



Worship Schedule

Great Vespers

Saturday Evenings, 6:00 PM
Confessions after Vespers or by appt.

Matins

Sunday Mornings, 8:00 AM

Divine Liturgy

Sunday Mornings, 9:00 AM
followed by a 15 minute
Adult Orthodoxy Lesson

-See calendar for feast day services-
Holy Week schedule on page 15

Religious Education

Sunday Church School

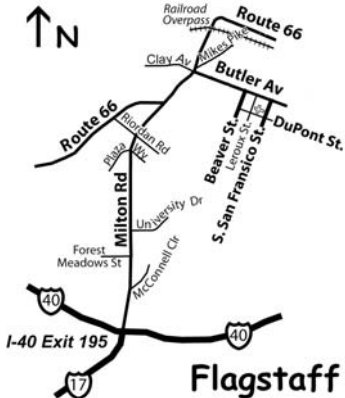
Sunday Mornings, 8:30 AM

Study the "Creed"

Friday April 3rd and April 11th
at 12:30 in the Community Room

Bible Study

Liturgy in the Bible
Wednesday evenings following
Paraklesis Service 6:30 pm
April 29 through June 24
in the Community Room



Flagstaff

Directions from Interstate Hwys:

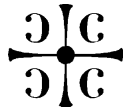
From I-17N proceed into Flagstaff.
From I-40, take Exit 195 into Flagstaff.
Once in town, continue north on Milton Rd. Pass through five lights. The sixth light will be at Butler Avenue. Turn right onto Butler. At the 2nd traffic light turn right onto South San Francisco Street. Holy Cross Church is one block down the street on the right-hand side (corner of S. San Francisco and DuPont Streets). Additionally Sunday parking at El Charro Restaurant. Additional weekday parking after 6:00 PM at the Arizona State Credit Union.

Northern Lights

Quarterly Newsletter of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
319 S. San Francisco Street - Flagstaff, AZ 86001 - (928) 774-8279
P.O. Box 1264 - Flagstaff, AZ 86003
www.holycrossgreekorthodoxchurch.org
Fr. Nicholas Andruchow, Priest/Proestamenos

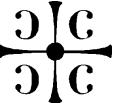
Volume 3, No. 6

Spring 2009



Pastoral Message

Fr. Nicholas Andruchow



Imagine you lost the past 12 years of your life



In a sense this is what happened to many of the investors who have been contributing to the funds on Wall Street. Twelve years ago if you had invested in the stock market in 2009 it would have been like you never did anything with your funds and now you are back to where you started. It is truly an economic tragedy the losses people have taken, but what worries me more is the spiritual turmoil people experience when they put all their hope in things of this world. If your entire life was consumed in stocks and bonds then the recent crash in the stock market would have been like losing twelve years of your life. I know for me that would have meant that I would not be married, would not have 3 beautiful boys and I never would have gotten ordained and arrived in Flagstaff. With this perspective it shows the immensity of the repercussions of putting our hope in the world. God forbid any of us lose sight of the only thing that is constant in the world, which is God, and live our lives with the priority being on material things. This month's reflection is to challenge all of you to ask the question, "Is God the most important thing in my life?"

Where life can be lost.

Recently a close family member lost his wife in her sleep. You might think that this is an ideal way to pass away and truly it was a merciful act for her to pass into the Lord's arms so peacefully but there is another side of this that reminds us the fragility of life. The woman was only 45 years old and she leaves not only a widower but two small children behind. They had been married for eight years focusing their lives and their relationship on God. Only because of the relationship the husband had with God, he was able to state, "God has truly brought peace to me after this tragedy." This experience could have taken a much different course if they had not been a family focused on the eternal love of the Lord. As a couple they made and as a father with two young boys they still make Christ the center of their lives, so when the world comes crashing down around them life does not appear to be disappearing but rather it is the continuation toward something much bigger. Life was lost on that day in early March but their lives did not end. The meaning to their lives was based on God not on worldly relationships. Unfortunately it is too often the case that a person makes their family relationships, athletic accomplishments, professional achievements, or financial success the main thing for which they live. When one of these or sometimes all are lost then nothing is left but emptiness and depression. Life needs to be founded on something greater and that something is the God who is greater than anyone could ever imagine.

