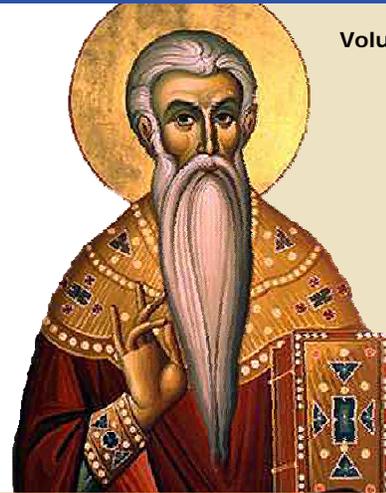


in Touch

Volume 15, Issue 8

August 2007



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Dormition of the Theotokos

Sunday, August 15

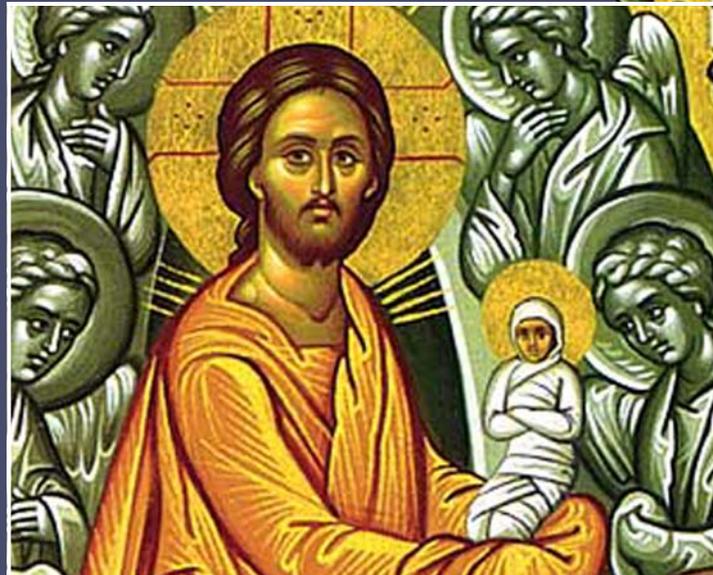
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*"Lord, You know that men
are flesh and blood; forgive
them their sins and pour out
Your blessing on all."*

St. Haralambos



True happiness comes from a loving relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Happiness depends upon ourselves.” Aristotle

“Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.” George Burns

Thoughts on happiness can be found by the famous and the infamous, rich and poor, ancient philosophers and modern business consultants. It is a subject that touches every man, woman and child the world over. Everyone wants to be happy. The founding fathers of our country list the “pursuit of happiness” as an “inalienable right” in the Declaration of Independence.

Some can make us stop and think, such as this reflection from Helen Keller, “When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us,” (Helen Keller), and others can be quite sarcastic, as this from Oscar Wilde, “Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.”

There is a wide variety of things that bring joy and can put a smile on a person’s face: a sunset, the laughter from children playing, humor that is in good taste, enjoying the happiness of others. But a smile can quickly fade, the enjoyable moment comes and goes. There is a difference between finding something that makes you feel happy for a while, and

finding something that offers long-lasting true joy. For Christians, there should be no confusion of the two: many simple things in life can bring us joy and happiness for a little while; true happiness, however, comes from a loving relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ that continues to grow every day of our lives.

While there is no need to belittle the former (be thankful for every moment that brings happiness, if even for a little while), too many of us neglect the source of all goodness and joy in the world: our loving Savior, Helper, and Redeemer. He knows our needs and our desires, our weaknesses and strengths, our passions and our problems. As we read from the Epistle to the Hebrews (4:14-16), “let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with

confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

It takes that confidence in Christ, as well as faith and persistence, to move from learning about Jesus, to learning from him; from reading his words from the bible, to applying them to daily living, from seeing Jesus as a historical figure, to loving

He knows our needs and our desires, our weaknesses and strengths, our passions and our problems.

him as our Lord and Savior. But from the moment of our baptism, when we have received the Holy Spirit and have become part of the very Body of Christ (the Church), we have within us the divine resources to pursue that loving relationship with Christ, so important to finding true happiness.

The Church helps us in developing our relationship both with Christ and with one another. By learning who we are as servants of God, blessed with gifts of the Holy Spirit, we have a divine purpose in life. This is what brings about the ministries of the Church: putting to good use our God-given gifts and talents. It might seem obvious to some, but it is a great mystery to others. Becoming aware of, and using, our God-given gifts not only fills our lives with purpose, we are at the same time offering ourselves in service to others, and glorifying God since our gifts come from Him.

