

in Touch

Volume 23, Issue 3

March 2015



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

The Spiritual Journey of Great Lent

**Parish Vision
Statement • 2**

**Forever
Young • 2**

**The Lenten
Journey • 3**

**Community Rewards
Program • 4**

**Annual
Lenten Trip • 5**



Take the Journey, and grow in faith.

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

Parish Vision Statement



Recently, our parish leadership put together the Vision Statement for Saint Haralambos Church. On Sunday, Mar. 8, Fr. Michael will be reviewing the Vision Statement after the liturgy, and explain how it orients and guides our future parish events and activities.

A Church community that welcomes and engages everyone, in all stages of life, to participate in a deeply rewarding and spiritually fulfilling life, as expressed through the teachings and traditions of the Orthodox Christian Faith.

Forever Young

By Julie Karoutas

St. Katherine's Philoptochos is planning a trip to St. Paisius Monastery in Safford, AZ. On Saturday Mar. 14, bus leaves at 7 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m.; the cost is \$25. See page 5 for details.

Our upcoming trip to the theater is on Sunday, Mar. 15 to see & enjoy the musical "Follies" at the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts, "Theater Works" located at 8355 W. Peoria Avenue, Peoria, AZ 85345; 623-815-1791.

*Please note: Time is of the essence for this theater trip, tickets need to be paid soon or we will have to cancel; this show is **SOLD OUT!** Call me to make **reservations & make arrangements for payment** (check or cash).*

Follies performance begins at 2 p.m.; doors open at 1:30 p.m. Please plan to be there by no later than 1:45 p.m., to easily get to your. The tickets are \$22 each (Senior Group pricing) we will need a minimum of 8 in order to get that price, otherwise, the cost is \$35 ea. I ONLY HAVE 7 TICKETS LEFT;

The Chandler Ahepans are planning a "Family Picnic" on Saturday, Mar. 21 to be held at Kiwanis Park in Tempe, in celebration for Greek Independence Day (3/25). More information will follow as received.



Please mark your calendar for our upcoming trip to the Arizona Winds Concert on Sunday, Apr. 12 at 3 p.m.; Mountain Ridge High School, 22800 N 67th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85310.

Saturday, Apr. 18, the annual Agape Ball (benefiting "Kids with Cancer, Camp Agape") will be held at St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Chandler, sponsored by St. Haralambos, Holy Trinity, Assumption and St. Katherine's. There will be an abundance of good food, good music, and best of all our fellowship, all for this worthy cause. The tickets are only \$40, you would spend more than that at a restaurant for what you will be receiving; not to mention the good feeling of helping to support a worthy cause. Contact Julie Karoutas at home, 623-972-2382, or cell, 623-313-8720 or juliekaroutas@gmail.com to make your reservations. If you cannot attend and have an item that you can donate for the raffle or Silent Auction; sponsor a child, the information will be on the church's bulletin.

We have much more coming up, concerts, pot-lucks, speakers, join us, do not miss out.

Volunteers needed
for landscaping and maintenance.
Please call Russ Skocypec at 623-546-3553.



The Lenten Journey

If you have not received a copy of the Lenten Journey Participant Guide, please ask a member of the parish council on Sundays, or call the church office. Every family should have a copy to refer to throughout Great Lent. We are also putting a copy on our parish website (www.StHaralambos.org), mobile app, and will be sending it in the weekly ebulletin as well.

Last month on Sunday, Feb. 22, when the Participant Guides were first handed out, I mentioned that Lent should be looked at in a healthy, positive way, because of its many benefits. In fact, when we look at the hymns of the first week of Lent, this is exactly what the hymn texts talk about.

*“Let us enter the Fast with joy,
O faithful.*

Let us not be sad.

*Let us cleanse our faces with the
water of dispassion,
Blessing and exalting Christ
forever.*

Let us begin the Fast with joy.

*Let us give ourselves to
spiritual efforts.*

Let us cleanse our souls.

Let us cleanse our flesh.

*Let us fast from passions as we
fast from foods,*

*Taking pleasure in the good
works of the Spirit and
accomplishing them in love,
that we all may be made
worthy to see the passion of
Christ our God, and His Holy
Resurrection, rejoicing with
spiritual joy.”*

The Orthodox Church provides guides to help follow a meaningful fast, including various types of foods and reducing the quantity we eat. Nothing of the fast is intended to cause us pain or make us sick. Fasting from food is meant as a way to discipline our mind and body, to help us focus more on the nurturing of our soul.

This is why we have the number of weeknight services during Lent. There is only one

way to receive any benefit from these services, and that is to make the decision to be present in Church for them. This is what spiritual growth requires, pushing yourself beyond your normal routine.

Whether it is additional prayer time, attending weeknight services, fasting from certain foods, taking time away from TV, internet and social media in order to have time for spiritual reading, these are all decisions we make to grow in our faith, and to deepen our devotion to God.

I encourage everyone to take this lent Journey, and as we sing in the hymns, “Let us enter the Fast with joy!”

***This is what
spiritual growth
requires,
pushing yourself
beyond your
normal routine.***



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

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
FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

Hours

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

Parish Council

Evanne Cuccorelli
Dennis Georgen
Kathy Harvey

Timothy Harvey
Russel Skocypec
Russell Zook

Birthdays



Dina Surman (1)
Costa Androulakis (2)
Mike Papamatheakis (3)
Demetrios Hibner (6)
Kathryn Macrides (7)
Alice Hecht (8)
Rana Nahhas Samawi (9)
Russell Skocypec (9)
Mary Davis (11)
Sandra Amoroso (13)
Peter Batalis (13)
Peter Gavrilidis (13)
Christopher King (13)
Dorothy Masley (14)
Patricia Christie (17)
Angela Hapgood (17)
Luke Harris (17)
William Retsinas (17)
Malia Panousopoulos (19)
Nick Milonas (23)
Frank Johnson (24)
Maria Papamatheakis (25)
Argiro Selles (25)
Eleni Haidopoulos (30)
Shawna Tremoulis (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.

Church Beautification Project

While the painting work continues, we'll be looking to improve the lighting inside the Nave. The aim here is to give Father the option to dim the lights a bit when appropriate, and to give us better color rendition. With more of our color vocabulary on the walls, you can observe the changes in how the colors are perceived in relationship to each other.

Textile media will be another dimension of our beautification effort. With Father's input, we will be designing the decorative

cloths that go on the icon stand in the Narthex and also on the small wooden display stand that is used up front for festival icons. Our parish is blessed to have people with sewing and decorative textile skills. Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities to join this team if you're interested in helping out.

Thank you all for your patience, prayers, financial contributions and encouragement!

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! Towards that end, all men of St. Haralambos church are

encouraged to meet together on Saturday, Mar. 14 at 10 a.m. in the Church sanctuary. The only way to help make this vision a reality is by your presence!

Community Rewards Program

If you shop at Fry's grocery stores and use a Fry's card to receive discounts, please go online to attach your Fry's card to St. Haralambos. Every time you shop at Fry's and use your card, St. Haralambos will receive proceeds from the purchases

made. It's free money and only takes a small portion of your time. An email was sent out to those on the church email list. If you did not receive an email or deleted it, please contact the church office so they may re-send it to you.

GOYA

Save the date! Holy Trinity is hosting an annual GOYA retreat for 6th-12th graders on Friday, Mar. 20 (from about 6-9 p.m.) and Saturday, Mar. 21 (from about noon-4). Johanna and Jacob from the Diocese youth office will be helping with the retreat which is open to students at Holy Trinity, St. Haralambos, Assumption and St. Katherine's. More details will be coming.

