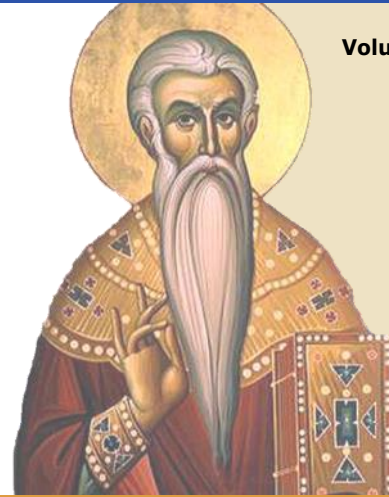


in Touch

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LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEARTS

Colossians 3:15



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

National Oratorical Festival

Cather Baxter represented St. Haralambos Church and the Metropolis of San Francisco as the senior division representative at the National Oratorical Festival hosted by the parish of St. John the Baptist in Des Plaines, IL, from June 9 – 11. It was a wonderful weekend event, and all speakers showed that the young people across our Archdiocese are able to speak intelligently and inspirationally on a variety of current topics and how they relate to their faith as Orthodox Christians in today's society. Catherine spoke beautifully during the festival, received an Honorable Mention which included an award of \$500.



One of the highlights was a boat cruise on the Chicago river where all speakers and families got a chance to relax and enjoy the sights of downtown Chicago.



Congratulations, Catherine, on a job well-done!



Catherine together with other speakers from across the country, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and His Eminence Metropolitan Nathaniel of Chicago.

Perryville Prison Crochet Ministry



The Crochet Ministry at Perryville Prison in Goodyear has grown considerably in the past six months. Each month more and more inmates are signing up to learn a new skill and contribute to making new baby blankets, toys, hats and slippers. Each month we collect the finished items and they are given to Phoenix Children's Hospital and Maggie's House to benefit the children and families they serve.

Please help this ministry by donating yarn – either leftovers from finished projects, or by purchasing new yarn from a local craft store.

All donated yarn is delivered to the prison once a month. Yarn donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday 10 am – 3 pm, or after Sunday services. The donation box is in the observation area where refreshments are served on Sunday morning.



Joy and Peace in Christ

Welcome to the joys of summer in the desert! While the temperatures continue to rise and tempers may rise more quickly as well, it may help to take a moment and read why the Christian life can be joyful, in good weather and in bad!

Have you ever noticed someone who does a job with a smile on their face; a smile that exudes peace, contentment and calm? Does seeing such a person make you stop and wonder... what planet they're from?

We see so many images today of unhappy people, of conniving, manipulative people, jealous, angry, stressed-out people, exhausted and hopeless people. We may work with them and they may be members of our family. It's not difficult to find them on TV and in movies. They're everywhere; in fact, at times, we, ourselves, may even be one of them!

This continual bombardment of unhappiness, anger and despair affects all of us to the extent that the sight of someone at peace, enjoying what they're doing, can seem quite extraordinary, even abnormal. But before leaping to wrong conclusions, it may help to stop for a minute and listen to our heart. Besides doing an amazing job of continuously pumping blood throughout our bodies, our heart can also tell us things that our brain cannot. In the case of peaceful and happy people, our hearts are likely telling us that this really should be the norm, and these are the kind of people we'd all like to be!

I hope it comes as no surprise to learn that the Christian faith shows us the path that leads to real happiness, fulfillment and peace. The Church and Holy Scripture both offer valuable tools to help keep us on this path. The more we read from the bible and the more we participate in the life of the Church (services, sacraments, ministries, fasting and feast-days), the more we learn about the Christian life as designed by

God, and taught by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, His apostles and saints.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) Jesus taught that we should never confuse the Christian life with an easy life, or a life without stress or conflict. Still, He counsels us to "be of good cheer," not in a patronizing way, but rather one that expresses the true joy of living as servants of a good and loving God.

Jesus spoke about the love of God continually throughout his life, about his unconditional love for all humankind, and about his desire for people to inherit his heavenly kingdom, to spend eternity with him in paradise. "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:29-32)

This is the ultimate goal of the Christian life, something so wonderful – yet, at times, difficult to imagine its beauty. This is one reason Jesus encourages to "be of good cheer."

Saint Paul was one who understood that message. While in prison, he wrote the following words in his letter to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice!" This great Christian Missionary to the Gentiles understood what it meant to

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"In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."



**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

Vaughn Bachanos	Paul McGinn
Olga Carlson	Nardos Russom
Anna Kinniburgh	Solomon Woldesilassie
Elizabeth Martell	

Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts.