St. Haralambos Church offers a variety of ministries for parishioners and friends to become involved with. Next month we will begin listing them for your reference, along with individuals to contact for further information.

Happiness is defined in countless ways; as Orthodox Christians, let’s continually search for it from the One who blesses us in countless ways, commending ourselves, and each other, to Christ our God.

Some Things You Should Know While in Church

(continued from the July issue of In Touch)

Leaving Before Dismissal

Leaving church before the Dismissal - besides being rude - deprives us of a blessing. Worship has a beginning ("Blessed is the Kingdom...") and an end ("Let us depart in peace..."). To leave immediately after Communion is to treat church like a fast food restaurant where we come and go as we please. We live in a fast-paced world where we seem to be hurrying from place to place. But in God's presence, we need to make every attempt to fight this pressure to move on to the next thing on the day's agenda. We deprive ourselves of blessings by not being still and participating in God's holiness. Eat and run at McDonald's - but stay in church and thank God for his precious gifts.

Blot that Lipstick!

Have you ever looked at an icon in just the right light and seen the lip prints all over it? It's disgusting, isn't it? In fact, it's downright gross. Lipstick may look fine on lips, but it looks horrible on icons, crosses, the Communion spoon and the priest's or bishop's hand. Icons have been ruined by lipstick; and even though the cross can usually be cleaned after everyone venerates it, it just isn't considerate to others to impose your lipstick on them. What is the answer? If you insist on wearing lipstick to church, blot your lips well before venerating an icon, taking Communion, or kissing the cross or the priest's or bishop's hand. Even better, wait until after church to put it on. After all, God is not impressed with how attractive you look externally - your makeup or clothing - but how attractive you are internally, your adornment with good works and piety.

Venerating Icons

When you enter the church, it is traditional to venerate the icons. Usually there are icons at the entrance to the church and many churches have icon stands in the front as well. [Parishes that follow the Slavic tradition usually place the icons on a table (the tetrapod) in front of the solea, the

area in front of the icon screen.] When venerating (kissing) and icon, pay attention to where you kiss. It is not proper to kiss an icon on the saint's face. You wouldn't go up and kiss the Lord or His mother on the lips, would you? You would kiss their hand, and only if they invited you would you even dare to kiss them on the cheek. Pay attention to what you are doing. When you approach an icon to venerate it, kiss the gospel, scroll, or hand cross in the hand of the person in the icon, or kiss the hand or foot of the person depicted. As you venerate an icon, show proper respect to the person depicted in the icon - the same respect you would show the person by venerating him or her in an appropriate place. And remember, blot off your lipstick before kissing.

Talking during Church

Isn't it great to come to church and see friends and family members? But wait until coffee hour to say "Hi" to them. It just isn't appropriate to greet people and have a conversation with them during the services. Besides being disrespectful towards God, it is rude towards the other people in the church who are trying to worship. Talk to God while in church through your prayers, hymns, and thanksgiving, and to your friends in the hall afterwards.

Kiss (Don't Shake) the Priest's or Bishop's Hand

Did you know that the proper way to greet a priest or bishop is to ask his blessing and kiss his right hand? How do you do this? Approach the priest or bishop with your right hand over your left hand and say "Father (or "Master" in the case of the bishop), bless." [He will make the sign of the cross, and place his right hand over yours.] This is much more appropriate (and traditional) than shaking hands. After all, the priest and bishop are not just "one of the boys." When you kiss their hands, you show respect for their office - they are the ones who "bless and sanctify" you and who offer the holy gifts on your behalf. So next time you greet your priest or bishop, don't shake his hand, ask for his blessing.

(Continued on page 4)



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

www.stharalambos.org

Sunday Worship

September - May
Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

June - August
Matins: 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Office

623-486-8665
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345
Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com
FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com

Hours

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

Parish Council

Greg Krochta, President
George Retsinas, Vice-President
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
Peter Tremoulis, Secretary
Glen Albrant
Tracy Albrant

George Christie
Mary Manos
Dean Milonas
Peter Retsinas
Mary Wysmierski
Ray Wysmierski

Some Things You Should Know While in Church

(Continued from page 3)

Sunday Dress

Remember the time when people put on their "Sunday best" to go to church? In fact, dress clothes were often referred to as Sunday clothes. In some parts of the country, this is not common today. In fact, all too often, dress in church has become too casual. In all areas of our lives, we should offer Christ our best. And the same is true of our dress. We should offer Christ our "Sunday best", not our everyday or common wear. And we should dress modestly, not in a flashy way that would bring attention to ourselves. Our dress should always be becoming of a Christian - especially at church. Here are some specific guidelines we use in our parishes:

Children: Only young children (under 10) should wear shorts to church - and then only dress shorts. Athletic shorts, cut-offs, and spandex shorts are never appropriate church wear (for children or adults!). Shoes or sandals should be clean and tied. No one should wear T-shirts with any kind of writing on them ("This Bud's for You!" is definitely out).

