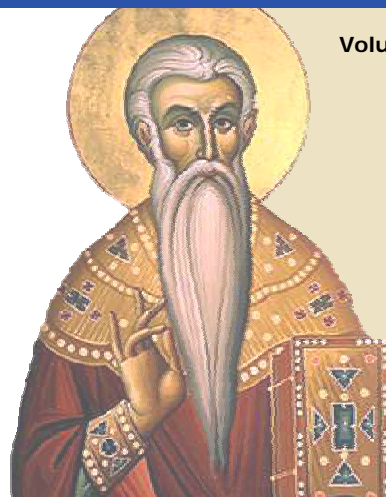


in Touch

Volume 19, Issue 5

May 2011



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

**Continuing Our
Lenten Practices • 3**

**Maintenance
Ministry • 4**

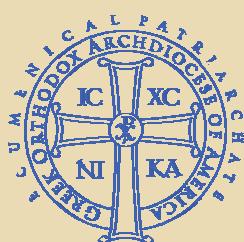
**General
Assembly • 5**

**Philoptochos
Agape Ball • 8**

**Summer
Camp • 11**

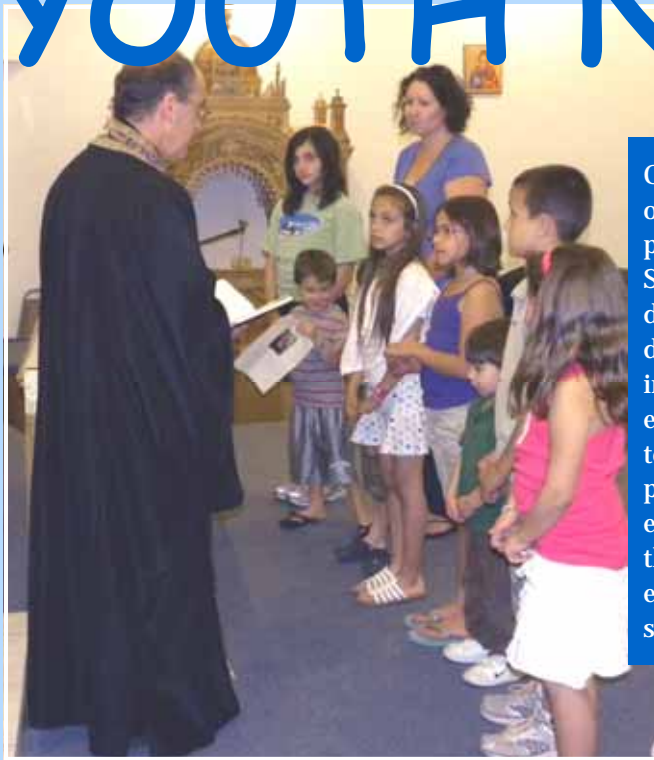
Mother's Day

Sunday, May 8th



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

YOUTH NIGHT



Our focus last month was on forgiveness, and preparing for the Sacrament of Confession during Lent. Fr. Michael discussed the sacrament in the church to give everyone an idea of what to expect. Our young people were all eyes and ears since for many of them this was their first experience with this sacrament.



This month Youth Night will be on Thursday, May 12 at 6pm. The theme is "I am the Shepherd." All our young people through high-school are welcome to attend. Please see Lindsay Vardalos or Chrissy King for more information.

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival



By Jeannette Hollander

On April 10th, several of St. Haralambos Sunday School students participated in the St. John Chrysostom Greek Orthodox Oratorical Festival, held at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale. The purpose of the Oratorical Festival is to give our youth (grades four through twelve) an opportunity to learn, write, and speak about their Orthodox Faith, Church, and Heritage.

We at St. Haralambos are so proud of all the Sunday School students who participated in the Festival. Many of our elementary division students (grades four through six) prepared for the Festival by taking the time to write their speech during class. We applaud George Papamatheakis's presentation. This introduction to the St. John Chrysostom



Oratorical Festival sets the foundation for many years of future participation.

Congratulations to our junior division participants Elizabeth Baxter, Alexandra Pallad, and Alexander Papamatheakis. Each speaker provided us insight on the topics of fasting, peacemakers, and selecting a saint as a mentor. Elizabeth and Alexandra were named as the finalists who will represent St. Haralambos at the District Oratorical Festival!



