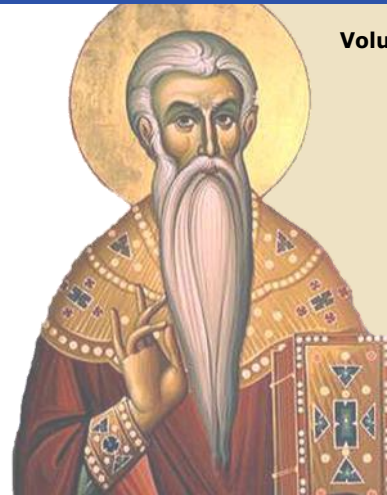


in Touch

Volume 22, Issue 5

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The Empty Tomb



He Is Risen!

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

Holy Friday





Christ is Risen!

*“O death, where is thy sting?
O Hades, where is thy victory?
Christ is risen, and you are
overthrown!*

*Christ is risen, and the demons
are fallen!*

*Christ is risen, and the angels
rejoice!*

Christ is risen, and life reigns!

*Christ is risen, and not one dead
remains in a tomb!*

*For Christ, being raised from the
dead, has become the first-fruits of
them that have slept.*

*To Him be glory and might unto
the ages of ages. Amen.”*

For the past 22 years, I have read aloud those words of St. John Chrysostom each year at the midnight Resurrection service, and it’s amazing how moving they are, even at 2am, every year. You cannot read those words with a calm tone of voice, they are just too powerful.

This sermon was written for everyone to relate to and

understand, for all to enjoy and to be made aware of God’s love and mercy. This sermon was not written by an amateur; this saint is able to express one of the most profound mysterious events in human history with great skill. He knows what he wants to say, what he needs to say, and he chose his words carefully. He easily moves from scripture to original thought, blending the two as if they came from the same source.

By the time it has finished, everyone is waiting to shout “Christ is risen!” all together; which is precisely the point. It’s hard to imagine not hearing the people respond, leaving the church in silence after that amazing sermon.

He brings back the indescribable joy of the apostles, of the women who first saw the empty tomb, our Lord’s mother, and of all His followers. The Lord coming back to life following the crucifixion was too much for some to truly believe—and not only Thomas. Everyone needed

some convincing, but eventually came around to believe the unbelievable, even Thomas.

The Resurrection season in the Orthodox Church lasts for six weeks, as long as the Lenten Journey leading to Holy Week. This symmetry is by design, reminding us of the equality between feasting and fasting.

May our Risen Lord be a continual source of spiritual growth, guidance and blessing for all. If we have learned to be more giving to others and have practiced greater self-control during the Lenten Journey, may we also be blessed with the strength to continue these virtues throughout the Resurrection season, and beyond.

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**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship

Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

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Hours

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

Parish Council

Dennis Georgen
Kathy Harvey
Timothy Harvey
Lali Mekvabishbili

Russel Skocypec
Dorothy Vordos
Lee Vordos
Russell Zook

Spring General Assembly

Our annual Spring General Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, following the Divine Liturgy. Exciting news and updates to our annual Greek Festival and

other parish activities will be presented. Mark your calendars and stay afterwards – this is one Assembly you're not going to want to miss!

Mother's Day



Sunday, May 11 is Mother's Day. It's only one day a year, so don't let it go by without telling your mom how much she means to you, and to thank her for all the years she helped raise, educate, heal,

feed, change, bathe, comfort, correct and love you. Even for those whose mother's have passed on, remembering her in prayer is another way to say "Thank you."

A Gathering of Prayer at a Busy Time

Christ is Risen! I am deeply grateful to our Gathering of Prayer folks for taking the time during this year's Lenten journey and Holy Week to pray for our parish members who fell asleep in the Lord during this hectic time of year.

Your outpouring of prayer for Ken Masley, Costas (Gus Stamnas) and Mary

Harrington was a loving act of spiritual mercy given to our parish family. Having three concurrent prayer efforts was a first for us. Many, many thanks to all of you for your kindness.

Anyone who is interested in joining the group can contact Kay Fulghum for information. Thank you!

Youth Group

The Holy Friday Retreat was a huge success! Thank you so much to all of the children who attended. The children learned about ways that saints have given, and made blessing bags to hand out to homeless. Thank you also to the volunteers, who helped teach the various stations, and to those who helped with set

-up, clean up, and donating items and money for the retreat.

