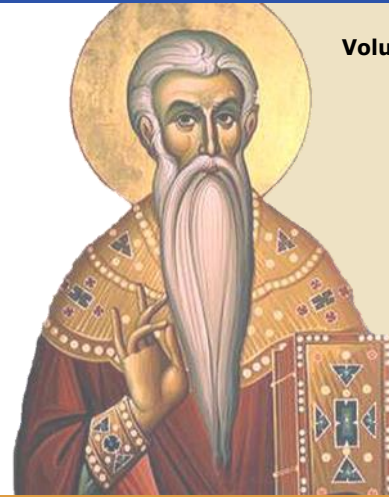


in Touch

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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

Lives of the Saints

We continue with the brief biographies of the saints depicted in the new icons recently blessed and installed in our Church. This month will include saints Irene, Katherine and Marina.

Saint Irene



Saint Irene, who was named Penelope by her parents, through divine revelation was brought to faith in Christ and at Baptism was renamed Irene. In her zeal for piety she broke in pieces all the idols of her father, who commanded that she be trampled underfoot by horses. But while she remained unharmed, one of the horses rose up and cast down her father, killing him. By her prayers she raised him to life again, and he believed and was baptized.

Afterwards, Saint Irene suffered torments and punishments for her faith, but was preserved by the power of God, while working awe-inspiring miracles and converting many thousands of souls. At last she came to Ephesus, where she fell asleep in peace, in the first half of the fourth century. Two days after her death, her gravestone was found lifted off, and her grave empty. The feastday of Saint Irene is celebrated on May 5.

Saint Katherine



Saint Katherine, who was from Alexandria, Egypt, was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. Towards the end of the 3rd century in Alexandria, because Christianity was not yet a well-known religion, frequent public debates took place during which many philosophers ridiculed the Christian Faith.

At the age of 18, Katherine challenged all the pagan philosophers in public debates and quickly defeated them with her wit and

devout faith. Tradition tells us that while arrested for refusing to denounce her faith in Christ, she was tied to a

large wooden wheel, which was studded with spikes and then revolved to produce great pain.

Never renouncing her faith in Christ, she suffered martyrdom in the year 311 AD. Her body was brought to the monastery of Mount Sinai where she is still venerated to this day. Her feastday is celebrated on November 25.

Saint Marina



This Martyr lived during the reign of Claudius II (268-270AD). She was the only daughter of a certain priest of the idols. On being orphaned by her mother, she was handed over to a certain woman who instructed her in the Faith of Christ.

When she was fifteen years old, she was apprehended by the ruler of Olmbrus, and when asked her name, homeland, and faith, she answered: "My name is Marina; I am the offspring of Cilicia; I call upon the Name of my Lord Jesus Christ."

Because of this she endured bonds, imprisonment, and many whippings, and was finally beheaded in the year 270. Saint Marina is especially invoked for deliverance from demonic possession. Her feastday is celebrated on July 17.

30th Anniversary Banquet

The 30th anniversary banquet has been postponed to the Fall. Further details to follow.

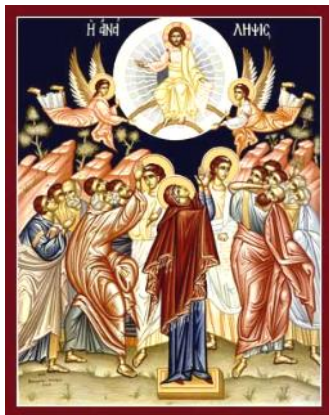


The Ascension of Christ

Feastday of the Ascension of Christ: Thursday, May 25.

The Lord Jesus passed forty days on earth after His Resurrection from the dead, appearing continually in various places to His disciples, with whom He also spoke, ate, and drank, thereby further demonstrating His Resurrection. On this Thursday, the fortieth day after Pascha, He appeared again in Jerusalem. After He had first spoken to the disciples about many things, He gave them His last commandment, that is, that they go forth and proclaim His Name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. But He also commanded them that for the present, they were not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait there together until they receive power from on high, when the Holy Spirit would come upon them.

Saying these things, He led them to the Mount of Olives, and raising His hands, He blessed them; and saying again the words of the Father's blessing, He was parted from them and taken up. Immediately a cloud of light, a proof of His majesty, received Him. Sitting thereon as though on a royal chariot, He was taken up into Heaven, and after a short time was concealed from



the sight of the disciples, who remained where they were with their eyes fixed on Him. At this point, two Angels in the form of men in white raiment appeared to them and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, Who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven" (Acts 1:11). These words, in a complete and concise manner, declare what is taught in the Symbol of Faith concerning the Son and Word of God. Therefore, having so fulfilled all His dispensation for us, our Lord Jesus Christ ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat at the right hand of God the Father. As for His sacred disciples, they returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, rejoicing because Christ had promised to send them the Holy Spirit.

our Lord Jesus Christ ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat at the right hand of God the Father.

It should be noted that the Mount of Olives is a Sabbath's day journey from Jerusalem, that is, the distance a Jew was permitted to walk on the day of the Sabbath. Ecumenius writes, "A Sabbath day's journey is one mile in length, as Clement says in his fifth Stromatis; it is two thousand cubits, as the Interpretation of the Acts states." They draw this conclusion from the fact that, while they were in the wilderness, the Israelites of old kept within this distance from the Holy Tabernacle, whither they walked on the Sabbath day to worship God. (source: www.goarch.org)

**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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Parish Council
Marina Finch
Dennis Georgen
Nardos Russom
Russ Skocypec
Solomon Woldesilassie



Oratorical Festival

On Sunday, Apr. 2, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival for the Southwest District was held at Assumption Church in Scottsdale. Congratulations to Naomi Solomon who was one of the finalists of the Junior Division, and will represent St. Haralambos Church at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival on

Saturday, May 13, at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, California. Catherine Baxter was selected as the Alternate for the Senior Division, and will participate in the Festival if one of the finalists is not able to attend. Congratulations to Naomi and Catherine!

Caring Friends

Caring Friends Ministry will be hosting coffee hour after liturgy service on May 21. This will also be a recruiting day for new volunteers. Information will be available about our Ministry, our duties, and Mission. Representatives will also be

available for questions and sign-up! Please attend and discover how we remember and help our own! For more information contact Robyn Pappas, 623-202-7714

Memorial Day

In commemoration of the Memorial Day holiday, a special Memorial Day Service will be held on Sunday, May 28.



Ministry of Welcome Gratitude

A deepest expression of thanks goes to our longstanding members and our new volunteers! Our tiny ministry stepped up and did amazing things this great and Holy month of Pascha! Almost every service in April, whether it was morning, afternoon, or evening was covered by Greeters and Candle-stand Attendants!

Guided by **Desi Medina** and **Roy Christian**, this Ministry contributed greatly to an atmosphere of love, welcome, and belonging during a most blessed and beautiful time of year. THANK YOU to them and to our newest volunteers for being a part of this continuing effort and blessed gift!!!

Mochas for Missions

Help fund the Missions and Evangelism ministry of our Metropolis by donating to the Mochas for Missions program. There are collection cups on the tables in the Fellowship Room until Pentecost Sunday, Jun. 4.

Of the six new mission parishes in our metropolis, two of them are in Arizona? They are the Orthodox parishes in Lake Havasu City and in Flagstaff, Arizona. Your donations will help support these and future new Orthodox parishes.

Summer Camp

All the youth of our parish are encouraged to register for All Saints Summer Camp, the Pan-Orthodox summer camp for Arizona Orthodox Churches from Wednesday, Jun. 21 – Monday, Jun. 26.



feature daily activities such as sports, arts and crafts, sessions on Orthodox Life, as well as morning and evening prayers.

Please visit AllSaintsCampArizona.org to register, and to find all related information on packing and preparing for summer camp.

Being held at Pine Summit Camp in Prescott, Arizona, the camp program will

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Anna Kinniburgh, President

***Christ is Risen! Truly He Has Risen!
Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!***

What a beautiful and busy month we had! We want to thank all our Ministry members and parishioners who volunteered and displayed their generosity and dedication through loving works and acts as we celebrated one of the most active seasons of our beloved Church! Once again the lenten meals were delicious, the Epitaphio was beautifully decorated, red eggs were cheerfully donated and dyed, and our homebound were remembered with an Easter gift. A blessed Anastasi reception made our journey complete! Thank you to all who travelled this incredible journey and to Father Michael who lead us!

A special thank you goes out to Sylvia (Argyro) Vasquez and all who helped prepare for our annual Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon. Proceeds from the luncheon totaled \$900 and have been designated to the Mortgage Protection fund!

A Legacy of Giving

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society of St. Haralambos Church is very proud to be part of a greater Orthodox community demonstrating devotion to charity through Ministry commitments and working

toward lessening the suffering of the fragile in our society. As was quoted in the latest Orthodox Observer, "In 2016, disbursements totaled **\$2,057,690**, surpassing all previous years."

National and Metropolis Commitments Passed:

- Sisterhood Fund of St. Basil Academy, (amount determined by Chapter, for operating expenses and for the children's physical needs)
- International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), \$200 approved (provides food, shelter and economic self sufficiency to those in need)
- Kid's and Cancer, \$500 (provides a carefree camp experience for children afflicted with cancer and their families)
- 75th Anniversary Founder's Fund, (amount determined by Chapter, provides support to long term care facilities serving the aging Greek Orthodox population in the U.S. and to establish similar facilities)
- Orthodox Christian Fellowship (amount determined by Chapter, provides Orthodox Christian support to college students on U.S. campuses and to train student leaders)

Mother's Day is Sunday May 14. Take the time and tell her you appreciate her! Happy Mother's Day to all!



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)

Book Chat

Please join a discussion group at church on May 16 at 11 am to discuss Rabbi Harold Kushner's classic book, [When Bad Things Happen to Good People](#). The book explores the challenges faced when tragedy spurs doubt and fear, and raises questions of randomness and suffering.

The next read will be scheduled in August/September. Please look for updates in upcoming *In Touch*. If you are interested in attending discussions but need a different timeframe for future meetings, please let Irene Nathanson know via email: IreneOrRena@cox.net.

Baptism

Jimmy and Caroline Christian invite St. Haralambos parishioners to the baptism of

their son, Michael Anthony, on Sunday, May 28, following the Coffee Hour.

Mother's Day Reflection

The Infinite Reach of My Mother's Laughter

By Darin Murphy

Benjamin Franklin once wrote that wine is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy [beer has often replaced wine in countless misquotes]. And the same is even truer for laughter. "Laughter is wine for the soul," said playwright Sean O'Casey, "The hilarious declaration made by man that life is worth living." Laughter is a healer, a coping mechanism, a weapon and a disarmer. It has turned bitter political rivals into best friends; it got the Beatles a recording contract. And it is my mother's most endearing quality.

My mother Hallie passed away this month at age 68. She was beautiful, smart, curious, compassionate, and rebellious, a compulsive reader and a talented psychotherapist. But of all her attributes, none surpassed her capacity to laugh. It was a source of comfort, for her children in younger years and for her clients later in life. As a child, I overheard countless conversations between my mom and her friends. I couldn't make out a word; couldn't tell you a single one. I just remember sitting there, wishing I knew what was so funny.

One night I was playing quietly in the living room, and the silence of the house was suddenly shattered by an outburst of hysterics I've never heard come out of anyone. I rushed into her bedroom to see if she was okay. And she was fine, just reading a book. That's how I discovered Kurt Vonnegut. The cause of the outburst was his newest novel, *Breakfast Of Champions*. Vonnegut himself said this about laughter:

"Laughter and tears are both responses to frustration and exhaustion. I myself

prefer to laugh, since there is less cleaning up to do afterward."

This is kind of embarrassing, but it bears mentioning. A few years ago, I arrived home on a cold night and after getting out of my car I discovered that I had driven all the way across town with a hobo sleeping in the back seat! That story got around rather quickly, needless to say, and later that evening the phone rang and I let the machine get it. After the beep came no words, just Mom's laugh, growing steadily and peaking in a massive crescendo when I finally answered, and it no doubt continued after we hung up.

Laughter was, to the end, the unbreakable bond between my mother and my father. Two months ago, Mom was in the hospital recovering from the second of three consecutive surgeries, and feeling pretty miserable. My father, who had been divorced from her for a decade, called her up because he felt that she might feel better if he could just make her laugh. They talked and laughed for at least an hour. Humor is a coded language between friends, and my parents' coded language explains a lot about me, the woman I married, and how we raise our child.

Hallie's laughter will stand out forever in my memory and I believe it's what many of us close to her will miss the most. But she believed that we manifest our bodies and our souls through our outlook on life, and that's why she would advise us, in times of sorrow, to look through the melancholy and find something, anything, to laugh about. Because as Martin Luther King once said, "It is cheerful to God when you rejoice or laugh from the bottom of your heart." And if that's true, then my mother makes God very, very happy.

Make your mom laugh today.

Birthdays



- Christian Gheorghe (3)
- Charlotte Servetes (5)
- Shirley Germenis (8)
- Despina Tremoulis (8)
- Megan Pallad (10)
- Tamara Kurilova (12)
- Melani Ioannou (16)
- Tony Panousopoulos (18)
- Aristithi Vardalos (18)
- Voule Kapetanakis (19)
- Nicoletta Theoharatos (21)
- John Zafiroopoulos (22)
- Yiorgos Papamatheakis (23)
- Genet Tesfay (23)
- Alexis Dicks (25)
- 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.



MAY 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30pm Philoptochos			7:00pm Choir		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	7:00pm Parish Council			7:00pm Choir		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Mother's Day				7:00pm Choir		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy				9:00am Divine Liturgy Ascension of the Lord 7:00pm Choir		
28	29	30	31			
8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	Memorial Day (office closed)					