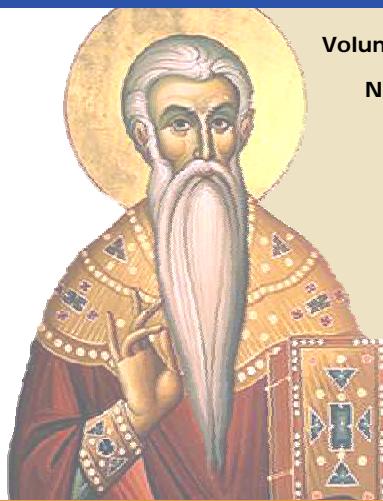


# inTouch

Volume 16, Issue 11

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## Feastday of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel

November 8

**Youth**

**Night • 2**

**Building a**

**New Church • 4**

**Sunday**

**School • 5**

**Community**

**Christmas Card • 5**

**Thanksgiving**

**Food Drive • 8**



*Leaders of the Angelic Armies*

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

# Youth Night

The first-of-its-kind Youth Night was held on Saturday, Sept. 20, with lots of our kids enjoying a variety of games, good fellowship, and a delicious BBQ dinner. Special thanks to Sabrina Tremoulis, Margaret Michailidis and Lindsay Vardalos for planning this event. Thanks also to our adult volunteers: Tracy Albrant, Cynthia Bingham, Paul DeTrana, Tom Michailidis, George Miller, Reni Milonas, and Rachel Retsinas.



# PASTOR'S COLUMN

FR. MICHAEL PALLAD



## Spirits Sent from God

Shortly after our first daughter, Alexandra, was born, my grandmother, of blessed memory, would often refer to her as "my angel child." Like any adoring great-grandmother, she would also use other terms of endearment, some in Greek, such as "my kouklitsa" (little doll), but it seemed like most of them made some reference to an angel.

Many of us have had the pleasure of knowing an "angel" in our lives, someone with the most pleasing of dispositions, selfless and caring, whose outward appearance and manner are commonly described as angelic. But angels, as we see throughout the Old and New Testament, are much more than the tranquil and serene spirits usually depicted with flowing white robes, feathery white wings, perhaps playing a golden harp and, of course, a halo above the head. In fact, if we look at virtually every icon screen in Orthodox Churches, the icon of the Archangel Michael is not shown carrying a harp, but a sword!

This month, on November 8,

the Orthodox Church commemorates the assembly of the angelic host and its leaders, the archangels Michael and Gabriel. The many and varied biblical accounts of angelic activity remind us that angels are, first and foremost, spirits sent from God to do His bidding. They most often have a message of some kind, and routinely take human form to help deliver their message.

Angels appearing as three men visited Abraham and Sarah and told them they would soon become parents of a son. To help save Lot and his family from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, angels appeared in the form of travelers and met with Lot in his home.

In the Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah, we read of angels, the six-winged cherubim and seraphim, continuously encircling the throne of God. In the New Testament, angels minister to our Lord Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before his arrest and trial. It was the archangel Michael who defeated Satan and sent him

from heaven, and the archangel Gabriel who was sent to tell the ever-virgin Mary that she would conceive and give birth to a son, the Messiah, by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Shepherds beheld the heavenly host of angels praising God at the birth of Jesus. And, perhaps our most personal connection with angels takes place at the beginning of the sacrament of baptism, during which a prayer asks that a guardian angel be joined to the life of the baptismal candidate.

Those adorable little cherubs we see in books or paintings? Ethereal representations of the heavenly host? Man's attempt, some fanciful and others based on recorded visions, at depicting the spiritual realm; but just a tiny sample of God's heavenly ministers. As we celebrate the heavenly hosts this month, let us remember the many and diverse ways angels have interacted with man, sent by God to reveal his divine will throughout time.

***It was the archangel Michael who defeated Satan and sent him from heaven.***



St. Haralambos  
Greek Orthodox  
Church

Rev. Michael Pallad  
[www.stharalambos.org](http://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  
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[Office@StHaralambos.phcoxmail.com](mailto:Office@StHaralambos.phcoxmail.com)  
[FrMichael@StHaralambos.phcoxmail.com](mailto:FrMichael@StHaralambos.phcoxmail.com)  
Hours  
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Parish Council

George Retsinas, President  
Ray Wysmierski, Vice-President  
Roberta Szklarski, Secretary  
Stella Pagos, Treasurer  
Mike Danielek  
Olga Fredericksen

Mary Manos  
Peter Retsinas  
Katherine Tally  
Peter Tremoulis  
Mary Wysmierski

## For Everything a Season: Building a New Church

### Exploring our Orthodox Church Building – Part III



We complete the 'Elements of Orthodoxy' with the description of the third major 'room' of our new Church, The Holy of Holies, The Sanctuary.