If not the stock market then what?

The symptoms of the prioritization on temporal aspirations is seen when people spend their

Continued on the next page

time acquiring material wealth, training for the next event or planning their next family outing rather than taking time out to ask the difficult questions of who is truly in control of this precarious world and what will happen to us when our life passes away. Do not get me wrong, earning a living, caring for your physical health and spending time with our families has much merit but we must keep our sights on what is truly important and that is our Lord and Savior who created the entire world and whose hand is overseeing all. With this in mind, let us use our minds and discern how we should use our time. To accomplish any goal we should learn as much as we can by reading, learning from others and through direct experience. In the Christian context this translates into reading the Bible, talking with the holy people of the church (priest, monks and lay people who are striving for peace), talking with God directly in prayer and participation in God's life through Holy Communion, His flesh and blood. I am not saying you need to sell everything and join a monastery, even though that is an option, but rather we need to have our priorities set on something stable so that when tragedy strikes our lives we just don't utterly fall apart. Life is too precious to lose it to worldly cares.

Pascha the World!

The word Pascha comes from a Hebrew word which means "to pass over". The root of the word refers to the feast commemorating the time death passed over the Israelites and they were freed from slavery out of Egypt. (Exodus 10) In the Christian perspective we see this feast day fulfilled in Christ dying and rising from the dead and humanity passing over death and slavery to this world. This feast day is referred to in the West as Easter but in Eastern Orthodox Christianity it is known as Pascha. Pascha/Easter is also when we pass over the temptations of this world. We pass over the desire to make material possession our main goal in life and we set union with God as our highest priority. We all need to "Pascha" the world and participate in Holy Week, the 3rd week of April, showing that our priorities are set straight by proclaiming that the life of Christ is what continues until the end of time. Therefore, on midnight Saturday April 19th the light will physically come out of the darkness and our lives will be illumined to the truth that God is the priority greater than all.



Spring Update



To the faithful of Holy Cross, During spring break, three OCF students from our parish (Adrienne, Joel, and I) went on a trip to Constantinople for Real Break 2009. We were joined by 16 other students from around the country. For those of you that do not know



Real Break Group with His All Holiness

what Real Break is all about, it is an alternative to the traditional spring break party trips. Instead of going to the beach and getting wasted for a week, students have a chance to use their break to do something constructive and positive. The mission was to do some well needed work on a cemetery that was in ruins. On Monday, we went to work. Upon arrival, we saw that the damage was overwhelming. No one thought we would make any difference in just three days. There was also the threat of the drunks on top of the 20 foot wall undoing our work during the evening or attacking us. The first day, the men from the group were sent to the wall to clean up trash and broken glass that was up to a foot deep. The women were confined to working in the chapel for their safety. Despite all the risks, we immediately got to work. Joel found a grave full of trash and crawled in to clean it. He ended up removing three large trash bags full of trash from that one grave. He also found some bones that were unearthed. Bones started to pop up everywhere we looked. As we worked, we collected the bones to put in a crypt later. Adrienne did not stay in the chapel for very long. She was sent to clean a monument for the chanters that were buried there. By Tuesday, the women were allowed to work outside, but no one could walk off by themselves. We had to stay somewhat close to the group. We started to repair the marble graves, piecing them together, and cementing them together with some help of a hired crew of Turks. They were instantly absorbed into our group. That morning, we were visited by his All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew. He stopped by to give us a blessing and to see how we were doing. Later that day, I was visited by a woman who was trying to clean the graves of her relatives; the head stones had been tremendously vandalized. I assured her that we would do what we could and she gave us a hug and kiss on the cheek, thanked us and left. We knew what to do. We went to Bishop Savas and Fr. Mark Leondis (the clergy leading the trip) and told them what happened. In turn, they instructed us to take extra care of these graves and do the best job we could. We worked on those three graves all day and into the next. This mission was now on a personal level. At the end of the day on Wednesday, we looked at the remarkable progress we had done. We accomplished more than anyone could ever imagine possible. We ended the day with a memorial service in the chapel and did a procession through the cemetery with Joel leading the way with a branch of basil leaves that was growing out of one of the graves. We also named every person buried in the graves that we worked. The list was over a hundred. Thursday and Friday were spent meeting His All Holiness, visiting the Great School, sightseeing, and shopping in the bazaar. Still, we kept thinking about our cemetery and how it changed our lives. We even talked about returning on our own to finish the job. I encourage all of you to visit www.myocn.net to view photos from the trip and reflect on how 19 college students chose the "Alternative Spring Break".

In Christ,

Alex Lucas or Alexander the Great (As the Patriarch referred to me)



The day we raised the Cross

We have moved!

On April 1, 2009, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church moved to a new home. We are the new tenants at 319 S. San Francisco Street.

The most ancient church has moved into the 'oldest church' in Flagstaff!

Thank you for everyone's hard work!

<u>Donations committed</u>			
Sanctuary Renovations	Total Cost	Donated	Needed
• Iconostasis Renovations	• \$300	• \$300	
• Closet for Altar	• \$400	• \$400	
• Power Outlet in Altar & Kitchen	• \$300	• \$300	
• Prothesis Table	• \$100	• \$100	
• Altar Table	• \$300	• \$300	
• Sound & Visual System for Cry Room, Security camera	• \$2,100	• \$2,100	
• Icons (3 x \$600 each)	• \$1,800	• \$1,800	
Community Hall			
• Paint supplies	• \$100	• \$100	
• Microwave	• \$100	• \$100	

<u>Donations Needed</u>			
• Outside Signage	• \$1,000	•	• \$1,000
• 80 Chairs for the Sanctuary	• \$1,800	• \$900	• \$900
• Office 4-in-1 printer	• \$500	•	• \$500

Special thanks!

To the Kouris family for donating the funds needed for the Visual & Sound system in the crying room and for the Security system.

To Betty Maniatis who has donated funds for icons of the Holy Cross & St. John the Baptist in memory of Mary and Georgia Alvantides. May their memory be eternal.

To St. Katherine's church for their many donations, Jerry and Athena Vasilatos for coming from Phoenix to help us move in, and Tasia and Demetrios Poularas for coming from Phoenix to help paint our new home.



Last Icon recently donated.

The state of love may be recognized in the giving of money, and still more in the giving of spiritual counsel and in looking after people in their physical needs.

-Saint Maximos the Confessor

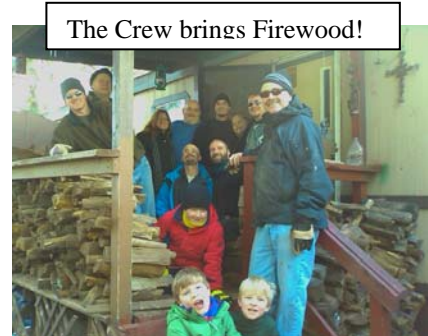
Thank You Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Community...

"Let me begin by thanking my God through Jesus Christ for all of you." Romans 1:8

In 1993 when our family moved to Flagstaff, the decision was based on whether there was an Orthodox Community here, "It's a sign." Throughout the years, more than once, this community has come to our aid, in one way or another.

Sometimes it has been monetary, sometimes through other forms of affection in actions. This time Fr. Nick found out about our needs and quietly went about working with his Boss to fulfill those needs.

Beginning with a crew of friends in Christ rolling up with life saving wood. They made short work of bringing wood in, preparing a crackling, cheerful fire and stacking up the much needed fuel. Later our friends of Holy Cross again blessed us this time by filling our propane tank. Hugs and reassurance when you don't expect them become a source of hope and gratitude, (and tears). Pray for us as we do for you and know that all the assistance you have given our family is truly appreciated as the tangible proof of Christ's love.



