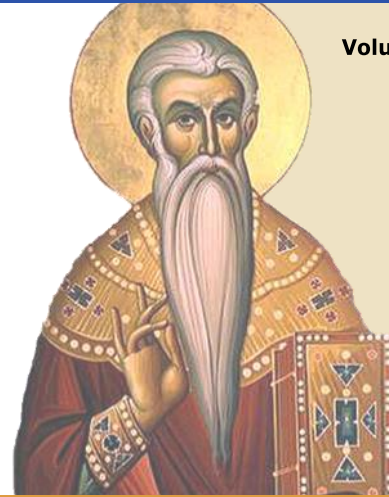


in Touch

Volume 24, Issue 6

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The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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"For You sent down upon them the Holy Spirit"

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

Forever Young

By Julie Karoutas

Greetings to All "Forever Young" members, I hope that all is well with you; Robyn Pappas has had an unfortunate set-back in her recovery; Flo Curran is doing well, I am pleased to say. Please keep them in your prayers for a full recovery.

Many thanks to Russ Skocypec for hosting another "Day at the Races" Potluck at his home on Saturday, May 14 at 4 pm; the Italian Beef sandwiches were delicious, this time we did race the horses and Bob Kinniburgh won the race, Flo Curran won the door prize.



We are planning another day at the theater, this time at the Hale Centre Theater in Gilbert, it will be on Saturday, Jun. 18 at the 3 pm afternoon matinee, with lunch first, across the street at famous JOE's BBQ. Hale

is a theater in the round, so to speak, all seating is excellent and the performances are great! We can car-pool for this outing; meet at the church at 12 noon to arrive at Joe's Real BBQ by 1 pm and enjoy a delicious meal before attending this fun Musical/Comedy "For me and My Girl". Group pricing is \$22 per person; must be paid by Jun.

1. Please make checks out to me, as I have to pay for All with my credit card in one payment. I have 20 seats reserved. The restaurant address is: 301 North Gilbert Rd., Gilbert, AZ 85234, tel 480-503-3805. Lunch is on your own. This is a fun outing, don't miss out on it.

Please notify me; I can be reached at juliekaroutas@gmail.com, 623-972-2382 or call or text my cell at 623-313-8720. Please leave name of all wishing to participate and a contact number. As always, a quick response is greatly appreciated.

I will also be booking "Funny Girl" for next October. It is being featured at the Arizona Broadway Theatre. This promises to be an outstanding musical! More info to follow.



Father's Day

We wish a Happy Father's Day to all the dads who celebrate on Sunday, June 19! If your dad is not close by, take the time to call and let him know you were thinking about him. Before the day is over, offer a prayer for your dad, using the following Father's Day Prayer, or words of your own.

*God our Father,
in your wisdom and love you made all things.*

*Bless those fathers, who have taken upon themselves
the responsibility of parenting.*

*Bless those who have lost a spouse to death ... or divorce
who are parenting their children alone.*

*Strengthen them by your love that they may become
the loving, caring persons they are meant to be.*

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Important Issues for Our Parish

History of being made this month in the Orthodox Christian Church. Convened by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, the first of its kind in 1,200 years, will be held on the island of Crete from June 16 – 27. A special website (www.orthodoxcouncil.org) has been created to give detailed information on the Council, including the list of participants and topics on the agenda. Please also see the two-page (page 7-8) insert in this month's InTouch.

This is how Orthodox Christianity resolves, and has always resolved, issues of importance in the Church: not by decree of one individual, but by the decision of a council. We should all be aware of this historic council, and I ask everyone to please remember our hierarchs in your prayers, that God will guide and bless, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, the discussions and the decisions resulting from them.

Last month's Spring General Assembly raised some important issues for our parish, not the least of which are serving on the Parish Council, and Stewardship.

