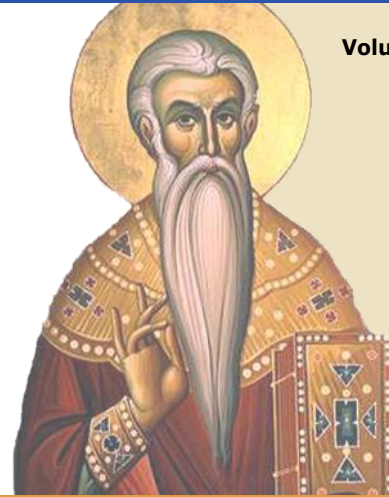


in Touch

Volume 28, Issue 8
August 2020



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

The Feastday of the Dormition of the Theotokos

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Saturday, August 15



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

Office of Supplication to the Theotokos

Each year during the first fifteen days of August, the liturgical calendar of the Orthodox Church calls for the celebration of the Office of Supplication to the Theotokos (Greek: Paraklesis) to be chanted regularly in preparation for the feastday of the Dormition of the Theotokos on Aug. 15.

This beautiful prayer service includes the chanting of the Nine Odes which are inspiring prayers asking for the help of the Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary. As an example, the First Stanza of Ode 1, begins, “By hosts of temptation sorely oppressed, in you I seek refuge in my eagerness to be saved. O Virgin and mother of the Word, from trouble and danger deliver me.”

The hymns bring to mind our own weaknesses – physical and spiritual – and also entreat the Blessed Virgin Mary’s help and prayers. The Fourth Stanza continues, “Afflicted in body and in my soul, count me as deserving of divine love and of your care. You alone as birth-giver of God, in your goodness gave birth to the source of good.”



These evening services will be broadcast online through our parish Facebook page. (Please see the Community Calendar for days and times.)

This year, for the first time, the services will also include the chanting of the hymns by several of our parishioners who have recorded themselves singing at home. Because of the risk of spreading germs during the pandemic, singing in Church has been greatly restricted.

Having parishioners record the hymns in advance provides an opportunity for more singers to participate, with no increase of risk.

We thank the following parishioners whose beautiful voices will be heard during these weeknight services: Lizzy Baxter, Sheila

Hrapchak, Alexandra Pallad, Megan Pallad, Katelyn Pritchard, Noah, Naomi, Nile and Niat Solomon, and Nikki Theoharatos.

Agia Sophia in Constantinople

A letter from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

Beloved in the Lord,

“O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all.”

–Psalm 104:24

The recent actions of the Republic of Turkey to convert the historic Hagia Sophia into a mosque has drawn worldwide attention. While this political effort may be happening over 6,000 miles from the Metropolis of San Francisco and you may feel removed from its impact, it is incumbent upon each of us to become educated about this situation and appropriately protest this action and encourage the reversal of this decision.

We know that Hagia Sophia was the pre-eminent Church in all Christendom from its opening in the sixth century. Besides its significance for Christians, it was and still is an architectural marvel, and a place that has opened her doors for millions of people throughout the world over the centuries to witness her majesty and beauty. The decision to convert Hagia Sophia to a mosque places that openness in jeopardy.

Let us beseech the Lord, through His Might and Wisdom, to bring about a peaceful resolution and may Hagia Sophia be reinstated as a museum that is filled with love, unity and acceptance.

With Love in Christ,

+ G E R A S I M O S

Metropolitan of San Francisco





Fear and Faith

This month, I offer a wonderful reflection by Fr. Dean Kouldukis, pastor of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Seattle, Washington. Fr. Dean's timely thoughts offer needed inspiration and help during this time of pandemic and feelings of isolation.

Together with the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, we also recently celebrated the Feast of the Twelve Holy Apostles. In thinking about the Apostles and the challenges they faced as they worked to establish the Church, I am struck by their response after our Lord's crucifixion.

Saint John's Gospel teaches us that the Apostles were behind closed doors for fear of the Jews. (St. John 20:19) I suppose their fear was justified. After all Jesus had just been crucified, and as followers of Jesus, perhaps they thought their execution was eminent. The apostles did not yet understand what had happened. For them, death was still death, and their despair and fear loomed in their hearts deeper than ever.

Yet in their fear, and in the depths of their despair, our Lord and Savior came and stood among them and offered them the greeting, "Peace be with you." His resurrection totally transformed their lives! Saint Peter went from being fearful and denying our Lord to preaching with boldness to his Jewish brethren. Three thousand were baptized that very day! (Acts 2:41)

Fear, uncertainty, anxiety, worry. We may have felt, to one degree or another, all, or some of these emotions in the face of this COVID pandemic. One thing I think we all have in common is the fact that, to one degree or another, this Coronavirus pandemic has changed the rhythm of our lives. Being sheltered in place, we are spending more

time at home. In conjunction with spending more time at home, we are spending less time with family and with one another.

We are more isolated now than at any other time in our society. This heightened isolation is accompanied with so many questions. When will things be back to "normal"? Will this pandemic permanently change our society? Will my livelihood be in-tact in the future? With the recent uptick in the number of COVID cases, will we experience a regression in our journey increasing our isolation? How long will this virus affect our lives?

This uncertainty of what the future will look like, coupled with all the questions that accompany it, can lead us to this place of experiencing a heightened sense of anxiety and fear.

Fear is not necessarily a bad thing. It does have its place. If for example, if we did not fear a dangerous situation, we could unintentionally make decisions compromising our health and even our life. This type of fear is life preserving and is necessary for our survival. Our Lord gave us the emotion of fear to protect us.

Fear does have its place. But like every other emotion, the devil can use fear to undermine our faith. Fear, then becomes a sin when it causes us to doubt our Lord's promise that He is always with us leading us to a place of disbelief.

This is what happened to the people of Israel. After Moses led them to freedom from the bondage of the Egyptians, they wondered in the desert for

When will things be back to "normal"? Will this pandemic permanently change our society? Will my livelihood be in-tact in the future?

(Continued on page 5)

**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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Office@StHaralambosAZ.com
FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com
Hours
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parish Council
Philip Bell
Angie Cholas
Roy Christian
Anna Kinniburgh
Ted Manos
Valla Wrona

Birthdays



Andreas Karabetos (3)
Irene Nathanson (4)
Joseph Berte (4)
Dorothy Ayan (5)
Olga Fredericksen (6)
Daniel Martin, Jr. (6)
Phillip Bell (7)
Georgia Savaidis (7)
Pierce Retsinas (11)
Victoria Georgen (15)
Theofanis Christakos (16)
Jean Dal Pan (17)
Alexis Tremoulis (17)
Thalia Christian (18)
Chryss Danielek (18)
Fr. Michael Pallad (18)
Valla Wrona (19)
Brittany Nicholas (19)
Michael Fulghum (22)
Kara Martin (23)
Nancy Birk (24)
Parker Rosekrans (24)
Angela Covault (27)
Val Danos (27)
Elias Caratachea (29)
Keegan Kelly (30)
Zewdi Asfaha (31)

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.

Parish Council News

Council members: President Anna Kinniburgh, Treasurer Phillip Bell, Secretary Valla Wrona, and members Roy Christian, Angie Cholas, and Ted Manos.

As Archbishop Elpidophoros requested in his letter, please pray with us and speak out for the return of Ayia Sophia as a museum.

During this past month, the council had discussions and gave approval to make some improvements to the church in order to get it ready to reopen. These improvements were very necessary such as cleaning the carpet throughout, all of the upholstered chairs, the tile and chairs in the social hall, and replacing the emergency lights. We had the air conditioning units serviced, and it was discovered that one had the condenser motor burned out. This was replaced through a donation. The canopy over the playground will be replaced within the next few weeks using the \$5,000 donation we received for that purpose. And finally, we replaced the automated external defibrillator in the library.

Because the maintenance of our church building is so important, we have hired a handyman to work one to two days a month for various jobs as needed.

Since we will not be having a general assembly meeting for a while, we will be including the Profit and Loss Statement (page 6) as well as the Balance Sheet (page 7) each month to help everyone stay abreast of what is happening and how we are doing. Should you have any questions regarding our finances, please contact President Anna Kinniburgh through the church office.

Apelia, the Greek wine from the festival, is still available for sale for \$5 per bottle. Please contact the church office if you would like to purchase some.

We continue to pray for the health and well-being of everyone. Please contact us with any needs you may have.

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for Aug. 13 at 7 pm.

Congratulations Graduates

Several Saint Haralambos parishioners recently took another step in their education, with graduations at many different levels.

Ammiel Desta, one of our young adult parishioners, graduated early from high school in 2019. After finishing high school in three years, Ammiel began his studies

through Rio Salado Community College and the Maricopa County Community Colleges. He will continue his education, aiming at a career in radiology, at Gateway Community College. Congratulations Ammiel on your early graduation and start towards your career! We are all very proud of you

Thank You

Dear SHC Friends,

On behalf of our entire family, thank you for the outpouring of love, support and condolences at the passing of our dear sister, Georgia Sparks.

We are extremely grateful for the prayers, phone calls, texts, cards, emails, Facebook comments and preparation of

food. It was evident that those who had the pleasure of knowing Georgia, cared and loved her deeply. Her memory is an eternal blessing.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Love,
Andriana Henson and Pam Lemons

Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

forty years simply because they gave into their fear and refused to obey the Lord. They allowed fear to paralyze them and as a result the generation of Moses missed the Lord's promise of the blessings of the promised land.

Because people are made in the image and likeness of God, being an icon of our Lord, we as human beings want peace in our lives more than anything else. In fact, in preparing this reflection, I realized in my own private prayers, I ask for peace daily. In addition, we ask for peace at the start of every Liturgy, as peace is the theme of the first three petitions.

God created us, not for fear, but for peace, because through peace we come to know God. No wonder our risen Lord's first greeting to the Apostles after His resurrection was, *"Peace be with you."*

So how do we keep a peaceful heart in the face of this pandemic uncertainty that at times may be overwhelming?

The answer is simple, we must always remind ourselves in the promise of our Lord, to His apostles and to us, that he will be with us always. The letter of the Hebrews reminds us of our Lord's promise, *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."* (Hebrews 13:5)

Jesus reminds us in Saint Matthew's Gospel, *"Surely I am with you always, to very end of the age."* (Matthew 28:20) In addition, Saint Peter reminds us *"Cast all of your anxiety on Him because he cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:7).

Our Orthodox Christian faith reminds us that our fears and problems, which may feel so very real, do not have the final word! Yes, fear can undermine faith, but fear can also strengthen faith, when our trust and hope is in the Lord. Fear then becomes a powerful teacher inviting us to focus beyond our problems, on the promise of our Lord, that He will always be with us, that His peace He gives us.

As the Twelve Holy Apostles learned as they walked their life journey, yes, the crosses in life will always be with us. However, as the life of the Apostles also taught us, our hope and life's anchor is in our faith in our Lord and trust in His promise. While acknowledging our challenges, our focus on our Lord and our trust and faith in Him, as the Apostles witnessed, will strengthen our faith, bring peace to our hearts, and will show us the way of victory over the challenges of the world.

Bible Study

Applying the Scriptures

This is an on-line Zoom bible study class that is available to everyone. We will discuss different topics and current events viewing them through the eyes of our Lord Jesus Christ and His teachings. This class is every Wednesday at 7 pm (Thur. if service is on Wed.). If you are interested in joining us please contact Dean Milonas at 602-540-9920 or dmilonas@cox.net.



Name Days

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

St. Teodosios of Argos (7th)

St. Laurentios (Laurence) (10th)

Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15th)

St. Stamatios (16th)

St. Theophanes of Mt. Athos (19th)

St. Irenaios (23rd)

St. Moses the Ethiopian (28th)

2:19 PM

07/03/20

Accrual Basis

Profit & Loss

June 2020

	Jun 20	May 20	\$ Change
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
3010 · STEWARDSHIP	6,014.00	6,610.00	-596.00
3020 · CANDLES	89.00	124.00	-35.00
3040 · DONATION	0.00	8,850.16	-8,850.16
3050 · BOOKSTORE	0.00	30.00	-30.00
3110 · PASCHA	50.00	150.00	-100.00
Total Income	6,153.00	15,764.16	-9,611.16
Expense			
4000 · MINISTRY	12,080.81	12,155.31	-74.50
4025 · MINISTRY OTHER	300.00	0.00	300.00
4050 · OFFICE PAYROLL	1,337.02	1,006.53	330.49
4100 · CHURCH ASSESSMENTS	2,751.67	2,751.67	0.00
4200 · OFFICE	660.17	647.31	12.86
4300 · UTILITIES	1,740.93	1,742.42	-1.49
4400 · FACILITY	5,202.57	350.00	4,852.57
4500 · LITURGICAL	39.90	162.46	-122.56
4800 · ACCOUNTING	75.56	75.56	0.00
4900 · INSURANCE	427.67	427.67	0.00
5200 · CHARITIES-	250.00	0.00	250.00
5800 · BANKING	32.11	37.72	-5.61
Total Expense	24,898.41	19,356.65	5,541.76
Net Ordinary Income	-18,745.41	-3,592.49	-15,152.92
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
6000 · MORTGAGE REDUCTION-	0.00	450.00	-450.00
6150 · CELL TOWER	1,158.33	1,158.33	0.00
6200 · ST. MARY'S	3,321.41	3,321.41	0.00
6300 · BANKING-	2.09	2.15	-0.06
6450 · MEMORIAL-	75.00	0.00	75.00
6700 · FESTIVAL -	125.00	80.00	45.00
6904 · Government Loan	0.00	24,450.00	-24,450.00
Total Other Income	4,681.83	29,461.89	-24,780.06
Net Other Income	4,681.83	29,461.89	-24,780.06
Net Income	-14,063.58	25,869.40	-39,932.98

2:17 PM
07/03/20
Cash Basis

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2020

	<u>Jun 30, 20</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · GENERAL CHECKING	46,019.90
1015 · SAVINGS	
1016 · Ayan	103,700.00
1017 · Kitchen	837.76
1018 · Awnings	5,000.00
1015 · SAVINGS - Other	152,557.20
Total 1015 · SAVINGS	262,094.96
1020 · PETTY CASH	141.50
Total Checking/Savings	308,256.36
Total Current Assets	308,256.36
TOTAL ASSETS	308,256.36
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00

AUGUST 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	3 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the Theotokos	4	5 7:00pm Vespers Transfiguration of our Lord	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy Transfiguration of our Lord 7:00pm Bible Study	7 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the Theotokos	8
9 7:45am Matins 9:00am Divine Liturgy	10 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the Theotokos	11	12 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the Theotokos	13 7:00pm Bible Study	14 7:00pm Vespers Dormition of the Theotokos	15 9:00am Divine Liturgy Dormition of the Theotokos
16 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	17	18	19 7:00pm Bible Study	20	21	22
23 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	24	25	26 7:00pm Bible Study	27	28	29
30 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	31					