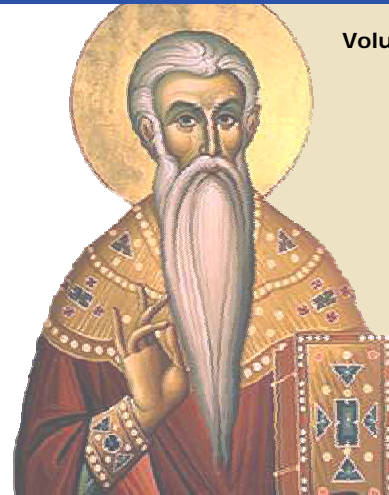


in Touch

Volume 18, Issue 6

June 2010



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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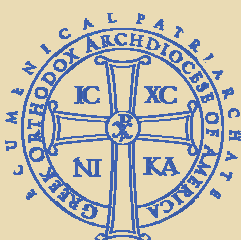
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Christ the Good Shepherd



*"I am the good shepherd. The good
shepherd gives his life for the sheep."*

(John 10:11)



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

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

Everyone is invited on Wednesday evening, June 16, to the first summer Family Movie Night with something for everyone! Showing in the church will be a beautiful documentary on the magnificent 12th century cathedral in Chartres, France.

Other movies for teens and children will be shown in our social hall and large classroom. Everyone is welcome to watch the movie of their (or their parent's) choice!

Bring your own snacks.

Popcorn and drinks provided.



Chartres Cathedral



Free Admission, friends welcome.

Movies begin at 7 pm ~ Doors open at 6:30 pm



The Good Shepherd

There is a story told about a group of pilgrims who were touring the Holy Land with a guide who was native to the place. At one stop, the guide was explaining about sheep-herding, that the shepherd did not walk behind his sheep but rather in front leading them and they followed him, just as the Lord describes Himself as the Good Shepherd: "...the sheep hear His voice and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. When He has brought out all His own, He goes before them, and the sheep follow Him, for they know His voice." (John 10:3-4)

As the guide finished this explanation, several in the group started laughing when they saw a man walking behind a flock of sheep and driving them along with a stick. Someone commented to the guide, "I thought you said the shepherds here always lead the sheep. Then why is that man walking behind and driving them forward?" The guide answered, "Because he is not the shepherd, he's the butcher."

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is found in chapter 10 of St. John's gospel,

part of which is quoted in the story above, and continues, "I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep." Jesus used this illustration to show his loving care for His people.

Going back to the Old Testament, we also find this image used in Psalm 23 which begins, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters." Again, the theme of being led by the good shepherd.

Christians are people who follow Jesus Christ. Some people object to the idea of being a follower in life rather than a leader, and others really are natural born leaders. But even the most confident and experienced leader is still a fallible human being; one who can lose his way accidentally or, worse yet, lead people astray on purpose.

Being a follower of Christ does not mean to be a person with no goals in life, no internal drive or ambition to be successful. The desire to perform at our very best in whatever we set our

mind to do is a worthwhile pursuit. The difference for Christians is the awareness that even our drive to succeed is God-given, and the use of our talents and abilities should be used to benefit others and give glory to God.

Following Christ throughout life will not always be peaceful or easy. There are people living in various countries throughout the world who keep their faith in Christ a secret for fear of ridicule or even for their personal safety. Christian history is filled with men and women, even children, who preferred to die rather than renounce their faith in Christ. I'm sure they trusted that the Good Shepherd would care for their soul and grant them an eternal peace for having kept their faith strong in the face of such persecution.

That's how it is being a true follower of Christ. We follow him because we love Him, and trust Him. He gave us His life so that we could live in paradise with Him forever. The Good Shepherd knows you by name and calls you to follow Him. Will you listen?