**Sanctuary** (Agia Agion - Holy of Holies) The Sanctuary is located on the eastern axis of the building behind the Iconostasis. The Altar will be placed in the Sanctuary so that the communicants will pray facing East toward the rising sun and symbolizing the *'light of earth'* and *'He who will likewise rise from the East and illuminate the world'*. It is the third main chamber of the Orthodox Church. Our Sanctuary will accommodate the Proskomidi and the Tipikarion. It is the most sacred part of the Church and for this reason it is on a higher level than the rest of the Church.

**Altar or Holy Table** - Will stand in the middle of the sanctuary.

**Iconostasis** –The most recognizable feature of the sanctuary, the icon screen represents unity within Christ's Kingdom and transcends our place and time. Last month we described the elements of the Iconostasis – The Icon Screen.

**Proskomidi - Prothesis – The Table of Oblation** is The "Second" Altar located to the north side of Sanctuary. This area will have a 'small domed' or 'vaulted' inset area that is symmetrical with the Tipikarion.

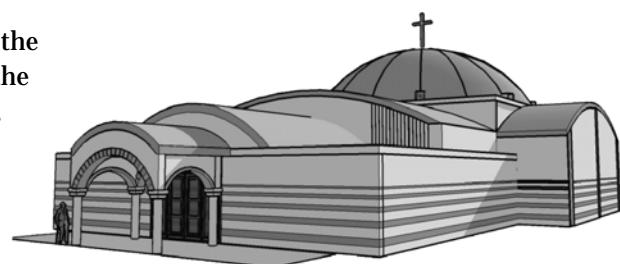
**Tipikarion** –This is the area in the Sanctuary where the Priest stores the Gospels, Relics, Religious writings, Chalices, Icons, Sacramental Implements and other blessed elements required for Greek Orthodox Services. Located to the south side of Sanctuary, this area will also

have a 'small domed' or 'vaulted' inset area.

**Vestry – Skevofylakion** – The Vestment Room will be located on the north side of the Sanctuary. Storage for the Priest Vestments both hung and folded in drawers. Built in storage for Chalices, Altar Clothes, Censors, Sacred Vessels and dressing area with facilities for the Priest to prepare for our Services.

**Ecclesiarch - The Acolyte Room** is on the south side of Sanctuary. Storage for the Altar boys vestments and storage for processional torches, fans and crosses. There will also be storage for candles, oils, charcoal and incense. The room will have a preparation area for the 'Antidoron' (Offering Bread) as well as the preparation for the hot water required for the Consecration of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ during Divine Liturgy.

Our new Church will contain many extraordinary features; the arrangement of our liturgical furnishings, the beautiful vestments and vessels, the future Icon murals on every interior surface, will result in incomparable beauty and a solemnity of worship that will clearly set St. Haralambos apart in splendor and beauty as no other Church...it will be for the Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. May God's Will Be Done.



## General Assembly

All parishioners are invited to attend the Fall General Assembly which will take place on Sunday, Nov. 16 in our Social Hall. Our Philoptochos will, once again, be preparing a light lunch before the meeting begins. The 2009 parish budget, Building Program and parish council nominations will all be on the agenda.

# ORGANIZATIONS

## Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Sunday School Director

How are we blessed at St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church? Let us count the ways... 45 ways... Our students, teachers and volunteers for the 2008-2009 Sunday School are:

### Pre School & Kindergarten

Jaden Albrant  
Jaxon Albrant  
Elias Caratachea  
Arianna Michailidis  
Alaina Perreault  
Katherine Stithem  
Teacher: Martha Stithem

### 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade

Catherine Baxter  
Gabriella Caratachea  
Ammiel Desta  
Anna Kurilova  
Melina Michailidis  
George Papamatheakis  
Kiera Sneeden  
Eva Vardalos

Matthew Stithem  
Teacher: Connie Scouffas

### 4th, 5th & 6th Grade

Sierra Albrant  
Elizabeth Baxter  
Nebi Desta  
Alexandra Krochta  
Desiree Milonas  
Megan Pallad  
Andrew Stithem  
Teacher: Andriana Henson