Thank God, our recent Greek Festival was, as was reported at the General Assembly, a success, raising far more funds than was planned for on our budget. But we should not fall into the trap of relying on the Festival to meet our Operations Budget. Each of us, as stewards of our parish, should be pledging a portion of our finances to help meet the operational expenses, and additional income from festivals and other fundraisers can be put towards our future building plans, and to helping support the variety of local and national ministries of our Archdiocese.

As was made clear during the Assembly, Stewardship is not just about financial donations; it is the cheerful giving of our time and talents, as well as our treasure, towards the ministries and needs of our parish. There are Building/Maintenance projects coming up this month, and a variety of parish ministries in need of volunteers. More on this in the coming months.

Our current parish council, consisting of four members, is doing its best to continue administering the needs of our parish; however, our parish by-laws call for a council of nine members. A nominations committee was formed at the General Assembly, and will be asking for volunteers to consider serving on one of the five open seats at the council elections in December. Terms of office have been reduced from three to two years. Don't be shy - if you have a love of our parish and would like to serve in a leadership capacity, consider the Parish Council.

While various parish ministries will not be meeting during the summer, Sunday morning services continue each week: Matins at 8:45am, followed by the Divine Liturgy. With fewer parish ministry obligations, and with school on summer break, this is a good time for families to remember to "Keep the Sabbath holy," and continue attending church regularly as important family time to help strengthen family ties as well as spiritual enrichment.

*it is the cheerful
giving of our time
and talents, as well
as our treasure,*



**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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Hours

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

Parish Council

Marina Finch
Dennis Georgen
Kathie Harvey

Russ Skocypec

Greek Festival

February 10-12, 2017

Festival kickoff meeting will be held at the Church, Thursday, June 2, 7 pm.



Oratorical Festival

Congratulations to Catherine Baxter who won the Metropolis Junior Division St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival at Saint Nicholas Ranch on May 14.

She now travels to Charlotte NC to compete in the Nationals, Jun. 10 to 12.

FOCUS Summer Feeding Program

Volunteers are needed Monday – Friday, now until Aug. 5, to help serve lunch to children from low-income families. The Summer Feeding Project, sponsored by Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve (FOCUS), continues to assist children who receive free or low-cost lunches during the school year. The lunches are being served at YMCA locations in Scottsdale and Ahwatukee. For more information and to register on-



Feastdays: Ascension and Pentecost

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes as well. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday. This year Ascension Day is celebrated on Jun. 9. The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday, this year on Jun. 19. The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity. (Source: goarch.org)

A Gathering of Prayer

By Kay Fulghum

We all know that the Internet can be a mixed bag of blessings or [yes, I almost said it ;)] bushwhackery. In a comment thread discussing prayer for the departed on the blog site "Glory to God For All Things" by Fr. Stephen Freeman, I offered to email the organizational materials for anyone interested in creating a 40 day Memorial Akathist prayer group. Requests

have come in, to date I've emailed off the organizational materials and sample graphics of our Gathering of Prayer ministry to about 10 people scattered across the country. Maybe some will put down roots.

Thanks again to all of you who have stepped forward to offer this service of love and spiritual charity to your parish brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sacraments

Congratulations to Brittany Nicholas and Randy Rosekranz, on the baptism of their son Findley Sotirios, on Saturday, May 14, and also to his godmother, Samantha Nicholas. May God grant him many years!

Congratulations to Trey Nicholas Sanchez, who was Chrismated into the Orthodox Faith on Sunday, May 15, and

also to his godparents, Ted and Donna Manos. May God grant him many years!

Congratulations to Georgios and Martha Tsakiris, on the baptism of their daughter Efrosini Ilaria, on Saturday, May 21, and also to her godfather, Alexandros Papamatheakis. May God grant her many years!

Eternal Memory

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of his servant, Maria Christian, who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, May 14, in Tucson, Arizona. Maria was one of the founding members of Saint Haralambos

Church, an enthusiastic and dedicated steward. May God grant comfort to her family in their grief, and may her memory be eternal.

