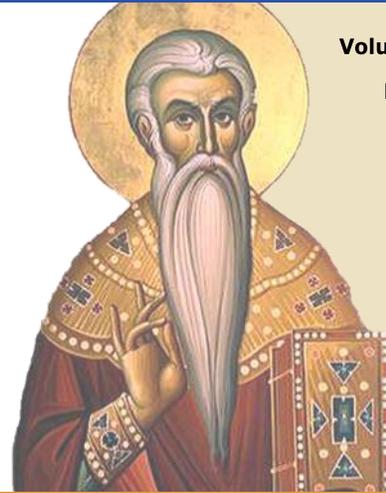


in Touch

Volume 24, Issue 2
February 2016



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

February is Saint Haralambos Month

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Parish Feastday Services

Vespers on Tuesday,
Feb 9 at 7pm
(Reception
following)

Divine Liturgy on
Wednesday,
Feb 10 at 9am
(Refreshments
following)

Peoria Greek Fest

Friday, Feb 12 –
Sunday, Feb 14



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, I hope that you are having success in keeping your New Year's resolutions! A special "Thank you" for hosting the Forever Young Pot-luck gathering goes out to our gracious hostess, Lea Mancini and to all who participated. We did not get to see the "special DVD" because of the football games, we will show it another time.

On Saturday, Jan. 23, our four Philoptochos chapters hosted the "Agape Ball", Camp Agape/Kids with Cancer benefit, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, in Phoenix. Thank you to all of the ladies & gentlemen who helped to make this a reality and to those who supported this worthy endeavor with either a contribution, supported a child and or attended the Ball!

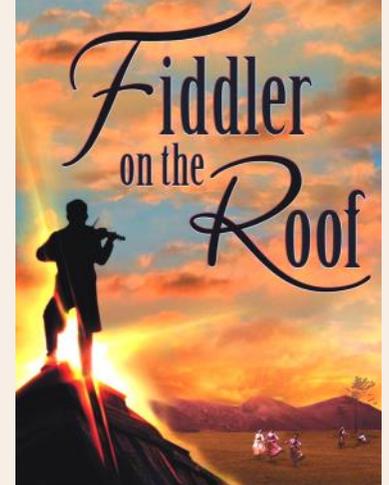
In the month of February, on Monday, Feb. 15 at 10 am we will be going to The Bible Museum, 2000 N. Litchfield Rd., Goodyear, AZ 85395 and following the tour, we will go to Dino's Greek/Italian Restaurant at 1550 N. Dysart Rd., Goodyear, AZ 85395, for lunch. I can bring up to 15 for this tour.

On Sunday, Feb. 21 at 3 pm, the Arizona Winds Concert Band will perform "Two Iconic 20th Century Composers" concert. The concert will be held at the Cactus High School Auditorium at 6330 W. Greenway Rd., Glendale, AZ 85306.

Also on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 5 pm, there will be an "Arizona Premiere" of a narrative film that explores the power of prayer. The Daughters of Penelope, Aegina #340, Chandler, AZ are hosting this to help support their Philanthropic Charities. The film is called "Antique Prayers", the cost is \$10 for adults, children under 12, \$5; the writer/director: Paul Socrates Kaitson will be in attendance to discuss and answer questions. It is being

shown at the Tempe Pollack Cinemas, 1825 E. Elliot Rd., Tempe, AZ. This spiritually uplifting film has been shown in the LA area and has been extremely well received. I took 40 tickets to sell, call me.

On Sunday, Mar. 6 at 5 pm; I have booked seating at the Arizona Broadway Dinner Theatre to see; "Fiddler on the Roof", the cost of this performance is \$62 per person. I will need commitments for tickets; I have to give a 25% deposit the first week in January, in order to hold the very good seats that I have been able to get. They are holding 40 seats for me and I believe that we will book all of them, but, I must have quick responses and payment by Feb. 12. The cost of your ticket includes: fresh rolls, choice of soup or salad, a choice of one of five different entrees, your tea and or coffee, plus the servers gratuity. If you wish anything extra such as a dessert, soda, a cocktail or upgrading your main entrée, you will receive a bill for it along with the tax and additional gratuity. The checks need to be made out to me; I pay the entire bill with my own credit card. They will not accept multiple payments.



I can be reached at: juliekaroutas@gmail.com, 623-972-2382 or call/text my cell: 623-313-8720. Please leave name of all wishing to participate and a contact number.



Parishioners Bring Sounds of the Season to Life at 2015 Christmas Concert

On the Saturday before Christmas on a chilly night in Peoria, a diverse group of talented parishioners performed a wide array of songs and music as part of the 2015 St. Haralambos Christmas Concert.

The well-attended performance featured piano, flute, French horn and soloists sharing musical favorites and traditions for the Nativity of Christ. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed fellowship and holiday refreshments in the Social Hall capping a great Saturday night Christmas concert.



Please, Lord, grant me patience; NOW!

In a memorable scene from the movie, “A League of their Own,” the story of the first women’s professional baseball league, coach Jimmy Dugan (played by Tom Hanks) signals a player that he needs to have a word with her about a simple play she missed during the previous inning. Using only his hands and a variety of extremely tense facial expressions, he doesn’t say a word. You can almost see the fumes escaping from his ears; the player is expecting a verbal explosion any second. But then, remarkably, coach slowly forms a forced smile, and with fingers still shaking, slowly and calmly asks his outfielder to try and work on improving her fundamentals before next season. The confrontation now over, the player slowly exhales, smiles and replies that she’ll do better next time. Coach Dugan takes a few more seconds to regain his composure, and turned what could have been a regrettable verbal tirade into an impressive coachable moment.

That patience is a virtue, no one can deny. From children who demand more play time, to adults who have to put up with a slow internet connection, we understand the daily need for patience. We appreciate it when others are patient with us, yet too often do not return the favor. Whether by ourselves (driving in traffic, waiting in line or “on hold”) or with others (miscommunication, not doing things my (the right) way, or getting the family ready to leave on-time), we can be very quick to justify the loss of patience as inevitable.

This month we are preparing for our annual Festival, the largest event of the year for Saint Haralambos Church. We are asking for everyone’s help with the baking, set-up, booth shifts and eventual tear-down and storage for next year. This

month, then, is the most appropriate month for us to focus on patience. We’re interacting with each other more often, and under more stressful conditions, than at any other time of the year.

You’ve heard the various remedies for exercising patience: Holding our tongue (a figure of speech), counting to ten, walking away, and splashing cold water on our face. Some of them may work, but because they treat the symptoms and not the cause, are only temporary fixes.

The foundation of patience is love, treating others as we would like to be treated. Remember that the person working next to you is your brother or sister, a member of our Church family, like you. They, like you, are not perfect. They, like you, get tired. They, like you, have other things on their minds. They, like you, are trying to do the best they can.

When someone is not doing a task exactly as you directed, see them first as yourself, a human being, and give them the respect due a brother or sister in the Lord. Using a calm voice, call them by their name and no other, and offer your help whether it’s another explanation, a helping hand or doing the task together. Helping them with their task is helping you, is helping the Festival, is helping our Church.

If you find yourself on the receiving end of someone offering help, do so graciously and humbly, rather than feeling too proud to accept a helping hand. It is rude to refuse a gift of love. If a sincere offer of help is coming your way, why would you refuse to accept it? (Continued next month)

The foundation of patience is love, treating others as we would like to be treated.



**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

Marina Finch
Dennis Georgen
Kathie Harvey

Tim Harvey
Russ Skocypec

Student Scholarship Opportunities

Arizona Hellenic Foundation

The Arizona Hellenic Foundation has several scholarships available to high school seniors and college students. For an application and eligibility requirements please visit www.Azhellenic.org.

Heritage Greece 2016

The American College of Greece (ACG) is now accepting applications for Heritage Greece 2016, an educational and cultural program for college-aged, Greek-American students. Heritage Greece was developed by the National Hellenic Society (NHS) as part of its mission to celebrate and preserve Greek heritage in the United States and is hosted by The American College of Greece (ACG). Heritage Greece is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore Greek heritage, culture and identity with a peer group of students from the US and Greece.