### 7th & 8th Grade

Hemela Desta  
Mikhala Krochta  
Alexandra Pallad  
Alex Papamatheakis  
Banna Tesfay  
Teacher: Monique Klabis

### Jr. & Sr. High School

Elijah Gross  
Alicia Krochta  
Masha Lyogkaya  
John Migyanko  
Anna Papamatheakis  
Dimitrios Theoharatos  
Nicoletta Theoharatos  
Teacher: Mike Danielek

### Sunday School Volunteers

Chryss Danielek – Snacks  
Christmas Pageant  
Presv. Kristin Pallad  
Margaret Michailidis  
Lindsay Vardalos  
Director & Assistant Director  
Mike Danielek  
Olga FredericksenO

## Sunday School Canned Food Drive

Benefiting Peoria families and the West Side Food Bank

We will be collecting canned or boxed foods for the months of November and December. Food items can be brought to the Sunday School classes, or left in the collection boxes in the hallway outside the Social Hall.



This is the third consecutive year that we have grown...we truly are Blessed 45 times each week. 35 students + 5 teachers + 5 volunteers and of course all of our Mom's and Dad's...  
**ALL OF YOU ARE THE BEST!**

## 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. 8, 2008.**

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)

# ORGANIZATIONS

## St. Christopher's Bookstore

### **God's Fullness for Our Emptiness**

Anthony Coniaris, 1999, 108 pages.

Fr. Coniaris identifies a basic, universal need: to find "purpose and significance in our lives," to "find fulfillment... We are busy, but we are not happy." We are reminded of T.S. Eliot's "hollow men, bored and bewildered by life," merely living "on the surface." Many people are striving to gain wealth, power or popularity. T.V., movies, music, cell phones or computers fill every minute. Often people turn to alcohol and drugs.

Part of the problem, says Fr. Coniaris, is that many students are taught that the universe is empty of God and meaning... Evolutionists...dethrone God from creation and the natural world... Emptiness without! Emptiness within!" exclaims the author. He adds, "There is no greater emptiness in life than that created by the absence of God." He quotes one of the desert fathers who warned, "Do not give away your heart to that which cannot satisfy it, to that which will leave it empty."

To describe the spiritual crisis in our society, the author uses the term "value vacuum" which he defines as "the great yawning void" that results from "skepticism, relativism...and existentialism." All laws, principles and standards "have been cast out." As a consequence, there is a "total lack of any moral authority anywhere." In an attempt to fill the vacuum, Fr. Coniaris says, "Modern man has created for himself miniature, false substitute-gods," but without the One true God, there is no hope, just a "painful aching void."

Unfortunately, many of us live a selfish, sinful, hedonistic, egotistical lifestyle.

The author quotes Mother Theresa who said, "If we are full of sin, God cannot fill us because even God Himself cannot fill what is full. That's why we need forgiveness." Fr. Coniaris insists "God sends no one away empty except those who are too full of themselves."

The Holy Spirit will come to fill our "aching void of...loneliness." How? By praying, repenting and partaking of the Sacraments. Just as "the Holy Spirit descended upon the Virgin to conceive in her the Christ...the same Holy Spirit comes in the liturgy to give birth to Christ in us through the Eucharist...He transforms...not only the bread and wine into the body of Christ, but also us!"

This book causes us to ask, "Is there loneliness, turmoil and emptiness in my life? Do I make time for prayer, Holy Confession, and worship? Do I live a life that glorifies God?" The author implores the reader to "let the Holy Spirit fill you... to overflowing with His forgiveness,... peace, joy, and purpose."

### Christmas Cards

Eastern Orthodox Christmas Cards will be in stock on a limited basis during the month of November. Visit our bookstore and pick your cards out early!



# ORGANIZATIONS

## Stewardship

With the current economic crisis affecting our country, as well as the economies of nations throughout the world, is it realistic any longer to speak about stewardship, about being cheerful givers, about giving back a portion of our personal resources in support of our church and its ministries? In a word, yes; it will always be an appropriate topic for consideration if not discussion.

