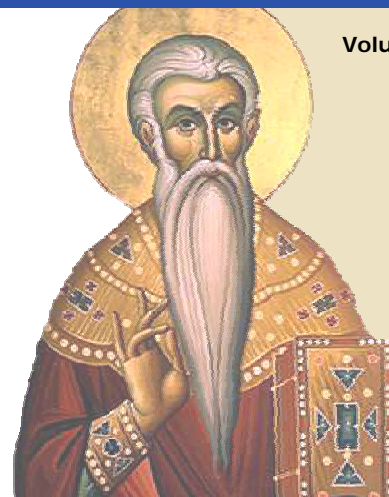


in Touch

Volume 20, Issue 6

June 2012



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Pentecost Sunday, June 3



"Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world O Loving One, glory to You"

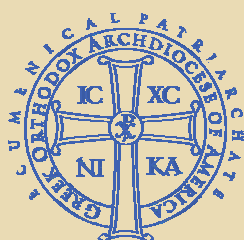
**Parishioner
Profile • 2**

**The Day
of Pentecost • 3**

**Taste of Greece
Festival • 5**

**Discovering
God • 6**

**Sunday of
All Saints • 11**



Father's Day

Sunday, June 17



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

25th Anniversary

Parishioner Profile

Each month of 2012 we'll spend some time with a member of our parish to get their memories, views and insights about the history, development and future of our parish as part of this year's 25th Anniversary celebration. This month's interview is with **Kay Fulghum**.

Question: How many years have you been a steward at St. Haralambos?

Answer: Four years.

Q: Where were you born and raised and what brought you to Arizona?

A: I'm not a native Arizonan, but have lived in the West all my life, in New Mexico, California and Arizona. The move to Arizona was prompted by the mid-70s economic recession where we left California and have been in Arizona ever since.

Q: What activities and groups have you been involved in at St. Haralambos?

A: When choir and chanter volunteers were asked for, I was happy to join these groups. While my work schedule at the library often is irregular and involves a lot of weekend shifts, I volunteer to help where I can such as with annual Greek Festival preparations.

Q: What do you like most about St. Haralambos parish and what it offers?

A: Our parish is blessed with a wonderful priest and a community that is not so big that one gets lost in it. The attitude of our parishioners is friendly and caring and I felt welcomed from my first day.



Q: What would you like to see happen in the next 5-10 years of our parish?

A: I see our actions coming to light from our recent spring General Assembly meeting with our discussion about our parish 'Vision Statement'. We can find our definition of a 'loving Christ-centered community' right in the Scriptures, in 1 Corinthians 13, verses 4-8. These statements about love provide all the vision necessary to find actionable things for us to do and for the benefit of those within and outside our parish. In

particular, that Scripture quote makes quite a statement about kindness. I'd love to start with those who need the kindness of our parish family the most and we can demonstrate our love for each other during the 40 days of prayers for the newly departed. Forty parishioners in turn, each willing to pray the Akathist for the Departed, on one of those important first 40 days. Whether volunteers pray alone or together as a family, for the benefit of one of our parish members, this kind of thing is our Christian heritage of mercy and love. Even people who cannot go to a funeral service, or who may not know the departed person, are too young to drive, or homebound, benefited from the kindness of the newly deceased or most importantly, who need to forgive that person, can contribute to this effort. Can you imagine how comforted family members would be, just knowing that our parish is gathered around them, praying in their turns, during those first 40 days? Can you imagine how activities like this define how we live within 'our parish community?' And, to help build that legacy, I am willing to organize a prayer group for this loving work.



The Day of Pentecost

The story of Jesus' earthly ministry and loving care for mankind does not end with His resurrection from the dead, and this month's celebration of the feast of Pentecost on Sunday, June 3rd, gives us further reason to acknowledge Him as the One who truly loves Mankind.

Although an unprecedented miracle in human history, the point of His resurrection was not just to show that the power of death had no effect on our Lord, but that He alone had power to destroy it for all his followers as well. This is why the Church refers to Him as the Giver of Life.

The discovery of the empty tomb by Mary Magdalene was life-altering for her, yet she could not convince the other disciples who were not with her; they had to see it for themselves. A second-hand delivery of the message by human means alone was not enough.

Jesus Himself met personally with His disciples to convince them He actually had risen from the dead. A first-hand delivery of the message by Christ Himself was enough to convince, but Jesus would only walk the earth for 40 days before ascending to heaven. How many could He teach and convince?

Something else was needed; something that would help continue the spread of the gospel long after Jesus' ascension to heaven, long after the disciples themselves had fallen asleep in the Lord. If not, the Christian gospel would not reach beyond the walls of Jerusalem nor be remembered with life-changing intensity beyond the first century.

The answer was provided on the day of Pentecost, when thousands of Jews had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the holy feast. The answer comes from the throne of God, the sending of the Holy Spirit, whom, as Jesus had promised, "the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." (John 14:26)

Is there any force on earth that can frustrate God's eternal plan of salvation? The disciples were in hiding in fear for their lives, with no plan of evangelization regarding the Good News of the Lord's Resurrection. God, once again, had to act on Man's behalf to bring about His divine plan of reconciliation, salvation, eternal life.

The Holy Spirit inspires the disciples on the day of Pentecost not only with the right words, but with never-before found courage to

speak about eternal life in Christ, not just in Jerusalem, but spreading far and wide, into favorable and unfavorable towns and cities.

Good News, as the saying goes, travels quickly. Men, women and children hear the Good News, believe and are baptized into the Faith, and Christianity has never stopped growing throughout the world ever since.

The will of God can never be stopped or altered in any way. We can choose to be part of His plan of eternal life or not. The doors of the Church forever remain open to all who make the decision to become part of God's plan for Mankind. His Son showed us the way by establishing the Church against which the gates of Hell will not prevail.

The Way is not easy; it is not a wide road and many will fall off. We need a guide to help us stay on this road, and we need the help of others. The guide is the Holy Spirit, and help comes from the Church – not a community of perfection, but one of struggle.

The struggle is a good one, and all are welcome.

The will of God can never be stopped or altered in any way.



**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.

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

Roy Christian
David Durgam
Dennis Georgen
Dimitri Gryparis
George Miller
Dean Milonas

Tony Panousopoulos
Chris Theotocatos
Peter Vardalos
Dorothy Vordos
Lee Vordos
Ken Wrona

ORGANIZATIONS



Philoptochos

By Reni Milonas, President

Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:9

We will be baking 4,000 koulouria on June 25 and 26 at 9 a.m. for the Clergy/Laity and National Philoptochos Convention that will be held here in Phoenix on July 1- 5. Please join us in the preparation and baking, as many hands make quick work.

Reminder: We are in need of hosts for coffee hour. Please see Valla Wrona to sign-up.

The Philoptochos will have its last meeting before summer on June 4 at 6:30pm. After a brief meeting, we will enjoy a potluck and play Bunco.

The next meeting will be Sept. 3.

Have a blessed summer!

Summer Schedule

Please be aware that Sunday service times for this summer will not be changing. For June, July and August, the start times will be the same: Matins will start at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10am.



Library

By Mary Harrington

Since many of you have been asking about the library, here is an update on where we are and how you can help.

Since the move to our new location, it has taken much of my time to try and get things organized. Unfortunately, people have been putting books in the bookcases anywhere there is an empty spot. These books have not been inventoried or cards made yet. I'm at the point where I take more and more at home in order to keep updated.

Missing CDs

Since the move, 13 CDs are missing. Since I had not yet set up a procedure for you to check out books or CDs, I take total blame for this.

New Check-out Procedure

In order for us to be able to keep track of all books and CDs, I ask for your cooperation. At each end of the room near the doorways, there are simple instructions for you to follow for taking out books or CDs. It takes just a few minutes to fill out the sheet and sign it.

For the missing CDs, please return and lay them on the desk in the library. I check the library every Sunday for returned books and I pray with all my heart that I will find the missing CDs.

So please help me get our library up to standards.

With Love in Christ,
Mary (623-872-8809)

Orthodox Bible Study

By Ted Manos

Orthodox Bible Study will not be held during the summer and will start again in the fall. We have been working in the Gospel of John and contemporary

orthodox issues. Please see the weekly bulletin for news of when we will start up again. You can contact me at 253-312-4896 or tedmanos@zona.net

Sunday School

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School Director

On Sunday, May 20, our Sunday School youth, teachers, and snack volunteers were recognized in an end-of-year presentation. Students received either a Certificate of Achievement or a Certificate of Participation, depending on their attendance record. As each of our parish families embraces our new Parish Mission Statement, it is expected and hoped that attendance across all classes will increase in the coming years.

To recognize their service in the Sunday School Ministry this past year, our teachers and snack volunteers received Certificates of Appreciation. We are truly blessed to have dedicated parish members who share their Time, Talent, and Treasure for the Glory of God.

Now that our children are out of school and don't have homework, they have more time to spend with their parents. Spend some of this time learning together about Orthodoxy by utilizing online resources from the Archdiocese and other Orthodox websites, reading from the Bible together, and praying together as a family. Remember, parents, religious education is a lifelong process for all ages, so please continue to bring your families to church during the summer.

On Sunday, June 3, the Feast of Holy Pentecost will be celebrated by our church. Although Sunday School classes have ended for the summer, families can learn more about the biblical story and icon of this feast by visiting the website, www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/pentecost.

Taste of Greece Festival



In just a few short months, we will be hosting the community for our 25th Anniversary Greek Festival. These months leading up to the Festival are essential to our success. We are extremely thankful to our 2012 Corporate Sponsor – Abrazo Health Care – but we still need your help in recruiting additional supporters. Please see the letter and sponsorship form on pages 7 and 8 and try to secure at least one Festival sponsor to help offset our expenses.

Remember to check out our website at www.peoriagreekfest.com or Facebook at "Peoria Greekfest" and share the sites with your friends! OPA!

Birthdays



Alex Papamatheakis (4)
 Gabriella Caratachea (6)
 George Theoharatos (6)
 George Miller (8)
 Aaron Johnson (11)
 Stefania Papamatheakis (11)
 Despina Medina (14)
 Soliana Desta (15)
 Christopher King II (15)
 Pam Lemons (17)
 Lois Batalis (18)
 Masha Legkaya (20)
 Paula Theotocatos (21)
 John Fredericksen (22)
 Duane Schepers (22)
 Gale Farr (24)
 Madelyn Pritchard (27)
 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.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Discovering God Through the Daily Practice of His Presence by Anthony M. Coniaris, 1989

In Him was life and the life was the light of men. (John 1:4)

"Our Orthodox Christian faith is based on the Bible and on Sacred Tradition, but let us not forget that the Bible and Tradition become real when we experience God's presence and power and love personally in our lives." Author Anthony Coniaris firmly believes that until one **experiences** God their faith is reduced to mere explanations and abstract theories. This book describes active ways to keep us engaged with God so that we may feel His presence. Many of the methods recounted are drawn from the lives of numerous saints. The author cites many poems, psalms, quotes and prayers and provides examples for ways to experience God's presence.

"To practice the presence of God daily is to carry on a constant inner conversation with God...In the midst of the day's business to lift brief prayers of adoration and praise to God." The author reminds us that we don't have to wait until Sunday service to think of God. Thinking, praying to and feeling God can become a lifestyle. We don't need appointed times or specific places as the presence of God can be attained throughout the day wherever we are simply by turning all our thoughts to God.

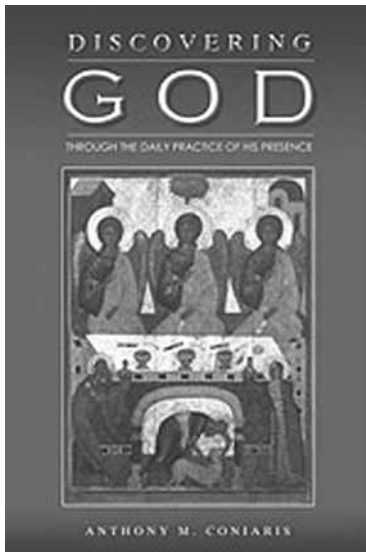
Another way to practice God's presence is through silence. "Be still, and know that I am God." It is in solitude that one hears God, in the centeredness of a quiet mind. Whether it is near the beauty of a body of water or under a maze of stars, finding time to feel God's wonder brings us closer to a spiritual union with Him. Coniaris quotes St. Isaac the Syrian as saying, "the highest form of prayer is to stand silently in awe before God."

God's presence is also felt through scripture. There are many ways to read the Word of God in the Bible. The author cites St. John Cassian's recommendation of frequent repetition of a verse from the Psalms, or Ignatius of Loyola who recommends taking a scene from the life of Christ and reliving it as if it were actually occurring and you were a participant. Developing a habit of daily spiritual reading, even as little as 15 minutes a day, can restore us and create spiritual discipline.

"Breathing may also be used as an aid in practicing the Presence...when breathing in, we may pray, Lord, I breathe in your breath which is the Holy Spirit....when breathing out, we may pray, Lord, I breathe out every sin and passion of my life..." Finding a quiet place to practice breathing or meditating while reflecting on our Lord and His mercy is a way to pay inner attention and feel God's presence within us.

We can also practice the presence of God throughout the year by our church participation. "Through the events of the liturgical year, we actually relive with Christ the great events of His life...we reenter each event in such a way that it becomes a unique and refreshingly new act of salvation for us today."

The author concludes with this insight: "it is by practicing the presence of God that the presence becomes real. Why practice the presence? The person who needs the fire must fan it. Practicing the presence of God is fanning the fire of God's presence in us. By so doing we shall become like the person described by St. Athanasius: He endeavored each day to present himself as the sort of person ready to appear before God."



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)



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

Spring/Summer, 2012

Dear Friends,

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the “Taste of Greece” Food and Dance Festival at St. Haralambos Church in northwest Peoria. This annual event will be held October 26, 27 and 28, 2012 at the Church grounds located at 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road. The “Taste of Greece” is the only Greek Festival in the greater west/northwest valley and thousands of residents and visitors attend each year from all areas of the valley.

The entire parish is very excited for the 25th Annual Greek Festival and hope to include as many community partners in the celebration as possible. This anniversary year, Abrazo Health Care has agreed to serve as a major Corporate Sponsor and we are currently seeking additional sponsors/supporters to help offset the expenses of the Festival and respectfully request that you consider participating. The attached sponsorship document identifies various sponsorship levels, however, any amount is greatly appreciated and all donors will receive appropriate recognition during the event. 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 me at 623-486-8665. Thank you in advance for your consideration and we hope that you will join us as a Festival supporter and also for a spectacular weekend of homemade Greek cuisine, pastries, live entertainment and fun on October 26-28 at the 25th Annual Taste of Greece. OPA!

Sincerely,

Pam Lemons
Festival Chairman

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

25th Anniversary
2012 "TASTE OF GREECE" FOOD AND DANCE FESTIVAL
October 26, 27 & 28, 2012
SPONSORSHIP FORM

Company Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

FESTIVAL PROGRAM ADVERTISING

AD DEADLINE: September 24, 2012

Check One	Type	Amount	Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOLD	\$10,000	Company name/logo in all promotional materials, news releases, event website, corporate tent and sponsor-provided banner displayed at event, verbal recognition during event; 10 free admission & dinner tickets. <i>(Banner size/ placement determined by event staff.)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SILVER	\$5,000	Company/Name/logo in all promotional materials, news releases, event website, sponsor tent, recognition in event program, verbal recognition at the event; 5 free dinner tickets.
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRONZE	\$1,000	Booth sponsor banner displayed at event, name recognition in event program. <i>(Banner size/ placement determined by event staff.)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	OLYMPIAN	\$500	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	ATHENIAN	\$100	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPARTAN	\$50	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	BOOSTER	\$25	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (please specify - food, gift card, etc.):	\$ _____	Name recognized in event Program

Please provide logo, or business card in .jpeg format or camera ready artwork.

Email artwork to: pamruss30@msn.com

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 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
3 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Pentecost New Stewards Welcome	4 All Saints Summer Camp Prescott (thru Saturday) 7:00pm Philoptochos	5	6 7:00pm Council of Ministries	7	8	9
10 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday of All Saints	11 7:00pm Parish Council	12	13	14	15	16
17 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy IOCC Offering Tray Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Nativity of John The Baptist	25 7:00pm Executive Council	26	27	28 Metropolis Church Music Conference Phoenix Embassy Suites (thru Sunday)	29 9:00am Divine Liturgy Sts. Peter and Paul	30

Sunday of All Saints Sunday, June 10

The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives.

Background

Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the Apostle Paul, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we honor all the

Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints.

This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Savior" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxastikon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the

choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor on this day, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede in our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

