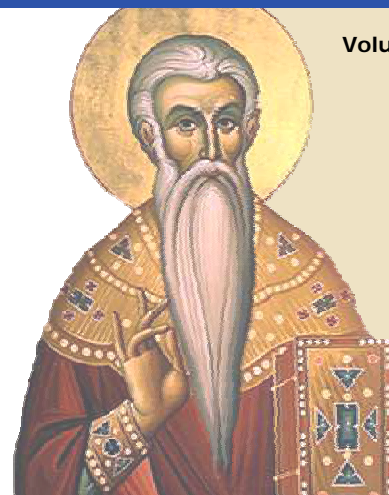


in Touch

Volume 19, Issue 6

June 2011



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Father's Day

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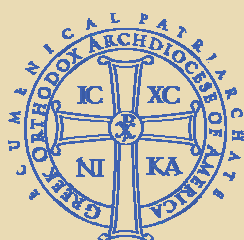
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*Thank you, Father...
for listening and caring,
for giving and sharing,
but, especially,
for just being you!*



Sunday, June 19

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

HOLY FRIDAY



Seniors Club of St. Haralambos

The mission of this new Club at St. Haralambos is to provide social activities (i.e., field trips within the state and outside the state, games (such as dominos, bingo, cards, backgammon, etc.), entertainment (stage plays, performances), and educational activities (i.e., book reviews, talks given by experts in the medical and legal fields that address seniors' concerns). This Club will meet at St. Haralambos Community Hall the first Tuesday of each month at 1pm. The annual membership fee is \$20, which will be used for refreshments, games, etc. for the benefit of the club. The first meeting took place on Saturday, May 7.

Board of Directors:

Russell Skocypec, Chairperson (623-546-3553)
Penny Obren (623-214-1289)
Desi Medina (623-876-1967)
Flo Curran (623-572-7929)
Chris Theotocatos (623-551-9770)

If you are interested in joining this new group, you may contact any Board member above.



The next Seniors Club meeting will be on Tuesday, June 7 at 1:00pm.



Saints Peter and Paul

On the 29th of June, the Orthodox Church celebrates the memory of two great saints, apostles and evangelists, Saints Peter and Paul. The story of their lives shows not just the power of great faith and courage, but especially how wonderful and miraculous events occur as they dedicate themselves to being servants of God.

The best source of their adult ministry is found in the New Testament Book of Acts. In the first 12 chapters, we read why St. Peter is regarded as the leader of the disciples: his inspiring words, for example, resulted in a huge crowd of 3,000 believers to become baptized on the day of Pentecost. His outspoken personality also got him into trouble with the Jewish religious leaders who had him imprisoned; yet, his chains miraculously fell from his wrists and he was freed. He spoke with undiminished enthusiasm not only about Christ's life and resurrection, but about how it had personally transformed his own life.

The second half of the Book of Acts describes the greatest Christian missionary of the New Testament, St. Paul, who traveled extensively throughout the Roman Empire and established churches in many cities and

towns. St. Paul was born a Jew, and also was a Roman citizen. He knew and practiced Judaism faithfully, and as a member of the Pharisees, he was also actively involved in seeking out and persecuting Christians. It's remarkable to consider that this was the man whom God had in mind to serve a greater purpose for his Church.

St. Paul had a life-changing experience while traveling on the road to the city of Damascus; a meeting with Christ that caused him to become blind for several days, to accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God, to abandon the persecution of other like-minded Christians, and above all, to encourage others – Jews and (primarily) Gentiles – to open their minds and hearts to accept Jesus Christ as God's Messiah.

The conversion of St. Paul resulted in his traveling, by land and by sea, for thousands of miles in fulfillment of his newly-revealed life purpose, establishing church communities of faithful Christians. He wrote lengthy epistles, letters, to these communities to encourage them during his absence, to warn them of false teachings, and to help keep their faith strong. These letters were preserved and collected by the Church,

eventually comprising nearly two-thirds of the New Testament.

Sts. Peter and Paul are celebrated together because of the similar greatness and zeal they shared in spreading the message of Christianity to their contemporaries. They were not always met with acceptance, and at times found great adversity, yet they never turned from the work which their Lord and God set before them to accomplish.

As they have in common with all the saints of the Church, Sts. Peter and Paul remind us that faith in God is something much more than intellectual understanding and agreement with good teachings! Rather, it is something that brings us to our knees in sincere and humble worship, gives true meaning to life, and moves us to look at our neighbors with a new understanding as brothers and sisters whom we are called to serve.

May the memory of these two great saints continue to inspire us towards greater awareness of our purpose as servants of Christ the Lord.

***Sts. Peter and Paul
remind us that faith in
God is something
much more than
intellectual
understanding...***



**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

623-486-8665
7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ 85383
Office@StHaralambosAZ.com
FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

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

Parish Council

Dennis Georgen, President
Ray Wysmierski, Vice President
Dean Milonas, Treasurer
Mike Danielek, Secretary
Angie Cholas
David Durgam

Dimitri Gryparis
Mary Manos
George Miller
Katherine Tally
Peter Vardalos
Ken Wrona

Orthodox Family Internet Links

The mission of this new ministry is to support the St. Haralambos Parish Family, as a whole and individually, in religious education and spiritual growth, by increasing awareness and encouraging use of Orthodox Christian internet resources.

Do you Facebook? Have an iPhone, Digital Calendar, or PDA? Did you know that the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese provides Daily Scripture Readings and Lives of the Saints through email (www.goarch.org/listserv), on Facebook (http://apps.facebook.com/daily_readings), and on iGoogle (<http://tinyurl.com/goarchigoogle>)? To download a free Digital Planner or the iPhone App, go to www.goarch.org/chapel.

In addition to Daily Scripture Readings, the Archdiocese website (www.goarch.org) offers many more resources, including an online version of the Orthodox Observer with archives, and Archdiocese news and information in Greek! Check out its Online Chapel with both English and Greek versions, Our Faith with printer-friendly articles, Ministry Outreach, Multimedia

Programs, and Ministry Resources.

An important resource provided for Archdiocese families is the Center for Family Care weekly Family Gospel Lessons. This website (www.goarch.archdiocese/departments/family/family) is a wonderful tool with printer-friendly handouts to help family members prepare together for Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Also available on this site are current and archived issues from The Family Connections section of the Orthodox Observer.

According to St. Theophan the Recluse, "...of all the holy works, teaching children is the most holy." In an effort to aid and inspire parish parents in the (holy) work of teaching their children by example about the importance of faith and the Church, the Orthodox Family Internet Links Ministry will strive to share on a monthly basis links to various Orthodox Christian online resources. It is hoped that these will be informative, helpful, and lead to a greater appreciation and love of the Orthodox Faith and Church.



Summer Schedule

Sunday Services

As has been our long-standing practice, during 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.

Office Hours

June, July, and August
Monday - Friday
Hrs.: 10am to 2pm



Agora Pavilion

It is that time again - Festival planning!!! This year your Agora Pavilion will be expanded. Remember, all net proceeds from this booth will go 100% to our church.

We will be ordering some merchandise to sell, but we would like to expand and include handmade items donated from all of you. Some ideas include: aprons, tablecloths, Christmas décor (wreaths, roping, and centerpieces), pots

filled with various herbs, basil, dill, oregano, etc. Ideas are unlimited.

We have many talented people in our congregation and here is your way to create and donate, which in turn, will help to defray our wholesale buying.

You may contact any of our committee members with your ideas. Elaine Yaghooti, Booth Chairman, Dorothy Ayan, Lourdes Kotsobeis, or Maria Maniatis.



Parish Council

IOCC Relief Efforts to be Supported by St Haralambos Church



Following the disastrous earthquake and tsunami in Japan, your Parish Council voted to designate the second offering tray

one Sunday each month to ongoing IOCC relief efforts. Then, just a few weeks ago we witnessed the destructive storms and tornados in Alabama and across the Southeast, and today we watch as thousands more in Mississippi and Louisiana are suffering due to historic flooding.

The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), founded in 1992, is the official humanitarian aid agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), and has implemented relief and development programs in 33 countries around the world.

Already IOCC has shipped personal health kits to Birmingham, Alabama to be distributed to survivors of the recent storms and tornadoes that devastated the area. These kits, valued at over \$120,000, represent the first of several planned shipments of relief supplies that were requested following assessment by front line IOCC responders working in Alabama. In addition, IOCC has provided tents, air mattresses, flashlights, and other supplies.

On the third Sunday of each month, the second offering tray will be designated for International Orthodox Christian Charities disaster relief efforts. Please be generous, the need is great.

You can also go online at www.iocc.org and make a financial gift directly to the Emergency Response Fund, or call toll-free at 877.803.IOCC (4622).

General Assembly Two-cent Lunch Open Microphone Responses

During the two-cent lunch open microphone at our Spring General Assembly, parishioners were invited to ask questions and share their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions. This is a practice we would like to continue. As was promised, your Parish Council is responding.

Handicapped Parking

We are in the process of ordering signage, but please be aware that during services, all parking along the walkway on the west side of the building is reserved for the handicapped, infirm, and elderly. This is in addition to the designated wheelchair-accessible handicapped spaces on the east side of the building. Please honor this request until signage is posted.



General Assembly Meeting & Mailing

Minutes of the previous General Assembly and the Treasurer's financial report will be mailed out with the Agenda announcing upcoming General Assembly Meetings. Also, the date for future General Assembly meetings will be scheduled to avoid potential calendar conflicts whenever possible in order to maximize attendance.

Bible Studies and Religious Education

The Council agrees that a series of Bible Studies and religious education classes to include an Introduction to Orthodoxy are important and would be beneficial not only to the spiritual growth of our members, but in attracting newcomers who are exploring their faith. We are fortunate to have had an expression of interest to help organize a class by Mr. Manos. We'll address moving this forward with Fr. Michael when he returns from his sabbatical.

Mortgage Retirement

Our church currently has a balloon mortgage that is due in four years. Our plan is to refinance that mortgage later this year. We believe that we need to show a potential lender a payment history of a minimum of 18 months, as well as two successful festivals under our belt. This would demonstrate that our Church is on firm financial footing.

We also hold title to the land at 75th and Greenway. At the Fall 2010 General Assembly, our Church voted to sell that land. We will soon be putting a sign up on the property announcing that it is available. While we do not know the true market value of the land today, we would anticipate that the sale of the 75th and Greenway property would significantly reduce the mortgage on our Church.

It is important to understand that there is a cost to holding the Greenway property in anticipation of an increase in its value. In 2011, the interest alone on our mortgage will be \$66,598. Over a three-year period, we will pay over \$195,000 in interest alone. In other

(Continued on page 6)

ORGANIZATIONS



Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

“Faith without works is dead” James 2:17

The Philoptochos mission is to promote charitable outreach programs to not only serve God and His Church, but also our beloved parish of St. Haralambos. We see ourselves as the “right hand of our church” and are very thankful to all of our parishioners who continue to support our ministries. Please accept our humble thank-you for the success of our recent fundraisers: Palm Sunday Fish Dinner - \$816.22 profit; Bake Sale - \$602.47 profit.

May commitments paid:

- Holy Cross Seminary: \$200
- Kids n' Cancer: \$500

Congratulations to our 2011 High School Grads:

- Anwar Albandak
- Stefanos Macrides
- Anna Papamatheakis
- Dimitri Theoharatos

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 6, at 7pm.

HAVE A SAFE, HAPPY SUMMER

Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Director

Live Simply

Summer vacation . . . we all look forward to it and now it is here.

I think summer vacation is a lot like the dog that is constantly chasing after cars. Then one day he catches a car . . . and he (the dog) doesn't know what to do with it.

I have finally caught a car and I know what I am going to do with it. This is my last article as director of our Sunday school. My Sunday school career began with assisting my wife Chryss in the 6th grade at Holy Trinity in 1990 and then teaching 8th grade for six years. When my son graduated from high school in 1999, we joined Saint Haralambos and I began teaching the high school class in 2004, as well as being the director.

Martha Stithem will be the new director of our Sunday school in addition to being the teacher of her primary (1st, 2nd and 3rd grade) class. She is well organized, computer savvy and energetic. In addition, she is reverent, loving and humble with her Orthodox Faith and always has a kind smile for everyone.

I will miss the weekly preparation but will fill this time with studying the Bible and our Faith. It is a true axiom that the more you know . . . the more you realize you don't know. I absolutely love studying Orthodoxy and look forward to concentrating on learning more about our Faith.

And my last few words: The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything!

Name Days

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

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

Parish Council

(Continued from page 5)

words, if we were to sell the property this year for some amount less than what we anticipate we could sell it for three years from now, we would save a substantial portion of the interest we are currently paying on our mortgage.

Later this year, your Parish Council will be conducting an evaluation of the present value vs. future value to determine how best to proceed; both with refinancing our mortgage, and when would be the most opportune time to sell the 75th & Greenway property.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Living a Balanced Life in an Unbalanced World, Rev. Anthony M. Coniaris. 2000, p. 112.

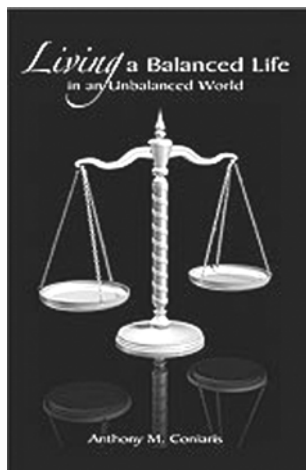
Many of us have time enough for work and play, but not for God. Finding time to worship God keeps our lives balanced "by preventing us from playing God and thinking...we are running the universe," says Dr. R. Cabot of Harvard Medical School.

Fr. Coniaris writes that nothing restores balance in life as effectively as putting first things first. **"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things will be added to you,"** said Jesus. The author says that if the first button is put in the first hole, then all the others turn out right.

"We need something *to do*, someone *to love*, some time *to relax*. But even more than these we need something *to hope for*. 'We are saved by hope'" (Rom. 8:24).

There are on the average about 4200 Sundays in a lifetime, 4200 opportunities to spend with God preparing for eternity. Fr. Coniaris talks about "balanced vision", one eye on earth and one eye on heaven. "We need to lift our eyes up each day in prayer."

When J. Paul Getty was asked to write his autobiography, he wrote only one sentence: "J. Paul Getty became a billionaire." Fr. John Powell said Getty was "personally bankrupt [and] to live huddled in any corner of life...with an uncountable pile of money, is a life of serious deprivation." The author writes, "Christian stewardship...restore[s] a sense of balance in our lives... How much for God...for others...for me?"



Furthermore, we need to maintain a delicate balance between the individual and the Church. A personal relationship with Christ must be "born, nourished and anchored in the Church" or it will become a "prideful egotism".

Also, we need the Church to help us interpret the Bible. Any one person (i.e. David Karesh or Jim Jones) is likely to distort parts of Scripture. However, the Church not only interpreted but also protected Christ' teachings for centuries before the interpretations of Luther (Lutherans), Calvin (Presbyterians),

Wesley (Methodists), Joseph Smith (Mormons).

The author says we're like the one-legged fiddler on the roof, trying to keep our balance even when we suffer a big "blow in life" or a crisis that "shakes our foundations." Like Tevye and his neighbors, we keep our balance with "tradition"—Sacred Tradition that includes not only the Bible, but also the writings of the

Church Fathers and Saints inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The bad news, man's sin and anxiety, is balanced with the Good News, our loving Savior who says, "Him that cometh to me I will in no way cast out."

If we "yoke" our lives to Christ, He will share our burdens and "create...balance in our lives," avoiding "extremes that lead to...misery. Without faith in God no one can stand firm, [so] there will never be any balance in life."

At the Second Coming of Christ, "all the imbalances of life will be finally balanced with God's perfect justice and love."

Birthdays



Alex Papamatheakis (4)

Gabriella Caratachea (6)

George Theoharatos (6)

George Miller (8)

Stefania Papamatheakis (11)

Despina Medina (14)

Christopher II, King (15)

Pam Lemons (17)

Lois Batalis (18)

Alexandra Barbes (19)

Paula Theotocatos (21)

John Fredericksen (22)

Duane Schepers (22)

Gale Farr (24)

Arliss Dennison (28)

Anna Kinniburgh (29)

Nadia Schepers (30)

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.



SAINT HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ 85383 • Tel.: (623) 486-8665 • Fax: (623) 486-5290
Web: www.stharalambos.org • E-mail: Office@StHaralambosAZ.com • FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

Summer, 2011

Dear Festival Friends,

The 24th Annual "Taste of Greece" Food and Dance Festival fundraiser is slated for October 21, 22 and 23, 2011 at St. Haralambos Church, located at 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road in Peoria. This will be the second year at our new home and, judging from last year's spectacular event, the improved grounds and parking will again attract thousands of local and valley-wide residents for a weekend full of authentic Greek food, dancing and entertainment.

As we begin the planning stages, we are in need of sponsors to offset the costs associated with the Festival. We hope you will consider being a Festival supporter by advertising in our program book, donating a raffle or door prize, or participating as a Festival booster. Please refer to the form below for donor levels. All contributors will be acknowledged in the Festival program and, of course, donations are tax-deductible. For your records, the Federal tax ID number for St. Haralambos Church is 86-0594146.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Church office at 623-486-8665. Thank you for your consideration, and we hope you will join the fun on October 21-23 for another fantastic "Taste of Greece" – the only Greek Festival in the greater west/northwest valley. OPA!

Sincerely,

Pam Lemons, Annual Greek Festival Co-Chairman

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2011 "TASTE OF GREECE" FOOD AND DANCE FESTIVAL

October 21, 22 & 23, 2011

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Company/Individual Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

FESTIVAL PROGRAM ADVERTISING

AD DEADLINE: September 15, 2011

Check One	Type	Cost/Value	Description/Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Page Ad	\$500	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 7 ½" h Recognition at event
<input type="checkbox"/>	Half Page Ad	\$300	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 3 ½" h 4 Admission tickets
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Card Ad	\$100	2" x 3 ½" Standard size
<input type="checkbox"/>	Festival Booster	\$25	Name recognized in Festival Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raffle/Door Prize/Other Donation	\$	Description:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!

Please return completed form to:

Pam Lemons, Greek Festival

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Peoria, AZ 85383

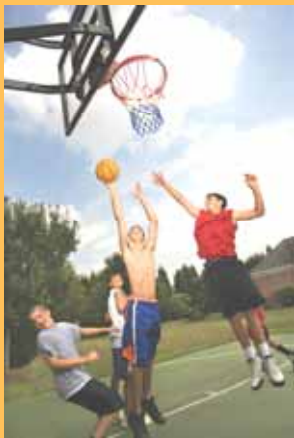
For tax purposes, St. Haralambos Federal Tax ID Number is: 86-0594146

JUNE 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Camp Agapi, Prescott	2 Camp Agapi, Prescott Ascension Day 7:00pm Choir Practice	3 Camp Agapi, Prescott	4 Camp Agapi, Prescott
5 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy All Saints Summer Camp, Prescott	6 All Saints Summer Camp, Prescott 7:00pm Philoptochos	7 All Saints Summer Camp, Prescott 1:00pm Seniors Club Meeting	8 All Saints Summer Camp, Prescott	9 All Saints Summer Camp, Prescott 7:00pm Choir Practice	10 All Saints Summer Camp, Prescott	11
12 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Pentecost	13 No Fasting This Week	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Father's Day	20 Fast of the Holy Apostles Begins	21 7:00pm Parish Council	22	23	24	25 6:30pm Community Ice Cream Social
26 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	27	28	29	30		

All Saints Summer Camp

Sunday, June 5 - Friday, June 10



For campers entering 3rd grade through Senior in High School.

Only \$260.00 - 6 days, 5 nights, and all meals included!

All Saints Camp is a sleep-away camp held in the cool pines of Prescott, Arizona.

There is no additional charge for transportation to and from the camp from either St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Chandler or Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix.

All within an Orthodox setting with daily Matins, Vespers, and Christ-centered lessons.

Camp applications available at www.holytrinityphx.org under Ministries or contact Kathy Clarke at kathyclarke@cox.net or Kristen Vasilarakos at kvasilarakos@cox.net



- Nightly bonfires with songs
- Games
- Arts and crafts
- Skits
- Organized Olympics
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Archery
- Capture-the-Flag
- Hiking
- Tree-top ropes course
- and more