Our Lord, Jesus Christ calls us to lead extraordinary lives; ones that, at times, may appear quite different to our neighbors. In times of sorrow and loss, we are called to grieve, but with the knowledge and confidence of the Kingdom of heaven. In times of physical or emotional pain, our body and spirit feel pain as any human being would, yet we are called never to despair but to persevere. To those who have hurt us, we are called to forgive; when angry, we watch our tongue. And, as St. Paul reminds, *"When we are cursed, we bless; when we are*

*persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly."* (1Cor.4:12-13)

What does the bible have to say about tithing during an economic meltdown? It may not specifically address this topic in so many words, but the spirit of tithing, of Christian stewardship, clearly teaches that a generous heart should not grow cold during financially difficult times. Tithing is not making an offering from our abundance, from our excess, from our leftovers at the end of the month, if there are any. Tithing teaches us to dedicate a portion of our personal financial resources back to God in thanksgiving for all that we have. If the value of "all that we have" is drastically reduced, whether by a stock market crash, loss of employment, huge medical bills from a devastating accident or illness or other unforeseen loss, then the amount of our tithe will necessarily decrease; decrease, but not disappear.

The Christian gospel teaches us to remain steadfast even in times of difficulty, sorrow and loss. It teaches us to faithfully trust in God, who is always aware of our needs. It teaches us not to give up, to continue to pray for strength and perseverance, faith and hope. These may be qualities whose value has diminished from our society's point of view, but are ones that remain at the top of the list of Christian virtues. Christ does not call us to lead ordinary, but extraordinary, lives.

This month on Sunday, Nov. 23, our stewardship committee will be making a presentation on the 2009 stewardship program during the coffee hour. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, the message of steadfastly offering our thanks to God is timely as well as beneficial to our spiritual growth. Everyone is encouraged to attend this presentation.

### Are there citrus trees in your yard? Do they produce more fruit than you can use? Don't let the fruit go to waste!

Call the church office, and we'll arrange for parishioners to stop by your house and pick the fruit. The fruit will be taken to the church and stored for either juicing or donating to the West Side Food Bank. If you'd like to have your fruit trees harvested by St. Haralambos parishioners, please complete and return this form to the church office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

What type of citrus trees do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

Not Sure

I don't have any citrus trees, but would like to help out in the following areas:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit pickers (must be at least 12 years old)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Juicing (at the church)                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (to homes, or to West Side Food Bank) | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a juice machine I can donate to the church. |

## Sacraments

We congratulate Mr. Christopher Szklarski and Miss Madeline Molina on their wedding celebrated on Saturday, Sept. 27. May God grant them many years of good health and happiness.

## Birthdays



Argyro Vasquez (3rd)  
George Speros (5th)  
Nicole D. Barbes (7th)  
Andrew Stithem (15th)  
Larry Coor (16th)  
Thomas Pallad (18th)  
Maria Christian (18th)  
Mary Dascalos (19th)  
Judith L. Jolly (19th)  
George J. Sgouros (23rd)  
Niko Panousopoulos (25th)  
Arthur Manos (28th)  
Pres. Kristin Pallad (28th)  
Dean Milonas (28th)  
Angeline Pappas (28th)  
Andriana Henson (30th)  
Estelle Lazzele (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.

## 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 Davis, Nikita and Josette Reisler, Charlotte Servetas and John and Mary Karavaras.

## Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of his servant, Tom Pallad, father of Fr. Michael, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 23. May his memory be eternal.

## Name Days

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

SS. Cosmas and Damian (1st)	St. Gregory Palamas (14th)
St. Ioannikios (4th)	Sts. Justinian and Theodora (15th)
St. Simeon the Translator (8th)	St. Matthew the Evangelist (16th)
St. Nektarios (9th)	St. Philemon (22nd)
St. Theodore, the Studite (11th)	St. Katherine (25th)
St. John Chrysostom (13th)	St. Andrew (30th)
St. Philip, the Apostle (14th)	

## Thanksgiving Food Drive



Please donate canned or boxed foods for our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Frozen turkeys can be stored as well. We are working once again with the Peoria Community Action Agency, and all our food donations will benefit needy families in Peoria.

Volunteers are needed to help sort the food into family-sized boxes on Monday, Nov. 24 at 10 a.m..

**NOVEMBER 2008**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Festival Appreciation Luncheon	<b>3</b> <b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Philoptochos	<b>6</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy Sts. Cosmas & Damian	<b>1</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy Archangels Michael & Gabriel
<b>9</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Beginning of the Nativity Fast
<b>16</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy General Assembly	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00am Liturgy Entrance of the Theotokos	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Stewardship Presentation	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy						