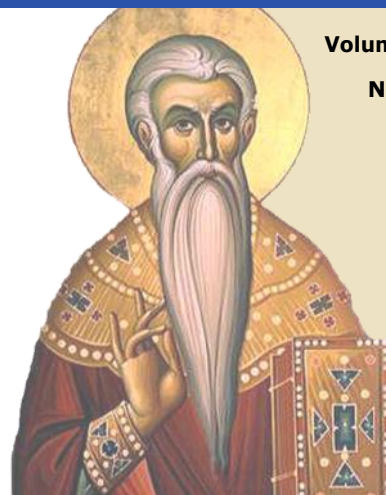


in Touch

Volume 21, Issue 11

November 2013



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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Many prayer services, but only one Divine Liturgy
Why do Orthodox Christians only celebrate the liturgy each Sunday?
Come and see on Sunday, November 10



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



Note: We are looking for a name for our seniors group at St. Haralambos, please submit your suggestions to Julie and we will choose the winner on the way home from the monastery. The winner will receive a special bottle of wine. (Holy Trinity Seniors are the "Desert Diamonds", St. Katherine's seniors are called "Xrisi Parea" and Assumption's seniors are called "Society of Wisdom")

Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church Seniors Trip to St. Anthony's Monastery Florence, Arizona

Dear fellow seniors, yes that means anyone 50 or older, we are planning a beautiful trip to St. Anthony's Monastery in Florence, Arizona on Saturday, Nov. 9.

We will be picked up at church by comfortable motor coach and taken to St. Anthony's for our tour of the monastery. After the tour we will have some personal quiet time in order to revisit some of the chapels or grounds, the bookstore & gift shop or simply to meditate.

Please plan to join us for this spiritual journey; you will not be disappointed!

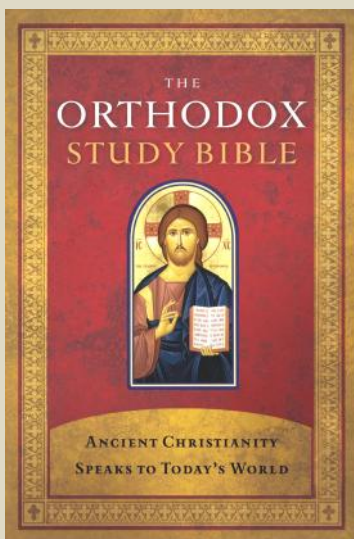
Date: Saturday, November 9, 2013

Time: Early morning; returning early evening. (Exact time to be announced) First pick-up at St. Haralambos; second at Holy Trinity and final at St. Katherine's; please note that those from Assumption may be picked up at either Holy Trinity or St. Katherine's, please let Julie know which location you wish to be picked up at.

Cost for bus trip (includes Drivers gratuity, water and light refreshments): \$25 ea.

(Cash or checks payable (by Nov. 1) in advance to: Julie Karoutas)

Please make your reservations ASAP; we are also inviting the other Greek Orthodox churches to participate. Space will be limited; do not be left behind, contact Julie at her home, 623-972-2382, or email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com. Julie will also be available at church following the service.



Orthodox Study Group

The Orthodox Study Group will be meeting at the church on Thursday Nov. 7, Nov. 14, and Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. Luke Chapter 8 will be discussed on Nov. 7.

All are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact Ted Manos at 623-680-6547.

Know the Faith Classes

Come and join a 4-week class on the Orthodox Christian Faith: its history and development, similarities and differences with other Christian traditions.

Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings in November at 7 p.m.

All are welcome.





Why the Divine Liturgy?

Come and See on Sunday, November 10

Have you ever wondered about some of the things you see and hear during the Sunday Divine Liturgy? You're not alone! The Liturgy is filled with much historical symbolism and rituals whose meaning escapes many Orthodox and non-Orthodox Christians as well.

If you've seen televised worship services or have been to Sunday services in other Christian churches, you know that the liturgy is really quite different. Most noticeable, perhaps, is that in place of an altar there is a stage. Why? Because every liturgy is a commemoration of The Sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, and sacrifices take place at an altar. If there is no commemoration of Jesus' sacrifice, there is no need for an altar.

Although important, the presence of the altar is just the tip of the iceberg when talking about the meaning of the liturgy. So it's time to do a little digging below the surface, and offer some

explanations to help us understand why the liturgy is the way it is, and why the Orthodox continue to celebrate only the Divine Liturgy every Sunday of the year.

