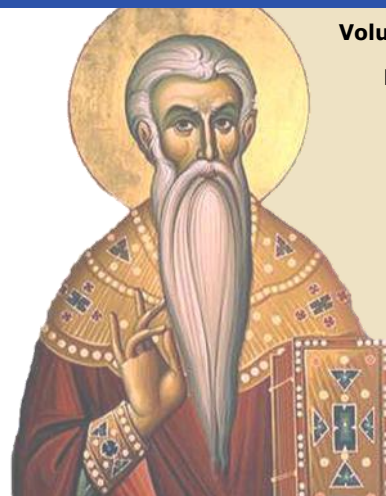


in Touch

Volume 23, Issue 2

February 2015



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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PEORIA GREEKFEST

Friday, February 6
5 pm to 10 pm

Saturday, February 7
11 am to 10 pm

Sunday, February 8
12 pm to 8 pm



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

Church Beautification Project



Work on the Narthex is nearing completion, and will soon be exclusively happening in the Nave area. The work will proceed as you have seen in the Narthex: shapes will be defined, color areas created, and then the detail work begins in each. This minimizes the creation of extraneous surface lines of dried paint that can be seen 'through' the painting.

Outermost edges of the largest forms are defined first, and then the interior color shapes are created inside them. Once covered solidly and dry, the detail work goes on. Every effort will be made to avoid the appearance of half-painted areas in the Nave which are distracting to see during the services. Back and side walls will be painted bringing the work toward the Iconostasis wall, which looks bare at present, but will not remain

that way! Drawings for that will be posted before work begins there so that you can get a sense for what will come.

Much remains to be done, but the results so far have added so much beauty and color to our worship space. New elements are being added every week! Thank you all for your patience, prayers and support of our beautification effort.





Looking Beyond the Festival

Checking our parish calendar this month, everyone should notice that the feastday of Saint Haralambos, February 10th, falls on the Tuesday after our festival. This means that the evening Vesper service will be celebrated on Monday evening, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m., the evening after our festival closes!

Needless to say, it's going to be a very busy week, and we can use as many volunteers as possible beginning Monday morning, Feb. 9. Fortunately, Bayer School has cancelled classes on that day, making it much easier for us to clean up and put back all the festival equipment, tables, chairs, etc.

Beyond our parish feastday, Great Lent also begins this month on Monday, Feb. 23. The traditional start to Great lent begins with the Forgiveness Vespers held on the previous Sunday evening. This year, because of the visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos to the Phoenix valley, all four Greek Orthodox parishes will be celebrating this service

together at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Sunday evening Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Please see the calendar page for the Lenten service schedule. A Lent Guide will also be printed discussing the spiritual journey of Great Lent and all that it entails, including prayer, fasting and works of charity. The 7-week journey of Lent will conclude with Holy Week services in April, culminating on Easter Sunday, Apr. 12.

Every year during our Greek Festival, several church tours are held not just to show what the inside of our church looks like, but to give a brief overview of Orthodox Christianity to our guests, most of whom have not been exposed to the Greek Orthodox Church. In each tour, I always mention the life of Saint Haralambos.

Since we are celebrating his nameday this month (Feb. 10), we are reprinting the Life of Saint Haralambos which is found in The Lives of the Saints and Major Feastdays by Fr. George Poulos.

On the 10th of February, we honor one of the most beloved saints of the Orthodox Christian Church. His name is Haralambos (in English, the translation used by most Orthodox is Harry.) Haralambos lived during the 2nd century in a small town called Magnesia in Asia Minor. He became a priest at a very early age and served his community with great zeal.

What has prompted Orthodox Christians throughout the world to display such love and affection for St. Haralambos? Why has he been so very close to the hearts of all of us for more than 1,900 years? Perhaps it is because of the fact that there is no record of any other priest in the history of Christianity who suffered so much in one lifetime for his religious convictions.

In the city of Magnesia, the Governor of the province, Loukianos, inflicted great pain

(Continued on page 4)

Why has he been so very close to the hearts of all of us for more than 1,900 years?



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship

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

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Parish Council

Evanne Cuccorelli
Dennis Georgen
Kathy Harvey

Timothy Harvey
Russel Skocypec
Russell Zook

Looking Beyond the Festival

(Continued from page 3)

upon St. Haralambos because he refused to worship the idols of the Empire. The saintly Priest was first tied to a post in the public square and ridiculed by the pagans. His body was slashed by heavy cutting irons used by the Governor's soldiers.

