusion and disenchant young people both from Christ and the Orthodox Church than presumption and assimilation combined! Thank God, a substantial number of families did share the fullness of our Greek Orthodox faith and heritage with their children and their children's children. This is why our Church has experienced significant growth and has made the great strides she has over this past century.

(continued next month)

August Fasting Period

The Orthodox Church observes a fasting period for the first two weeks of August, in preparation for the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15. During these two weeks, we also gather in Church

for the evening Office of Supplication to the Theotokos, a beautiful service in honor of our Lord's mother. Please see the Calendar for service days and times.

Orthodox Study Group

Bible study will be suspended for the summer until September. At that time we will be starting to read Acts of the Apostles. We hope that more of our parishioners will join us in this new venture. If you have any questions please call Ted Manos at 623-680-6547.

Birthdays



- Emmitt Sokol (1)
- Al Cuccorelli (2)
- Gianna Selles (2)
- Irene Nathanson (4)
- Dorothy Ayan (5)
- Daniel Martin, Jr. (6)
- Phillip Bell (7)
- Georgia Savaidis (7)
- Ali Yaghooti (9)
- Pierce Retsinas (11)
- Raymond Wirsing (11)
- Aphrodite Devolites (14)
- Tania Ballas (15)
- Sue Charbel (17)
- Jean Dal Pan (17)
- Alexis Tremoulis (17)
- Fr. Michael Pallad (18)
- Thalia Zorbas (18)
- Valla Wrona (19)
- John Dal Pan (22)
- Michael Fulghum (22)
- Tyler Savoy (22)
- Anna Yacyshyn (22)
- Kara Martin (23)
- Parker Rosekrans (24)
- Evanthia Vardalos (25)
- Val Danos (27)
- 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.

AUGUST 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Beginning of 14-day Fast 7:00pm Office of Supplication	2
3 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	4 7:00pm Office of Supplication	5	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy Transfiguration of Christ 7:00pm Office of Supplication	7	8	9
10 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	11 7:00pm Office of Supplication 8:00pm Parish Council	12	13	14 7:00pm Great Vespers Assumption Church Scottsdale	15 9:00am Divine Liturgy Dormition of the Theotokos	16
17 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy IOCC Offering Tray	18	19	20	21	22	23 5:00pm Family Night Ballgame at Chase Field
24 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	25 7:00pm Executive Council	26	27	28	29 9:00am Divine Liturgy Beheading of John the Baptist	30
31 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy						