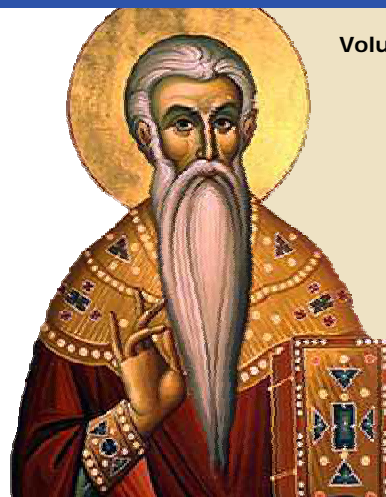


in Touch

Volume 15, Issue 5

May 2007



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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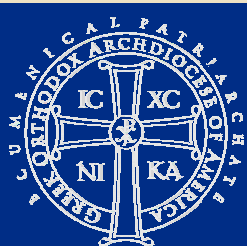
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Saturday, May 12
20th Anniversary

Open House and Family BBQ



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

St. Haralambos

PAN-ORTHODOX SUMMER CAMP

The world is telling us how much we should weigh, who our friends should be, what we should look like, what we should do on Friday nights, and the list goes on. For a week let us at least try to hear what God wants us to do.

Sunday, June 24th through Friday, June 29th, 2007

**Native American Retreat Center "El Nathan"
Flagstaff, Arizona**

The All Saints Pan-Orthodox Summer Camp is for boys & girls 8-17 years old, smaller children are welcome but must be accompanied by their parent.

Applications can be picked up in the church office and must be returned to Holy Trinity by June 1st, 2007, with full payment. Camp costs are \$190 per family member with applications being accepted on a first come first serve basis.

- Confession
- "Olympics"
- Swimming
- Capture the Flag

The camp is in need of more counselors, especially males, so if you are interested or need any further information, please contact the church office.

- Divine Liturgy
- Hiking
- S'Mores
- Late Night Talks

Make checks payable to: "ALL SAINTS Camp"

Return applications and payment to:
ALL SAINTS Camp, c/o Holy Trinity Cathedral
1973 E. Maryland Phoenix, AZ 85016

- Daily Prayer
- Ropes Course
- Horseback Riding
- Bible Study



St. Haralambos' 20th Anniversary

Open House and Family BBQ

Make plans to attend the 20th Anniversary Community Open House & Barbeque on May 12, starting at 11 a.m. and finishing at 4 p.m. The Committee anticipates this event to be a fun-filled day for the whole family while giving everyone the opportunity to show their support for our Church community.



Admission is free, but the committee asks everyone to please bring a non-perishable food item that will be donated to St. Mary's Westside Food Bank. Additionally, volunteers are ALWAYS needed and welcomed for this great event. If you are interested in helping with this event, simply contact the Church office.

2007 EVENTS

Jan.	Gathering of Church Archives
Feb. 10	Kick-off Celebration Event
Feb. 15-17	Parish Directory Family Portraits Taken at Church
May 12	Open House/Family BBQ
Nov. 2-4	Annual Greek Festival
Dec. 1	Gala Event



A Time To Build

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven,” says the author of the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes. Often mentioned in literature and lyric, the sayings remind us, as believers, that God has indeed ordained a time for everything:

“a time to be born and
a time to die,
a time to plant and
a time to uproot,

a time to kill and
a time to heal,
a time to tear down and
a time to build,

a time to weep and
a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and
a time to dance...”

As individuals, we may not look forward to experiencing everything that comes our way, particularly those occasions that cause us pain – emotional or physical; yet, we can not escape them, because there will come a time for each of us to face them personally. The only thing we can control is the way we respond to these events; for example, whether

we allow the death of a loved one or the loss of a job or the breakup of a marriage to devastate us to the point where we simply can't face each new day, or whether we choose to make lemonade when life gives us lemons, as the old saying goes.

There is a season for everything, including “a time to tear down and a time to build.” St. Haralambos Church has been building its church community for 20 years now, and we find ourselves this month at a unique and very exciting moment in time: having the opportunity to work together on developing a preliminary master plan of our new church property at 75th Ave. and Greenway Rd.

The above verse on building, we should note, begins with “a time to tear down,” and I think we would do well, as part of our building process, to consider that verse as a whole. For example, our new property is going to be our future church location, and is not simply an investment opportunity; so the first thing I'd like to see being torn down is the

idea that we could always sell the new property for cash. We're not going to do that. Certainly, the value of the property has appreciated tremendously since we bought it in 2001, but think for a moment how much more valuable (priceless, really) it will become as it changes from a vacant dirt lot to our new parish home where we meet each week for prayer, education and fellowship activities!

Secondly, the mistaken thought that the Building Committee is going to push through its own agenda and that parishioners aren't going to have a say in designing the complex also needs to be torn down. Each family reading this newsletter should have received by now an invitation to a preliminary design workshop on Saturday, May 5th at 9:30a.m. in our Social Hall. This is the first opportunity all parishioners will have to voice their opinions on what the master plan should look like. This will also be the

There is a season for everything, including “a time to tear down and a time to build.”

(Continued on page 8)



**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.

June - August
Matins: 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Office

623-486-8665
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345
Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com
FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com

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

Parish Council

Greg Krochta, President
George Retsinas, Vice-President
Mary Dascalos, Treasurer
Peter Tremoulis, Secretary
Glen Albrant
Tracy Albrant

George Christie
Mary Manos
Dean Milonas
Stella Pagos
Mary Wysmierski
Ray Wysmierski

Parishioner Profile



Sun City resident Roy R. Christian moved to the Valley from Georgia when he was only three years of age in 1945. His family followed his grandparents who moved here three years earlier.

Roy served on the Parish Council's board for nearly 12 years and was a church member while he was a Baptist. He was Chrismated into the Orthodox faith in 1992 while in the hospital for his third heart surgery.

In the beginning of the Church community, Roy received a request from His Grace Bishop Anthony, of blessed memory, to remodel the little house on the Church property for a full-time priest to serve the parish.

He also served as secretary, treasurer for paying Church expenses and was in charge of the Festival's bank operations for 10 years. Additionally, he helped set up tables, chairs and booths at the annual festival. Inside the Church building, he helped retile the floors and install carpeting.

"In the beginning, there were about 25 parishioners," he said. "We were a tight-knit group and it gave me a great sense of belonging."

Roy worked in the grocery industry for nearly 40 years and retired in 2000. Currently, he travels as much as he can and also works with his son who has a cabinet business. He is a member of the men's club in Sun City where the group raises money for Sun City charities.

Roy and his wife Maria have been married for 45 years. They have four children and seven grandchildren. He enjoys camping and fishing and in general spending time outdoors in beautiful Arizona.

"The growth of the Church has been a great experience and I have enjoyed working with the people who make up the Church," he explained. "I would like to see continuous growth in the Church and see the new Church be built and have the new Church fill the needs of all parishioners. I would also like to see Fr. Michael grow old with the parish and stay with us for a long time."

Summer Hours

Reminder

June through
August Sunday
Worship begins
early.

Matins
8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy
9:30 a.m.

20th Anniversary Committee Yard Sale Nets Over \$650

The 20th Anniversary Committee extends a "Thank You" to everyone who volunteered to work the March 24 yard sale and those who generously donated items for the sale. Although the day started with a downpour of rain, it was a successful event helping raise \$661 that will be used for upcoming 20th Anniversary celebration events.



Two Great Feastdays

The celebration of the Ascension of Christ and Holy Pentecost this month will complete the Easter cycle feastdays of the Orthodox Church calendar. Both feastdays recorded in the New Testament Book of Acts tell of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to his disciples and many others for the 40 days following his resurrection. As our Lord ascends into heaven, angels appear to the disciples to reassure them that He will again return in glory, for the final judgment of mankind and the establishment of his eternal kingdom.



The feastday of Pentecost occurred 10 days later, or 50 days following the resurrection of Christ, at which time the Holy Spirit was sent down upon the apostles, inspiring them to begin to proclaim the saving message of the Christian gospel to people from various cities and in a variety of languages. These two feastdays celebrate important events in the life of the Church, and more importantly, show the fulfillment of Jesus' promise of always being with us, to the endless ages, through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Please see the calendar for service times.



Church Music Concert

Choir members of St. Sava Orthodox Church in Phoenix extend an open invitation to "The Evolution of Orthodox Music," a choral concert held at their church on Saturday, May 19th at 7:00p.m. Presenting Byzantine Chant through contemporary compositions, the concert will feature selections from composers such as Tchaikovsky, Kedrov and Rachmaninov along with many others. The concert is free of charge and refreshments will be served in the church Social Hall afterwards. St. Sava Church is located at 4436 E. McKinley in Phoenix. Please call 602-275-7360 for further information.

*"Sing praises to
God, sing praises"*

General Assembly

All parishioners are invited to attend our next General Assembly which will be held on Sunday, May 6th in the Social Hall following the Divine Liturgy. Our Philoptochos will be preparing a light lunch for everyone at no charge. Please make the time to attend and listen to updates on the various organizations of our parish.

ORGANIZATIONS



Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms in our parish!

Many thanks to all who helped during our Lenten journey with the numerous activities including preparing Kolyva for three Saturday of Soul services; hosting six meals following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays; the Palm Sunday fish luncheon prepared by Sylvia Vasquez; a reception for Metropolitan Gerasimos on Holy Monday evening; decorating the Icons and

Epitaphios; and hosting the Anastasi meal following the Midnight Resurrection Service.

The net proceeds from the fish luncheon totaled \$500 benefiting Kids 'N Cancer. Many thanks also to Marius Pagos, Christopher Makridis and Maria Wardzinski for their help with the luncheon.

Don't forget our elections this month; be sure to attend and cast your vote. The next meeting date is Monday, May 7, at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Parish Council Corner

Christos Anesti! Christ Is Risen! Alithos Anesti! Indeed He Is Risen!

By Greg Krochta, President

Our upcoming Parish General Assembly will be held on Sunday, May 6, after Divine Liturgy.

Please be sure to attend to find out the latest happenings in YOUR Church, and be an active part of the future growth plans of St. Haralambos!

Originally, we had plans for the Building Committee to provide a complete briefing on their progress at this General Assembly meeting. However, we will postpone their briefing for a Special Parish General Assembly Meeting to be held later this summer.

The Committee has several final meetings to be held in early May that will allow the group an opportunity to give us a complete picture of our future growth. This information is so important that I feel it necessary to:

Allow the Building Committee extra time to finish their business in May and prepare a presentation for a summer meeting.

Dedicate a Special Parish General Assembly meeting allowing us to focus our discussions on our future building plans and what lies ahead for our Church.

I think you'll agree with this strategy, and I personally thank you for your patience regarding this matter. Please look for upcoming announcements about this Special Parish General Assembly meeting to be held this summer and make plans to attend.

I hope to see everyone at our regularly scheduled Parish General Assembly on May 6.

Coffee Hour

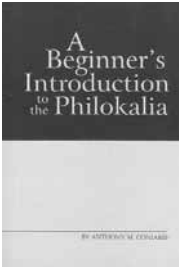
Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Apr. 1 | Philoptochos Fish Luncheon |
| Apr. 8 | Easter Sunday |
| Apr. 15 | Jamie Contes |
| Apr. 22 | James Kapolas and George Karras |
| Apr. 29 | Glen & Tracy Albrant |
| May 6 | General Assembly Light Luncheon |
| May 13 | Philoptochos for Mother's Day |
| May 20 | Larry & Joan Coor |
| May 27 | Gus & Bella Danos and James Constant |

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

ORGANIZATIONS

St. Christopher's Bookstore



A Beginner's Introduction to the Philokalia, by Father Anthony M. Coniaris, 2004, 160 pages, paperback.

According to the author, who has written many books on the Orthodox faith and most of the ones reviewed in our *In Touch* publication to date, the purpose of this book is, "to introduce the reader to the deeper meaning of the Philokalia by taking a brief look at some of the principle terms one encounters in reading this classic."

What then is the Philokalia? It is "the single most important collection of Orthodox spiritual texts," a treasure, "bequeathed to us by sacred tradition...an anthology of spiritual writings by some 30 Church Fathers from the fourth to fifteenth century. It was compiled by Sts. Macarios and Nicodemos on Mt. Athos in 1777 and is printed in five volumes." It is not intended to replace, "but to explain the deeper meaning of God's Word," the Holy Bible.

Each of 20 chapters in A Beginner's Introduction to the Philokalia focuses on a single spiritual concept, explaining it very simply, so the book is easy to read.

Chapter One: Watchfulness, Wakefulness, Inner Attention—Always be mindful and alert to God; block evil thoughts from entering the heart.

Chapter Two: The Helmsman of the Soul—The Holy Spirit operates through the eye of the soul and rules over the kingdom of self; by God's grace and discipline we can prevail over our desires.

Chapter Three: Thoughts—Explore our inner space and fight against our passions by controlling the internal dialogue of the mind; scrutinize our thoughts; confess and repent.

Chapter Four: Training or Discipline—Grow toward Christ likeness by praying, fasting, meditating, doing works of charity, etc.

Chapter Five: Theosis of Deification—The process which began in us at Baptism, Chrismation and the Eucharist continues through prayer, repentance, forgiving and loving.

Chapter Six: The Passions—Redirect the energy of our passions into virtues; allay passions as they rise with prayer.

Chapter Seven: Tears—Tears are a gift from God, a way to cleanse ourselves from sin committed after baptism

Chapter Eight: Inward stillness—We should be silent, tranquil and humble; listen to God and allow Him to fill us with His presence.

Chapter Nine: The Jesus Prayer—We should pray

unceasingly, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me;" constant calling on the name of Jesus will purify our souls.

Chapter Ten: The Heart—The heart includes the intellect to know God, the will to choose to follow God's commandments, and the ability to love God; Christ dwells there.

Chapter Eleven: Discrimination, Discernment—The ability to discern truth from falsehood with the help of our conscience, the Bible, wisdom of the Church, our spiritual father, and the Holy Spirit in prayer.

Chapter Twelve: Dispassion—Control over passions by God's grace, purity and peace of heart; the energy of the passions is redirected towards loving that which is holy and good.

Chapter Thirteen: Spiritual Synergy is the combination of God's grace offered at Baptism and our response to the offer that is faith, our desire to accept God's grace.

Chapter Fourteen: Counter-Speaking—It is talking back to Satan, to evil thoughts and finding hope of eternal life through repentance.

Chapter Fifteen: Remembrance of God—Remembering God means putting into practice all of the other 19 spiritual elements.

Chapter Sixteen: The Inner Closet—Through prayer, we can find God in our hearts; we rediscover the grace of baptism or the Holy Spirit within us.

Chapter Seventeen: The Inner Flame—It is the grace of the Holy Spirit we received at Baptism warmed by turning away from earthly things and choosing instead to practice the Christian way of life.

Chapter Eighteen: Purity of Heart—The initial cleansing of the heart is at baptism and continued cleansing by tears of repentance and by loving and serving God with all our strength.

Chapter Nineteen: The Intellect—It "acquires knowledge of God" and the ability to discern right from wrong "only by God's grace, aided by prayer, the sacraments" and the Bible.

Chapter Twenty: Descending With the Mind Into the Heart Through the Jesus Prayer—When the heart and mind are united, we experience peace and joy, and we bring back our thoughts if they have wandered away from spiritual to earthly concerns.

Clearly, the Philokalia sets forth virtues that St. Nicodemos says teach us how to be united among ourselves and united with God. He invites us all to read the collection: "Come all you who are participants in the Orthodox way, together, laymen and monks, all of you who seek to find the kingdom of God which is hidden in the field of your heart."

Birthdays



William Georgen (3rd)
 Terry Parks (3rd)
 Demetrios Tremoulis (3rd)
 Charlotte Servetas (5th)
 Shirley Germenis (8th)
 Megan Pallad (10th)
 Effie Watters (11th)
 Alexandria Francis (15th)
 Melani Ioannou (16th)
 Helene Georgiou (17th)
 Alexandra Pallad (19th)
 Aaron Hecht (20th)
 Nicoletta Theoharatos (21st)
 Dena Waters (21st)
 Ann Morley (28th)
 Barbara Hernandez (29th)
 Jaden Albrant (30th)

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.

Name Days

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

St. Nikephoros (4th)
 St. Irene (5th)
 Prophet Job (6th)
 St. Christopher (9th)
 St. Glykeria (13th)
 St. Isidore (14th)
 St. Pachomios the Great (15th)
 St. Thallelaios (20th)
 SS. Constantine and Helen (21st)

Assisted Living, Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish, and we ask you to please remember them in prayer: Marianthy Bravos, Orin and Mary-Jean Davis, Alice Massahos, Dema Jean Milonas and George Poulos.

Memory Eternal

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Alexandros Papamatheakis who fell asleep in the Lord on April 5, 2007. Funeral services were held Tuesday morning April 10. May God grant eternal rest to his soul, and may his memory be eternal.

Pastors' Column

(Continued from page 3)

first time to meet with the architect, Kevin Callahan, to hear his excitement about working with us on building a new church, and to learn about his background and experience. If you have any thoughts on our new church facility, this is your opportunity to speak up. Everyone is invited. As a courtesy, please call the church office with the number of people from your family attending, so we can prepare adequately for lunch, which will be offered at no cost.

Finally, thoughts about dismissing the building project completely because we're a small church with little financial resources also need to be torn down. Before we know the cost of the project, we first need to have a good idea of what we're going to build. This is why Step 1 is the development of the Master Plan. When we know the cost, we will begin a Capital Campaign, and ask for the support of our entire parish family. Then, and only then, will we know how we will proceed.

There is divine wisdom in the verse, "a time to tear down and a time to build." We're preparing to build a new church,

a new house of worship. Let's first tear down the negative, fearful and egotistical attitudes that creep into our minds whenever we contemplate producing something that is pleasing to God and beneficial to one another. Our attitude, instead, should reflect the awesome responsibility and joy of creating something new and beautiful that will be our new spiritual center for generations to come.

We have a long and exciting road ahead: a new, beautiful and unique Orthodox Christian house of worship will be the result! A substantial gift from the Erato Barkas Foundation has given us the means to begin this project, and as we continue to make progress with the master plan, the enthusiasm will spread like wildfire and touch the hearts of all our parishioners. Generosity, like enthusiasm, can be highly contagious when we all believe in what we are doing!

"For everything there is a season... a time to tear down and a time to build." All parishioners, young and old, are invited this month as St. Haralambos Church of Peoria, Arizona, starts to put that particular biblical verse into action!

MAY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:30am Bible Enrichment	2	3 7:00pm Choir	4	5 9:30am Preliminary Design Workshop (Social Hall)
6 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy General Assembly	7 7:00pm Philoptochos	8	9	10	11	12 11:00am – 4:00pm 20th Anniversary Family BBQ
13 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy	14	15 10:30am Bible Enrichment	16	17 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy Ascension of Christ 7:00pm Choir	18	19
20 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy	21	22 10:30am Bible Enrichment	23	24 7:00pm Choir	25	26 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy Saturday of Souls
27 8:45am Matins 10:00am Div. Liturgy Pentecost Sunday	28 Memorial Day (Church office closed)	29	30	31 7:00pm Choir		