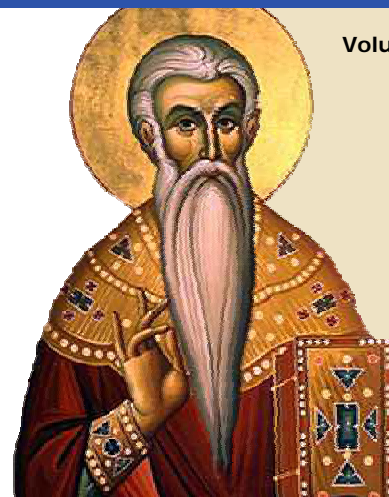


in Touch

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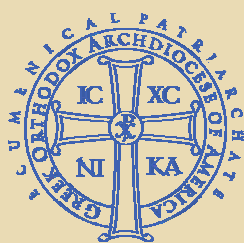
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The Great Blessing of the Waters

The Feast of Epiphany, Sunday, January 6

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

20th Anniversary Dinner Gala

Saturday, December 1, 2008 • Arrowhead Country Club



Mary Harrington receives the Archdiocese Medal of St. Paul



A special performance by the Academy of Classical Ballet



We would like to give a special **"Thank you"** to the Donors for the 20th Anniversary Dinner Gala. The list includes the Silent Auction Items benefiting Kids'n'Cancer (\$890 raised) and the Raffle (\$300 raised).

- ◆ **20th Anniversary Committee**
- ◆ **Alexi's Restaurant**
- ◆ **St. Anna's Philoptocos**
- ◆ **Arrowhead Country Club**
- ◆ **Phoenix Zoo**
- ◆ **My Big Fat Greek Restaurant**
- ◆ **Steve and Cindy Strategos**
- ◆ **Ray and Mary Wysmierski**



Epiphany, the glorious revelation of the Holy Trinity at the baptism of Christ.

“As You were baptized in Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father gave added witness, naming You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of that word. O Christ, who revealed Yourself as God, and brought light to the world, glory to You.”

One of the joys for Orthodox Christian priests in the new year is the celebration of Epiphany on the 6th of January, and the reason might not be the first thought that pops into parishioners' minds. Make no mistake, Epiphany is a deeply religious feastday, commemorating the glorious revelation of the Holy Trinity at the baptism of Christ. The hymns and scriptural readings of the day all serve to drive home the unique nature and saving mission of the Son of God in the world.

But there is also something more, something that extends the celebration far beyond January 6th; and something that can personally involve every family in our parish,

even those not able to be in church that day. If you need a hint, remember that following the Divine Liturgy there is the Great Blessing of the Waters service (which makes use of our beautiful Holy Water Font shown on the cover of this month's newsletter), and everyone in church can drink the blessed Holy Water, or take some home with them. By now it should be obvious: this is the time of year that Orthodox priests bless the homes of their parishioners, using that same Holy Water from the church service.

Why is this so enjoyable? Because it goes right to the heart of a priest's calling to ministry: to bring the blessings of our good and loving God to his people. The holy priesthood is not a desk job! Although a priest makes use of an office with a desk, it is most fulfilling for a priest to get out of the office and spend time with his parish family. This can be done during times of need, such as hospital visits, but also during less stressful times to get better acquainted and to stay connected with parishioners.

Holy Water is brought by the priest to the homes of parishioners and, in a special service, is sprinkled throughout the house offering the Epiphany blessing for the New Year. Every family can request a house blessing by completing the form found in this month's newsletter, and returning it to the church office. This is a blessing for the entire family, so parents should try to find a time when children are home, and no other activities are taking place in the house.

The significance of the house blessing, in addition to offering prayers for a holy and healthy start to the new year, makes a direct connection with the feastday of Epiphany. Jesus was baptized with water in the Jordan river; the prayers at the Great Blessing of the Waters service ask for our Lord to bless the prepared water for the health of soul and body, and for the sanctification of

(Continued on page 6)

Holy Water is a sacred union of a fundamental element of human life (water) together with the invisible grace of the Creator of all life.