We will be presenting a special Narrative Divine Liturgy on



Sunday, November 10th, that will feature commentary throughout the service that will explain all about the make-up and development of the liturgy, to help answer questions about what we see and hear each Sunday.

At several places during the liturgy, the service will be stopped so that explanations can be read for everyone to hear. After Holy Communion, Sunday School students will go to their classes as usual. At the conclusion of the

liturgy, there will time for Questions and Answers, then refreshments in our Social Hall.

This is a perfect opportunity for you to invite friends and family members who are either not of the Orthodox faith, or who have not been to Sunday services for some time. The explanation may also benefit those of us who have grown up in the Orthodox Church, but have always had questions about the liturgy.

There is a wide variety of Sunday worship services today, but Orthodox Christians have only been celebrating the Divine Liturgy, the oldest form of Christian worship, each Sunday for the past 1700 years. Here is your best opportunity to find out why.

Orthodox Christians have only been celebrating the Divine Liturgy, the oldest form of Christian worship, each Sunday for the past 1700 years.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

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

David Durgam
Dennis Georgen
Timothy Harvey
Lali Mekvabishbili
Russel Skocypec

Tony Panousopoulos
Peter Vardalos
Dorothy Vordos
Lee Vordos
Russell Zook

Festival Appreciation Lunch

Please join with your parish family on Sunday, Nov. 3 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!



Fall General Assembly

The annual Fall General Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 17, in our Social Hall, following the Divine Liturgy. All parishioners are encouraged to hear and discuss issues affecting the future

plans of our parish. Our Philoptochos will be serving lunch for everyone. The General Assembly agendas will be mailed separately. Hope to see everyone on the 17th.

Parish Council Elections

During the Fall General Assembly (Sunday, Nov. 17), nominations for parish council candidates will be accepted for elections which are scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8. Once the final list of candidates has been assembled, the nominees must attend a seminar with Fr. Michael on

Monday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. to review the responsibilities and expectations of parish council service.

Please see the Nominations Form and flyer (page 10) that explains the requirements for parish council candidates.

Greek Festival

By Pam Lemons, Festival Chairman

Although the Festival had not yet taken place at the time of this writing, I am confident that the 26th Annual Taste of Greece Festival will prove to be just as successful at the first 25 years. It is truly amazing how much time, effort and energy our volunteers dedicate to make this one weekend a year special for our Church and our surrounding communities.

For all of you who participated in some manner, there will be a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, Nov. 3

following Divine Liturgy. Please share with other volunteers who may not be on the InTouch mailing list.

Please take a moment and share your comments on the enclosed Festival Evaluation Form (page 11). This is the best way to share your ideas, criticisms and compliments and assists the Festival Committee in evaluating areas of improvement in the future.

Be sure to visit our Facebook page at Peoria Greekfest-Taste of Greece to see photos from the Festival. OPA!

Rummage Sale

Thank you to the Rummage Sale co-chairmen, Lee and Dottie Vordos, for another successful sale! Our first two-day sale brought in nearly \$1,500. We are grateful also for helpers Edna Nicely, Don and Adriana Hensen and Russ Skocypec for setting up, sorting and pricing all the items.



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Essay & Poetry Categories

This year, the Oratorical Festival is expanding to include essays & poetry!

This is a summary of the new categories of the Festival.

- Essays and poems must be original works and written in English. A speech, essay or poem used in a previous Oratorical Festival is not eligible. Quoted materials must be minimal and sources identified.
- Essay and poem topics must be chosen from the current Oratorical Festival topics.
- Essays and poems must reflect the individual's writing and style.
- The top parish Junior and Senior Division finalists of the essay and Poetry categories will continue on to the Metropolis Festival (bypassing the district level) for review by another panel of judges.
- Top poems and essays from the Metropolis Festival will be submitted to the Archdiocesan level for another round of judging.
- A person can participate in only one category of the St. John Chrysostom

Oratorical Festival: Speech, Essay or Poetry.

- Each Division may send only one person from each category to the next level.

Essays

- Senior Division: 500 – 600 words
- Junior Division: 300 – 400 words
- Plan your essay by researching the Orthodox perspective and reflecting on your personal experiences that relate to the topic.
- Essays will be judged according to their Content, Organization, Style, Language, Originality, Presentation and Clarity of Purpose.

Poems

- Minimum 8 lines
- Maximum 30 lines
- Poets may choose from (sonnet, open verse, etc.)
- Poems will be judged according to their Theological Soundness, Sincerity, Imagery, Originality, Choice of Form, Presentation and Title.

For more information, please contact Fr. Michael or Jeannette Hollander

Thanksgiving Food Drive

This month, we're collecting food for families served by the Peoria Community Action Agency. We are putting Thanksgiving food boxes together for 10 needy families in Peoria. We can use everyone's help in donating turkeys, canned and boxed food used for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Volunteers are needed on Monday, Nov. 25 at 10 a.m. to help sort food and prepare and the boxes for pickup.



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. 9, 2013.**

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)

ORGANIZATIONS



St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Valla Wrona, President

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:9-10)

"Many hands make light work." (John Heywood) Not only do many hands make for lighter work, it also makes the work

more fun! I love to watch all that goes into making the festival happen. It reminds me of an Amish barn raising!

We had a short meeting this month because we're focusing all of our efforts on baking and getting ready for the festival. We hope you will join us for the next meeting on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. The Philoptochos Society does the work of the church, and we need all the hands we can get. OPA!

Sunday School Ministry

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School Director & Teacher

Thankful for Sunday School Ministry Volunteers

This Thanksgiving season, as we reflect on our many blessings from God, let us remember and be thankful for the dedicated Sunday School teachers and snack volunteers who commit their time, talent, and treasure to serving our parish youth. I personally am grateful and humbled to be in the company of wonderful parents who serve our parish in other ministries as well. Likewise, the Sunday School Ministry is open to volunteers from other ministries!

Soon we will be preparing for the upcoming Christmas program on Dec. 15. This month we will be holding practices after Sunday School class, and ask that parents and students make a commitment for attending practice and participating in the Christmas program. Details will be forthcoming from your Sunday School teachers. Also, the Christmas program could use volunteers, even those from other ministries!

Sunday School Calendar Update

There will be no Sunday School classes held on these upcoming holiday weekend dates: Dec. 1, 22, & 29. Classes will resume on Jan. 5, 2014.

Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts/sponsors.

October

6: Genet Tesfay & Fiyori Desta
13: Evanne Cuccorelli & Kathy Williamson
20: Dina & Carl Surman
27: Festival

November

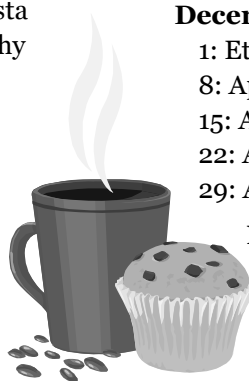
3: Appreciation Luncheon
10: Vardalos-Panousopoulos-Ratliff Families

17: Jean Baxter Family

24: Anna Yacyshyn & Alice Hecht

December

1: Ethel Nicholas
8: Aphrodite Devolites
15: Available
22: Available
29: Available



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

St. Christopher's Bookstore

My Daily Orthodox Prayer Book

compiled and edited by Anthony Coniaris

November is a month of appreciation and thanksgiving and what better way to express gratitude than through the privilege of prayer! Cultivating a life of prayer involves practice and dedication and there are many tools to help along the way, particularly daily devotional and prayer books. This month's review focuses on one of these. My Daily Orthodox Prayer Book is a beautiful collection of prayers, important instruction, and so much more.

Author Anthony Coniaris begins by first reminding us of the importance of prayer, "What we believe is what we pray and what we pray is what we believe." He quotes Kallistos Ware, "without prayer there is no life" and uses quotes from the bible to illustrate the power of prayer: "Paul prayed and churches were born in Europe and Asia Minor" (ACTS 9:22-31), and "Jesus prayed at the door of the tomb of Lazarus, and Lazarus who had been dead for four days, came walking out of the tomb" (JOHN 11:1-44).

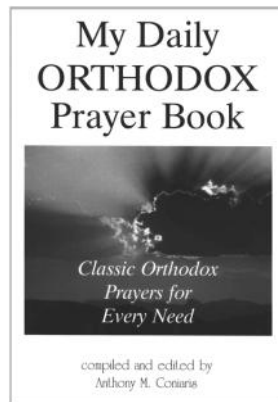
Coniaris defines prayer in many ways including "prayer is slipping into God's presence." He also quotes others such as St. John of Kronstadt, "prayer is the

descent of heaven into the soul." He suggests practicing prayer using the service of hours as the early Christians did: at the third hour (9am), the sixth hour (noon), the ninth hour (3pm) and the twelfth (6pm) and various prayers for those hours are included.