*We follow
him
because
we love
Him, and
trust Him.*



**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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FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

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

Parish Council

Ray Wysmierski, President
Mike Danielek, Vice-President
Dennis Georgen, Secretary
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
Angie Cholas
David Durgam

Demetri Gryparis
Mary Manos
Dean Milonas
Roberta Szklarski
Katherine Tally
Mary Wysmierski

Chanter Training

During the summer, because our choir does not hold weekly rehearsals, this is ideal time to welcome any parishioners who would like to learn to chant for the morning Matins service, as well as to learn the hymns for various other services throughout the year. Please check the monthly calendar for Thursday evening rehearsals at 7pm because they are not scheduled every week.

St. Haralambos Open House



Mark your calendars for the St. Haralambos Church Open House to be held on Saturday, Aug. 28 from 2 pm – 5 pm. We'll be opening our doors for a tour of our building, presentations in the church, ice cream to help stay cool, and activities for children. The following day, Sunday Aug. 29, will be a narrative Divine Liturgy to help explain the liturgy as it is being celebrated. There will be time for questions and answers, along with

refreshments in our Social hall. Bring your friends, and help celebrate the move to our new church home!

**Saturday
August 28
2pm – 5pm**

In Touch Online Survey



Our monthly newsletter has been available on our website (minus the Steward roster and any advertisements) since September 2006. On more than one occasion, the on-line newsletter has been available before the newsletter reaches parishioners' mailboxes; and, with postage costs continuing to rise, the question regarding the need to mail

the newsletter to all our families needs to be asked.

We realize that not all parish families have access to the internet, and many prefer to read through their own printed copy. But are there any families who would prefer or who only need on-line access to the In Touch newsletter, and wouldn't mind if they stopped receiving a printed copy a home? If so, please let us know by sending an email to: Office@StHaralambosAZ.com.

Military Care Box Program

Items needed

Toiletries - toothpaste, mouthwash, toothbrushes, shampoo, body wash, body powder, razors, baby wipes, dental floss, chapstick, foot powder, lotion, hand sanitizer, toilet paper.

Food items - canned tuna or chicken salad, single serving containers of fruit cocktail/peaches/pears/pineapple/ applesauce, Cup O'Noodles, single serving packages of cookies, instant hot chocolate packets, single serving packages of trail mixes, cans of Spaghetti O's, Beef-A-Roni, single serving packages of Mac & Cheese, Ramen noodles, single serving

cans of soups, candy bars, single serving cans of chili (with or without beans), single serving containers of pudding, dried soup mixes, single serving packets of coffee/sugar/ powdered creamer, tea bags.

Miscellaneous - gallon, quart, pint & sandwich sized plastic bags. Bags of hard candy to use as fillers. Paperback books, magazines, puzzle books, handheld games, blank cards they can send home for the upcoming holidays.

Hope this helps... and as always, thank you all so much for your continued support of our troops with your generous donations.

Easier Method for Parish Contributions

Join the families that have signed up for Parish Pay, making donations to our parish safe, beneficial and simple.

Parish Pay is a means of sending church contributions electronically via the internet. By going to our parish website (www.stharalambos.org) and clicking on the "Parish Pay" button, you are directed to the Parish Pay site to easily set up your account.

There is no cost to parishioners, and you decide how much and how often contributions are sent for stewardship, building fund or any other fund you designate.

Contributions can be a one-time gift, or you can set up regular monthly payments to be deducted from a checking or savings account or credit card. It is a safe and secure system.

Benefits are: eliminates the need for writing checks; automatically sends contributions even if you are ill or out of town, earns points, bonuses or mileage when coupled with credit card accounts.

For further information, please contact our Parish Council Treasurer Stella Pagos at 623-975-0027. Consider Parish Pay for all your church donations.

Summer Schedule

Please be aware that for the months of June, July and August, the Sunday service schedule is moved ahead by half an hour: Matins will begin at 8:30am and Divine Liturgy at 9:30am.



ParishPay
Making it Easier to Give™

ORGANIZATIONS



Philoptochos

To them that love God all things work together unto good (Rom 8:28)

For some unknown reason my column was not printed in the May In Touch. I will take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to all those who helped pack and move Philoptochos "stuff" to our new church, to those who hosted suppers during Lent and all who helped doing special preparations on the Journey To Pascha. ChristosAnesti.

April 24, a beautiful Agape Ball, hosted by The Philoptochos chapters of the valley, was held at St. Katherine's Church hall. This event benefits "Kids N Cancer". A special "Thank You" to Paul DeTrana for volunteering to be Wine Steward and also for a generous gift, and to Magda Gryparis for a donation to the Silent Auction.

F.Y.I.

- New Sunday coffee hour coordinator: Valla Wrona 623-245-0917
- 18 health kits were sent last month to IOCC

Donations

- Holy Cross Seminary \$200
- Kids N Cancer \$250
- St. Haralambos Mortgage Protection Fund - \$ 500

Congratulations to High School Graduate Kevin Marshall and Masha Lyokkaya .

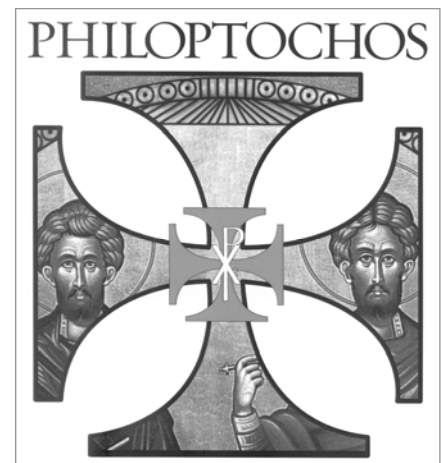
Next meeting Sep. 13 at 7 pm

Have a Safe, Happy Summer and Happy Fathers Day

What is Philoptochos?

Philoptochos means "friend of the poor". The Greek Orthodox Ladies Society is the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, and is the largest women's Christian philanthropic organization in the United States! We ladies of St. Anna's (patron saint of our chapter) Philoptochos are dedicated to finding ways to make an impact and a difference not only at the National level, but in OUR own community, as well. Your participation in the organization AT ANY LEVEL OF ENERGY you are

willing to commit to, is important in fulfilling this ministry of our church.



St. Christopher's Bookstore

Eastern Orthodoxy: A Way of Life

Anthony M. Coniaris. 1966, 7th printing, 175 pages

What makes Fr. Coniaris' books so enjoyable to read is the use of analogies and anecdotes from everyday experience to make a point. Here are some examples (paraphrased to be brief).

We are torch-bearers like those who carry the Olympic flame. We have received the Light from its Source, handed to us by a great line of believers stretching back to Christ himself.

If we get on the wrong bus, we end up in the wrong destination. So before we make the wrong decision, we must consider where it will take us—to a "blessed life" or "a life of sorrow."

During WWI an American soldier wandered near a nun who was dressing the running sores of a leper. Nauseated, he exclaimed, "I would not do that for a million dollars." The nun replied, "Neither would I."

"Happiness is not bought and sold in the market place. It is the by-product of a life dedicated to Christ."

Through science, man has become master of the earth. "But man is unable to control himself." Alexander the Great conquered the world, but was conquered by alcohol.

Pretend you're driving a carriage when the horses start running wild. You can't control them, but next to you is the finest horseman that ever drove a team of horses. Wouldn't you turn over the reins to him? So we should turn over the reins of our life to Christ.

A pilot flying in a fog "is not flying blind; he is flying by faith," trusting the signals coming from the airport. If we have faith, God will guide us to His Kingdom.

Life is like playing basketball." We make very few baskets. It's our ability to make rebounds that counts. We all make mistakes, but we must repent and correct them.