June

- 3: Philoptochos
- 10: Caring Friends
- 17: John and Sheila Hrapchak
- 24: Kathryn Macrides

July

- 1: Available
- 8: Available
- 15: Available
- 22: Available
- 29: Available

August

- 5: Available
- 12: Available
- 19: Available
- 26: Available

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



Stewardship

Have you become a Steward of Saint Haralambos Church?

The goal for 2018 is to have all parish families become Good Stewards of Saint Haralambos Church. This means carefully completing the 2018 Stewardship brochure, making sure your family information is correct, making a financial pledge for the year, and becoming involved in parish ministries.

When we recognize that everything we have: health, wealth, time and talents, are all gifts from God, there should be no hesitation in using those gifts to build up

His Church and to glorify His name. To exercise good stewardship is to use God's gifts in ways that glorify Him and build up His Church. This means using our gifts for the benefit of others, giving a portion of our time and treasure for the strengthening of the Church. When a person realizes his dependency on God's blessings, sharing them with others and through His Church is a very natural and joyful response.

If needed, new/blank Stewardship brochures are available on Sundays.

Book Sale

The 2nd Annual Used-Book Sale will be taking place at our church during the months of June – August. There is a large selection of used books from a variety of topics, including books on Orthodox Christianity, as well as many books in Greek.

Books may be purchased Mon–Fri, 10 am to 3 pm or Sunday after services.



"One Day, One Hymn, One Church"

Love to sing? Join your brothers and sisters from Orthodox parishes throughout the Valley for "One Day, One Hymn, One Church," the first-ever Arizona pan-Orthodox Choral Fellowship event, to be held at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Saturday, Sep. 22, from 10 am - 3 pm.

The day will include singing, fellowship, lunch, more singing, and finish with an audio/video recording of the world

premier of Psalm 23, a choral arrangement by Fr. Michael Pallad, which will be posted on social media.

If you love to sing, you're going to want to be part of this awesome event!

Registration forms will be available soon. For more information, email info@occfellowship.org.

Name Days

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| St. Kyriaki (7th) | St. Panteleimon (27th) |
| SS. Cyril and Methodios (7th) | St. Irene (28th) |
| St. Euphemia (11th) | St. Julietta (30th) |
| St. Mary Magdalene (22nd) | St. Joseph of Arimathea (31st) |
| St. Paraskevi (26th) | |

Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

suffer, physically and emotionally, but never to the point where he could no longer continue his missionary work. He was committed to preaching the gospel, and would not let temporary hardships get the better of him.

“Be anxious for nothing,” he later writes, “but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:6-8)

The peace of God is something that kept St. Paul from feeling defeated, overwhelmed and depressed. He kept ultimate goal, the kingdom of God, in mind, and was able to rejoice in all circumstances, even while languishing unjustly in prison.

There have always been people that go through life complaining about everything: the weather, hard work, low pay, expectations from others, stress over

having too much to do, bored by not having enough to do, along with a myriad of physical aches and pains. What good does the complaining accomplish? Then there are other people who, while experiencing the same struggles of life, still manage to maintain an attitude of joy and thanksgiving. These are the ones that may seem a little strange at first glance, but are also people that have found an answer, that so many of us are looking for, to the question of joyful, happy and peaceful living.

(While we’re on the subject, here’s a summer reading suggestion: *Holy Joy, the Heartbeat of Faith*, by Fr. Anthony Coniaris. If there is one subject about which Fr. Coniaris writes so beautifully, it is the subject of joyful living.)

In the meantime, when you come across someone whose words and actions seem to reflect the peace of Christ, instead of shooting them a strange look, go up and politely ask if they’ll share their secret!



A safe and happy 4th of July celebration to everyone!

Birthdays



- Alexandros Papamatheakis (6)
- Cathy Kapetanakis (8)
- Nicholas Pappas (8)
- Elizabeth Anderson (9)
- Alexander King (11)
- Lisa Theoharatos (11)
- Lauren Retsinas (12)
- Patricia Martin (14)
- Alaina Perreault (14)
- Eugene Gavrilidis (15)
- Michael Gavrilidis (17)
- Pam Solomon (18)
- George Trakas (18)
- Sophia Rodriguez (19)
- Laine Kinney (20)
- Linda Zakas (22)
- Ioannis Papamatheakis (23)
- Catherine Chohlas (25)
- Jeannette Hollander (25)
- George Benjamin (27)
- Steven Gavrilidis (27)
- Desiree Milonas (27)
- Anastacia Kelly-Macrides (29)

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.

JULY 2018

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	2	3	4 Independence Day (office closed)	5	6	7
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	30	31				