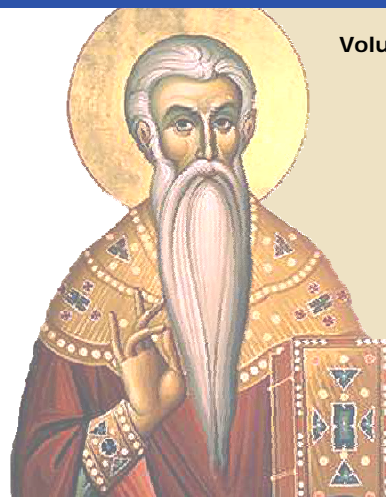


in Touch

Volume 16, Issue 6

June 2008



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Feast of Holy Pentecost

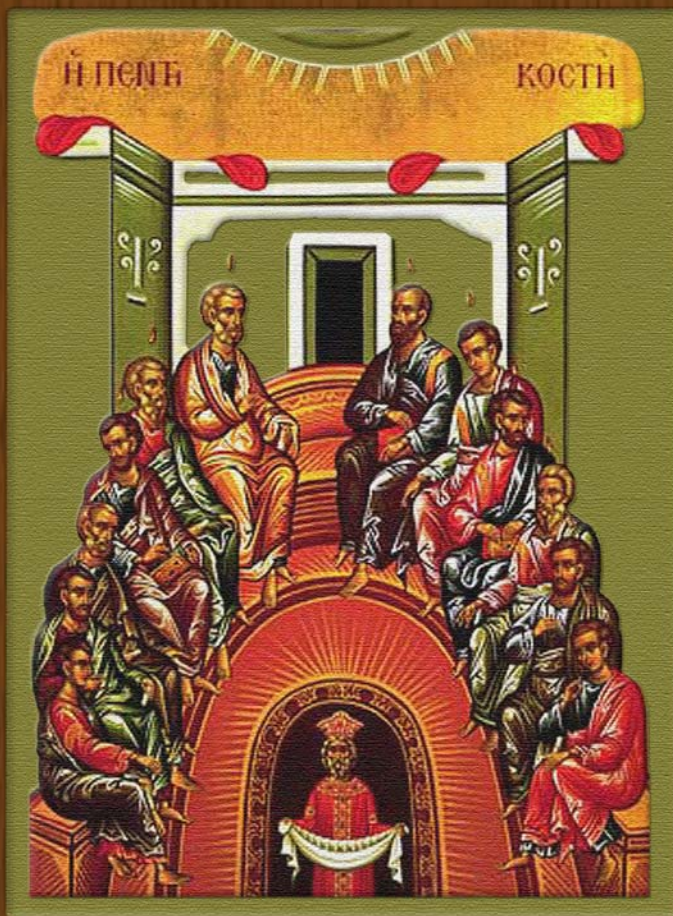
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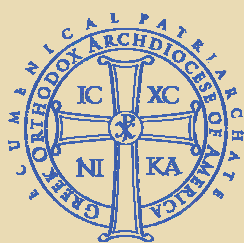
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*Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen
all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit,
and through them, drawing all the world into Your net.
O Loving One, glory to You.*



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

Christ is risen! Christos anesti!

Holy Week services required the love and hard work of many dedicated parishioners ! Thanks to our many volunteers who beautifully decorated the Epitaphios (burial tomb of Christ), the many readers, chanters and choir members, the Myrrh-bearers (pictured are Sierra Albrant, Banna Tesfay, Mikhala Krochta and Alexandra Pallad) those who helped with flower decorating, prepared the palm crosses, prepared and served lenten breakfasts and dinners.

The last event, the Sunday afternoon Easter Egg hunt, was enjoyed by many children, including Artemesia Tremoulis who is seen intently studying the first egg she found!





In Honor of Father's Day

No single description of fatherhood could ever apply to all dads; however, because some elements apply to all dads in general, here are some thoughts about dads and husbands with respect to their role in the family. In honor of Father's Day, and as a way of reminding and encouraging all fathers of their importance, here is a letter written by Linda Anderson, originally published in Daily Bread, 1989.