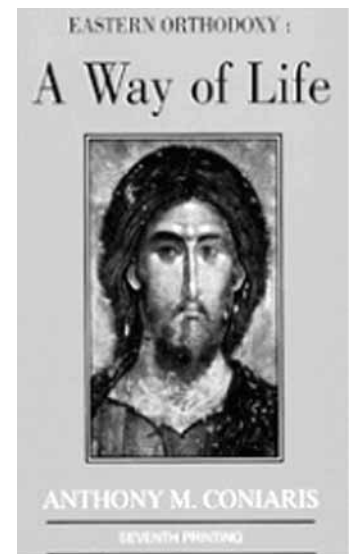
A little girl prayed for her sick brother and her injured friend. She concluded, "And God, please take care of yourself, for if anything happens to you, we're all in big trouble."

During WWII a man was worrying day and night. Then one night he prayed, "God, I've done the best I could all day; you take the night shift."

A hunter of tigers and a Christian missionary were both returning from India. The hunter remarked, "I never saw a Christian convert while in India." The missionary responded, "I've been in India 20 yrs. but never saw a tiger." Some people never see God because they have never really looked for Him.

Henry Ford knew a man whose major goal in life was to get rich, so Mr. Ford brought his friend a pair of eyeglasses with silver dollars in place of the lenses, making it impossible for him to see. If our major goal in life is to make money, we are blinded from important things such as someone in need.

"Repentance is a U-turn, a reversing of the direction of life so that we face God."



Sacraments

Congratulations to Perry and Jennifer Leros on the baptism of their son, Christian, on Sunday, May 2. Christian's godparents are Bill and Brittany Retsinas. May God grant them many years of good health and happiness.

Congratulations to Chris and Chrissy King, on the baptism of their son, Alexander, on Saturday, Feb. 6. Alexander's godparents are Peter and Lindsay Vardalos. May God grant them many years of good health and happiness.

Birthdays



George Theoharatos (6th)
Patrick Marshall (7th)
Aaron Johnson (11th)
Despina Medina (14th)
Christopher Lee King, II (15th)
Pam Lemons (17th)
Masha Lyogkaya (20th)
Johnny 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.

Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of his servant, John Karoutas, who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, Apr. 30. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ grant comfort to his loving wife Julie, and to her family.

Hospitalization and Confidentiality: New Policies

At a recent meeting of Volunteer Chaplains and Spiritual Care Givers at Banner Boswell Hospital, several new policies regarding patient confidentiality were addressed that affect information we are allowed to print in our monthly newsletter. (Although this meeting addressed policies at Banner hospitals, we were told they have now become standard policies throughout the healthcare industry.)

We can no longer publicize, in print or by other public announcement, that parishioners have been admitted to a hospital or any information regarding their medical condition. Hospitals no longer contact churches when one of their parishioners have been admitted. Visiting clergy (with appropriate identification) can get a listing of parishioners who have been admitted only after checking in at the information desk.

Parishioners must notify the church and/or their priest directly if they would like a visit while in the hospital. Please be aware that these policies apply only to parish clergy or other church representatives, and not to family and friends.

This is a sensitive issue; some people prefer to keep their medical condition private, and we must respect those wishes. For those who welcome visitations, the request must be made directly, not by any other family member or friend. And again, no

Name Days

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

St. Dorotheos (5th)	St. Jude (19th)
St. Cyril (9th)	St. Julian (21st)
St. Methodios (14th)	St. Sampson (27th)
St. Tychon (16th)	Sts. Peter and Paul (29th)

JUNE 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	7	8	9	10 7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal	11	12
13 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	14	15 7:00pm Parish Council	16	17 7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal	18	19 9:30am Festival Meeting
20 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Father's Day	21	22	23 7pm Family Movie Night	24 7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal	25	26
27 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	28	29	30			

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

The Feastday of Sts. Peter and Paul: June 29

Abbreviated biographies from goarch.org

The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)" (John 1:42). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression. After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin. At that time, his name

was Saul (Acts 22:3-4). In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he asked, "Who are You, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom you persecuting; it is hard for you to kick against the goads." He was blinded for a time, and was led by the hand into the city, and on

account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias, he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