**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

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Hours

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

Parish Council

George Christie
Mike Danielek
Olga Fredericksen
Mary Manos
Stella Pagos
George Retsinas

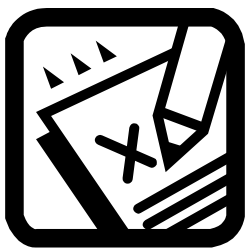
Peter Retsinas
Roberta Szklarski
Katherine Tally
Peter Tremoulis
Mary Wysmierski
Ray Wysmierski

Parish Council Election Results

Congratulations to the following parishioners who were elected to serve on the Parish Council beginning Jan. 1: Mike Danielek, Mary Manos, Roberta Szklarski and Ray Wysmierski. Also beginning in January will be Olga Frederickson and Katherine Tally who were appointed by the council for a one-year term. They will be joining George Christie, Peter Retsinas, Stella Pagos, George Retsinas, Peter Tremoulis and Mary Wysmierski.

We thank out-going Parish Council President Greg Krochta and Dean Milonas, whose terms expired Dec. 31, 2007, for their dedication and service to the council.

2008 promises to be an exciting year for our parish, and we ask for God's blessings on all the members of the parish council as they help administer the needs and ministries of St. Haralambos Church.



Community Takes Bold, Historic and Faithful Step

On Sunday, Nov. 18, attendees at the St. Haralambos General Assembly Meeting approved several proposals helping the community take a bold, historic and faithful step towards building a new Church home at 75th Avenue and Greenway Road.

With members of the Archdiocese Office of Parish Development in attendance, parish council member Ray Wysmierski presented the proposals that will guide the Capital Campaign.

The Three Proposals

First, based on the recommendation of the Building Committee, Capital Campaign Committee and Parish Council, the following motion was presented and passed:

To proceed with the architectural design of Phase I through construction documents of the preliminary master plan, to build at 75th and Greenway property, consisting of the Byzantine-designed church, and temporary facilities to include modular buildings for fellowship, administrative and educational classrooms. This proposal provides for the four (4) basic elements of the Orthodox Church community at a cost not to exceed \$3.3 million.

The second motion presented and passed was to:

Proceed with the Capital Campaign charged to raise a minimum of \$600,000 for Phase I.

Finally, the third motion presented and passed was for the Capital Campaign to sell our current Church property located at 10320 N. 84th Avenue. It stated:

To move forward with the sale of the buildings and property of our current location. The sale of this property is included in all the liquid assets projected in the costs of the new church proposal.

A preliminary timeline tentatively indicates a groundbreaking ceremony on the new property could be held as early as Fall 2008.



"Thank you to all the parishioners who, together with Laura Paulus and Jerry Minetos of the Archdiocese Office of Parish Development, spent countless hours studying the feasibility, economics, architect plans and campaign details to present and kick-off this first phase of our new church building project," said Fr. Michael Pallad. "This is truly a historic step for our parish and a once in a lifetime opportunity to glorify God in building a new Orthodox Church in the Northwest Valley."

2008 House Blessings

Start the New Year with a special family event, according to the traditions of the Holy Orthodox Church, asking God's blessings for your home and your family!

Please complete the form below to indicate your preferred date and schedule your house blessing. Mail the form to the church office, or bring it with you to church on Sunday. You will be contacted by our secretary to confirm your day and time.



House Blessing Request Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE

Zone 1: South of Peoria Ave. and West of 83rd Ave.

_____ Tuesday, January 8 _____ Sunday, January 20
 _____ Monday, January 14 _____ Saturday, January 26

Zone 2: North of Peoria Ave. and West of 83rd Ave.

_____ Monday, January 7 _____ Sunday, January 13
 _____ Saturday, January 12 _____ Tuesday, January 22

Zone 3: South of Peoria Ave. and East of 83rd Ave.

_____ Thursday, January 10 _____ Wednesday, January 23
 _____ Tuesday, January 15

Zone 4: North of Peoria Ave. and East of 83rd Ave.