Our final Youth Group meeting for the school year will be on May 10 from 4-7 in the social hall at church. We will have our annual pizza and ice cream party as well as a water balloon fight. Please join us!

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Valla Wrona, President

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

I hope you all had a fruitful Lenten journey. Many thanks to all our wonderful cooks (Philoptochos, parishioners, and Executive Council) for providing the Wednesday meals for the Pre-sanctified Liturgies. It is a worthy endeavor as the proceeds will benefit Hellenic College Holy Cross Seminary. Although it is a Lenten meal, it's not cheap to feed 30 people and it takes time and talent as well, so we really appreciate all you offered. If you weren't able to make it this year, you also missed out on hearing about Fr. Michael's impromptu balloon trip from our parking lot and Pamela Barksdale's OCMC presentation on Albania. They are doing a lot of wonderful missionary work in Albania and are very grateful for our help. Missionary Pamela Barksdale would also appreciate you keeping her in your prayers.

Special thanks also goes to Argyro (Sylvia) Vasquez for cooking up our annual Palm Sunday luncheon, those who helped cook and make palm crosses on Lazarus Saturday, and also those who stayed to purchase and enjoy the Palm Sunday meal. Thank you also to Fr. Michael for providing breakfast on Lazarus Saturday as well as refreshments every Tuesday after the Compline service.

As always the Epitaphios was beautiful, thanks to the talents of a number of ladies from St. Haralambos. Thank you also to everyone who donated dyed eggs and helped with the Anastasi reception.

Now that we have come to the end of our Lenten journey, please turn in any

Pennies & Prayers donations to our treasurer, Julie Karoutas, or Valla Wrona. As you can see from this excerpt from the Metropolis website, our pennies and prayers prove very beneficial:

The proceeds from the Pennies and Prayers program is used to foster parish growth, educate the faithful, potential converts, inactive Orthodox Christians in Evangelism and Mission consonant with the Great Commission of Christ. Funds are also used to start a bookstore for education and spiritual formation or for help in attending the Clergy Laity Assembly. In addition, funds have been used to assist parishes with medical insurance for their priest or for travel expenses for those traveling on behalf of COME to assist with continued development.

On May 4, Philoptochos will be providing a light lunch for the spring general assembly.

Mother's Day is May 11. I hope all the ladies enjoy their day!

Don't forget about Camp Agape, which will be in Mayer, Arizona, May 29 through Jun. 1. The theme this year is Shipwrecked on an Island. For further information, please contact the church office or Valla Wrona.

Our next meeting will be held May 5, at 7 p.m. Please come help us continue the work of the Church.



Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts/sponsors.

April

6: Paula & Gale Farr
13: Philoptochos Fish Luncheon
20: Pascha
27: Julie Karoutas

May

4: Available
11: Available
18: Available
25: Available

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



Sunday School

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School

Christ Is Risen!

Although Great Lent has ended, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese website www.lent.goarch.org, continues to serve as a rich and meaningful internet teaching tool to help families better understand the church feasts this month. Additional links and gospel readings for this month's feasts are as follows:

Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women

Archdiocese website: lent.goarch.org/Sunday_of_myrrhbearers/learn/

Sunday of the Paralytic

(John 5:1-15)

Archdiocese website: lent.goarch.org/Sunday_of_the_paralytic/learn/

Feast of Mid-Pentecost

Archdiocese website: lent.goarch.org/mid_pentecost/learn/

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

(John 4:5-42)

Archdiocese website: lent.goarch.org/Sunday_of_the_samaritan_woman/learn/

Sunday of the Blind Man

(John 9:1-41)

Archdiocese website: lent.goarch.org/Sunday_of_the_blindman/learn/

May Sunday School Schedule

The last day of Sunday School classes will be May 11. On Sunday, May 18, there will be an end of year presentation of certificates for our students and teachers following Divine Liturgy. During the summer months, it is hoped that our parish families will continue to attend church as they are able. It would behoove our parents to occasionally review with their children any Sunday school material that was sent home during the past year.

I want to extend a big heartfelt thank you to our Sunday School Teachers and Volunteers for all their hard work and support this past year. You have been a blessing to our Sunday School students and me.