An Open Letter to Family Men

She was blond and beautiful, with azure eyes and a tumble of tawny curls. At three years of age, she would climb into her daddy's lap, snuggle up with a wide, satisfied smile, and purr, "This is my safe place!" And so it was. Dads, husbands, YOU are the "safe place."

You are our protector and provider. And when you gather us for a time with God, we need a safe place. A safe place, not a lecture. A safe place, not a sermon. A very human dad/husband who simply cares about God and us. We don't need or even want a "spiritual giant." We just want you.

And we need a gathering time

(phone unplugged) where it's safe to say to each other, "How are you and the Lord getting along?" "How can we pray today?" We need a safe place to cry, laugh, sing, rejoice, challenge, share, and sometimes not to share, and have it be okay. We need a time with you that's relaxed—unstiff, when we can pray honestly, in simple sentences, from our hearts. Unfixed. Unrigid. Unroutine. Unshackled.

We need a place where irregular opinions are respected, and where God has the last word. We need a gentleman leader, not a general. Gracious. Relaxed. Human. A family shepherd who exhibits not infallible authority, but a thirst for God. Every day? Not necessarily. Often? Yes. Long? No. Where? Anywhere. How? Sense where we're at, and zero in. We may need heavy-duty confessing to each other and to God...silent prayer...exuberant praise...Bible study. But not every time.

Thanks for listening, Dad (Husband). Remember, we need you.

Love, Your Family

Do we say often enough how important it is for children to see that their fathers try to lead a life that is pleasing to God? What we hear, and see, more often is that religious faith is something for the women of the family. I have no idea where this harmful and destructive attitude comes from, but it has certainly taken root in many cultures, including our own.

Men - husbands and dads: if the above letter seems

unrealistic or far-fetched, ask yourself why. Why would sitting down with your children and asking them about their faith seem strange? What about sharing your own faith with

them? A little scary? Heading into uncharted waters? Read the letter again – your children don't need a religious scholar, or someone with all the answers. They need a dad who listens to them and cares about them – including their faith in God.

Remember, dads, they need you.

Happy Fathers Day!

We need a place where irregular opinions are respected, and where God has the last word.



**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.

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Hours

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

Parish Council

George Retsinas, President
Ray Wysmierski, Vice-President
Roberta Szklarsk, Secretary
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
George Christie
Mike Danielek

Olga Fredericksen
Mary Manos
Peter Retsinas
Katherine Tally
Peter Tremoulis
Mary Wysmierski

Building a New Church

Why has the estimated cost for our Church increased so much since November 18, 2007?

On Jan. 8, 2008, our contractor opened his portion of the Design Focus Group (DFG) meeting with the following words: *"The best construction dollar that you can spend... is the dollar that you spend today."* His statement was prophetic in every sense of the word. The four elements controlling the cost of a building are:

1. Unforeseen Conditions;
2. City Required code compliance and Fees;
3. Owner Revised or Added Design Elements; and
4. Inflation.

Unforeseen Conditions – Add \$350,000

When we began our planning last May, we also began investigating our soils for stability, strength, clay and deleterious material content. After analysis of our topsoil, the engineering quality indicated that the clay content is such that we must remove 3 to 4 foot of soil under the Church and replace this soil with engineered earth that will structurally support our four-story building. This process is expensive and necessary...this unforeseen condition increased our original estimate for our Church by \$350,000 to \$450,000 dollars. *(HANSEN & CALLAHAN continue to work to bring down this cost.)*

City Requirements, Codes, Fees – Add \$289,170

In December, Father Michael, Kevin Callahan and Mike Danielek met with the Community Planning, Engineering and Fire Safety Departments for the City of Peoria. The following items were not in our original estimate and are required by the city in order to build our new Church. *(I know that Kevin Callahan and LEMME Engineering are working diligently with the city to curb these expenses.)*

1. Updated 'ALTA Site Survey' – Add \$1,500;
2. 'Final Plat Plan' – Add \$4,410;
3. 'Traffic Impact Analysis' (TIA) – Add \$8,260;
4. Fire lane around entire Church – Add \$75,000;
5. Fire loop and hydrants for total site – Add \$75,000;
6. Right Turn Lane on westbound Greenway Road to northbound 75th Avenue – Add \$125,000.