The book encourages us to follow a daily "Rule of Prayer" and begin with the sign of the cross, saying "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit." We can then add the prayer to the Holy Spirit followed by the Trisagion Prayers. Prayers can be long or short. "Remember the prayer of the thief on the Cross was very short, *Lord, remember me in your kingdom*; and the prayer of the Publican was very short, *Lord, be merciful to me, the sinner.*"

Of particular value is the table of contents which makes it quick and easy to find a prayer for a specific need; For example finding a prayer for mealtime, for hope, for forgiveness and even more specifically, a prayer before vacation, a prayer for a sick person or for a new mother. My Daily Orthodox Prayer Book is an invaluable tool for every Orthodox Christian to have to establish the ritual of prayer. "Begin humbly and simply-but begin. You will be greatly blessed."



Birthdays



- Maria Maniatis (1)
- Thomas Papazoglou (2)
- Argyro Vasquez (3)
- Rakan Samawi (4)
- Kelly Sokol (4)
- Kate Savoy (7)
- Julie Karoutas (8)
- Marina Kaye (8)
- Toula New (8)
- Lali Mekvabishvili (12)
- Irene Stratos (17)
- Mary Dascalos (19)
- Judy Jolly (19)
- Brittany Retsinas (20)
- George Stratos (24)
- Madison Nicholas (25)
- Nikolas Panousopoulos (25)
- Markos Papamatheakis (27)
- Dean Milonas (28)
- Kristin Pallad (28)
- Estelle 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.

Youth Group

Youth Group will be meeting on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 4-7 p.m. in the church social hall. We will have a potluck

dinner with an Italian theme following our activity. Hope to see you there!

Parish Council Elections

We Want You!

Candidates for the Parish Council are wanted. Here is an opportunity to give back and make a difference in our Church. To be eligible, you must be a steward in good standing, and should be willing to work on committees and events, work well with others, have fresh ideas, and love our Church community. Through your service, you will gain a greater understanding of our faith, work with a diverse and talented team, make lifetime friendships and more fully appreciate what it takes to administer our Church.

Candidate Petition/Profile forms must be turned in no later than: Sunday, November 17 at the General Assembly

Elections will be held on Sunday, December 8th.

Parish Council Elections

Information We All Need To Know

Each and every baptized Orthodox Christian must make some effort of active commitment to his Church. Some serve their Church by participating in the Church Choir, some do so by joining the Philoptochos Society, others assist whenever the Parish sponsors a community activity and others, men and women, alike, participate in the life of the Church by serving as members of the Parish Council.

Being a member of the Parish Council is truly a responsible task that must be served by an individual committed to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The role of a Parish Council member, therefore, is a holy and spiritual one. In assisting in the

administrative responsibilities of the Church, a Parish Council member acknowledges the importance of strengthening the earthly ministry through God's Church. Being a member of the Parish Council should not be for social reasons or status in the Community, but rather an act of humility and conviction to Christ our Lord.

In accordance with the 2007 Uniform Parish Regulations, all candidates for the Parish Council shall attend a seminar conducted by the Priest prior to the election. The purpose of the Seminar is to prepare candidates for the Parish Council, as well as to make them aware of the sacred responsibilities expected of a Council member.

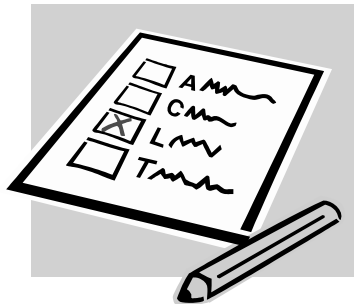
The seminar for prospective parish council members will be held on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in the conference room. All candidates, including those seeking re-election, must attend the seminar in order to be placed on the election ballot.

The following rules pertaining to the election of a Parish Council member are from the 2007 Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America:

Elections of Parish Council Members

Article 25: Section 2 – A candidate for the Parish Council must be a parishioner in good standing of the Parish for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election and must live his or her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church.

(Continued on page 9)



Parish Council Elections

(Continued from page 8)

Article 29: Section 1 – The members of the Parish Council shall attend the Divine Liturgy regularly and participate in the sacramental life of the Church, thereby setting an example for the Parishioners. Under the leadership of the Priest, the Parish Council shall:

- A. Assist the Priest in the administration of the affairs and ministries of the Parish;
- B. Establish the appropriate committees, including but not limited to Stewardship, Finance, Fundraising, Planning and Real Estate committees;
- C. Utilize the Stewardship material provided by the Archdiocese to implement and expand the Parish Stewardship program and ministries;
- D. Prepare budgets for the Parish's administration and ministries and collect the revenue of the Parish;
- E. Provide for the Priest's remuneration and benefits in accordance with the Clergy Compensation Plan of the Archdiocese;
- F. Provide financing for the salaries of the Parish personnel;
- G. Provide financial resources for the Parish's administration and for the Parish's spiritual, educational and other ministries and expenses;
- H. Buy, sell or mortgage Parish property, subject to the approval of the Parish Assembly and the provisions of these Regulations;
- I. Provide for payments and assessments for support of the Archdiocese as fixed by the Congresses;
- J. Submit to the respective Hierarch and

the Archdiocese, at the end of the year, the financial statement of the Parish for that year (certified by the Parish's Board of Auditors) and the Parish budget for the ensuing year;

- K. Submit annual Parish profile reports that may be required by the Archdiocese and the respective Archdiocesan District/Metropolis; and
- L. Adhere to the Charter, the Regulations and decisions promulgated at the Congresses.

In addition, the By-Laws of Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church state:

Election of Parish Council

Article V: Section 2 – A candidate for the Parish Council must be a member in good standing of the Parish who is at least 21 years of age and has been a member in good standing for at least 12 months prior to the Parish Council election. Any individual wishing to run for the Parish Council must have signed a stewardship pledge card for the current year and made some financial contribution towards that pledge prior to submitting an application.



Name Days

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

SS. Cosmas and Damian (1st)
 St. Nektarios (9th)
 St. Theodore (11th)
 St. John Chrysostom (13th)
 St. Philip (14th)
 St. Gregory (14th)
 St. Theodora (15th)
 St. Matthew (16th)
 St. Philemon (22nd)
 St. Katherine (25th)
 St. Andrew (30th)

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
Peoria, Arizona

Parish Council Election Requirements

In accordance with the Archdiocese Uniform Parish Regulations (UPR) and our parish By-Laws, the following election requirements are applicable:

1) Members In Good Standing (UPR Art. VI, Sec. 1)

Any person, eighteen years of age or over, who was baptized according to the rites of the Church, or was received into the Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation, who lives according to the faith and canons of the Church, who has met his financial obligation to the parish and abides by the regulations herein and the By-Laws of the parish, is a Member in Good Standing of the parish, except that persons under twenty-one years of age shall not serve on the Parish Council when such service is contrary to local law.

2) Parish Council Candidates

Candidates for election to the Parish Council must be over the age of twenty-one, and a Member in Good Standing (see #1 above) of the parish for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the election. All new candidates must meet with the priest prior to the elections to review the Archdiocese UPR, and agree to abide by them.

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Council Nomination Form

Forms must be submitted by the November 17, 2013 General Assembly Meeting.

Having read and understood the above requirements for nomination and voting, I would like to nominate the following people for the upcoming Parish Council elections.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2013 Taste of Greece Festival Evaluation

Please provide your comments/opinion regarding the 2013 Festival. Your input is valuable to the success of future events. For rate each area as follow: Needs Improvement, Average, Good, Excellent (please check). For any area which you feel needs improvement, please provide your comment on how you feel this area can be improved.

	Needs Improvement	Average	Good	Excellent
Admissions Booth				
Children's Activities				
Vendors				
Greek Imports/Deli				
Church Tours				
Religious Shop & Education Booth (Narthex)				
Pastries Booth				
Coffee Booth				
Ice Cream Booth				
Loukoumades Booth				
Saganaki/Kalimari Booth				
Gyros/Souvlaki Booth				
Main Food Line/Salad				
Taverna/Beverage Booth				
Entertainment – Band				
Entertainment – Dancers				
Entertainment – Loukoumades Eating Contest				
Emcee/Announcements				
Kids Zone				
Bank				
Advertising				
Flyers				
Program				
Signage				
Set up/Layout				
Security				
Outside Labor				
Restroom facilities				
Volunteers - Food tickets				
Other: please specify				

Additional comments/suggestions/ideas:

Name (optional) _____

ORGANIZATIONS

Sharing God's Love

St. Haralambos Youth Group recently represented our parish at Emeritus Senior Living in Peoria. It was a beautiful gift and expression of inter-generational love! Our youth mingled with seniors and frail elderly and then demonstrated their talent in Greek folk dancing. What better way to express God's love than to bring a sparkle to an elder's eye and a gift of love to a senior's heart! Our presence not only captured the spirit of our faith but extended Christ's love in bringing joy and love to others!