Sunday School Monetary Donations Request

The Sunday School is requesting monetary donations to fulfill a Wish List of teacher requested items for our classrooms and students. Any monetary donation to Sunday School would be greatly appreciated and may be tax deductible.

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)
Sts. Constantine and Helen (21st)
Sts. Theodosios and Theodosia (29th)

Forever Young

“Cinco de Mayo” luncheon at Macayo’s Mexican Kitchen

Dear fellow seniors, yes that means anyone 50 or older, we are planning to go to lunch on Monday, May 5 at the “Macayo’s Mexican Kitchen”, we will meet there by 1 p.m. The address is: 6012 W. Bell Rd., Glendale, 602-298-8080. They are on the north-west corner of 59th Avenue and Bell Road.

I was told that they will be celebrating “Cinco de Mayo” all day long, with special things planned. Ole’

Please make your reservations ASAP; we need to have a count for reservations, contact Julie at 623-972-2382 or juliekaroutas@gmail.com. Julie will also be available at church on Sunday.

On Sunday, May 25 at 3 p.m. there will be a free Memorial Day concert by the Arizona Winds Concert Band at Mountain Ridge High School, 22800 N. 67th Avenue, Glendale. This will be a season finale concert featuring many beautiful Patriotic pieces. Please plan to be there by 2:30 p.m. as these concerts are very popular. We have had several new members come to the concert and they have enjoyed it very much. Following the concert, I would like to invite those attending from our group, to my home for coffee and dessert.

On our outings we have enjoyed not just the food or the music, but the “fellowship”.

Many thanks to Pete Alexopoulos and his sons for a delicious meal; they are very gracious hosts. When you are in the Anthem area, please make it a point to stop in at “Two Brothers Kitchen” restaurant. The food is excellent!

With Christ’s love,
CristoV Anesth - AlhqwV Anesth!
Julie Karoutas



Two Brothers Kitchen, April 3rd, 2014

Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of Mary Harrington, who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, Apr. 11. A life-long, active, faithful and dedicated servant of

the Lord, Mary passed peacefully in her home. Our love and sympathy are extended to her son Stavro. May her memory be eternal.

ORGANIZATIONS

Birthdays



Beylul Russom (1)
Charlotte Servetas (5)
Shirley Germanis (8)
Despina Tremoulis (8)
Alex Gavrilidis (9)
Megan Pallad (10)
Tamara Kurilova (12)
William McBride (12)
Hermela Desta (13)
Melani Ioannou (16)
Tony Panousopoulos (18)
Aristithi Vardalos (18)
Voule Kapetanakis (19)
Alexandra Pallad (19)
Jeff Sokol (20)
Nicoletta Theoharatos (21)
Yiorgos Papamatheakis (23)
Genet Tesfay (23)
Ann Morley (28)
Barbara Hartsel (29)

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.

Easter Sunday Gospel Readers

Many thanks to our parishioners who were able to read the Resurrection Gospel on Easter Sunday in a variety of languages: Spanish: David Rodriguez; Latin: Christine Hollander; Eritrean:

Bereket Roussom; German and English: Kay Fulghum; French: Alexandra Pallad; Arabic: Anwar Al-Bandak; Mandarin: Sophia Rodriguez; and Greek: Fr. Michael



To all my Church family,
I wish you all a blessed Easter and much love in Christ. I miss you all and each day is a challenge to get stronger. The breathing and lungs are involved. I am feeling better but still have a couple of months to go.
With God's care and love I'll make it.
Love in Christ, Anna Yacyshyn

MAY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	2	3
4 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	5 7:00pm Philoptochos	6	7	8 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	9	10 10:30am Festival Meeting 4:00pm Youth Night Pizza and Ice Cream
11 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Mother's Day	12 7:00pm Parish Council	13	14	15 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	16	17
18 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Spring General Assembly Sunday School End of Year Recognition	19	20	21 9:00am Divine Liturgy Sts Constantine and Helen	22 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	23	24
25 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	26 Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)	27 7:00pm Executive Council	28	29 9:00am Divine Liturgy Ascension of Christ 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	30	31

Caring Friends



Once again, Caring Friends volunteers fulfilled their mission by bringing Easter joy to our elderly and homebound. Special thanks go to Voula Dodd and to Dina, Edna, Reni, and Stella for baking.