St. Haralambos, in spite of the terrible pain, refused to deny Christ and accept the pagan gods. After much torture, he was dragged by his beard through the streets of Magnesia by soldiers on horseback. Many forms of torture were used to force Haralambos to give up his faith, yet he would not. During the ensuing months, St. Haralambos miraculously survived all forms of torture. Eventually the people called him "the man they cannot kill."

People spoke of many miracles attributed to St. Haralambos during his imprisonment. Thousands came to the jail to seek his blessing. Hundreds of afflicted souls came to be healed of their sicknesses. Haralambos became known also as a miracle-worker. He caused the lame to walk and the blind to see. Some thought he was the Resurrected Christ who had returned to earth. St. Haralambos proclaimed to all that he was not the Messiah but that he was only the instrument of the Lord's Divine Grace.

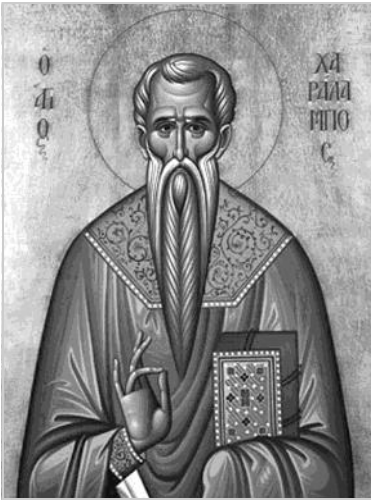
The Roman Emperor, Servius, was enraged by the action of Haralambos and ordered the Saint brought to the capital of the Empire which was then located in the ancient city of Antioch, Syria. In the city of Antioch, Haralambos was led about the

city with a horse bridle in his mouth. This was done to ridicule both him and the Christian faith, which he continued to uphold. The soldiers of the Emperor then nailed Haralambos to a cross with over 100 large spikes which pierced the skin of the pious Saint. Other forms of torture were administered, and yet Haralambos did not relent nor die.

In his great anger, the Emperor ordered Haralambos beheaded. As the two executioners raised their swords to kill the Saint, suddenly a voice was heard from heaven saying, "Well done my faithful servant, enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." At this moment, St. Haralambos fell asleep in the Lord, without a blow being struck.

The executioners were dumbfounded. They knelt at the body of the Saint and asked God for forgiveness. The Emperor became more enraged and ordered the two would-be executioners of Haralambos beheaded. Their names were Porphirios and Baptos, whose feast day we celebrate today also.

Thus the beloved Saint Haralambos truly had become "the man they couldn't kill," for he was taken by God himself into the Kingdom of Heaven in the year 192A.D.



Forever Young

By Julie Karoutas

We begin with our wonderful festival the weekend of Feb. 6 thru 8. Information is in the monthly bulletin. Please offer to help in whatever way you can. Bring your family and friends and enjoy the music, good food, and fellowship.



On Friday, Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., we will celebrate the year of the Ram and experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of the 25th annual Phoenix Chinese Cultural and Cuisine Festival. Enjoy continuous entertainment including the famous Dragon and Lion dances, Martial Arts demonstrations, Folk and Traditional dances, Musical performances, Children's Pavilion Acts, Chinese Culture and Historical Booth. Shop at Arts & Crafts booths, experience cultural performances and taste scrumptious and authentic Chinese Cuisine. The festival will be held at "Margaret T. Hance (East) Park", 1202 N. 3rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85004.

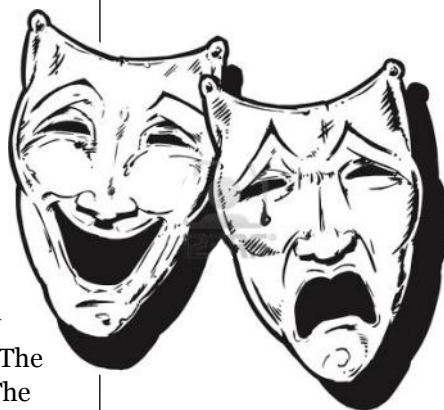
Plan to leave by 11 a.m., we can meet at the 67th Ave., AJ's off of 101, far corner of parking lot, close to 67th Ave., exit. We can carpool if someone needs a ride.

Please contact Julie if you plan to attend at 623-972-2382 (home) or you can text or call 623-313-8720 (cell). Hope to see all of you at this wonderful, fun filled event. There is much to see and to do, and lots of good food to enjoy!

