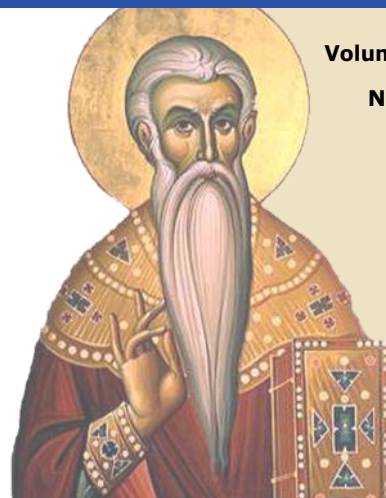


in Touch

Volume 23, Issue 11

November 2015



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Construction Has Begun!

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Saint Nicholas National Shrine



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

Forever Young

By Julie Karoutas

Greetings to all Forever Young members, we have started enjoying our Fall events;

"Forever Young Doo Wop" gang having fun at MIM (right)

Day at the Races gathering at Russ Skocypec's home, enjoying Brats & all. (below) Fun was had by all!



On Oct. 25 we attended the amazing concert of the Arizona Winds Concert Band "Around the World in 80 Minutes". Some first went to Carrabba's Italian Grill, for brunch before the concert. They now open at 11 am on Saturdays & Sundays.

For November, I have booked the fabulous musical "West Side Story" at the Arizona Broadway Dinner Theatre, the group rate for the musical is only \$56 for this particular performance. The date will be on Thursday, Nov. 12, for their Matinee performance. The show includes a served dinner, beverage, tax & gratuity. We have 21 attending.

We have much going on in December: Dec. 6 at 2 pm; AZ Winds Concert Band, "A Jubilant Christmas" the Midwestern University on 19555 N. 59th Ave., Glendale 85308. I would get there an hour early for this very special performance. Following the concert, those attending the concert, are invited to my home (17248 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373) for some light Holiday refreshments.

There is much excitement for our Dec. 7 trip to Cliff Castle Casino and Prescott, Arizona's Christmas City. The flyer was posted in the August issue of the "In Touch". Payment for that trip is due by Friday, Nov. 20, please make the check out to: CC & Company for \$45.

We also have coming up on Dec. 12 at 6 pm, the AHEPA #219 Christmas Ball, a beautiful dinner/dance, at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Adults: \$45, Students: \$25, Age 20 and under: free.

Limited seating event, notify me for tickets. More info to follow.

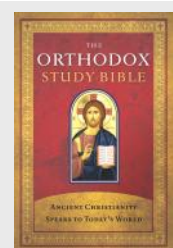
Make a note, please; on Jan. 16, we are having a Forever Young Pot-luck gathering at Lea Mancini's home; directions and a list of things to bring will be sent out. On Saturday, Jan. 23; our four Philoptochos chapters will be having the "Agape Ball" Camp Agape/Kids with Cancer benefit, at Holy Trinity in Phoenix. Please plan to support this worthy endeavor with either a contribution, support a child or attend the Ball!

In February at Arizona Broadway Theatre we will go to see; "Fiddler on the Roof", more info to follow.

Thanking you in advance for your timely response to our outings, it is very important to know how many to plan for; we have much more coming up, so don't hesitate; please join us for fun and fellowship.

Orthodox Study Group

The orthodox study group is meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. Dates in November are the 3rd, 10th, and 17th. We will not meet on Nov. 24 due to the holiday. We are continuing to study the Gospel of Matthew.





Saint Nicholas National Shrine

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing with a special appeal to you and your family. Finally, after 14 years of negotiations, the Saint Nicholas Church, destroyed in the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, is being resurrected at Ground Zero. The beautiful new building will be a House of Prayer for all people and stand as a magnificent symbol of the faith and resilience of the Greek Orthodox People of the United States of America.

The new Saint Nicholas will be a National Shrine of our Holy Archdiocese. The design was inspired by Saint Sophia - the great Church of Christ in Constantinople, and will be fashioned from the very same Pentelic marble as the Parthenon temple on the Acropolis. It will rise from the ashes of 9/11.

And yet, Saint Nicholas will be much more.

Our National Shrine at Ground Zero stands just steps away from where so many of our parents, grandparents, and ancestors began their new life in America, in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The Statue of Liberty was the first face of America to millions.

Saint Nicholas will be a perpetual Sacred Shrine to the dream that brought our fathers and mothers to the land of freedom and opportunity. The Shrine will be the only religious presence in the 16-acre site of Ground Zero, the new World Trade Center. What an inspired, miraculous opportunity for witness. Never before has there been such a Church on public land, in such a public space. It is estimated that in the next few years, millions of people will see this National Shrine of our Church. It will be a living embodiment of our Greek Orthodox Christian faith.

