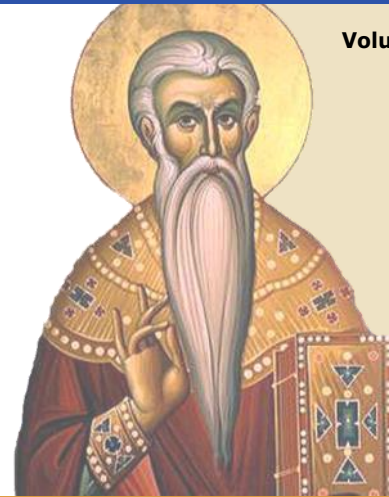


# *in* Touch

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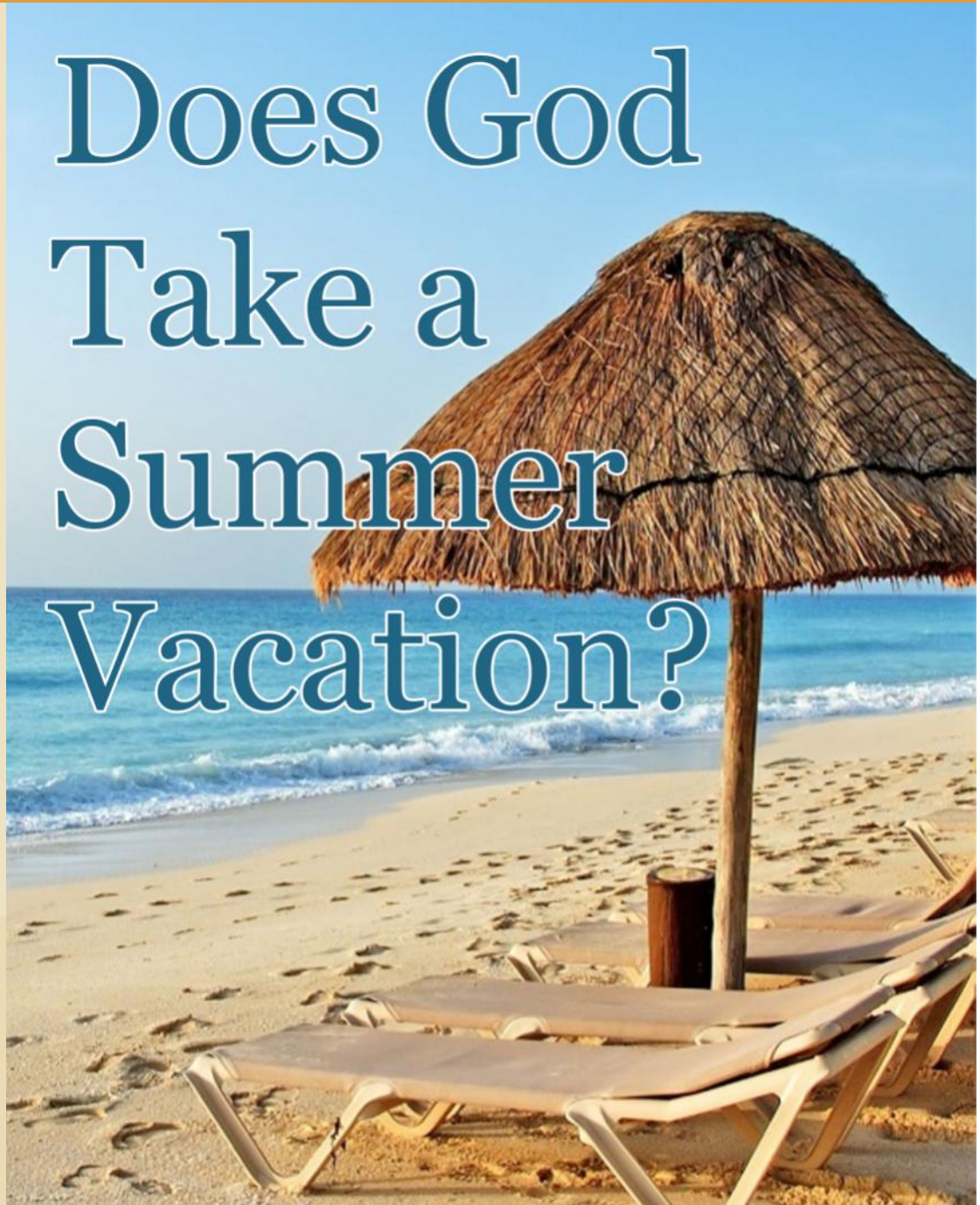
## Does God Take a Summer Vacation?