Please mark your calendar for our upcoming trip to the theater on Sunday, Mar. 15 to see & enjoy the musical "Follies" at the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts, "Theater Works" located at 8355 W. Peoria Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345; 623-815-1791. Follies performance begins at 2 p.m.; doors open at 1:30 p.m. Please plan to be there by no later than 1:45 p.m., to easily get to your seat. I have reserved two end seats, if you need an end seat please notify me when making your reservation. The first two to respond will get them. The tickets are \$22 each (Senior Group pricing) we will need a minimum of 8 in order to get that price, otherwise, the cost is \$35 each. Please do not hesitate, notify Julie for your reservations and pay by check or cash to Julie; checks made out to: Julie Karoutas, mailed to: 17248 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1962, payment must be made by Friday, Feb. 20. I have to make one payment to the theater. Thanking you in advance for your quick response.

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

Wishing you All the Best that the New Year has to offer.



Name Days

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

St. Agathi (5th)
 St. Theodore Stratelates (8th)
 St. Haralambos (10th)
 St. Theodora the Empress (11th)
 St. Zacharias (11th)
 St. Christos the Gardener (12th)
 St. Meletios (12th)
 SS. Aquila and Priscilla (13th)
 St. Theodore (17th)
 St. Agapetos (18th)
 St. Evstathios (21st)
 St. Photini (26th)
 St. Kyranna (29th)



St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Valla Wrona, President

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Correction to January in Touch

Please forgive my error in last month's In Touch: \$400 (not \$25) was sent for the Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment Fund.

Feast Day Reception

OPA! Please remember that right after the festival, we will hold vespers for our feast day on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. with a reception to follow.

Agape Ball

The Agape Ball has been postponed to Apr. 18. Stay tuned to the May issue of In Touch for information on Camp Agape for those who wish to donate their time and talents. Please speak with Julie Karoutas for more information as she attended the entire week last year and can attest to the experience.

Vasilopita Sunday

Many thanks to our bakers for Vasilopita Sunday: Reni Milonas, Stella Pagos, Anna Kinniburgh, Kathie Harvey, Ted Manos, and Argyro Vasquez. The auction netted \$266, including a \$20 donation, which will be forwarded to St. Basil's Academy.

Coffee Hours

While we want to encourage fellowship with our coffee hours, the job is too demanding. In that regard, Philoptochos will no longer accept checks from those who wish to sponsor coffee hours. We will consider reinstating it in the future, but at

the present time, it is not feasible. Also, when we have hosts, we will be asking that the hosts do all of the set up and clean up. One of the Philoptochos members will set up the coffee, tea, juice, and water. If you are unable to do the set up and clean up and would like to ask for assistance, please contact a Philoptochos member well in advance of the date so that we can coordinate our schedules.

One of the changes you will be seeing to coffee hour is that when no one is signed up or it's not a special occasion, the table will only have a fruit and a starch on it or maybe even just a cookie. This will just be something to tide us over until we go home for lunch. While you can do whatever you like for coffee hour, you should not feel the need to put on a luncheon. Fruit, bagels, and cookies would be plenty.

Rebuilding of St. Nicholas National Shrine at World Trade Center

The ladies of Philoptochos voted to donate \$400 to this important effort in addition to their own personal contributions. The \$400 came from the money donated for the Memorial Dove Trees at Christmas. It seemed a fitting tribute to all of the members.

Next Meeting

Due to the festival, Philoptochos will not meet again until Mar. 2, at 7 p.m.

Great Lent

As Great Lent begins Feb. 23, our first Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be held on Feb. 25. As tradition holds, a Lenten meal will be served each Wednesday following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. Please contact Valla Wrona if you are able to host a meal or would like to

ORGANIZATIONS

assist in any way. The following is a list of the available weeks and those who have signed up thus far for the meals:

February 25: Ken and Valla Wrona
 March 4: Charlotte Servetas and Anna Kinniburgh
 March 11: Thalia Christian and Marina Kaye
 March 18: Available
 March 25: Edna Nicely and Julie Karoutas
 April 1: Aphrodite Devolites and Flo Curran

Commitments

At our January meeting, the ladies of Philoptochos voted to pay a combined total of \$100 for Social Services and the Cancer Fund, \$50 to the Autism Assistance Fund, and \$25 to the St. Photios Shrine in Florida. If you would like more information on any of these commitments, please contact me.