All the Faithful of our Archdiocese are being asked to support the construction and furnishing of our National Shrine with a gift of \$100. I have done so, and I am asking each family of Saint Haralambos Church to join me – and other Orthodox Christians throughout the country - with their own \$100 gift of support.

The national initiative for our parishioners begins on Sunday, Nov. 8, the Feastday of the Archangel Michael. It ends Dec. 6, the Feast Day of St. Nicholas.

Each family's gift will be recorded for posterity on an Honor Roll in the new edifice. Each will receive a Certificate acknowledging that you have joined thousands of other families across the country. It would be a wonderful

(Continued on page 5)

*Let us demonstrate
our abiding love
and commitment
to the Church.*



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship

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

Office

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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

Evanne Cuccorelli
Dennis Georgen
Kathy Harvey

Timothy Harvey
Russel Skocypec
Russell Zook

Birthdays



Maria Maniatis (1)
 Dan Milonas (2)
 Thomas Papazoglou (2)
 Argyro Vasquez (3)
 Rakan Samawi (4)
 Kelly Sokol (4)
 Annette Karones (5)
 Marina Finch (8)
 Julie Karoutas (8)
 Toulia New (8)
 Stavros Papadakis (11)
 Lali Mekvabishvili (12)
 Joan Bryson (16)
 Irene Stratos (17)
 Nicholas Stoia (18)
 Mary Dascalos (19)
 Judy Jolly (19)
 Brittany Retsinas (20)
 Sarah Christenson, II (21)
 Kadence Kelly (23)
 George Stratos (24)
 Madison Nicholas (25)
 Nikolas Panousopoulos (25)
 Destiny Dicks (27)
 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.

Fall General Assembly

The annual Fall General Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 22, in our Fellowship Room, following the Divine Liturgy. All parishioners are encouraged to attend, hear and discuss issues affecting the future of our parish. Our Philoptochos

will be serving lunch for everyone. The General Assembly agenda and proposed 2016 parish budget will be mailed separately. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 22nd.

Serving on the Parish Council

Not everyone has the gift of leadership. But all of us in the Church should have the desire to serve, especially those in leadership positions. There are many opportunities to serve in the Church, one of which is serving on the Parish Council.

The Parish Council, together with the Parish Priest, has the authority and responsibility to administer the parish, in accordance with the Archdiocese Uniform Parish Regulations, the parish by-laws, along with the Mission and Vision of St. Haralambos Church.

To serve on the Parish Council is a responsibility, but it is not done alone. The Saint Haralambos Parish Council has 12 seats, each with a three-year term of office. These men and women meet at least once each month to meet and serve

the administrative needs of our Church.

Parish Council elections are in December each year, this year on Sunday, Dec. 13. Nominations for candidates are open until the Fall General Assembly, this year on Sunday, Nov. 22. (Nomination Forms are found in this month's In Touch newsletter.) All eligible candidates must attend a Parish Council Seminar led by Fr. Michael on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7 pm.

If you have the desire to serve our Lord and our parish in this capacity, please submit your name as a candidate to serve on the Parish Council. It is truly an opportunity to give back and make a difference in our Church.

Application for Candidacy for Parish Council (page 6)

Church Beautification Project

As the work moves forward you will see the ground level work on the rear and side walls of the Nave completed, then work will begin on the iconostasis at the front. After that is addressed, then work on the upper register of the walls in the white areas will begin. At that time the scaffold will have to move back into the Nave for a while. At its current height, it can be moved out of the way into the hallway easily enough, but when extended higher it won't fit through the door. It will not be in the Nave during the Paschal services.

Fr. Michael has approved an iconographer for the creation of icons to go into the arches around the walls. These will be traditional Byzantine style icons that can be transferred into the future Church building. When their appropriate size is finalized, details will be forthcoming about opportunities to anyone interested in sponsoring the painting of an icon.

As always, thank you for your patience with this project!

New Flooring Project

In the ongoing effort to look after the maintenance of our grounds and building, the Parish Council has approved a proposal to install tile in the Fellowship Room and Observation Area. After reviewing proposals and considering the condition of the carpeting and comparing future maintenance of tile vs. carpeting, the consensus was to install porcelain tile. A tile sample is available in the Fellowship Room.

The installation is scheduled to begin on Monday, Nov. 9. It will not likely be finished before Sunday, Nov. 15, so on that day we will have Coffee Hour in the large classroom across the hall.

On Sunday, Nov. 8, the day before

installation, we need volunteers to help remove the carpeting. All volunteers are asked to be available to begin at 1pm.

The Administration at Bayer Private School has generously contributed to the project. Together with other donations, there is a remaining balance of \$2,600. We would like to ask all parishioners to consider donating whatever they can towards this final balance. Please clearly designate "Tile Project" on any donations so that they may be recorded properly. Thank you.