Owner Revised or Added Design Elements - Add \$262,500

During the DFG meetings, parishioners requested several design additions and changes that increased the original estimate for the Church:

1. Barrel Roof and Vaulted Ceilings – Add \$225,000;
2. Added Bathrooms in Fellowship Hall – Add \$16,000; and
3. In-ground Baptismal Font – Add \$21,500.

Inflation – 34% to 45% Increase in Raw Materials – Add \$236,050 (to date)

Since January the cost of the steel for our new Church has increased by 34-percent with an additional 8-percent by August. Other percentage increases in construction materials since we began planning our Church are:

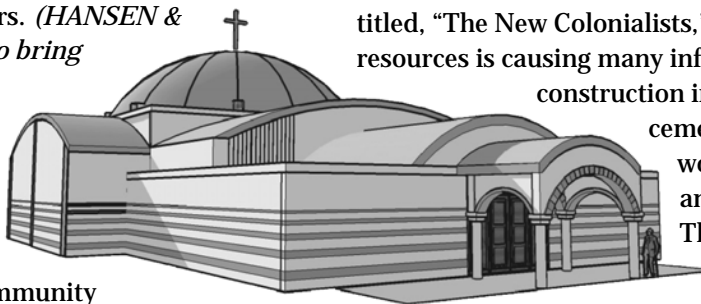
1. Cement has increased 45-percent;
2. Aluminum 33-percent;
3. Oil 33-percent (plastic comes from oil and fuel for shipping materials to the site have skyrocketed); and
4. Copper 23-percent.

In the March 13 issue of *The Economist*, in an article titled, "The New Colonialists," China's hunger for natural resources is causing many inflationary problems in the construction industry. Half of all the cement manufactured in the world last year was purchased and stock piled by the Chinese. They have purchased vast amounts of copper, aluminum, steel and oil.

Experts in world commodities expect China's imports to triple in the near future...thus further cost increases in the very materials that we need to construct our Church.

How can we get our Church built?

This article ends the way it began.... *"The best construction dollar that you can spend... is the dollar that you spend today."* Lets all of us attach our prayers, hearts and ALL of our efforts to getting this project built as quickly as possible. *"But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, **but with God all things are possible.**" (Matthew 19:26)*



Parish Stewardship

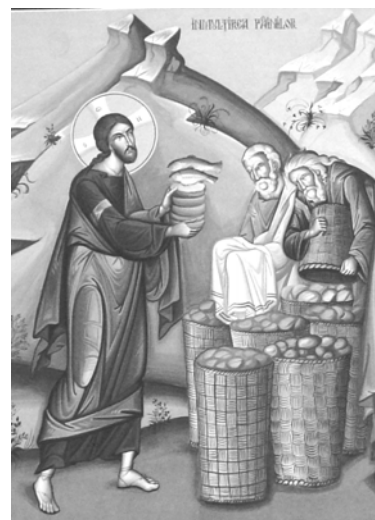
How does our church meet its operations budget? How do we support church ministries outside of our parish or throughout the world? How do we manage to send food to the West Side Food Bank, holiday food and gifts to needy families in Peoria, support a tutor at St. Innocent Orphanage in Tijuana through Project Mexico? The answer to those questions is always the same; from the voluntary offerings of our parishioners. And, thankfully, our history of giving to support the church operations budget and ministries - as well as to help meet needs outside our parish - has been steady and generous.

Many of our parishioners understand our Christian responsibility as good stewards; and it is more than simply offering a financial contribution. Stewardship teaches us to give generously of our time, our talents as well as our treasure (financial resources). When we collect food and gifts at the holidays, for example, volunteers are needed to sort and package food, wrap packages and deliver them either to the Food Bank or to the Community center. This all requires time, energy and, of course, a pleasant disposition. The rewards may not come in the form of a paycheck, but are more intangible such as, the knowledge that we are making a difference, enjoyable fellowship, helping worthy and needy causes.

Stewardship is the responsibility of all parish families. We ask each family to complete and return a Stewardship Pledge Card each year, and ask for a financial commitment to help cover the operating expenses of the church. The goal is to have stewardship contributions meet those operating expenses so that other income from festivals and other fund-raisers can help support local, national and international ministries of our church such as our Seminary, Missions Program and the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities).

If you attend St. Haralambos Church, and have not yet sent in a Stewardship Pledge Card for 2008, please do so today. (Simply call or e-mail the church office for a card.) We are a growing parish and offer these thoughts as a reminder to families who have been with St. Haralambos Church for many years, as well as for our newer families.

Giving to the needs and ministries of the Church always has, and always will, depend on the generous hearts of its members. The more we consider how the love and mercy of Christ is immeasurable, and that the Church continues His saving mission, the more we recognize our responsibility in supporting our Church, cheerfully as well as obediently. *(Next month: tithing and percentage giving - deciding how much to pledge)*



Welcome Reception

On Pentecost Sunday, June 15, we will be formally welcoming our new Steward families during the Coffee Hour in the Social Hall. Many of their faces will already be familiar, but this will be a time to both welcome them, and to learn a little more about them. If you are someone who has seen new faces and haven't yet learned the names associated with those

new faces, you'll want to stay for this reception! Behind every face is a name, behind every name is a family, and behind every family is a new story, one that contributes to the overall make up of this wonderful and blessed parish. Come and learn who we are, and who we are becoming!

ORGANIZATIONS

Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

"The blessing of the Lord makes men rich." Proverbs, Chapter 10:22.

Thank you to all who helped make our Lenten Journey successful!! (A special thanks to everyone who helped clean our backyard after a special event. ie: putting tables and chairs away and putting the rubbish barrels out to the curbside.

F.Y.I. After much hard work in planning and preparing special events to raise money for Philoptochos Ministries, we are able to give:

- ♦ Holy Cross Seminary - \$150
- ♦ Orthodox Christian Missions - \$100
- ♦ Commitment to upkeep of Philoptochos Lodge in CA. - \$125
- ♦ Building Fund donation - \$2,000

Congratulations to High School graduates:

- ♦ John Fredericksen
- ♦ Maria Papamatheakis
- ♦ Vasiliki Tsianos

Our next meeting, Monday, June 2 will, be our last meeting until Sep. 2.

Happy Father's Day!



Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

May 4 Tom & Margaret Michailides
 May 11 Argyro Vasquez
 May 18 Thomas & Ellen Tsolakos
 May 25 Roy & Maria Christian and Pat Janofsky

June 1 Available
 June 8 Michael & Chryss Danielek and Thalia Zorbas
 June 15 New Steward Welcome Reception
 June 22 Available
 June 29 Available

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

St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery

On Saturday, Apr. 12, a group of about 30 parishioners visited St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery in Florence, AZ. Pictured above are (from left to right) Desi

Medina, Alice Hecht, Dorothy Ayan, Anne Yacyshyn, Charlotte Servetas and Thalia Zorbas. As you can see, head coverings for women is required while on the monastery grounds. It was a wonderful visit, concluding with an enjoyable showing of My Big Fat Greek Wedding on the bus ride home. Many thanks to Penny Obren for organizing the trip.



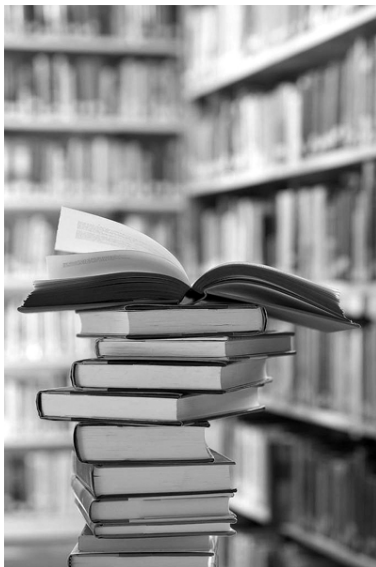
St. Christopher's Bookstore

Living Responsibly in an Age of Excuses, Anthony M. Coniaris, 1999, 73 pages.

Adam blamed Eve, Eve "blamed the serpent and the serpent didn't have a leg to stand on!" So begins the book, but even before page one appears Psalm 51. Fr. Coniaris says there's no end to the "blame game" until, like David, we accept responsibility for our sins and blame only ourselves.