Thank you to St. Haralambos Youth Group

A special thank you to our Youth Group for dancing at Emeritus at Peoria where my mother Ourania recently spent three months rehabbing from her hospitalization. We were so proud to watch our talented youth performing and representing our beloved parish! The staff and residents were impressed and honored not only by the talent of our youth but also by the respect and courtesy shown by the children to the residents. Thank you to Olga, Lindsey, all the parents, Sunday School teachers, and Father Michael for supporting this display of Christian love! Irene Nathanson



NOVEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Festival Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon 12:30 Caring Friends Meeting	4 7:00pm Philoptochos	5 7:00pm Know the Faith Class #1	6	7 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	8 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel	9 4:00pm Youth Night
10 8:45am Matins 10:00am Special Narrative Divine Liturgy	11 7:00pm Parish Council	12 7:00pm Know the Faith Class #2	13 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. John Chrysostom	14 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	15	16
17 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fall General Assembly National Youth Sunday IOCC Offering Tray	18	19 7:00pm Know the Faith Class #3	20	21 9:00am Divine Liturgy Entrance of the Theotokos 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Parish Council Candidate Seminar	22	23
24 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	25 10:00am Thanksgiving food box preparations 7:00pm Executive Council	26 7:00pm Know the Faith Class #4	27	28 Thanksgiving First day of Chanukah (Church Office Closed)	29	30 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Andrew

Of What Are We Stewards?

(Second in a Series)

In the previous article, we defined Orthodox Christian Stewardship. The next question then is, "Of what are we stewards"?

As Orthodox Christians we are trustees of God. He has given us in trust:

- The Christian Gospel and Holy Mysteries (Sacraments)
- Life – our own and those given for a time into our charge (children)
- Physical Well-being
- Personal Relationships
- Time, talents (skills, education and abilities), material possessions (property, wealth)
- Power or authority

1. The Gospel and Mysteries (Sacraments)

We are called to proclaim the message of Christ to all and to come together with our brothers and sisters to offer our common liturgy (Thanksgiving) to God, and make frequent use of the mysteries of God and other means of Grace.

2. Life

We are to cherish and protect human life, stand up for the right to life of the weak, the defenseless, the elderly and the unborn. We are to cherish Everlasting Life above our mortal life and seek first the Kingdom of God, directing the hearts and minds of our children, grandchildren and others towards the attainment of everlasting life.

3. Physical Well-being

We are to care for our own bodies as living temples of the Holy Spirit and not willingly weaken or destroy them by excessive eating, drinking, smoking or use of dangerous drugs.

4. Personal Relationships

We are to love others as much as we love ourselves and to be like Christ and to see Christ in even the least of our fellow human beings.

5. Time, talents (skills, education and abilities), material possessions (property, wealth)

Every second and every minute we have is a gift from God. We can give God a portion of this gift by worshiping in liturgy, volunteering and serving the needs of the Church and sharing our faith. We are to extend Christ's victory into every moment of every day, to "redeem the time" and to "pray without ceasing" and to do all in word or deed in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

God has endowed each one of us with special talents. We are to consecrate to God both our inherent and developed talents, skills, and abilities, and employ these for the building up of Christ's Kingdom. And as there are many and varying gifts, we are to seek our proper place in His Church.

We are to hold our material possessions in trust, provide for our needs and those of our dependents; to care for the poor; to provide for the spreading of the Gospel; to provide for the physical well-being of the Church; to support of the

Ministries of the Church; and to protect our environment for future

generations.

6. Power and Authority

We must never exercise any office of authority as if the power were our own, but as a trust from God. Jesus Himself said, "All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me." And in the Letter of James, we read, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." (James 1:17)

Let us pray today that we may all be responsible and concerned caretakers of all that God has entrusted to us. As Good Stewards of this trust, let us be devoted and totally committed to serve God and His Church morally, spiritually, physically and collectively as a family. This is how true happiness and the joy of life are found.

