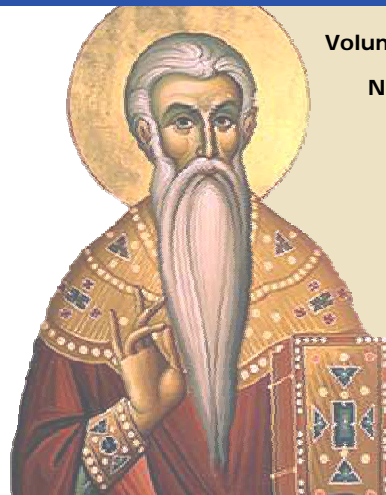


in Touch

Volume 20, Issue 11

November 2012



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Hinds' Feet On High Places • 2

We Are Thankful • 3

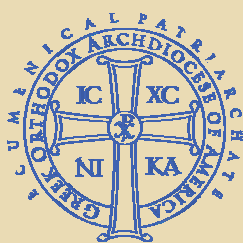
Fall General Assembly • 4

Parish Council Elections • 4

Parishioner Profile • 7

Give Thanks to Him and Praise His Name

Thanksgiving, November 22



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



Certificate of Merit

On Sunday, Oct. 14, a blessing of the stained glass window of St. Haralambos took place just before the Divine Liturgy. The beautiful icon was created by The Stained Glass Shop of Glendale, and donated by Charlotte Servetas in memory of her parents, Bartholemew and Mildred Bamford. Charlotte is shown receiving a Certificate of Merit from the National Philoptochos AGAPE award for her many years of dedicated service to Philoptochos, which was presented to her by Fr. Michael following the blessing service.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Hinds' Feet On High Places

by Hannah Hurnard

If you've never read an allegory, Hinds' Feet on High Places is one that will definitely delight and inspire you. A youthful adventure with powerful themes, this exciting spiritual journey will strengthen your personal growth and leave you yearning for the "High Places."

This is the story of how "Much-Afraid" escapes from the clutches of her evil relatives to follow the Good Shepherd. She learns many lessons on her dangerous pilgrimage and finds strength, courage, and faith by embracing grief, sorrow and suffering. Indeed, it is this acceptance that heals and transforms her. Following is a song that Much-Afraid hears from the stream when she is with the Shepherd:

*Hear the summons night and day
Calling us to come away.
From the heights we leap and flow
To the valleys down below.*

*Always answering to the call,
To the lowest place of all.
Sweetest urge and sweetest pain,
To go low and rise again*

The adventure is ultimately about fighting evil and temptation and learning to surrender our will to God. The journey depicts that how we travel this life and who we trust can either keep us in the "Valley of Humiliation" or take us to the "High Places of victory and union with Christ."

Filled with scripture and prose, the most recent printing includes a women's daily devotional that is sure to draw you closer to His presence.

Book Club

The St. Haralambos Book Club met for the first time in October to discuss C.S. Lewis's novel, The Screwtape Letters. It was an opportunity to share with others and talk with Father Michael

about Lewis' unique book about temptation and evil.

Our next meeting will be Nov. 29 at 7 pm and will be a discussion on Joseph Huneycutt's novel, We Came, We Saw, We Converted. This is a collection of humorous stories that present the struggles and joys of conversion within an Orthodox Christian viewpoint. We hope for increased turnout and encourage everyone to attend. We are blessed to have such a forum for an exchange of ideas. Come and experience it! Contact Lali with questions and book orders at lali.mekvabishvili@gmail.com.





We are Thankful

As our parish 25th anniversary year is coming closer to its end, (the highlight, of course, will be next month's Grand Banquet) I would like this month to offer a limited but meaningful selection of reasons for us, as members of St. Haralambos Church, to be thankful.

We are all indebted, first of all, to a small but determined group of Greek Orthodox families who had a heart-felt desire to establish a Greek Orthodox community in the west valley. Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix was started in the 1930's, and new parishes had already been planted in Chandler and Scottsdale. The time had come for the west valley, and our founding families began meeting and calling and making plans to put Peoria on the Archdiocese list of parishes in Arizona.

We are all indebted and thankful for the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, of blessed memory, for his time, love and encouragement to help move the idea of a new church even further along. The time he spent here helped inspire

everyone to understand that this dream was quickly becoming a reality.

