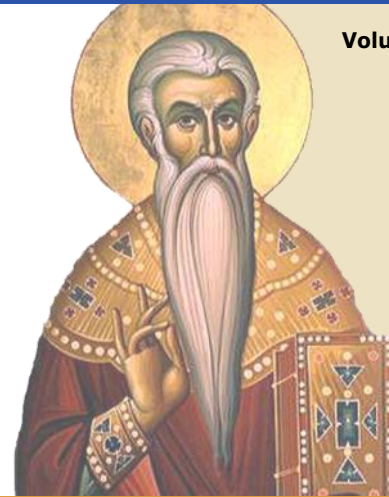


# in Touch

Volume 21, Issue 6

June 2013



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

## The Meeting of the 12 Apostles

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**Sunday, June 30**



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

## Coffee Hour

### Christos Anesti!

We are looking for volunteers to either schedule a coffee hour or to donate money to have one done in your name. If each family in our parish hosts a coffee hour once a year, no one will feel overwhelmed with the responsibility. The coffee hours do not need to be elaborate. We would like to offer fruit and some sort of bread or pastry. We tend to offer lighter fare during the summer months, and we are all trying to tighten our purse strings, so it doesn't hurt to cut back a bit.

Please contact Valla Wrona if you would like to sign up. Contact information is available in the office or look for her in the kitchen during coffee hours.

Your help is much appreciated!



# Caring Friends Ministry



By Irene Nathanson, Chairperson

The Caring Friends ministry is a wonderful way to use your talents of compassion and caring for our fellow parishioners! You can offer as little as 20 minutes a week, 1 hour a month, or more if you choose--and you will make a huge difference in a person's life! Your commitment can even be periodic or temporary as we have regular members who often vacation or leave for the summer months and we need coverage.

Caring Friends ministry was originally created to support our fellow parishioners who were ill or homebound by staying in touch through visits and phone calls. Today some of the volunteers have extended their gifts of care even though they are not obligated to! This speaks to the devotion of our present volunteers.

As a volunteer, you choose your hours, days, and level of involvement and that involvement can change as your needs change. Truly this is an opportunity for us to transfer God's love and kindness into action. We have the power to offer companionship to the homebound and keep them connected to our faith and our church.

Contact the church office if you would like to join our group or if you know of someone who is homebound and would like us to call or visit them regularly. As new Chairman I am honored to have our first meeting of the year on Sunday June 2, following coffee hour. We will review procedures and guidelines. Come join us and help our group continue this valuable ministry!



## The 12 Apostles

Should you ever find yourself at a party, wanting to impress your friends by correctly naming all 12 of the apostles, you can prepare by reading through the list found in the 10th chapter of St. Matthew's gospel. It does us good to remember that these 12 men chosen by our Lord, Jesus Christ, had no previous discipleship experience, no prior training in healing or preaching, and certainly no burning desire to follow a man who would soon be turning their world upside down.

And yet, as St. Matthew records, "These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons."

A pretty tall order for quite ordinary men.

But look at how they responded to their task! Each of them, in their own way, rose to the challenge, travelling with the Lord, listening to His words, watching him heal, walk on water, bring others back to life. Their lives would never be the same.

They had doubts, weaknesses, and argued amongst each other. One betrayed the Lord, and another denied Him. Following the crucifixion, it took quite a bit of convincing for them to believe in the resurrection. Jesus also forewarned them, "If the world hates you, know that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:18-20)

What kept them going? How did they stay together after the crucifixion? They were overjoyed to see Jesus resurrected, but needed even more inspiration, courage and strength for the work that lay ahead: the spreading of the gospel. They needed a miracle, divine intervention.

Just 10 days after the Lord's ascension to heaven, their miracle came: Pentecost, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit, appearing as tongues of fire over their heads, gave each of the apostles just what they needed; a divine spark that ignited a new-

found enthusiasm to share the gospel. They began speaking in various languages, moving into various towns and cities, debating, compelling, praying, working miracles, determined to share God's love and mercy wherever they went.

At times they were well-received, at other times they were rejected and imprisoned, each of them eventually suffering a martyr's death, except for St. John who died in exile.

Theirs was no easy road to sainthood; yet, their hearts and minds were so convicted regarding their divine mission, not even the fear of punishment and death diminished their passion to share the Christian message.