Mike and Karen Jankowski



There is a verse of Scripture that says, "Where sin abounds, Grace abounds all the more." I have certainly found this to be true with the recent death of my niece, Emily, at the hands of a drunk driver. While I was with my family in California and Florida, God met us in ways that were so true to His nature. When I got home to Flagstaff and attended services with my church family His grace continued to bless us. So many of you have told me that you are praying for us at this time. When I mentioned this to my sister, Emily's mom, she told me the only reason she is handling Emily's death is because she knows she is being uplifted in prayer. I want to say "thank you" to all of you for all your prayers. God has heard them and answered mightily. In his sermon this Sunday Fr. Nicholas challenged us to write down ways we are blessed. I have to say I am so blessed to be a part of this community here at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church. Thanks again. You have made a difficult time a little brighter.

*Lisa Brollini
March 22, 2009*



Holy Cross is truly a wonderful community. Thanks go out to all those of our members and their extended families and friends who have joined our efforts in preparing our new church location. Our new home does not look like the same place we took possession of just 2 weeks ago. Much work has been done and will continue to be done but we just wanted to extend this special "THANK YOU!!"

If Only... (Fictional narrative of one of the soldier who beat Christ)

Luke 22:63-65 "And the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him and beating Him, and they blind-folded Him and were asking Him, saying "Prophesy, oh, Son of God, who is the one who hit You?" And they were saying many other things against Him, blaspheming."

I grew up in the glory days of Rome. My friends and I would run to the borders of the Appian Way to peek around the white marble statues that lined so many of the streets. It was such a thrill to get a glimpse of them. We could hear them coming for miles. The thud of their sandals against the hard packed soil. The clang of their brightly polished swords and shields. Precision. Long lines. One behind the other. Their metal helmets glistening in the noon day sun as they marched homeward. Oh, how my heart would race within my chest. What a magnificent sight to behold. Caesar's Army – a roman cohort. How I counted the days until I would wear that uniform.

The days of my youth passed by so much quicker than I had anticipated. The day came for me to leave my family and to take my place among the most powerful army in the world. I hardly looked backed. I openly embraced the discipline, the honor and everything that was afforded me once I accepted the medallion given to me by Caesar himself. I reveled in the glory.

My time was quickly spent in the daily assignments of keeping civil peace. I remember long days marching along the narrow streets, many nothing more than alley ways. I can still see the admiration on the faces of the smaller children as they ran to cheer us on. And fondly recalled the days when I was that child. There came a time in my service to Caesar when I was commissioned to other countries, Macedonia, Sparta, Colossae in Asia and finally to Jerusalem.

We were sent there because the country was growing more and more unstable. There had arisen a zealot named Jesus of Nazareth. At first I saw this man as nothing more than a hundred other zealots who came out of no-where to challenge the powers that be. Just another insurrection. I had been involved in many over the years and this one seemed nothing out of the ordinary. Death by crucifixion was common for these types of criminals.

I was stationed at the Antonia Fortress. This was an impressive paved square which served as a training site for many of our soldiers. I had been there many times. It was early one morning, Friday I think. We were awakened. A prisoner was coming. This Jesus. He had been condemned to die by the Jewish Sanhedrin and turned over to us to carry out the execution. I must admit we were brutal in our treatment of these criminals. We would beat them. Often, very often, so badly we wondered if they would stay alive long enough to die on the wooden beams.

This prisoner had made many outlandish claims. He had said many times that He was the Son of God, the Jewish Messiah. That's what got him into all this trouble. I usually stayed out of religious matters but this one seemed crazy to me. He had arrived. "Some King," I thought. He sure didn't look any different than the rest of them. A group of us gathered around and began taunting him. I remembered a long purple cape hanging in the corner. I ran to get it. At the same time a buddy of mine fashioned a crown made out of a branch from a bush growing out in the square. This bush had thorns on it that grew to be two maybe three inches long. He laughed as he pushed it into the head of this *Savior*. The blood instantly began to flow. I threw the cape around him. We began to laugh. We blind-folded him and began to hit him. Not too bad, at first. Then with a fevered pitch the beating grew more and more intense. We took turns hitting Him. All the while asking, yelling, screaming, "Tell us, oh Son of God, Who hit you? Was it me? Or Me or maybe another." He, of course remained silent. What could he say? He knew he was going to die soon. Not soon enough for me.