We would like to first express a very special thank-you for Fr. Michael's support of this program; next for the encouragement and support provided by the parents; and finally, the Sunday school teachers and youth leaders who assisted with speech critiques and festival time-keeping.



Continuing Our Lenten Practices

We have just completed the Great Fast, finished our Lenten journey, celebrated the holy Resurrection of Christ, and proclaimed that He is truly risen from the dead. The Resurrection Season continues for the next 40 days, until the Feastday of the Ascension of Christ (June 2), during which time we sing "Christ is Risen," and greet each other with the same words.

And yet, for many at this time, a lingering question begs to be answered: "Now, what?" Because the Fast has finished, do we return to our previous eating habits? Do we pray less often or become less charitable? Because we are no longer in a fasting period, do our personal spiritual disciplines come to a complete halt?

If our Lenten journey meant anything at all, we would quickly have to answer those questions with a resounding "No." What value does spiritual growth have, if it is not put into practice? We don't need to

keep a fast as strictly as we did during lent, but hopefully, we would see how the benefits of the Lenten practices can be applied throughout the rest of the year.

The purpose of Lent is to make a concerted effort to deny ourselves what we think we need, and fill our time with what we truly need. We truly need to give less attention to needs of our bodies, and more attention to needs of our soul; we truly need to spend more time in prayer, and we truly need to learn follow more closely the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If we can make a little progress in these areas during Lent, just think how great it would be to continue that progress beyond Lent. That is making the best use of Lent – which is given to us by our Church for our spiritual benefit and growth, and for no other reason.

The celebration of the resurrection of Christ in the

Orthodox Church is preceded by a time of spiritual discipline to help our awareness of our dependency on God. This is a lesson that cannot be overstated or taught too often. As advanced as our society has become in so many areas such as communications, medicine, to name just two; we have to be aware of the temptation to delude ourselves into believing we have no need for God, and for the Church established by His Son's crucifixion and resurrection.

To answer the question, "And now what?" is very simple: We move ahead, we continue to "fight the good fight" and ask the Lord to direct our lives both as individuals and as member of this parish, using our gifts and talents to His glory, and to thank Him for giving us another day to shine in the world as His servants.

We truly need to give less attention to needs of our bodies, and more attention to needs of our soul;



**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
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

Dennis Georgen, President
Ray Wysmierski, Vice President
Dean Milonas, Treasurer
Mike Danielek, Secretary
Angie Cholas
David Durgam

Dimitri Gryparis
Mary Manos
George Miller
Katherine Tally
Ken Wrona

Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly

We're looking for two additional parish representatives to the Clergy-Laity Assembly this month, held at the St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, California on May 16-17. Each parish is to be represented by their priest, Parish Council president and two lay representatives. Please contact Council President Dennis Georgen or the church office for further details.

We would also like to ask for contributions to help defray the costs of the assembly, which include transportation and registration.

Maintenance Ministry

On Saturday, May 14 at 7am, we are meeting at the church to perform some basic maintenance; outside and inside the church. Please dress appropriately – we will be working with spillable materials.

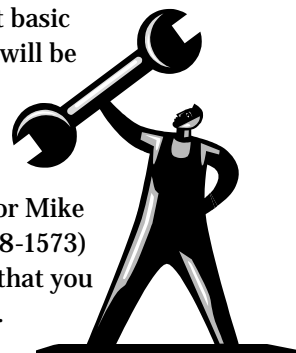
Following are the projects to be completed that Saturday morning:

- Weed Control
- Critter Fence Repair
- Playground Equipment Safety Inspect; Tighten all Fasteners (bolts, lag bolts etc.); Stain Wood
- Exterior Stucco Repair

- Interior Wood Maintenance
- Interior Wall Repair

We welcome anyone who is able to assist us with these general maintenance projects. Our next basic maintenance day will be held in October.

Please call Dean Milonas (602-548-9900) or Mike Danielek (602-978-1573) to let them know that you are ready to work.



Stewardship with a Twist

By Dennis Georgen, President

As you are by now aware, Father Michael begins a much-needed vacation and anticipated three-month sabbatical immediately following our Celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection on Sunday, Apr. 24. While Father Michael is away, our Church will be open and all programs, ministries, and scheduled services will continue without interruption.

You might be thinking: well, fine, thank you for sharing, but what does that mean for me? Well, first, it means that your regular attendance at Divine Liturgy and other scheduled services is just as important in the months of May, June, and July, while Father is away, as it is throughout the year. While we appreciate Father's chanting during services, and his inspiring messages during his sermon, his time away will give us the opportunity to participate in Divine services with three other distinguished Clergyman and to hear their words of inspiration.