_____ Wednesday, January 9 _____ Thursday, January 24
 _____ Wednesday, January 16 _____ Sunday, January 27

ORGANIZATIONS

Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Dec. 2	Marius & Stella Pagos
Dec. 9	John & Penny Obren
Dec. 16	Gus & Bella Danos, George & Patty Christie
Dec. 23	Alice Hecht and Anna Yacyshyn
Dec. 30	Gale & Paula Farr
Jan. 6	Michael & Chryss Danielek, Thalia Zorbas
Jan. 13	Vasilopita Sunday
Jan. 20	John & Penny Obren
Jan. 27	Sunday School, 6th, 7th and 8th Grades

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

Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

A Blessed New Year to All!

The next monthly meeting will be Monday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Jan. 13—Vasilopita Sunday. Help make our annual Vasilopita Auction a success by either baking or buying the bread. All proceeds to St. Basil's Academy.

The past few months have been very busy:

FYI

1. Nov. 17, Philoptochos hosted a successful Southwest Regional Conference.
2. Dec. 3, a fun pot-luck Christmas Party, including an accordionist and we SANG!
3. Donated \$400 to Student Endowment Fund.
4. Donated \$200 a Christmas Gift to Homeward Bound, plus many diapers and wipes.
5. Several ladies (Warm-up America) knit squares and put together to make an afghan and donated it to Homeward Bound.

6. 25 wrapped gifts for needy children given to West Side Food Bank for distribution.

The Philoptochos Society of the Metropolis of San Francisco, hosted the Eleventh National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007 at the Fairmont Hotel, in Newport Beach, CA.

Benefiting from this event:

1. St. Joseph's Children Health Center of Phoenix--\$25,000
2. Phoenix Children's Hospital Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders--\$12,500

"Let us Rejoice and Embrace the Children"



Pastor's Column

(Continued from page 3)

homes. Holy Water is a sacred union of a fundamental element of human life (water) together with the invisible grace of the Creator of all life.

This is the great blessing of Epiphany, our Lord's baptism. It is a joyful and sacred celebration, and provides a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to

start the new year by inviting their priest to bless their homes with Holy Water. Don't be bashful or mistakenly think it's an imposition; this is one of the joys of being a priest!

May 2008 be filled with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

St. Haralambos

St. Christopher's Bookstore

God and You: Person to Person,
Anthony Coniaris, 1995, 133 pages.

Our faith is much more than believing in an idea, writes Fr. Coniaris, it must be experienced personally. God came as "the Person of Jesus," He suffered, died and resurrected, so that He might be experienced personally by His people as Emmanuel—God with us. He sent the Holy Spirit to be present always with us. This book explores how to attain a personal relationship with God.

A personal relationship with Christ is "born" at our baptism and "nourished" in the Church. We are living members of His Body, the Church. The Holy Spirit is "in our hearts" so we know Him directly, says the author.

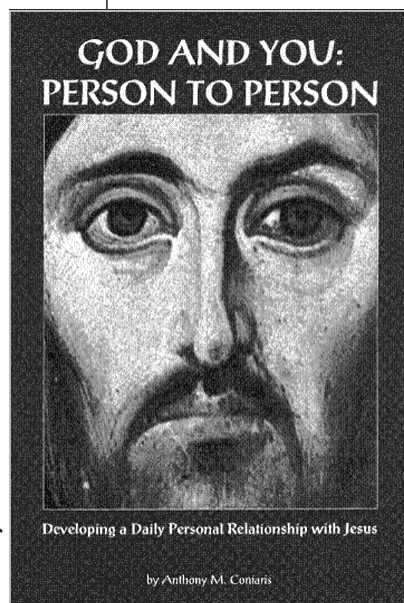
The liturgical year "re-enacts the great saving events in the life of Jesus," which we witness personally. During liturgy we are personally involved by praying, singing, crossing ourselves and saying the Creed that begins with "I" to signify that our faith is personal. Furthermore, when we say, "He will come again to judge the living and the dead," we think: "I will appear before the Lord to give account of my life." I need to be saved! Each individual's name is mentioned when receiving Communion. God knows us by name and loves us personally.