In addition to the GOYA Retreat, Holy Trinity will be hosting a parent workshop on the Friday night, simultaneously with the GOYAns. Fr. Apostolos will lead this workshop for the parents while Evan, Chris, Johanna & Jacob are leading the Friday night session with the GOYAns. Again, all parents (including St. H, St. K & Assumption are invited).

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Valla Wrona, President

"Faith without works is dead." James 2:17

Great Lent

As we begin our Lenten journey this month, I wish you all an enlightening spiritual endeavor.

Thanks to Tim and Kathy Harvey, all of our Lenten meals now have hosts:

- February 25: Ken and Valla Wrona
- March 4: Charlotte Servetas and Anna Kinniburgh
- March 11: Thalia Christian and Marina Kaye
- March 18: Tim and Kathy Harvey
- March 25: Edna Nicely and Julie Karoutas
- April 1: Aphrodite Devolites and Flo Curran

Please join us for the beautiful Pre-Sanctified Liturgies and many other services as well as the fellowship as we journey together.

Lenten Retreat

Please stay tuned to our weekly bulletin for more information on the trip to St. Paisius Monastery in Safford, Arizona, on Mar. 14.

Annual Lenten Trip

St. Irene Philoptochos invites you to join us for our annual Lenten trip to St. Paisius Monastery in Safford, Arizona on Saturday, Mar. 14. We will join the nuns for a Liturgy and lunch, with time to tour the grounds, enjoy the serenity of the Monastery and visit with the nuns. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for youth 12 and younger (payment is required when you make your reservation). The bus will

Agape Ball

Don't forget that the Agape Ball will be held on Apr. 18 at St. Katherine's. Please reserve your seat by giving your name to Julie Karoutas or Valla Wrona. We need you to reserve a seat to allow enough food to be prepared for everyone. There will be silent auctions, drawings, and Greek and American music and dancing. Tickets are \$40 per person.

Annual Diaper Drive

If you have not yet been able to bring in diapers for our annual diaper drive for Homeward Bound, you may continue to do so throughout March. If you can't find our basket, please see a Philoptochos member. Homeward Bound serves families with children who are victims of domestic violence and/or homelessness and provides them with transitional housing and social services. This is a wonderful charity that St. Anna's has sought to help for many years.

We Need You

We need all of you to help keep Philoptochos alive and growing. We also need your new ideas to add spark to our ventures. Please consider attending our next meeting on Mar. 2 at 7 p.m.

depart from St. Katherine Community Center, 2716 N. Dobson Road, Chandler, 85224, at 7 a.m. and return at 6 p.m.

For more information or to make reservations contact: Kathy Connell, 602-524-1959 or Linda Blaze, 480-820-8664.

Please join us for a spiritual journey during the Lenten season.



Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts/sponsors.

February

- 1: Valla & Ken Wrona
- 8: Festival
- 15: Philoptochos
- 22: Festival Appreciation

March

- 1: Philoptochos
- 8: Available
- 15: Sandra Amoroso
- 22: Available
- 29: Available

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



MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday of Orthodoxy 1st Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers	2 7:00pm Philoptochos	3 7:00pm Compline Service	4 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	5 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	6 7:00pm Akathist Hymn (2nd stanza)	7
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 2nd Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers	9	10 7:00pm Compline Service 7:30pm Parish Council	11 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	12 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	13 7:00pm Akathist Hymn (3rd stanza)	14 10:00am Men of God: Building up the Role of Men in the Church
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of Lent IOCC Offering Tray 6:00pm Lenten Vespers	16	17 7:00pm Compline Service	18 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	19 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	20 7:00pm Akathist Hymn (4th stanza)	21
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 4th Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers	23 7:00pm Executive Council	24 7:00pm Great Vespers	25 9:00am Divine Liturgy Annunciation to the Theotokos 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	26 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	27 7:00pm Akathist Hymn (complete)	28
29 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 5th Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers	30	31 7:00pm Compline Service				