Graduation

Congratulations to Anwar Albandek, who is graduating from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering with an emphasis on Construction Engineering. Anwar, who

can be found assisting in the altar on Sunday mornings, is currently employed as a Project Manager Assistant with Suntec Concrete.

Orthodox Study Group

We will hold off on Orthodox Study group at this time. We will likely continue the group in the Fall. If you have any

questions or suggestions please contact Ted Manos, tedmanos@zona.net or 623-680-6547.

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)

Birthdays



Danny Romero (1)
Michael Christenson, II (3)
Rebecca Bryson (4)
Elly Kolitz (4)
George Theoharatos (6)
Edna Nicely (7)
June Nicholas (8)
Aarron Johnson (11)
Despina Medina (14)
Harry Burton (15)
Soliana Desta (15)
Christopher II, King (15)
James Savaidis (15)
Nile Solomon (15)
Nola Duhe (17)
Pam Lemons (17)
Stavroula Dodd (18)
Niat Solomon (18)
Paula Theotocatos (21)
John Fredericksen (22)
Sheila Hrapchak (22)
Duane Schepers (22)
Ezekial Retsinas (23)
Ellie Duhe (27)
Madelyn Pritchard (27)
Anna Kinniburgh (29)
Bereket Russom (29)
Harper Kauble (30)
Lydia Kauble (30)
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.

JUNE 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Festival Meeting	3	4
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	6	7	8	9 9:00am Divine Liturgy Ascension of Christ 7:00pm Choir	10	11
12 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	13 7:00pm Parish Council	14	15	16 7:00pm Choir	17	18 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
19 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Pentecost Sunday IOCC Offering	20 6:30pm Philoptochos	21	22	23 7:00pm Choir	24 9:00am Divine Liturgy Nativity of John the Baptist	25
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday of All Saints	27 Memorial Day (Church office closed)	28	29	30		



The Holy and Great Council PENTECOST 2016 "He called all to unity"

History of the Holy and Great Council

By Rev. Dr. John Chrysavgis, Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Orthodox Church is the church of the apostles, the church of the martyrs, the church of the fathers, the church of the councils. Through the centuries, the Orthodox Church convened local and regional, great and greater, as well as universal or ecumenical councils. Just as every celebration of the holy Eucharist is a confirmation of the communion between each person with his or her community, and that local community with the universal Church,



His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch. Photo: Nikolaos Manginas

so too, every council is a reaffirmation of the unity between each local and self-governing Orthodox church with the universal Church. In fact, St. John Chrysostom – the renowned fourth-century archbishop of Constantinople – boldly states that “council” is another name for “church.”

In this spirit and from its responsibility and privilege to ensure inter-Orthodox unity and facilitate inter-Orthodox cooperation, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has tirelessly labored to convene a Pan-Orthodox Council since the early 1900s.

Preparations for this council began in earnest in 1961 and continued through the 1960s, while pre-conciliar conferences, tasked with forming the council’s agenda and its rules of operation, met in 1976 through 1986. After a long hiatus created by immense political and ideological changes, as well as the unprecedented social and religious challenges resulting from the collapse of the Iron Curtain, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew revived the process in 2008.



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So, after almost a century, the agenda was finalized, the documents were edited, and the process was completed in January 2016.



The Holy and Great Council is assembling on the feast of Pentecost.

Never before in the history of the Orthodox Church have so many Orthodox churches – fourteen from around the world – assembled in one and the same place.

Yet, despite hesitation and apprehension, despite reservation and even resistance, the Holy and Great Council is being convened at the Orthodox Academy of Crete—steps from a ninth-century Monastery of the Virgin Mary—from June 16 to June 27, 2016.

He called all to unity. May we respond with charity and generosity.

We fervently ask the plenitude of the Church – clergy and laity, men and women, old and young – to pray for this unique and historical event. We especially ask that you implore God to strengthen and inspire the leaders of the Church to manifest their unity in a world afflicted by conflict and division.

May God bless the Holy and Great Council. And May His abundant grace be with all of you.

- His All-Holiness Bartholomew,
Ecumenical Patriarch





TOWARDS THE HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL: A Comprehensive Timeline

For the first time in 1200 years, the fourteen autocephalous Orthodox Churches will meet, with a common desire to reinforce their relations and address contemporary spiritual and social challenges in the world.

1961 Sept. 24 - Oct. 1

First Pan-Orthodox Conference, Rhodes

1962 Sept 26-29

Second Pan-Orthodox Conference, Rhodes

1963 Nov 1-15

Third Pan-Orthodox Conference, Rhodes

1968 June 8-15

Fourth Pan-Orthodox Conference, Chambésy

1971 July 15-28

Inter-Orthodox Preparatory Commission, Chambésy



1976 Nov. 21-28

First Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference, Chambésy

- Methodology and themes for the Holy and Great Council
- The Orthodox Church's relations with other Christian churches
- Discussion on the common celebration of Easter by all Christians

1977 June 28 - July 3

Congress on the Common Celebration of the Easter by all Christians on a Fixed Sunday

1982 Sept 3-12

Second Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference, Chambésy

- Impediments to marriage
- Adaptation of the ordinances regarding fasting

1986 Feb 15-23

Inter-Orthodox Preparatory Commission, Chambésy

"He CALLED ALL TO UNITY"

1986 Oct 28 - Nov 6

Third Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference, Chambésy

- Adaptation of ordinances for fasting
- The mission of the Orthodox Church in the world

1990 Nov 10-17

Inter-Orthodox Preparatory Commission, Chambésy

- Orthodox Diaspora

1992

First Synaxis of Primates, Istanbul



1993 Nov 7-13

Inter-Orthodox Preparatory Commission, Chambésy

- Autocephaly

1995 April 10-13

Canon Law Congress on Regulation for Episcopal Assemblies, Chambésy

1995

Second Synaxis of Primates, Patmos

2000

Third Synaxis of Primates, Jerusalem/Bethlehem and Istanbul/Nicaea

2008

Fourth Synaxis of Primates, Istanbul

2009 June 8-12

Fourth Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference, Chambésy

- Episcopal Assemblies

2009 Dec. 10-17

Inter-Orthodox Preparatory Commission, Chambésy

- Autocephaly and Autonomy
- Diptychs

2014

Fifth Synaxis of Primates, Istanbul

2015 Oct. 10-17

Fifth Pre-Conciliar Pan-Orthodox Conference, Chambésy

2016 Jan. 21-28

Sixth Synaxis of Primates, Chambésy

2016 June 16-27

The Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, Crete



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1200 YEARS...



Photos courtesy Archon Dimitrios Panagos and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.



Official channels of communications

The Holy and Great Council will be held June 16-27 in Crete. For the first time in 1200 years, the primates of all 14 Orthodox autocephalous (or self-governed) Churches, along with more than 300 bishops and others, will meet to pray and discuss issues of common concern. Keep up-to-date by visiting www.orthodoxcouncil.org for daily briefings, and by using the communication channels of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Website: www.orthodoxcouncil.org

Facebook: @ecumenicalpatriarchate

Twitter: @EcPatrPress

Flickr: @patriarchate

YouTube: @Patriarchate





Childhood hunger is a problem that affects over 21 million children in the United States. In Arizona alone, 1.7 million do not get enough to eat on a daily basis

For 10 weeks this summer the Orthodox churches of Phoenix will feed over 15,000 meals to children who suffer from food insecurity

Volunteers are needed to deliver and serve meals.

We need you May 23–August 5!

Sign up to volunteer at specific times at
WWW.FOCUSNORTHAMERICA.ORG/PHOENIX

For questions email
SDAWSON@FOCUSNA.ORG

FOCUS North America is a national movement of Orthodox Christians, united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions to poverty in communities across America. FOCUS has operations and life-changing youth volunteer development opportunities in more than 50 cities.