The Fellowship Room and Observation area are used by all of us on a weekly basis, so the benefit of new tile will be enjoyed by everyone.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

As we have for the past several years, during the month of November, we're collecting food for ten needy families served by the Peoria Community Action Agency. We can use everyone's help in donating turkeys, canned and boxed foods for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Volunteers are needed on Monday, Nov. 23 at 11 am to help sort food and prepare and the boxes for pickup. Donation sign-ups will be Sundays during Coffee Hour.



Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

testament to the faith of our parish to be able to send a gift of \$10,000 from Saint Haralambos Church in Peoria, Arizona. Our objective is to rebuild, furnish, and endow the Church by the end of 2016, the one-hundredth anniversary of the Parish of Saint Nicholas.

Let us come together as a Church family. Let us make evident to the world the pride we feel in our Greek Orthodox Faith. Let us demonstrate our abiding love and

commitment to the Church. Let us help rebuild the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine at Ground Zero.

Your check for \$100 or more should be made out to Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine. It can be sent to the Church office, left in the Collection Plate, or given to a member of the Parish Council.

Faithfully,
Fr. Michael Pallad

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. 7, 2015.**

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)

APPLICATION FOR CANDIDACY FOR ELECTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

I, _____
First Name Last Name

Address City State Zip

Home Phone Cell Phone

desire to serve the Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church of Peoria, Arizona, for a three-year term, beginning in January, 2016.

I certify that I am a parishioner in Good Standing as stated in Article 18 of the 2007 Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and that my parish stewardship commitment is current. Further I certify that I will attend the Parish Council Seminar which is scheduled on Wednesday, Dece. 7 at 7 pm, and if elected, will take the Oath of Office as stated in Article 26 of the Regulations, and finally

I certify that I am ecclesiastically in order and that:

- A. I have been Baptized and/or Chrismated in the Orthodox Christian Church.
- B. If married, I have had my Marriage blessed in the Orthodox Church.
- C. I participate in the Sacraments of Holy Confession and Communion.
- D. I participate in the Divine Services, and observe Fast Days.

Signature of Candidate

Date

Candidacy Application Received:

Date

Time

By

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Anna Kinniburgh, President

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." (Hebrews 10:24)

The Philoptochos Society held their meeting on Oct. 5 and discussed various issues, some of which included this year's membership drive, coffee hour hosting, a review of the monthly National and Metropolis commitments, and preparations for seasonal charity activities.

Due to winter hours, it was agreed that we start our meetings at 6:30 pm instead of 7 pm. This will apply promptly for the next meeting.

Deli/Bake Sale

Our October 11th deli/bake sale was once again a success and we are grateful to the volunteers who assisted in baking the delicious paximadia and other donated homemade goodies that were sold. Our next sale will be Nov. 22 where melomakarona and koulouria will be featured! Please support our efforts and buy our products for your family and friends. Proceeds benefit the many Philoptochos philanthropic commitments that fulfill our mission.

Coffee Hour

A sincere thank you to those who host/sponsor Sunday Coffee Hour!

Nov. 1: Philoptochos

Nov. 8: Sophia and David Rodriguez

Nov. 15: None - due to new floor installation

Nov. 22: Philoptochos

Nov. 29: Philoptochos

Membership Drive and Next Meeting

In response to our New Membership Drive, please read the letter below addressed to Parish Stewards. Follow up efforts will be made as we receive

responses and identify potential new members. All interested parishioners are invited to our next meeting Monday 6:30 pm, Nov. 2.

Dear Parish Stewards:

Have you thought of getting more involved in our parish and reaching out to help others in need? Do you want to feel connected to others through good works? If you answered yes, or even maybe, consider joining St. Anna's Philoptochos Society of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church.

Now is the perfect time to join and you are in the right place to assist those in need as well as to teach another generation about caring and compassion. The Philoptochos Mission perpetuates Orthodox Christian concepts and acts through charitable donations and works to aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the handicapped and others who may be disadvantaged.

Yes, the need is great but you can make a difference! Even if your time is limited, you can tailor your role in the ministry to fit your schedule. Whether you are working, retired, a student, or a combination, your skills and talents can help enhance our efforts. We have even thought of a way for the busiest person to help: Just sign up on our "CALL ME ONCE" sheet and we will contact you to volunteer for one occasion only! So consider becoming involved to help change people's lives.

Join us to give hope to the hopeless! Join us for valuable fellowship! Join us to make a difference! Come to our next meeting to learn more and meet the dedicated people currently involved.

Your Sisters in Christ look forward to welcoming you to our Society!