Women: Dresses should be modest. No tank tops or dresses with only straps at the shoulders, no short skirts

(mini-skirts), and no skin-tight dresses. Dresses should have backs and not be cut low in the front. If women wear pants to church, they should be dress pants (not jeans, leggings, etc.). Shorts of any type are not appropriate for church.

Men: Men should also dress modestly. While coat and tie are not mandatory, shirts should have collars and be buttoned to the collar (the actual collar button may be left undone, but two or three buttons undone is inappropriate). Slacks should be cleaned and pressed. Jeans (of any color) are usually too casual for church, especially ones with patches or holes. Again, shorts are not appropriate church wear.

If you're going somewhere after church where you need to dress casually, bring a change of clothing with you and change after coffee hour. Remember, use your best judgment and good taste when dressing for church. After all, you don't go to be seen by everyone else - you go to meet and worship God.

Father David Barr is pastor of St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church in Austin, Texas. The remainder of this article, which first appeared in The Word (January 1997, pp. 4-7) will be reprinted next month.



In Touch Celebrates 1-year Anniversary

Next month marks the 12th issue of our new and improved parish newsletter. We hope everyone has enjoyed the creative covers along with the expanded content of parish activities and parishioner profiles. We are thankful to Peter Vardalos and Nick Milonas for offering their time and talents to produce our newsletter each month, and to the advertisers for their financial support.

Looking ahead, we plan to continue to expand the scope of our newsletter, but will need additional help to make this happen. So we turn to you, our parish family, and ask if someone has the desire to work with the *In*

Touch staff to help gather articles from parish organizations, interview parishioners for the Parishioner Profile, write about news from the Archdiocese and the Ecumenical Patriarchate as well as articles of interest from other Orthodox jurisdictions, to please email Peter Vardalos at InTouch@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com.

We would also appreciate the support of any other businesses that would like to advertise in our monthly newsletter to help offset the production costs. Please contact St. George Publishing at the number on the inside back cover.

ORGANIZATIONS

Council Corner

Fellow Parishioners,

I hope all of you are doing well, and that the summer monsoon brings some much needed relief to you and your homes. Now that we're halfway through the year, I thought I'd provide an update on two big issues your Parish Council has voted overwhelmingly to move forward on, that you'll soon be hearing about... a sort of "parish primer."

First, I'm happy to announce the start of a new program called "Parish Pay." Parish Pay is a program which will serve to replace the traditional way of making offerings to the church through paper envelopes, to those who wish to participate. It is an online, computer-based program, allowing parishioners, our friends and families, and anonymous donors to make donations to our parish programs (i.e. building fund, capital campaigns, candle collections, memorial funds, Festival donations, food drives, Project Mexico fundraising, etc., etc.) on an individual or recurring basis, whether they live near us or not. Parish Pay will allow us to be more reflective (and regular) in our stewardship and giving, rather than reflexive (i.e. I only have a few singles to give today, but I'll give more next time to make up for it). Parishioners can make donations using checks or credit cards (think of the points/airline miles/cash-back bonus opportunities you'll also be able to earn!). The Parish will benefit by receiving scheduled stewardship donations from our regular (and not-so-regular) attendees, by being able to reach out and receive donations from people across the country who visit our Parish website and decide to donate to one of our programs, and by providing us with a much simpler accounting and reporting process for our different parish programs.

This is just to make you aware of the basics of Parish Pay...expect to hear much more from your Parish Council as we begin to roll-out this nationally recognized program very soon!

Second, and just as happily, I want to make you aware of the council's vote to support the recommendation of your hard-working Capital Enrichment Campaign Committee. The committee presented us with their recommendation to use the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Office of Parish Development team to lead us through our upcoming capital campaign to raise funds to build our new church campus on 75th Ave and Greenway. But, "what is a capital campaign"? The Office of Parish Development defines it as "a significant funding goal, raised through a concerted effort, for a specific project, during a defined time period." The team will soon conduct a planning study of our parish in order to 1) assess the level of funds that can be raised, 2) cultivate interest, especially in our top prospects, 3) make us aware of obstacles and opportunities before they appear (or disappear!), 4) galvanize support for the project, 5) identify leaders for the campaign, and 6) gather other useful feedback to help ensure our success! We recognize the need for professional, third-party assistance to be able to move forward on our dream of building the new church campus, and what better group than from our own Archdiocese! Once again, expect to hear more as this extremely important undertaking gets started and, PLEASE, thank the members of your building and capital campaign committees for all of their hard work (and donation to cover the campaign enrichment team costs!) allowing us to take this "leap of faith" toward our future!

Treasurer's Report January to June 2007



ORDINARY INCOME

Stewardship	58,908
Candle & Tray	
Collection	8,785
Pascha	3,900
Rental Property	2,700
Miscellaneous	906

OTHER INCOME

Investment Income	10,563
Fund Raiser Event	1,344

SPECIFIED DONATIONS

Bldg Fund	10,445
Memorials	2,200
Choir	2,545
Misc.	1,065

Total Income \$103,361

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	48,710
Diocese Assessments	4,950
Capital Improvements	789
New Bldg (Architect)	9,720
Charity	1,730

OPERATING EXPENSE

Utilities	8,966
Facility Maintenance	3,611
Office	4,738
Candles	720
Bookstore	706
Holiday Expense	562
Insurance	1,518
Religious	1,637
Fund Raiser	960

Total Expense \$89,317

NET INCOME \$14,044

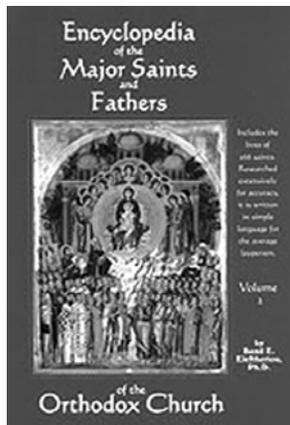
ORGANIZATIONS

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Encyclopedia of the Major Saints and Fathers of the Orthodox Church, Basil E. Eleftheriou, 2000.

Have you ever wanted to know about the life of St. Haralambos or about another saint such as the one whose name you share since baptism? Listed below are descriptions of various saints. How many can you identify? Hint: one of them is St. Haralambos. (Answers listed on page 8.)

1. He's the father of monasticism; distributed his wealth to the needy; lived in the desert; performed many miracles.
2. He was skinned alive; his name means "Shining with Joy;" forgave two of his tormentors who repented and shares his Feast Day with them.
3. She was directed to the buried cross of Jesus; after excavation took a small piece of it back to Constantinople.
4. He's called the ultimate benefactor, defender of the Trinity; hundreds of people died of asphyxiation at his funeral because the crowds were so large.
5. His body remains for public viewing after being interred twice in different locations and remaining intact for years; numerous miracles occurred shortly after his death.
6. He was appointed Patriarch of Constantinople, but resigned because of politics and left to live in a monastery; final work was a morality poem with 18,000 stanzas.



7. As Patriarch of Alexandria he used all his wealth to build shelters and hospitals for refugees; used his knowledge of medicine to tend the wounded.
8. He's the greatest ecclesiastical orator; name means "golden mouth;" berated the rich for living exorbitantly while the poor starved in the streets.
9. After she debated 50 pagan philosophers on the virtues of Christianity, nearly all were converted; when her torturers were bringing her towards a spiked wheel, it exploded before they reached it.
10. He was killed while praying; paid assassins entered his cell and strangled him with his own omophorion (Bishop's stole).
11. He was a physician who did not take payment from the poor; his fellow citizens changed his name to mean "Charitable to All;" beheaded after restoring a blind man's sight and insisting his powers came from Christ.
12. At his execution, two vials of his blood were collected and survive to this day; on May 1 and Sept. 19 they are shown to the congregation of the Cathedral of Naples; the blood, which has coagulated sometimes, loses its coagulation and miracles occur.

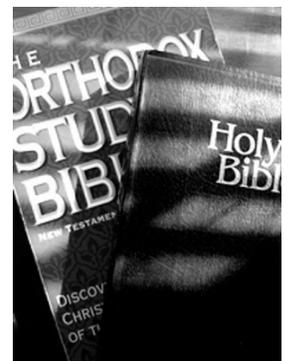
This book provides a tremendous insight into the lives of saints. Most saints were pious individuals who used all of their wealth and talents to help the needy and defend the Faith. Several saints also performed miracles. Many were tortured and martyred for Christ. ALL of their life-stories are inspiring.

Sunday School News and Notes

It's time to sign up children for the upcoming Sunday School year. Each Sunday in August, the Sunday School staff will be available to enroll and register students for the coming year. Sunday School begins the Sunday after Labor Day. We have the following classes ready with instructors:

- Preschool & Kindergarten
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades
- 4th, 5th, and 6th, grades
- Youth Forum – 7th Grade through 12th Grade

Please be sure to stop by the Sunday School Table and meet the Sunday School Director, Olga Fredericksen, during the coffee hour and enroll your student(s).