Closely tied to the "blame game" are the topics of "victimism" and "excuse abuse." A person fired for consistently arriving late, won his job back because he suffered from an ailment called "chronic lateness." An inebriated man who fell in front of a subway train sued because the engineer should have stopped sooner and won. An old man was nearly killed and the perpetrator was awarded \$4.3 million because a policeman shot him in the back. Following the L.A. riots, lawyers successfully defended two men who were filmed crushing the skull of an innocent person with a brick since people can't be held accountable for getting caught up in mob violence. We have "no-fault" insurance and divorce.

Fr. Coniaris writes, "If we are victims of PMS or crack or sexual addiction or racism or whatever, then something or somebody else is always to blame."



Some contend that humans are products of their environments and their genetic inheritance. The author concedes that we don't fully understand to what extent these factors cause violence and immorality. But he argues that Adam and Eve lived in the most perfect environment, and yet chose to sin against God.

Humans are the only animals capable of making excuses and of rationalizing that right is wrong and that evil is good. In fact, a common excuse for bad behavior is that I'm "only human," writes Fr. Coniaris. But Christ "came to show us what it means to be truly human."

Man is much more than an animal because he is created in the image of God. Furthermore, we are lovingly created with free will. The author emphatically states that with "free will and the grace of God" we can "rise above any...environment...or genetic predisposition."

Like David we must put the blame squarely on our own shoulders. "For I know **my**...sin (not my neighbor's!) is ever before me."

Jesus made himself a scapegoat for our sins, but how can God forgive if we don't confess? Our lives change when we say "good-bye to self-pity, denial, pride...and passing the buck." We are reminded, "...the blood of Jesus cleanses only sins—not excuses."

Youth Events

Metropolis of San Francisco Summer Camp

St. Nicholas Ranch, Dunlap, California Offering three sessions this summer:

- ♦ July 6 – 12
- ♦ July 13 – 19
- ♦ July 20 – 26

Applications and other information is available by visiting the Metropolis Youth website at: www.youth.sanfran.goarch.org

All Saints Pan-Orthodox Summer Camp

El Nathan Retreat, Flagstaff, Arizona

- ♦ June 8 – 15

Applications are available at the church office, or can be downloaded by visiting Holy Trinity's website at www.holytrinityphx.org and click "Camp."



Birthdays



George Theoharatos (6th)
 Patrick Marshall (7th)
 Aaron Johnson (11th)
 Despina Medina (14th)
 Christopher Lee King, II (15th)
 Alicia Krochta (17th)
 Pam Lemons (17th)
 Alicia Krochta (18th)
 Masha Legkaya (20th)
 Jon Fredericksen (22nd)
 Gale Farr (24th)

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.

Name Days

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

St. Dorotheos (5th)
 St. Cyril (9th) (and January 18th)
 St. Methodios, Patriarch of Constantinople (14th)
 St. Jude, Apostle of Christ (19th)
 St. Julian of Egypt (21st)
 St. Sampson (27th)
 Sts. Peter and Paul (29th)

Sacraments

Marriage

Bill Retsinas and Brittany Birchfield were joined in marriage on Mar. 8. The Best Man was George Retsinas.

Peri Leros and Jennifer O'dea were joined in marriage on May 3. The Best Man was Mike Tsitsinidis.

As they begin their new lives together as husbands and wives, we pray that God grant them many years of good health and happiness!

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, Fannie Huzinec, Jim Froumis, Alice Massahos, Tom Pallad, Nellie Poleschuk, Nikita and Josette Reisler.

Change in Sunday Service Times



For the hot summer months of June, July and August, the Sunday service times will be moved a half-hour ahead: Matins will start at 8:30a.m. and the Divine Liturgy at 9:30a.m.

Aluminum Recycling



We are still accepting aluminum cans for recycling. Please remember: aluminum only - not steel, tin or other materials. Please bring them in bags and deposit them into the barrels located outside the rear exit of the church building. Last year this program brought in \$332 for your Church.

JUNE 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	2 7:00pm Philoptochos	3	4	5 9:00am Divine Liturgy Feastday of the Ascension 7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal	6	7
8 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	9	10	11	12 7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal	13	14 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
15 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Father's Day Pentecost "New Steward Welcome"	16	17 7:00pm Parish Council	18	19 7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal	20	21
22 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday of All Saints	23	24	25	26 7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal	27	28
29 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	30			7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal		