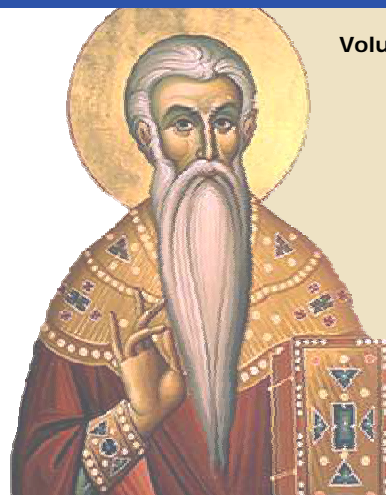


in Touch

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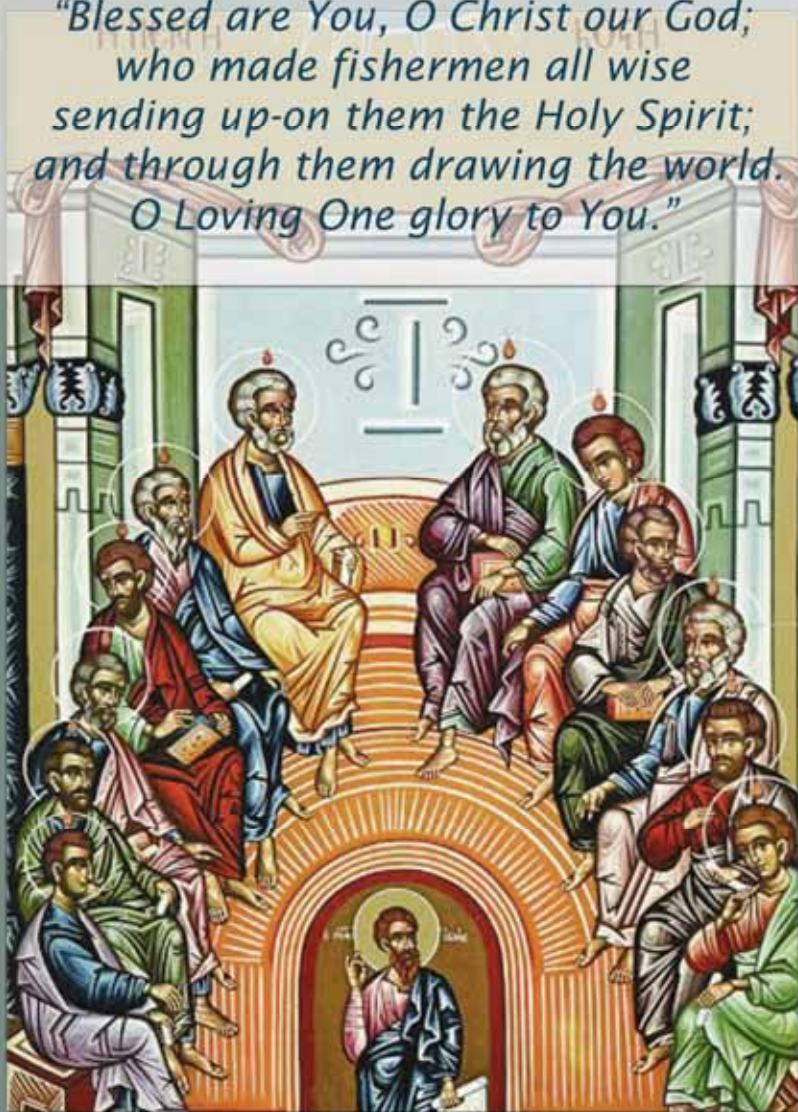


The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday of Pentecost

May 28

*"Blessed are You, O Christ our God;
who made fishermen all wise
sending up-on them the Holy Spirit;
and through them drawing the world.
O Loving One glory to You."*



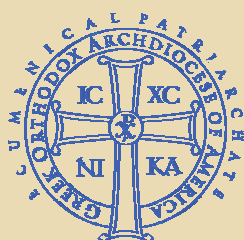
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Lord, You know that men are flesh and blood; forgive them their sins and pour out Your blessing on all. — St. Haralambos



Easter Egg Hunt



Following the Agapi Vespers on Easter Sunday, the first Easter Egg hunt at our new church was a big hit for the children.





The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The importance of the feastday of Pentecost cannot be over-emphasized in the history of Christianity. The impact Jesus' resurrection had on the disciples and on the women who first found the empty tomb was profound; but now, with the sending of the Holy Spirit, news of this life-saving event began to spread like wildfire far beyond the boundaries of Jerusalem.

Remarkably, when the apostle Peter speaks about this miracle, it is not about the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to which he refers, but rather to God the Father's promise, made centuries earlier, by the Old Testament Prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

Here we have St. Peter beginning to assume his role as a main spokesman for the apostles. He knows his audience well, himself being born a Jew, and therefore begins not by attempting to prove the divinity of Jesus (crucified only seven weeks earlier) which, at that moment, would have

caused a great controversy, but rather by using their sacred text (Old Testament) to which they could much more easily relate. This "pouring out of the Spirit" is fulfilled on this day of Pentecost; that was the message, and the cause of the apostles speaking in different languages.

Having quickly gotten their attention, St. Peter continues by making reference to Psalm 16, a portion of which reads,

"Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay."

Now he tries to convince the multitude that the One to whom King David refers in this psalm is Jesus, and the words the apostles are proclaiming in various languages are about his miraculous resurrection from the dead. "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36)

Was he successful? The following line reads, "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter

and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37) The response from St. Peter is an invitation to the sacrament of Baptism, to which 3,000 on that day responded.

From crowd's initial reaction of mockery ("They've had too much wine") to ultimately accepting the call to baptism due to his inspiring words, the skill of St. Peter's preaching with patience, honesty and love demonstrates why he was considered a leader among the apostles.

I imagine that news of the resurrection of Christ would still have been spread, albeit more slowly, without the help of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. But God is One not only to accomplish His divine purposes in this life, but who also keeps His promises. Jesus told his disciples that he would never abandon them, that through the Holy Spirit, he would be with them until the end of time. This is the gift of the Holy Spirit, the gift of Pentecost, of God's never-ending love for mankind.

But God is One not only to accomplish His divine purposes in this life, but who also keeps His promises.



**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.

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Parish Council

Ray Wysmierski, President
Mike Danielek, Vice-President
Dennis Georgen, Secretary
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
Angie Cholas
David Durgam

Demetri Gryparis
Mary Manos
Robert Szklarski
Katherine Tally
Mary Wysmierski

A Mother's Day Classic

"In honor of All Moms on Mother's Day"
By Erma Bombeck

When the good Lord was creating mothers, He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one." And the Lord said, "Have you read the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; Have 180 moveable parts . . . all replaceable; Run on black coffee and leftovers; Have a lap that disappears when she stands up; A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair; And six pairs of hands...

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands . . . no way." "It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord. "It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have." "That's on the standard model?" asked the angel. The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, 'I understand and I love you' without so much as uttering a word."



"Lord," said the angel, touching His sleeve gently, "Come to bed. Tomorrow. . ." "I can't," said the Lord, "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick . . . can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger . . . and can get a nine year-old to stand under a shower."

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed. "But tough!" said The Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure."

The angel asked, "Can it think?" "Not only think, but it can reason and compromise," said The Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek.

"There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told You, You were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said the Lord, "It's a tear." "What's it for?" asked the angel.

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride," The Lord replied.

"You are a genius," said the angel. The Lord looked somber.

"I didn't put it there," He said.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Memorial Day

The name of John McCrae (1872-1918) may seem out of place in the distinguished company of World War I poets, but he is remembered for what is probably the single best-known and popular poem from the war, "In Flanders Fields." He was a Canadian physician and fought on the Western Front in 1914, but was then transferred to the medical corps and assigned to a hospital in France. He died of pneumonia while on active duty in 1918. His volume of poetry, *In Flanders Fields and Other Poems*, was published in 1919

Saints Constantine and Helen

The Orthodox Church celebrates the feastday of the two great saints, Constantine and his mother, Helen, on May 21st. The following biographical information is from the daily Synaxarion published by Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Boston, Massachusetts.

This great and renowned sovereign of the Christians was the son of Constantius Chlorus (the ruler of the westernmost parts of the Roman Empire), and of the blessed Helen. He was born in 272, in (according to some authorities) Naissus of Dardania, a city on the Hellespont. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne.

In 312, on learning that Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, he marched into Italy, where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer."

The following night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he immediately ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ.

On the 28th Of October, he attacked and mightily conquered Maxentius, who drowned in the Tiber River while fleeing. The following day, Constantine entered Rome in triumph and was proclaimed Emperor of the West by the Senate, while Licinius, his brother-in-

law, ruled in the East. But out of malice, Licinius later persecuted the Christians. Constantine fought him once and again, and utterly destroyed him in 324, and in this manner he became monarch over the West and the East.

Under him and because of him all the persecutions against the Church ceased. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown. In 325 he



gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, which he himself personally addressed. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations of the new capital of his realm, and solemnly inaugurated it on May 11, 330, naming it after himself, Constantinople.

Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred thither from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and

it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire.

Falling ill near Nicomedia, he requested to receive divine Baptism, according to Eusebius (The Life of Constantine. Book IV, 61-62), and also according to Socrates and Sozomen; and when he had been deemed worthy of the Holy Mysteries, he reposed in 337, on May 21 or 22, the day of Pentecost, having lived sixty-five years, of which he ruled for thirty-one years. His remains were transferred to Constantinople and were deposited in the Church of the Holy Apostles, which had been built by him.

As for his holy mother Helen, after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified. After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives whence He ascended into Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere.

She was proclaimed Augusta, her image was stamped upon golden coins, and two cities were named Helenopolis after her in Bithynia and in Palestine. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age, according to some in the year 330, according to others, in 336.

Piggy Bank Fundraiser

By John Obren

With about 50 Stewardship families and individuals participating in the Piggy Bank Program, in about 7 months we have received over \$1337. A good start for rebuilding our Building Fund. Sometime in 2010, we will change from our small piggy banks to a little larger piggy bank, which will have a key to open them up. A notice in the Sunday Bulletin will be provided when the new piggy banks arrive. Thank you for your support of the program.



Parish Council Corner

Its May and we are getting settled into our new temporary worship space. Now we can think forward and continue our plan to build our permanent church. This could either be at our present location or back to 75th and Greenway; hence, our second Sunday collection for the building fund. The time is here to kick our Capital Campaign into high gear. If you have not made the pledge to our future please call the office to get your information packet.

As we begin to grow as a parish the need for volunteers increases. As a parish council we have limited resources based on different responsibilities within the church during Divine Liturgy. The need is here to solicit volunteers from the parish to assist with ushering before, during and after Liturgy. Please see David Durgam, a parish council member, if you have an interest. No experience is needed, we will train you.

I also want our members who are in good standing with your stewardship to consider sitting on the council. This past general assembly has established a committee to put together candidates and oversee the election of future council members. We also have a current need to fill vacancies on the council. See any council member to express your interest in either filling a remaining term or running for the terms beginning next year.

Remember, this is YOUR parish and we need your input. Please consider volunteering for either ushering or

council. This is a part of stewardship in dedicating your time and talents.

Now to continue my reflections from the April issue of the In Touch regarding tithing.

The government allows you numerous deductions to reduce your tax liability. In some cases there is no tax liability based on limited income.

The Lord's system seems simpler, because it's a flat rate: 10 percent of your income each year reflecting any increase with no exceptions.

When you look at tithing, the countless blessings that will truly be bestowed are innumerable. The financial gifts as well as the talents you possess are gifts from God. He expects you to utilize them in a way that brings us all closer to him.

I don't know what the right answers are on the question of tithing other than it is biblical and his written word. If tithing or offering your time and talents makes you feel uncomfortable or you can't stop wondering if it is right, then maybe you need that divine intervention through prayer to provide you the answer.

And even after an honest, full tithing, there's nothing stopping you from consecrating even more of your increase in income as offerings and other donations as needed by the church.

Thanks again to all for all that is given to God's glory and our church in which to worship.

Stewardship Committee

By Roberta Szklarski

On Sunday, May 23, we are formally welcoming and introducing our new steward families. Although we may see them regularly, most of us don't know too much about them, and this gives us an

opportunity to learn a little more of their background and interests. Everyone is welcome to stay and enjoy this special Coffee Hour as we say welcome to our new church family members.

Military Care Box Program



Items needed

Toiletries - toothpaste, mouthwash, toothbrushes, shampoo, body wash, body powder, razors, baby wipes, dental floss, chapstick, foot powder, lotion, hand sanitizer, toilet paper.

Food items - canned tuna or chicken salad, single serving containers of fruit cocktail/peaches/pears/pineapple/applesauce, Cup O'Noodles, single serving packages of cookies, instant hot chocolate

packets, single serving packages of trail mixes, cans of Spaghetti O's, Beef-A-Roni, single serving packages of Mac & Cheese, Ramen noodles, single serving cans of soups, candy bars, single serving cans of chili (with or without beans), single serving containers of pudding, dried soup mixes, single serving packets of coffee/sugar/powdered creamer, tea bags.

Miscellaneous - gallon, quart, pint & sandwich sized plastic bags. Bags of hard candy to use as fillers. Paperback books, magazines, puzzle books, hand-held games, blank cards they can send home for the upcoming holidays.

Hope this helps... and as always, thank you all so much for your continued support of our troops with your generous donations.

Remember to check the weekly Sunday bulletin for any changes or additions to Philoptochos calendar.

What is Philoptochos?

Philoptochos means "friend of the poor". The Greek Orthodox Ladies Society is the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, and is the largest women's Christian philanthropic organization in the United States! We ladies of St. Anna's (patron saint of our chapter) Philoptochos are dedicated to finding ways to make an impact and a difference not only at the National level, but in OUR own community, as well. Your participation in the organization AT ANY LEVEL OF ENERGY you are willing to commit to, is important in fulfilling this ministry of our church.



Easier Method for Parish Contributions

Join the families that have signed up for Parish Pay, making donations to our parish safe, beneficial and simple.

Parish Pay is a means of sending church contributions electronically via the internet. By going to our parish website (www.stharalambos.org) and clicking on the "Parish Pay" button, you are directed to the Parish Pay site to easily set up your account.

There is no cost to parishioners, and you decide how much and how often contributions are sent for stewardship, building fund or any other fund you

designate. Contributions can be a one-time gift, or you can set up regular monthly payments to be deducted from a checking or savings account or credit card. It is a safe and secure system.

Benefits are: eliminates the need for writing checks; automatically sends contributions even if you are ill or out of town, earns points, bonuses or mileage when coupled with credit card accounts.

For further information, please contact our Parish Council Treasurer Stella Pagos at 623-975-0027. Consider Parish Pay for all your church donations.

ParishPay
Making it Easier to Give™

Birthdays



William Georgen (3rd)
Charlotte Servetas (5th)
Shirley Germentis (8th)
Megan Pallad (10th)
Effie Watters (11th)
Alexandria Francis (15th)
Melani Ioannou (16th)
Lourdes Kotsobeis (16th)
Helene Georgiou (17th)
Aristithi Vardalos (18th)
Alexandra Pallad (19th)
Nicoletta Theoharatos (21st)
Dena Waters (21st)
Katherine Stithem (26th)
Ann Morley (28th)
Barbara Hartsel (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.

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: Orin Davis, Lee Feutz, Michael Fulghum, Don Hensen, John and Mary Karavaras, Nikita and Josette Reisler.

Memory Eternal

May our Lord Jesus Christ grant eternal rest to the soul of Dave Fredericksen, who fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, April 10th. Dave was an active member of our parish, serving on the Parish Council and singing in the choir. Our heartfelt sympathies to his wife Olga and their sons, John and Chris.

Special Thanks

- ✝ Olga, Chris and Johnny would like to thank the entire community for all their love and support. It was greatly appreciated. Knowing how much you loved Dave is a great comfort to us. Thank you for all your prayers and help. It made a difficult time a little easier to bear. Thank you again. Yours in Christ, Olga
- ✝ There is nothing I could say that would say it any better than "Thank You" to everyone for your get well wishes following my recent surgery. The phone calls, cards and especially your prayers were very much appreciated. From Penny Obren

Name Days

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

St. Nikephoros (4th)	St. Glykeria (13th)
St. Irene (5th)	St. Pachomios (15th)
Prophet Job (6th)	St. Symeon (24th)
St. Christopher (9th)	Sts. Constantine and Helen (21st)
St. Simon (10th)	Sts. Theodosios and Theodosia (29th)



MAY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	3 7:00pm Philoptochos	4	5	6	7	8
9 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Mother's Day	10	11 7:00pm Parish Council	12	13 9am Divine Liturgy Ascension of Christ 7:00pm Choir	14	15
16 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	17	18	19	20	21 9am Divine Liturgy Sis. Constantine & Helen	22
23 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday of Pentecost New Steward Welcome	24 No Fasting this week	25	26	27 7:00pm Choir	28	29
30 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	31 Memorial Day (Church Office closed)					



All Saints Camp

Sunday, June 6- Friday, June 11, 2010

For campers entering 3rd grade through Senior in High School.

Only \$260.00

for 6 days, 5 nights, and all meals included!

All Saints Camp is a sleep-away camp held in the cool pines of Flagstaff, Arizona. There is no additional charge for transportation to and from the camp from either St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Chandler or Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix.

All Saints Camp offers

- volleyball
- basketball
- archery
- a tree-top ropes course
- Capture-the-Flag
- hiking
- nightly bonfires with songs
- games
- arts and crafts
- skits
- organized Olympics
- *and more-*

all within an Orthodox setting with daily Matins, Vespers, and Christ-centered lessons.

Applications available at www.holytrinityphx.org under Ministries
or contact Kathy Clarke at kathyclarke@cox.net or
Kristen Vasilarakos at kvasilarakos@cox.net