A Christian Ending

Everyone is invited to a presentation at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 am to 3:30 pm called "A Christian Ending" which will discuss preparations for End of Life issues, the Orthodox Burial procedures and traditions as well as compassionate Elder Care for terminally ill patients. This is information that all of us can use at some point. Cost is \$25 or \$40 per couple. This event is sponsored by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches.

ONCD Overview

What is ONCD?

ONCD is Orthodox Natural Church Development. Contact a Church Health Team member for more information or if you have questions: Frosene Bravos, Chrissy Pritchard, David Rodriguez, Bereket Russom or Peter Vardalos.

Look for more information about ONCD in future In Touch newsletters, Sunday bulletins and other communications.

Natural Church Development is a way of measuring the health or quality of a church. By using a carefully prepared questionnaire with 30 members of a church, the survey will determine the health of your church in 8 critical areas.

These Quality Characteristics are universally used in building healthy churches!

- *Empowering Leadership*
- *Gift-based Ministry*
- *Fervent Spirituality*
- *Effective Structures*
- *Inspiring Worship*
- *Holistic Fellowship Groups*
- *Need-oriented Evangelism*
- *Loving Relationships*

The key in each of these Quality Characteristics is the **adjective**, which can be considered a summary of the six Biotic Principles (see below) as they apply to that characteristic: **empowering, gift-based, fervent, effective**, etc. Every church has some sort of leadership or worship or structure. Not all emphasize the adjectives at the front of each of these Quality Characteristics.

No Quality Characteristic Can Be Missing. Three things can be said with a high degree of certainty:

1. These are universally valid qualities
2. They can be transferred to our own situation
3. Each of these has a positive relationship with both the quality and the quantitative growth of the church

No one single factor leads to growth in churches; it is the interplay of the eight elements as they relate to the Biotic Principles.



The Minimum Factor

Imagine a barrel with eight staves, each representing the eight Quality Characteristics. The staves in the barrel represent the score of the 8 Quality Characteristic. With this analogy, you can only fill the barrel to the level of the lowest staff. So to increase the capacity of the barrel, we must increase the height of the lowest staff.

[Minimum Factor]

Now focusing on the Minimum Factor does not mean that we don't pay attention to the other seven areas. As stated before, all eight characteristics are vitally important to healthy growing churches. Focusing on the Minimum Factors helps us to set timely priorities. Since all eight areas can't be worked on with the same amount of energy and concentration, we need to find areas, which will

ONCD Overview

yield the greatest long-range return on our investments. Remember, Minimum Factors can change quickly—especially when there is a conscious attempt to improve on this one area.

The “All-by-Itself-Principle”

The secret of growing churches does not consist in pushing or pulling the church in human strength and efforts—but in releasing and developing the potential God himself uses to build his church. Then growth occurs all by itself!

This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts, and grows; though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, and then full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come. – Mark 4:26-29

The church is designed by God to grow, so growth happens automatically if we remove the obstacles that prevent growth. Growing churches use this growth principle.

ONCD Process

We have developed a change process which will help you address your Minimum Factor. The ONCD Process will assist you in developing relevant goals and a plan to see the health of your church increase.

Step 1: Prepare – Prepare your church to engage in the total ONCD Process. Getting leadership buy-in, mobilizing intercessors and choosing a Church Health Team are all a part of this step.

Step 2: Diagnose– Diagnose the health of your church. This step begins with taking the survey followed by an in-depth analysis of your Minimum Factor. It concludes with identifying 3-5 key issues to address.

Step 3: Plan – Plan to address your Minimum Factor. In this step the Church Health Team will develop a strategic plan to address your 3-5 key issues identified in Step 2.

Step 4: Implement – Implement the strategic plan developed in Step 3. Staying focused on carrying out the plan and overcoming obstacles along the way will be the task of the Church Health Team.

Step 5: Evaluate – Evaluate the process you used and the results of your effort. Use the Growth Forces to determine increased health in you Minimum Factor then plan to re-take the survey.



NOVEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sts. Cosmas and Damian Mortgage Reduction Tray	2 6:30pm Philoptochos	3 6:00pm Youth Night 7:00pm Bible Study	4	5 7:00pm Choir	6	7
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Special Veteran's Prayer Service	9 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Nektarios 7:00pm Parish Council	10 6:00pm Youth Night 7:00pm Bible Study	11	12 7:00pm Choir	13 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saint John Chrysostom	14 9:00am A Christian Ending (Holy Trinity)
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy IOCC Offering Tray	16	17 6:00pm Youth Night 7:00pm Bible Study	18	19 7:00pm Choir	20	21 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Entrance of the Theotokos
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am Fall General Assembly	23 7:00pm Executive Council	24 6:00pm Youth Night	25	26 Thanksgiving Day (Church Office closed)	27	28
29 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	30 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Andrew					