The Heritage Greece Program will run from June 9 to 26, 2016.

ACG is accepting applications through Mar. 25. We are seeking Greek-American college students who have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and have never or seldom been to Greece.

Applicants can visit the website at www.acg.edu/admissions/study-abroad/heritage-greece/apply-heritage-greece, where they can learn more details about this year's Heritage Greece program, as well as apply through the link provided.



Summer Camp

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is proud to announce the 36th year of its Summer Camp ministry at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. Organized by the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, this program is a highlight of youth ministry throughout the year. All three sessions of Summer Camp are for campers ages 8–18.

The dates for the 2016 Metropolis Summer Camp are:

- Staff Orientation Week - July 5-9
- Session I - July 10-16
- Session II - July 17-23
- Session III - July 24-30

Due to high demand, campers are now limited to registering for only ONE session of summer camp.

Pricing for 2016:

- \$475 Early Registration (Dec 1–Feb 29)
- \$500 Normal Registration (Mar 1–Apr 30)
- \$525 Late Registration (May 1–Jun 15)

All siblings receive a \$25 discount.

Online Registration

Camper Registration and more information is now available online at www.gosfyouth.org. You can make a deposit now to lock in the “Early Registration” pricing and make payments until Jun. 15.

All Saints Camp

June 5 - 10 | Prescott, AZ

Look for registration materials in upcoming issues.



St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Anna Kinniburgh, President

"Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the grace of God."

1Peter 4:9-10

St. Anna's Philoptochos met for their January meeting and voted on the National and Metropolis commitments for the month. Fifty dollars went toward cancer and other illnesses, \$50 toward Social Services, and a check for \$1,157 was sent toward the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Shrine. It was also voted that the \$345 collected from the Tree of Remembrance go toward Aid to Greece and Cyprus, a humanitarian effort to assist the thousands of Greek and Cypriots suffering from the financial and refugee crisis.

Vasilopita Sunday was a huge success! Thank you to all who baked and helped with this event. Our sales totaled over \$500 and will go to support St. Basil's Academy which offers safe haven, home and services for Orthodox children.

These past weeks have been very busy baking and preparing for our Annual Peoria GreekFest. We want to extend our sincerest thank you to all who contributed their time and talents. Without your

dedication and generosity our festival would not be possible. We look forward to a successful and fun festival.

Our Society has also been actively recruiting new volunteers. We are happy to report that we have enlisted 7 new members! Please consider joining Philoptochos as we work together to make a difference for our church, our society, and for ourselves! See me for a membership form. You can volunteer as a regular member, a supporting member or just for particular events.

Coffee Hour

A sincere thank you to those who host Sunday Coffee Hour! The signup sheet is located on the wall outside the kitchen. Below are February supporters (subject to change due to printing deadlines):

February 7 - Memorial

February 14 - Peoria GreekFest, no coffee hour

February 21 - Lydia and Ellen and Nardos

February 28 - Philoptochos

March's Philoptochos meeting will be Monday the 7th at 6:30 pm. See you at the festival. OPAH!

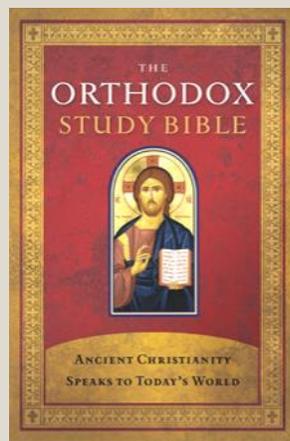


Orthodox Study Group

Because of the Greek Festival and other commitments, Orthodox bible study will be suspended the whole month of February.

The study of Genesis will resume starting Thursday Evening Mar. 3 at 7 pm.

If you have any questions please contact Ted Manos at tedmanos@zona.net or 623-680-6547.



A Gathering of Prayer

Our parish memorial prayer group, “A Gathering of Prayer” welcomed several new members at our coffee hour membership drive. A big “thank you” to our new members for stepping up to join us! I am very grateful for the Akathist prayers offered up by veteran members for our departed parishioners during the last three years. They also did a wonderful



job hosting the coffee hour.

If you were unable to attend and have questions about what we do, please ask Kay Fulghum or Irene Nathanson, we'll be happy to answer any questions you may have about this ministry of spiritual charity. You can email us at gatheringofprayer@cox.net.

Birthdays



- Christina Harris (1)
- Kalliope Chafoulias (4)
- Koula Ratliff (5)
- Silvia Christenson, II (9)
- Erini Braddock (11)
- Kerri Stamas (11)
- Peter Vardalos (11)
- David Solomon (13)
- Chris Birtsas (14)
- Emil Sprintz (17)
- Dennis Georgen (24)
- Nayeli Gheorghe (24)
- Solomon Tesfay (24)
- Timothy Harvey (25)
- Evanne Cuccorelli (26)
- Mary Manos (26)
- Elizabeth Baxter (28)
- Stephanie Baxter (28)

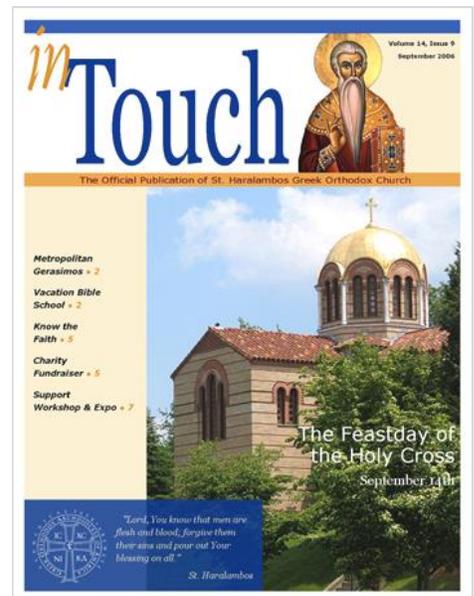
If you don't see your name, or those of family members, and would like to be included on the monthly birthday listing, please send the information to the church office.

In Touch Newsletter Distribution

Remember, that beginning this month, the In Touch monthly newsletter will be available on our parish website (www.StHaralambos.org). The link to the In Touch web page will be posted on the weekly eBulletin.

If you haven't yet sent your current email address to the church office, please do so today so our records remain current.

For those without internet access, please call the Church office to make other arrangements for your copy of the newsletter.



Name Days

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

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| St. Agathi (5th) | SS. Aquila and Priscilla (13th) |
| St. Theodore Stratelates (8th) | St. Theodore (17th) |
| St. Haralambos (10th) | St. Agapetos (18th) |
| St. Theodora the Empress (11th) | St. Evstathios (21st) |
| St. Zacharias (11th) | St. Photini (26th) |
| St. Christos the Gardener (12th) | St. Kyranna (29th) |
| St. Meletios (12th) | |

FEBRUARY 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| | 1 | 2 9:00am Divine Liturgy Presentation of the Lord in the Temple 6:00pm Youth Night | 3 | 4 7:00pm Choir | 5 | 6 |
| 7 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Mortgage Reduction Tray | 8 7:00pm Parish Council | 9 6:00pm Youth Night 7:00pm Parish Feastday Vespers | 10 9:00am Divine Liturgy Haralambos, Patron Saint of our parish | 11 7:00pm Choir | 12 5:00pm Peoria Greek Fest | 13 11:00am Peoria Greek Fest |
| 14 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Peoria Greek Fest | 15 Presidents' Day (Church Office Closed) | 16 6:00pm Youth Night | 17 | 18 7:00pm Choir | 19 | 20 |
| 21 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Publican and the Pharisee IOCC Offering Tray | 22 7:00pm Executive Council | 23 6:00pm Youth Night | 24 | 25 7:00pm Choir | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy The Prodigal Son | 29 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly | | | | | |

FEBRUARY 2016 FESTIVAL BAKING SCHEDULE

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|-----------------------------|---|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 8:30am Kourabiedes Social Hall |
| 7 | 8 8:30am Baklava Social Hall | 9 8:30am Diples Social Hall | 10 | 11 | 12 OPA | 13 OPA |
| 14 OPA | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | | | | | |

All pastry prep and baking will be done at St. Haralambos Church.
Please contact Desi Medina with any questions at 623-363-1859.