Did Jesus choose well? Couldn't He have found 12 more dedicated, perhaps more educated men as His apostles? Rather than spending time thinking about the many "what if" questions, why not look at some of the amazing results of the men He did choose?

Christianity has only continued

*(Continued on page 5)*

*not even the fear  
of punishment  
and death  
diminished their  
passion to share  
the Christian  
message.*



**St. Haralambos  
Greek Orthodox  
Church**

**Rev. Michael Pallad**

[www.stharalambos.org](http://www.stharalambos.org)

### Sunday Worship

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](mailto:Office@StHaralambosAZ.com)  
[FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com](mailto:FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com)  
**Hours**  
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Parish Council

Roy Christian  
David Durgam  
Dennis Georgen  
Timothy Harvey  
Dean Milonas  
Russell Skocypec

Tony Panousopoulos  
Peter Vardalos  
Dorothy Vordos  
Lee Vordos  
Ken Wrona  
Russell Zook





## Greek Festival

By Pam Lemons,  
Festival Chairman

We would like everyone's help in securing at least one sponsor. Please share the letter and form, found on pages 7 and 8, with individuals or businesses that you think might benefit or like to participate in sponsoring the Festival. Additional copies are available in the Church office. Also, if you would like to volunteer in the pre-Festival duties, please let me know or call the office.

## A Potpourri of Thoughts

Dennis Georgen, President Parish Council

**Christ is Risen!** With these three simple words we joyfully proclaim the mystery of our faith; that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. And what a beautiful celebration it was, beginning with our Lenten journey over 40 days, through the joy of Christ entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Passion Gospels and Crucifixion, the Lamentations, Resurrection, and finally, ending with the celebration of the Agape Vespers on Easter Sunday afternoon.

This year, in addition to Greek, English, Spanish, French, and German, we heard the Gospel of the Resurrection proclamation in Turkish, Arabic, and Chinese! Who knew we had so much diversity in our congregation? And that is the message in the Resurrection. That Christ suffered, died, and was resurrected for all. This diversity in our Church is to be embraced and celebrated! And, we should make it known to all, our current Stewards, as well as those among us who have yet to discover Christ and His Orthodox Church.

In Matthew 28:19, Our Lord tells us, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." He didn't make it optional.

A mission statement is intended to state why an organization exists. Or said more simply, why we are here. Our Mission Statement confidently states that "We are a loving Christ centered community whose

mission it is to keep practice and proclaim the Orthodox Christian faith as a living presence to those around us." These words are intended to be the guiding statement for the work of our Parish. How many of us have committed it to memory, and reference it when making decisions about what we do?

A vision statement is intended to state how one sees the organization. Or, said more simply, what we will be. As a parish, we haven't declared this, and we need to.

Yes, our Parish is growing in its diversity. Wouldn't it be wonderful if next year we hear the Gospel of the Resurrection proclaimed in even more languages?

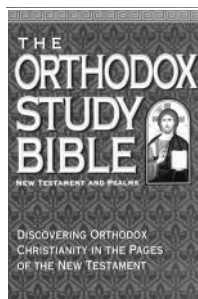
### Parking Lot Update

We don't charge for parking on Sunday morning, and we really don't plan to, but it is not free!

We are blessed with a beautiful church facility and we intend to keep it that way, but that comes with a cost. Unfortunately our operating budget doesn't cover all of the expenses.

As of today, we have raised \$3,800 of the \$5,000 we need in order to re-seal the parking lot, so we are now just over 75% of the way to our goal !

If you have not yet made a special contribution to this important maintenance project, please consider doing so at your earliest opportunity. If you appreciate free parking, that is.



## Orthodox Study Group

Every Thursday at 7 pm, in the church, we are having contemporary discussions about our religion. Currently we are reviewing the gospel of Luke, chapter 3.

All are invited and encouraged to attend.

## St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Reni Milonas, President

### **Christ Has Risen! Truly He Has Risen!**

The Mending Hearts Sewing Circle made and delivered 36 heart pillows for the John C. Lincoln Deer Valley Hospital's Cardiac ICU. Our next batch of pillows will be due the end of August. We are in

need of more volunteers; please keep in mind that you do not need to know how to sew to help out with this ministry.

The Philoptochos will be taking a summer break from our monthly meetings. Our next meeting will be a potluck on September 10th at 6 pm.