It means that our planning for the 2011 Taste of Greece Festival must begin on

time with the same energy and enthusiasm as last year. In 2010, we set a pretty high bar for all future Festivals to be compared against; with record-breaking attendance, and more importantly, with an energy and a sense of community that was unparalleled. We can't wait for Father to return before we get started this year. We need to all step up now and do our part. Quite frankly, I can't wait, since the 2011 Festival will be even bigger and better!

It means that if you have needs that only a Priest can provide, the Church will be open, and even if Father Michael may be unavailable, Pastoral services will be provided. All calls will be answered.

In short, this is an opportunity for us to make Father Michael proud of who we are and what we, as a Community, can accomplish.

We wish Father Michael well during his Sabbatical and we will look forward to his return, refreshed and reenergized; so that we, together, can continue to move our Parish of St Haralambos forward.

General Assembly

All parishioners are requested to attend the Spring General Assembly which is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, after services. Agendas have been mailed that highlight the various parish organizations that will be reporting on their progress. The assembly is the time to hear about the progress of our parish as well as to voice any concerns you may have. Make the time to stay informed about the activities and plans of your church!

Two-Cent Lunch

As Greek Orthodox Christians, we, together with Clergy, have a responsibility to assist in managing our Church's affairs. We see this at the highest levels of national organization as with the Biennial Clergy – Laity Congress, and we see it at the local level in our General Assemblies and Parish Councils.

It is incumbent upon all Orthodox Christians to share in the responsibility of helping guide the Church's work. As they traditionally have done, the Philoptochos Society will provide a light lunch prior to the convening of the General Assembly. To facilitate your voice being heard, this spring we are instituting the Two-Cent Lunch as a part of the General Assembly. No, you don't have to pay two cents for lunch.

The Two-Cent Lunch is intended to provide an opportunity for you to give the Parish Council your "two cents" - to express your aspirations as well as your concerns; to tell us what is on your mind,

and to give us your suggestions about how we might improve our Church.

The rules of the two-cent lunch are quite simple. You will own the microphone for no more than five minutes; although we would ask you to limit your time to two minutes so that everyone has the opportunity to speak. During your allotted time there will be no discussion, no redirect, and no rebuttal. Your Parish Council will simply take notes regarding your comments or statement. If your statement or intention is unclear, the General Assembly Chair may allow for a clarification question so that you are understood.

Once everyone has had an opportunity to give their two cents, the open microphone will be closed and all information contributed will be taken under advisement. It's that simple.

Why are we doing this? Because we believe that everyone who is a Member of our Church has a right and a responsibility to be heard, to have their ideas considered, and to receive a response. We believe that our strength comes from the variety of perspectives that we have within our Community, and we believe that without your thoughts and expressions, we can't be the Church we all desire to be.

Please plan to attend the General Assembly on Sunday, May 1.

Taste of Greece Festival

Would you believe it? Our annual Taste of Greece Festival is only six months away – October 21, 22 and 23! And that means it's again time for the planning to begin.

If you are interested in participating in the initial planning session, there will be a

Festival meeting on Sunday, May 15, following Divine Liturgy. At this meeting, we will briefly recap last year's event and review areas that may need improvement for 2011. I hope to see you there!

Weddings & Baptisms

Beautiful, reasonably-priced accessories for all your blessed events.

- ✙ Lambathes (candles)
- ✙ Martyrika (witness pins)
- ✙ Stefana (crowns)
- ✙ Boubounieres (favors)

All items are custom made by **Sacramental Styles**.

If you have any needs, please contact Reni Milonas at 602-548-9900 or rmilonas@cox.net.



ORGANIZATIONS



Name Days

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

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

Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President
CHRISTOS ANESTI!

May 2, will be ELECTION DAY! Please attend this very important meeting at 7pm.

Please remember to bring your white-
elephant jewelry for sale within the church. I encourage your participation.

Agape Ball (see page 8).

Final meeting for this fiscal year will be June 6.

Coffee Hour – Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ! Have you thought about hosting the Sunday coffee hour, but because of time constraints have been unable to offer? We gladly accept donations if that is more feasible for you. If you can't afford to cover an entire Sunday coffee, we can combine it with other donations; we will print all donators' names in the bulletin as hosts. When no one signs up, Philoptochos must provide the goodies we enjoy on Sunday. Those

goodies, as well as the paper products and juice, are either funded by us or come out of the money we need for our charitable obligations. The less money we use toward this end, the more money we have for our current charitable obligations, as well as new charitable projects and our personal almsgiving.

The money put in the basket each Sunday is intended for Philoptochos's charitable obligations – not to fund coffee hours. We have quite a few obligations and would welcome any questions regarding what we do and who we help.

Fellowship is so important in our lives and is essential in our Church life, which is why Fr. Michael has asked Philoptochos to provide drinks and a few snacks after church. Please consider if you may be able to help more toward that end.

Thank you, Valla Wrona, Coffee Hour Coordinator

Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Director

Do You Like Ice Cream?

As our Sunday School year comes to an end, we would like to thank all of our parents, grandparents, students, and teachers for a great year. We registered 54 students this year, a milestone for St. Haralambos. The increase in student enrollment reflects well on our parents and their participation and commitment.

We are blessed to have an excellent staff. Our teachers have spent countless hours preparing lessons and crafts; making sure that when your students attend, they receive a valuable lesson to carry with them through the week. Chryss Danielek prepared the snacks, and Martha Stithem, Andrianna Henson, and Lindsay Vardalos have been the backbone of our program this year. We thank each of them; we are

blessed. God willing, we will all be back together again next year to continue our work with St. Haralambos Sunday School.

The end-of-the-year program will be held on Sunday, May 22. We would like as many of our parents to accompany their students on that day, as we participate in the Divine Liturgy, followed by the presentation of the student certificates.

Registration for next year will begin the first Sunday in August, and continue each Sunday through September. The opening of the next session of Sunday School will be on Sunday September 11, 2011.

Parents, next September ask yourselves this question: Do you like Sundays better than any other day of the week? If you can't answer that, think about this:

Try our Sundays - They are better than Baskin Robbins and Dairy Queen.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Living the Liturgy

Rev. Dr. Stanley S. Harakas, 1974, p. 144

Truly, truly, I say to you unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you have no life in you. (John 6:5)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the primary act of worship for Orthodox Christians, but are you among those who complain, "I don't get anything out of going to Church"? Then this book was written for you. We all want our worship to be meaningful and inspiring. However, if we want to "get something" out of the Church, we must learn what is being done in the Divine Liturgy and how to take an active part in it. This book gives us all the information we need and moves us to take action!

When we participate in the Divine Liturgy, we bring to God all our concerns; all that which is important in our lives. This is what makes the Liturgy a vital, rewarding experience. Then Fr. Harakas says we are "Living the Liturgy." Although there are many useful books to aid the worshipper, this is the first to structure the Liturgy "so as to guide the worshipper in specific acts of participation."

Fr. Harakas writes that the Orthodox faith sees for each of us a wonderful purpose in life: "to become as much as is humanly possible like God." When we receive Holy Communion, "we receive the

Divine Presence in our lives...and we fulfill our desire to be one in thought...and action with God."

"No more erroneous statement can be made than to assert that a person can be a 'good Christian' without attending the Divine

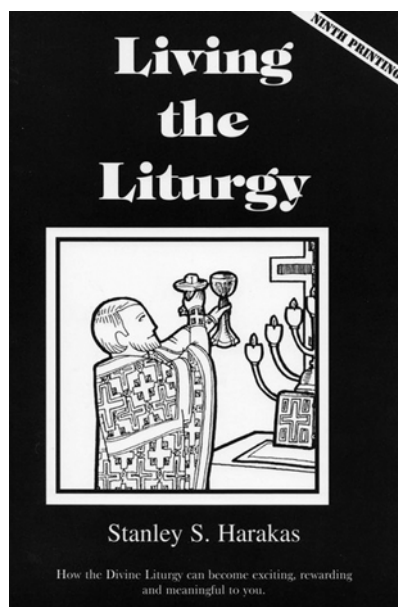
Liturgy! It is in the Divine Liturgy that we find the reality of our union with Christ [as well as with] one another." We, the Church body, remember the entire sacrificial life of Christ from His birth to

His Ascension and proclaim that our "response to the saving work of Christ" makes us "members of the Kingdom of God...beginning in this life and extending into eternity."

The author talks about "the place of the laity in Church so that we can see that lay-participation is an essential element...of the Liturgy." One example is during the Cherubic Hymn when we should consider our actions during the previous week.

Did we hurt someone or fail to show love when it was needed? Then we should ask forgiveness for the sins we committed.

Fr. Harakas invites us to discover for ourselves "the life-giving, powerful, and enriching experience of liturgical participation." We will "enter into the reality of not merely 'following' or 'attending' the Divine Liturgy, but of truly and fully 'Living the Liturgy.'"



Lost and Found

Can't find those keys? Wondering where your sunglasses went? Every now and then personal items are left at the church. When we find them, we put them in the church office, hoping their owners will call looking for them. But we can't hold onto them forever!

Currently there are a set of keys, sunglasses, earrings and a bracelet. If they might be yours, call the church office during the week and ask about them. After six months, we'll be taking them over to Good Will.

Birthdays



Beycue Russom (1)
Charlotte Servetas (5)
Shirley Germenis (8)
Megan Pallad (10)
William McBride (12)
Hermela Desta (13)
Aristithi Vardalos (18)
Voule Kapetanakis (19)
Nicoletta Theoharatos (21)
Yiorgos Papamatheakis (23)
Katherine Stithem (26)
Ann Morley (28)
Barbara Hartsel (29)
Jaden Albrant (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.

Sacraments

God's blessings and "Many Years" to the newly baptized Pierce Panayiotis Retsinas, son of Bill and Brittany Retsinas, on

Sunday, Mar. 20. Pierce's godparents are Perry and Jennifer Leros.

Thank You

Beloved Fr. Michael, Philoptochos and Parish Family,

Out of a tragedy a seed was planted and a flower bloomed. The Giannias Emergency Fund in memory of our Roy Peter, who in life no matter how small the deed, helped the less fortunate. Now through your selfless efforts the fund will

continue to grow and help families in our parish. It is difficult to find the words to express what we feel but please accept our most heartfelt THANK YOU.

Your Sisters in Christ, Elaine Giannias, Esther & Kathy Lampropoulos, Estelle Lazzelle

Arizona Philoptochos Third Annual

Agape Ball

"give your heart to a child"

Saturday, May 14, 2011

St. Katherine Community Center, 2716 N. Dobson Rd. Chandler, AZ 85224

Tickets \$40 per person

Champagne and hors d' oeuvres - Mezethes & carving station buffet

Specialty desserts, coffee, tea - Beer, wine & cocktails (no host bar)

Silent auction, drawings - Live music & dancing

Champagne Reception – 6:30 pm

Dinner & Dancing – 7:30 pm

Cocktail Attire

In 2008, Arizona Philoptochos Chapters and the San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos Board opened our first family cancer camp. This will mark our fourth year hosting Arizona families in need. These camping opportunities are made possible through your love and support. Your generous tax deductible donation will touch the lives of many cancer-afflicted children and their families. A \$300 donation helps send a child to camp; a \$1200 donation helps send a family of four to camp.

For more information, contact Charlotte Servetas (623) 933-6647

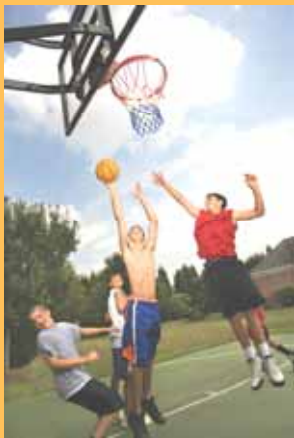
All Proceeds Support Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape

MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. Thomas Sunday Spring General Assembly	2 7:00pm Philoptochos	3	4	5	6	7 10:00am Seniors of St. Haralambos
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. John the Theologian Mother's Day	9	10 7:00pm Parish Council	11	12 6:00 pm Youth Night 7:00pm Choir Practice	13	14
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Festival Meeting	16	17	18	19 7:00pm Choir Practice	20	21
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Last day of Sunday School	23	24	25	26 7:00pm Choir Practice	27	28
29 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	30 Memorial Day (office closed)	31				

All Saints Summer Camp

Sunday, June 5 - Friday, June 10



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

Only \$260.00 - 6 days, 5 nights, and all meals included!

All Saints Camp is a sleep-away camp held in the cool pines of Prescott, 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 within an Orthodox setting with daily Matins, Vespers, and Christ-centered lessons.

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



- Nightly bonfires with songs
- Games
- Arts and crafts
- Skits
- Organized Olympics
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Archery
- Capture-the-Flag
- Hiking
- Tree-top ropes course
- and more