Much of the book discusses the importance of personal prayer. Many beautiful prayers are presented from saints and other Christians, worship services, various people from the Bible including Christ Himself, the Hours of Prayer and the Jesus Prayer.

While it is fine, according to Fr. Coniaris, to use prayers recited for centuries, the author encourages us to carry on an "unreserved" conversation with the Lord, discuss everything that is happening in our lives. If one is anxious, pray for peace; if one is angry, pray for patience; if one is hurting, pray for comfort.

We live in an impersonal society where we are identified by numbers. However, Christ's ministry demonstrated His personal love for us. He cares for each of us because He created each of us to be unique. In a crowd one day He asked, "Who touched me?" He didn't want anyone to be lost in the crowd.

We all know the personal conversation that Jesus had with the Samaritan woman at the well. Fr. Coniaris asks, "Don't we all need such a personal encounter with Jesus in order for our faith to grow?" And, doesn't Jesus offer this to us in prayer, in Scripture and in the Church?



Stewardship in the New Year

Thank you to all the families who have returned their 2008 Stewardship Pledge Cards. We encourage all families to complete and return their pledge cards by the end of January.

Birthdays



Louise Karmeris (1st)
 Jim Christian (2nd)
 Areti Karandreas (3rd)
 Nina Milonas (4th)
 Tyke Solomon (6th)
 Peter Stamas (11th)
 Sophia Mallos (14th)
 Elaine Giannias Winn (14th)
 George Pikoula (20th)
 Dimitri Theoharatos (22nd)
 John Obren (23rd)
 Catherine Jie Baxter (28th)
 Mary Wysmierski (29th)
 Reni Milonas (31st)
 Frosene Yelton (31st)

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.

Assisted Living, Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish, and we ask you to please remember them in prayer: Orin and Mary-Jean Davis, Alice Massahos, Nikita and Josette Reisler, Sophia Shows and Effie Stathopoulou.

Recuperating from recent hospitalizations: Zoe Dress, Elaine Giannias-Winn, Estelle Lazzelle and Kathy Lampropoulos.

Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of Veneta Pappas who fell asleep in the Lord last month on Dec. 9. May her memory be eternal.

Thank You

Mary Wysmierski sends out a heartfelt "Thank You" to all the wonderful ladies of the community who were able to spend the afternoon with her and her Mother on Dec. 8 for what was a most treasured and memorable day in preparation for the arrival of Mary and Ray's little one.

Name Days

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

St. Basil (Vasili) the Great (1st)	St. Athanasios (18th) (also May 2)
St. Gregory the Elder (1st)	St. Mark of Ephesos (19th)
St. Romanos (5th)	St. Timothy (22nd)
Epiphania/Theophania (6th)	St. Xenia (24th)
St. Gregory of Nyssa (10th)	St. Gregory the Theologian (25th)
St. Tatiani (12th)	St. Ephraim the Syrian (28th)
St. Anthony the Great (17th)	

Simple Fund-raising Opportunity

By participating in Bashas' "Thanks A Million" program, a percentage of each purchase can be directed to St. Haralambos Church. Just sign up at Bashas for a "Thank You" card and have your card programmed with Group ID number 23212. This program will run through Mar. 31, 2008. For further information, go to www.bashas.com/charity.



JANUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy St. Basil the Great Happy New Year! (Office closed)	2	3 7:00pm Choir	4 9:00a.m. The Royal Hours of Epiphany	5 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy The Forefeast of Epiphany
6 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy EPIPHANY	7 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy St John the Baptist 7:00p.m. Philoptochos	8	9 7:00p.m. Building Project Focus Groups	10 7:00pm Choir	11	12
13 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy VASILOPETA SUNDAY	14	15	16	17 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy St. Anthony the Great 7:00pm Choir	18	19
20 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	21	22 7:00p.m. Building Project Focus Groups	23	24 7:00pm Choir	25	26
27 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	28	29	30 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy The Three Great Hierarchs	31 7:00pm Choir		