We are thankful for the incredible commitment of time and energy that the first parish council members gave, the first Sunday School teachers, the first Philoptochos members, the first choir members as well as several priests who served the first liturgies for our new parish. They accepted the responsibility out of love for their Church, for each other, and for their children and grandchildren.

We are thankful for the number of volunteers who stepped up to help with our first Greek festival 25 years ago! The photos of the early festivals do not show immaculate grounds or the most elaborate set up, the décor is understated and there are no vendor booths or children's rides or games. What the photos do show, however, is table after table of smiling parish volunteers, obviously enjoying themselves throughout the weekend.

Our volunteers, our parish family, was comprised of people

who had jobs, were raising children, and were involved in a variety of activities; but, somehow they found the time, because they had the desire, to step up and offer their time, energy, enthusiasm and talents to get our parish up and running.

Twenty-five years later, we have a permanent parish home with lots of room for further growth. We have many parish ministries and organizations, and a festival that continues to grow and attract newcomers.

Reasons to be thankful? Too many to list in one article! This month, when celebrating Thanksgiving with your families, please offer your own prayers thanking God for blessing our parish with such awesome people who, through the years, have made St. Haralambos Church a warm, caring, spiritual home for us today.

...somehow they found the time, because they had the desire, to step up and offer their time, energy, enthusiasm and talents to get our parish up and running.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

www.stharalambos.org

Sunday Worship

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

Roy Christian
David Durgam
Dennis Georgen
Dimitri Gryparis
George Miller
Dean Milonas

Tony Panousopoulos
Chris Theotocatos
Peter Vardalos
Dorothy Vordos
Lee Vordos
Ken Wrona

Fall General Assembly

The annual Fall General Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 11, in our Social Hall, following the Divine Liturgy.

All parishioners are encouraged to hear and discuss issues affecting the future plans of our parish. We truly want the participation of all our families as we plan for the months and years ahead. The General Assembly agendas will be mailed separately.

Hope to see everyone on the 11th.

Philoptochos

Thanks to all of the hard working ladies and gentlemen who helped bake and cook for the festival. We wouldn't have had a successful festival without you.

The next Philoptochos meeting will be Nov. 12 at 7 pm. Bunco will follow the meeting. Please provide a white elephant gift if you plan to play.

Sunday School

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School Director & Teacher

This Thanksgiving Day, as we reflect on our many blessings from God, we should give thanks also for the dedicated Sunday School Teachers and Snack Volunteers who have committed their Time, Talent, and Treasure to serving our parish youth.

Here are some internet resources for our families to review and discuss at home:

- ARTICLE: "A Culture of Gratitude: Kingdom of Heaven on Earth" by Fr.

Chris Metropoulos www.goarch.org/archdiocese/parishcouncil/gratitude

- ARTICLE: "Showing an Attitude of Gratitude" by Eva Kokinos (In the November 2011 issue of the Challenge) www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/youth/challenge
- PODCAST: "Thanksgiving Begins with Honoring God" from the Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) www.myocn.net/index.php/201111243851/Theologically-Thinking/Thanksgiving-Begins-with-Honoring-God.html

Parish Council Elections

During the Fall General Assembly (Sunday, Nov. 11), nominations for parish council candidates will be accepted in preparation for elections on Dec. 2. Once the final list has been created, the nominees must attend a seminar with Fr. Michael on Monday, Nov. 19 at 7 pm to review the responsibilities and expectations of parish council service.

As a reminder, to be eligible to serve on parish council, candidates must be Members in Good Standing for at least one year prior to the date of the election.

Festival Appreciation Lunch

Please join with your parish family on Sunday, Nov 4 for our annual Festival Appreciation Lunch, in the Social Hall.

There is no cost for this lunch, and everyone is welcome as we say a heartfelt "Thank You" to all of our fantastic festival volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you!



- YOUTH SERMON: "Giving Thanks to God By The Way We Live" by Chris Avramopoulos (Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Metropolis of Chicago) www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/youth/youthworker/resources/givingthanks

Sunday School Calendar Update

There will be no Sunday School classes held on these upcoming dates: Nov. 25, Dec. 24, and Jan. 2, 2013.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

This month, we're collecting food for the Peoria Community Action Agency, and putting Thanksgiving food boxes together for 12 needy families in Peoria. We can use everyone's help in donating turkeys, canned and boxed food used for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Volunteers will be needed on Monday, Nov. 19 at 10:30 am to help sort food and prepare and the boxes for pickup.

Birthdays

Maria Maniatis (1)	Judy Jolly (19)
Daniel Milonas (2)	George Stratos (24)
Argyro Vasquez (3)	Madison Nicholas (25)
Kelly Sokol (4)	Nikolas Panousopoulos (25)
Julie Karoutas (8)	Markos Papamatheakis (27)
Toula New (8)	Arthur Manos (28)
Andrew Paul Stithem (15)	Dean Milonas (28)
Irene Stratos (17)	Kristin Pallad (28)
Mary Dascalos (19)	Estelle L Lazzelle (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.

NOVEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:00pm Know the Faith Adult Education Class 7:00pm Choir	3	
4 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Festival Appreciation Lunch	5	6 7:00pm Men's Choir	7 7:00pm Bible Study	8 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel 7:00pm Know the Faith Adult Education Class 7:00pm Choir	9 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Nectarios	10
11 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fall General Assembly	12 7:00pm Philoptochos 7:00pm Parish Council	13 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. John Chrysostom	14 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Philip the Apostle	15 7:00pm Know the Faith Adult Education Class 7:00pm Choir	16	17
18 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy IOCC Offering Tray National Youth Sunday	19 10:00am Thanksgiving Food Drive Sorting	20 7:00pm Men's Choir	21 9:00am Divine Liturgy Entrance of the Theotokos	22 Thanksgiving (Church Office Closed)	23	24 8:00am Nativity Scene Set Up
25 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	26 7:00pm Executive Council	27 7:00pm Men's Choir	28	29 7:00pm Book Club 7:00pm Choir	30 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Andrew	

25th Anniversary Parishioner Profile

Each month of 2012 we'll spend some time with a member of our parish to get their memories, views and insights about the history, development and future of our parish as part of this year's 25th Anniversary celebration. This month's interview is with **Ken Wrona**.

Question: How many years have you been a steward at St. Haralambos?

Answer: Three years.

Q: Are you a native Arizonan?

A: I was born and raised in Pittsburgh and then lived in California for 35 years before coming to Arizona.

Q: What activities and groups have you been involved in at St. Haralambos?

A: I'm a member of the Parish Council and help with the annual Festival. I serve in the altar and help Fr. Michael during weekday services when there aren't any helpers or altar boys available. I also help my wife Valla with baking prosforo from time to time.

Q: What do you like most about St. Haralambos parish and what it offers?

A: I like the friendship and genuine

love from all the people at the Church. I call it "Christ eyes" and you can see it in the eyes of the people of this parish with their love for Christ and for each other. I think back to when we first attended Matins and how I enjoyed



the service and its prayers. I still enjoy and look forward to attending Matins, along with Divine Liturgy, on Sundays.

Q: What would you like to see happen in the next 5-10 years of our parish?

A: I would like to see our parish grow as we bring more people into the Church. When people ask me about Orthodoxy, I have to tell them simply

to "come and see." It is hard to explain the love we have in our hearts for the Divine Liturgy and the only true way to learn about it is to come and see. So I encourage those who ask me about Orthodoxy to come and see.

Q: What legacy would you like today's parishioners to develop and leave for future generations during the next 25 years?

A: That we have a presence in this neighborhood and we cherish that we have the freedom in this country to come and receive the blessings of Christ. Like I said earlier, I want us to be here so everyone can come and see what Orthodoxy is all about.

Q: Anything else we didn't cover that you would like to add or provide?

A: I would enjoy seeing more of our men getting involved in the various ministries of the Church whether it is baking, helping Philoptochos or other ministries where we get more men participating and helping the parish grow. Because when we get people here and they learn about Christ it is only then that they will change their heart to follow Christ. A man can easily change his mind, but only Christ can change your heart.

Community Christmas Card

We will again be providing parishioners the opportunity to send Christmas greetings with a beautiful full-color icon greeting card to all our parish families. For each family name, the cost is just \$10.

Please print your name clearly, exactly as you would like it to appear on the card. You may mail this form to the church office or sign up on Sundays during the Coffee Hour. Please make checks payable to: St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church. **The deadline is Monday, Dec. 10, 2012.**

Please include my family's name in this year's Community Christmas Card.

Enclosed is my check for \$10.

(Please return to the church office)

Names (please print clearly)