## Sunday School

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School Director & Teacher

On Sunday, May 19, our Sunday School youth, teachers, and snack providers were recognized in an end of year presentation. Students received either a Certificate of Achievement or a Certificate of Participation, depending on attendance record. To recognize their service in the Sunday School Ministry, our teachers and snack providers 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.

On Jun. 13, we will be celebrating the

Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Families can learn more about the biblical story and icon of this feast by clicking on, [www.goarch.org/special/listen\\_learn\\_share/ascension](http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/ascension).

On Sunday, Jun. 23, we will be celebrating the Feast of Holy Pentecost. To learn more about the biblical story and icon of this feast visit the website, [www.goarch.org/special/listen\\_learn\\_share/pentecost](http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/pentecost).

Remember, parents, religious education is a lifelong process for all ages, so please continue to bring your families to church during the summer months.



## Clergy Column

*(Continued from page 3)*

to grow and spread the world over because of the apostles' efforts. Churches were established, letters of instruction written, families baptized, inspirational artworks, hymns, poetry, and awe-inspiring architecture all were created to help nourish thirsty souls.

Despite scandals, divisions, wars and foreign occupation, the gospel of Christ has not gone away, and we have the Lord's chosen 12 to thank, along with unknown numbers of saints and martyrs in the centuries since.

This month, we celebrate an unusual meeting of two feastdays on June 30: the Meeting of the 12 Apostles and the Sunday of all Saints. (The first is a fixed feast, celebrated each year on June 30; the other is taken from the movable calendar and is celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost.)

The Church has kept their remembrance to help inspire us to continue to "fight the good fight," and, in our own ways, serve as apostles, teachers, witnesses and evangelists for the Christian gospel today.

## Name Days

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

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)

## *Birthdays*



Alex Papamatheakis (4)  
 George Theoharatos (6)  
 George Miller (8)  
 June Nicholas (8)  
 Aaron Johnson (11)  
 Stefania Papamatheakis (11)  
 Despina Medina (14)  
 Soliana Desta (15)  
 Christopher II, King (15)  
 James Savaidis (15)  
 Pam Lemons (17)  
 Lois Batalis (18)  
 Stavroula Dodd (18)  
 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

**Contemporary Moral Issues Facing the Orthodox Christian** by author Stanley S. Harakas

When we have internal struggles which cause moral dilemmas we often look to the church for guidance and answers; but "the Orthodox Church has no ready formula and pat answers for many of the contemporary problems which we face in our modern technological society." This book attempts to address many such problems, their complexities, and their spiritual and ethical components. Through knowledge of the Bible, teachings and traditions of the Orthodox church, author Stanley Harakas helps us examine the moral dimensions of these modern issues from the perspective of an Orthodox Christian.

The issues Harakas covers are divided into four parts: faith issues, church life issues, sex and family issues, and social issues. The author frequently presents the church's perspective along with the differing "world view" on such matters as gambling, contraception and homosexuality. The position of the church on some issues is simpler and clearer than on others. For example, "the Orthodox church utterly condemns those who do bodily harm to children." The problem of abortion however is much more complicated and unfortunately is being dealt with increasing frequency in our society.

On the highly charged issue of capital punishment, two answers are offered. The early church was against capital punishment but evidence today indicates

that capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime. Christians today are challenged to consider their ethical views as the Archdiocese "urges strong efforts in the direction of prison reform."

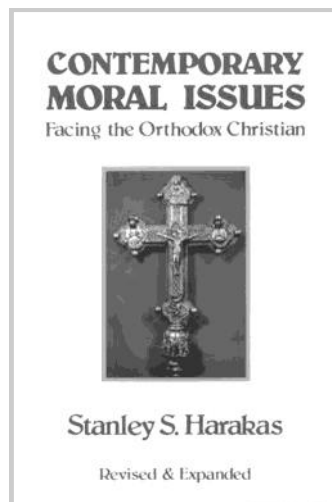
Of particular value to couples is Harakas exploration of mixed marriages. Distinctions are made among interfaith marriages, interethnic marriages and interracial marriages. What the Orthodox Church permits and does not permit is delved into. "In general, the church does not encourage mixed marriages...though it is true that many mixed marriages are

successful but often have more problems and difficulties than do those that take place between Orthodox Christians."