Grade in Sunday School

Teacher _____

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION**SCHOOL YEAR 2007-2008**

Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

(Please PRINT or TYPE - Thank You)

Today's Date: _____

STUDENT/CHILD NAME and CONTACT INFORMATION

Student/Child: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Baptismal Name of Child: _____ Name Day: _____

Mother's/Guardian's Name: _____ Home#: _____ Work#: _____

Address (if different): _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Father's/Guardian's Name: _____ Home#: _____ Work#: _____

Address (if different): _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

(Emails will not be used for any purpose other than direct communication to inform you of Sunday School activities and community events.)

OTHER INFORMATION

Grade in Public School: _____ Name of School: _____

Student/Child's other activities at St. Haralambos:

 Altar Boy
 Greek School
 Youth Groups
 Dance
 Youth Choir
 Oratorical Festival
MEDICAL INFORMATION

(Information is confidential. Information will be shared as needed or necessary during the school year.)

Does your student/child have any known allergies or medical conditions that the staff should be aware of?

 Yes
 No

If yes, please describe and specify allergies and/or condition(s): _____

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

I would like to assist the Sunday School in the following areas:

 Sunday School Teacher (Grade: _____)
 Assistant Teacher
 Classroom Helper
 Arts & Crafts
 Bulletin Boards
 Special Projects
 Special Programs - set up
 Snacks & Lunches
 Christmas Pageant
 Donations
 Special Programs - clean up

Other talents or skills you wish to volunteer or provide: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Birthdays



Dorothy Ayan (5th)
 Pres. Miriam Paraschou (9th)
 Tom Langas (13th)
 Aphrodite Devolites (14th)
 Victoria Georgen (15th)
 George Christie (16th)
 Steve Hargan (17th)
 Fr. Michael Pallad (18th)
 Anna Yacyshyn (22nd)
 Greg Solomon (24th)
 Cindy Ivanoff (30th)

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.

Name Days

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

St. Laurentios (Laurence) (10th)
 Repose of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15th)
 St. Stamatios (16th)
 St. Theophanes of Mt. Athos (19th)
 St. Irenaios (23rd)
 St. Moses the Ethiopian (28th)

Assisted Living, Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish, and we ask you to please remember them in prayer: Orin and Mary-Jean Davis, Alice Massahos, George Poulos and Effie Stathoupoulou.

Memory Eternal

Our love and sympathies to the family of Dema Jean Milonas, who fell asleep in the Lord on July 19. May God grant eternal rest to her soul, and may her memory be eternal.

Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

July 1 Marius & Stella Pagos
 July 8 Philoptochos
 July 15 Elaine Tsialafos
 July 22 Philoptochos
 July 29 Philoptochos

 Aug. 5 Ray & Mary Wymierski
 Aug. 12 Roy & Maria Christian
 Aug. 19 20th Anniversary Committee (BBQ Lunch)
 Aug. 26 Available

The Coffee Hour Sponsor program will return in September. If interested in hosting the remaining Sunday in August, please contact the Church office, 623-486-8665 or Stella Pagos, 623-975-0027.



Change in Sunday Service Times

For the hot summer months of June, July and August, the Sunday service times will be moved a half-hour ahead: Matins will start at 8:30a.m. and the Divine Liturgy at 9:30a.m.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Book Review

Answers to the book review questions on Encyclopedia of the Major Saints and Fathers of the Orthodox Church found on page 7.

1. St. Anthony The Great
2. St. Haralambos
3. St. Helen the Empress
4. St. Basil the Great
5. St. Gerasimos
6. St. Gregory the Theologian
7. St. John the Charitable
8. St. John Chrysostom
9. St. Katherine the Great Martyr
10. St. Paul I. Patriarch
11. St. Panteleimon
12. St. Ianouarios (Gennaro)

AUGUST 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	2	3 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	4
5 8:30am Matins 9:30am Div. Liturgy	6 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy Transfiguration of Christ 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	7	8 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	9	10 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	11
12 8:30am Matins 9:30am Div. Liturgy	13 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	14	15 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy Dormition of the Theotokos	16	17	18
19 8:30am Matins 9:30am Div. Liturgy Anniversary BBQ following Liturgy	20 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	21 7:00pm Parish Council	22	23	24	25
26 8:30am Matins 9:30am Div. Liturgy	27	28	29 8:00am Matins 9:00am Div. Liturgy Beheading of John the Baptist	30	31	