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

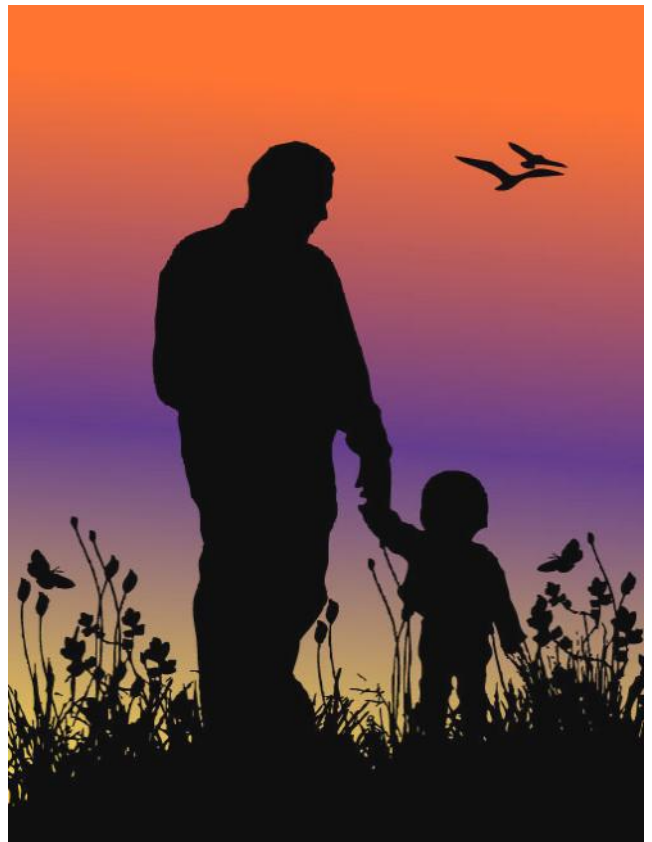
## Family Bingo Night

Friday, June 12 at 6pm  
Prizes and fun for the  
whole family



## Father's Day—Sunday June 21

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm as mothers day—perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have." On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday. The next year, a Spokane, Washington woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on July 19, 1910. Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day. However, many men continued to disdain the day. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."





## Where does God go for Summer Vacation?

Celebrating the 25-year anniversary of my graduation from Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts last month was a real treat. Catching up with my classmates (most of whom attended), receiving a cross from the Archbishop, a fantastic Italian dinner out in Boston's North End, and celebrating the Divine Liturgy together were some of the highlights.

Holy Cross has not just been well-maintained over the past 25 years, it has become even more beautiful. The view from the hill of downtown Boston is wonderful. The east end of the 52-acre campus has been filled with townhouses for married students and families, which helps create more of an on-campus community than when I was a student.

Whether you've had the opportunity to visit the campus of Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary or not, you should know that this is the only Greek Orthodox institution that prepares future priests and lay-ministers to serve our Archdiocese. It is worthy of our support and prayers.

"Where does God go for Summer Vacation?" is the title of a creative Youth Ministry book written by a classmate of mine during my years at Holy Cross. The point of the book is to remind us that although certain parish groups stop meeting during the summer months, regular Sunday services continue, because God does not take a vacation.

God is with us; He stays with us always. He is with us on vacation, wherever we may go. We can talk with him in prayer whenever we like. We can ask for his protection and his guidance at all times. He never turns away from us, and is always ready to listen to prayers, to questions and concerns.

Someone may ask, "Why, then, do we need to go to Church on Sunday morning?" The answer is because, as Christians, we live in communities with others, not alone by ourselves. Private prayer is one thing – very important and helpful in developing our faith. But praying together (corporate prayer) is only experienced when we gather together with others from our parish family, also very important and helpful in developing our faith.

We derive strength from being part of a larger group of believers. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them," Jesus tells us in the Bible. When we are gathered together as the Church, we are not alone, but God is with us. It is, therefore, during the Divine Liturgy, when we ask God to send us his Holy Spirit to change bread and wine into the Sacrament of Holy Communion, for the benefit of the entire Church. This is not something that can be done privately; it is an act of the entire Church praying together.

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***"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them,"***

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It is God's presence during the Liturgy that provides a most beautiful and mystical sense of reverence that is felt when we all are reciting prayers together, or singing hymns together.

Our devotion to God as Orthodox Christians should include both private and corporate prayer. One is not more or less important than the other, and each of us should try to

*(Continued on page 4)*



**St. Haralambos  
Greek Orthodox  
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

**Rev. Michael Pallad**

### **Sunday Worship**

Matins: 8:45 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

### **Office**

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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**

Evanne Cuccorelli  
Dennis Georgan  
Kathy Harvey

Timothy Harvey  
Russel Skocypec  
Russell Zook

## Birthdays



Danny Romero (1)  
Michael Christenson, II (3)  
Rebecca Bryson (4)  
Alex Papamatheakis (4)  
George Theoharatos (6)  
Edna Nicely (7)  
George Miller (8)  
June Nicholas (8)  
Aarron Johnson (11)  
Despina Medina (14)  
Soliana Desta (15)  
Christopher II, King (15)  
James Savaidis (15)  
Nile Woldesilassie (15)  
Pam Lemons (17)  
Lois Batalis (18)  
Stavroula Dodd (18)  
Niat Woldesilassie (18)  
Paula Theotocatos (21)  
Duane Schepers (22)  
Ezekial Retsinas (23)  
Ellie Duhe (27)  
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.

## Men of God: Building up the role of Men in the Church

St. Haralambos Church has a vision for the men of our parish: to better understand their role as husbands, fathers and faithful Christians.

The next meeting of the St. Haralambos Men's Group will be at 10am on Saturday,

Jun. 13. Monthly meetings will continue on the second Saturday each month.

The only way to help make the vision of this group a reality is by your presence!

## Special Matins Choir

A wonderful opportunity for singers and for our entire congregation continues this month with the Special Matins Choir assembled to sing the hymns and responses for Matins on Father's Day, Sunday, Jun. 21.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to begin Father's Day with Sunday Matins at 8:45am, and experience the morning Prayer Service that precedes the Divine Liturgy every Sunday.

## Clergy Column

*(Continued from page 3)*

develop both.

Lessons heard from the gospel readings or taught during the sermon can be discussed at home among the family. Names of family members who are sick or in need of special prayers can be sent to the Church so they can be remembered during the morning Matins service. Prayers recited together during liturgy can also be said privately at home. During the first fifteen days of August there are special prayer services just for the sick. There are countless examples from our Orthodox Christian tradition that help

reinforce our connection between our homes and the Church community.

For those who will be traveling during the summer, this is a great opportunity to find and visit a new Orthodox Church community. Before leaving, visit the Archdiocese website ([www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)) and check the directory of parishes throughout the U.S. You will also find there are links to parishes overseas.

I wish everyone a blessed and enjoyable summer season! And remember that God will be with us wherever we may go.



## St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Valla Wrona, President

*"If two people walk together, will each one not come to know the other."*

Amos 3:3

### Summer Coffee Hour/Pot Luck

One Sunday a month during the summer (Jun. 28, Jul. 26, and Aug. 30), coffee hour will be expanded to include a

parish wide pot luck. Everyone is welcome to participate by bringing a dish to share.

Philoptochos will continue to provide cookies and beverages for coffee hour during the summer.



## High School Graduates

We congratulate one additional High School graduate this month: Nebiel Desta, who graduated from Willow Canyon High School. Nebiel will be enrolling at Gateway Community College in the Fall

and is planning on studying Physical Therapy.

May God bless him as he begins this new chapter in his life.

## Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of Anne Grabbe, who fell asleep in the Lord on May 4. Our sincere condolences to her daughter Paula Abbott, and the entire family. May her memory be eternal.

asleep in the Lord on Monday, May 25. Our sincere condolences to her husband, Ernest, and to her family. May her memory be eternal.

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of Reta Xenia Asimakopoulos, who fell

## Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts/sponsors.

### May

3: Philoptochos  
10: Philoptochos  
17: Philoptochos  
24: Pam Lemons & Marina Finch  
31: Available

### June

7: Edna Nicely & Julie Karoutas  
14: Available  
21: Available  
28: Community Pot Luck

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



# JUNE 2015

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|  | <b>1</b><br>All Saints Summer Camp<br>Pine Summit Camp,<br>Prescott | <b>2</b><br>All Saints Summer Camp<br>Pine Summit Camp,<br>Prescott | <b>3</b><br>All Saints Summer Camp<br>Pine Summit Camp,<br>Prescott       | <b>4</b><br>All Saints Summer Camp<br>Pine Summit Camp,<br>Prescott | <b>5</b><br>All Saints Summer Camp<br>Pine Summit Camp,<br>Prescott | <b>6</b>   |
| <b>7</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy<br><b>Sunday of All Saints</b><br>Mortgage Reduction               | <b>8</b><br>7:00pm Parish Council                                   | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br>6:00pm Family Bingo<br>Night                           | <b>13</b><br>10:00am Men's Group                                 |
| <b>14</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy   | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b>  |
| <b>21</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy<br>IOCC Offering Tray<br><b>Father's Day</b>                      | <b>22</b><br>7:00pm Executive Council                               | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b><br>9:00am Divine Liturgy<br><b>Nativity of John the Baptist</b> | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b><br><b>Metropolis Church Music Conference Las Vegas</b>    | <b>27</b><br><b>Metropolis Church Music Conference Las Vegas</b> |
| <b>28</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy<br>Potluck<br><b>Metropolis Church Music Conference Las Vegas</b> | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>   |   |   |   |  |