Both traditional and contemporary attitudes are also presented on sensitive topics such as death and dying. On the issue of the right to die, "our Orthodox Christian tradition does not provide us with specific guidelines...but we have several basic ethical

traditions in Orthodoxy upon which we are able to draw."

The above matters are just a sampling of the modern problems Harakas attempts to address. His book can offer clarity for those who face difficult situations. It can inform readers of the Church's position on sensitive matters and thus ease one's Christian conscience. For others, **Contemporary Moral Issues Facing the Orthodox Christian** may offer peace in times of moral dilemma and give guidance to those seeking direction toward Orthodox living.





## SAINT HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Spring, 2013

Dear Friends,

The planning has begun for the 2013 “Taste of Greece” Food and Dance Festival at St. Haralambos Church in northwest Peoria. Celebrating 26 years in Peoria, this annual event is slated for October 25, 26 and 27, 2013 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. If you haven’t had the opportunity to attend our event, please check out our website at [www.peoriagreekfest.com](http://www.peoriagreekfest.com) for a peek at what we have to offer.

We are seeking sponsors and supporters to help offset Festival expenses and have enclosed a Sponsorship Form for your consideration. A limited number of sponsorships are available offering company benefits and recognition throughout the festival weekend. For your information, St. Haralambos Church is an Arizona tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation and the Federal tax ID number 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 for a spectacular weekend of homemade Greek cuisine, pastries, live entertainment and family fun on October 25-27 at the Peoria Greekfest. OPA!

Sincerely,

Pam Lemons  
Festival Chairman

**ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**2013 "TASTE OF GREECE" FOOD AND DANCE FESTIVAL**

October 25, 26 & 27, 2013

**SPONSORSHIP FORM**

**Company/Individual Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INDICATE SPONSORSHIP LEVEL**

Check One	Type	Amount	Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOLD	\$10,000	Company name/logo in all promotional materials, news releases, bill-boards, event website, corporate tent and sponsor-provided banner displayed at event, verbal recognition during event; 10 free admission & dinner tickets. <i>(Banner placement determined by event staff.)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SILVER	\$5,000	Company name/logo in all promotional materials, news releases, event website, booth sponsor banner, recognition in event program, verbal recognition at the event; 6 free admission & dinner tickets. <i>(Banner placement determined by event staff.)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	BRONZE	\$1,000	Booth sponsor banner displayed at event, name/logo recognition in event program. <i>(Banner placement determined by event staff.)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	OLYMPIAN	\$500	Business card/logo recognition 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 .jpg format or camera ready artwork .***

Email artwork to: office@stharalambosaz.com

***Respond by September 30, 2013 for inclusion in the event program.***

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!**

**Please return completed form to:**

Attn: Peoria Greekfest/Taste of Greece 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 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:30pm Caring Friends All Saints Pan-Orthodox Summer Camp	<b>3</b> All Saints Pan-Orthodox Summer Camp	<b>4</b> All Saints Pan-Orthodox Summer Camp	<b>5</b> All Saints Pan-Orthodox Summer Camp	<b>6</b> All Saints Pan-Orthodox Summer Camp 7:00pm Orthodox Study Group	<b>7</b> All Saints Pan-Orthodox Summer Camp	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Parish Council	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Ascension of Christ</b> 7:00pm Orthodox Study Group	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy IOCC Offering Tray <b>Father's Day</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Orthodox Study Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Saturday of the Souls</b>
<b>23</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Pentecost</b>	<b>24</b> No Fasting Week 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>The Nativity of John the Baptist and Forerunner</b> 7:00pm Executive Council	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Orthodox Study Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Sts. Peter and Paul</b>
<b>30</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy <b>All Saints Day</b>						



Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles:  
Peter, Andrew, James & John the sons of  
Zebedee, Phillip, Bartholomew, Thomas,  
Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Jude  
the brother of James, Simon & Matthias

Reading: The names of the Twelve Apostles are these:  
Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew, the  
First-called; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John,  
who was also the Evangelist and Theologian; Philip, and  
Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican, who was  
also called Levi and was an Evangelist; James the son of  
Alphaeus, and Jude (also called Lebbaeus, and surnamed  
Thaddaeus), the brother of James, the Brother of God; Simon  
the Cananite ("the Zealot"), and Matthias, who was elected to  
fill the place of Judas the traitor.