Annual Diaper Drive

If you have not yet been able to bring in diapers for our annual diaper drive for Homeward Bound, you may continue to do so throughout March. Homeward Bound serves families with children who are victims of domestic violence and/or homelessness and provides them with transitional housing and social services. This is a wonderful charity that St. Anna's has sought to help for many years.

Membership Due

Philoptochos membership is due:

National dues: \$15

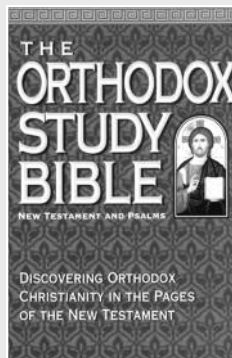
Metropolis dues: \$15

Suggested donation for St. Anna's: \$10

Please see Julie Karoutas or myself for a membership form. You may pay your dues in one check.

Orthodox Study Group

Orthodox Bible Study will meet again for our next session starting Thursday Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. after the hectic bazaar schedule. . We will be starting to review the Gospel of Matthew. Please join us with interest and questions and your bible.



Birthdays



Christina Harris (1)
 Kalliope Chafoulis (4)
 Koula Ratliff (5)
 George Tremoulis (7)
 Silvia Christenson, II (9)
 Kenneth Wrona (9)
 Kerri Stamas (11)
 Peter Vardalos (11)
 David Solomon (13)
 Chris Birtsas (14)
 Giorgio Thomas (14)
 Emil Sprintz (17)
 Alexandru Gheorghe (21)
 Dennis Georgen (24)
 Nayeli Gheorghe (24)
 Solomon Tesfay (24)
 Timothy Harvey (25)
 Evanne Cuccorelli (26)
 Mary Manos (26)
 Elizabeth Baxter (28)
 Stephanie Baxter (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.

ORGANIZATIONS

Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts/sponsors.

January

- 4: Jean Baxter Family
- 11: Genet Tesfay & Fyori Desta
- 18: Philoptochos
- 25: Russom & Solomon Families

February

- 1: Valla & Ken Wrona
- 8: Festival
- 15: Available
- 22: Available

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



Parishioners, Peoria's Community Action Program Help Distribute Holiday Cheer



In an annual Christmas tradition, St. Haralambos parishioners helped make the holidays merry and bright by providing food boxes, household items, toys and bicycles to 10 area families with a total of 43 family members.

The City of Peoria North West Community Action Program picked up the donations on Monday, Dec. 22 in time for Christmas Day distribution to the recipient families.

"Helping our neighbors in need with last month's Thanksgiving food boxes and this month's Christmas donations, helps us practice our faith in both word and deed to those around us," shared Father Michael Pallad. "Thank you to all the parishioners who donated requested items, food and cash to purchase gifts. Your support and generosity during the holidays with these events helps make a difference in the lives of those in our community."

The Community Action Program provides a variety of services to individual and families in need of assistance. The organization serves a wide geographic area including Anthem, Carefree, Cave Creek, El Mirage, New River, Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, Waddell, Wittmann and Youngtown.



FEBRUARY 2015

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Mortgage Reduction	2 9:00am Divine Liturgy Presentation of the Lord 7:00pm Philoptochos	3	4	5 7:00pm Choir	6 5:00pm Greek Festival	7 10:00am Greek Festival
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Greek Festival	9 7:00pm Great Vespers Parish Feastday Reception to Follow	10 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Haralambos the Holy Priest Martyr 7:00pm Parish Council	11	12 Metropolis Folk Dance & Choral Festival 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	13 Metropolis Folk Dance & Choral Festival	14 Metropolis Folk Dance & Choral Festival
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Meat Fare Sunday IOCC Offering Tray Metropolis Folk Dance & Choral Festival	16 Presidents' Day (Church Office Closed)	17	18	19 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	20	21 9:00am Divine Liturgy 2nd Saturday of Souls
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Cheese-fare Sunday 6:30pm Vespers of Forgiveness (at Holy Trinity with Metropolitan Gerasimos)	23 Great Lent Begins (Clean Monday) 7:00pm Executive Council	24 7:00pm Compline Service	25 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	26 7:00pm Bible Study	27 7:00pm Akathist Hymn (1st stanza)	28 9:00am Divine Liturgy 3rd Saturday of Souls

DOWNLOAD THE APP

To help with parish communications, we encourage parishioners with cell phones to download the St. Haralambos Church mobile app now available for download for either Apple or Android-based systems. The mobile app will bring parish news and information directly to your cell phone. Please help spread the word!

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



OR SEARCH