It was time to take Him to the place of the crucifixion. I grew tired of this sport and choose to remain at the fortress. Suddenly day turned into night as the thunder and lightning began. It seemed to last for hours. I ran to the praetorian, a little uneasy. I had never seen weather like this and did not know what to make of it. It cleared up around three in the afternoon. After that I never gave it another thought. This day, this normal, ordinary day soon faded from my memory.

I lived out my years in the service to my country. I traveled around and never stopped long enough to put down roots. Eventually, I landed back in Rome. My city. But I was growing old and feeble. I had a feeling I was going to die soon. As the day and the hour grew close, I became a little frightened. Was this all there is? Is there life after death? I wasn't as sure as I used to be. Then one afternoon I was so tired and wanted to rest. As soon as my head hit the pillow, I felt as if I was fading away. Breathing became more difficult. Darkness soon enveloped me.

It is hard to explain where I was. I knew that I had died. That was all I knew for certain. I saw someone in the distance and began to walk toward Him. He looked vaguely familiar, though I couldn't place Him. As I got closer and closer, a sick feeling rose up within me. He looked somehow Jewish. How could this be? Who was he? He was still a distance away and yet I could see the details of his face. The dark complexion. His robes were that of a common fisherman. Instantly, I was taken back to a time long ago. I kept walking but a little slower. Confusion. Yet understanding. Fear, yet compelled. I had to know. Who was He?

I felt drawn to Him but in a strange and ominous way. As I drew close I could not bear to look at Him. I lowered my head. The sandals on His feet. I had to know. As I turned my face ever so slightly, I caught a glimpse of his hands. He began to move and stretched his palms outward. I saw the holes and could not raise my head. He spoke and the words came, *(continued on next page)*

"It was you." (Prophesy, oh Son of God, who hit you.) I cannot tell you the depths of the guilt and shame I felt within every fiber of my being. I had participated in the killing of the Lord of Glory. In a split second everything was made known to me.

There is a place reserved for the scoffers, the hypocrites and the evildoers. It is a place of utter darkness. A place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. It is a place void and empty of His presence. I know this place. I will spend eternity here. Regrets? Many. But none so profound as the picture of this God, this Jesus, clothed and beaten and mocked at my hands. I missed Him because I did not look for Him. And now I look for him but He will not be found. If only... I cannot go back and change a thing, not one iota. If only... I must accept this, this judgment. If only....

Written by Lisa Brollini



Pysanky class

Learn how to make Ukrainian Easter Eggs

Saturday, April 11, 2009

12 noon - 6 p.m. (lunch provided)

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Flagstaff

319 S. San Francisco Street, Flagstaff

(white frame church on west side of street, south of Butler)

We are so happy to present this class in our new church building.

The first of many fund raising activities to be presented here.

\$60 per person: includes all supplies and a delicious lunch prepared by Tammy and Toula!

Instructor: Elaine Dillingham

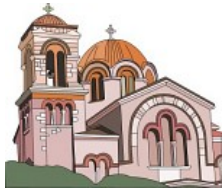
Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter Eggs) are a traditional, centuries-old folk art. You will learn the process from start to finish for this lovely, sacred art form, and you will leave the workshop with at least one pysanka that you create yourself. All materials are provided. Class size is limited. Registration is on a first-come basis. All are welcome (except, please note, because we work with sharp tools and open candle flames **this workshop is for ages 14 and up**). Please join us for a fun & friendly day of creativity in a large room filled with the fragrance of honey (you'll find out why). This is a great parent-teenager activity!

To register or for more information

please contact Instructor Elaine Dillingham

526-1871 or 607-3930 or ecdillingham@gmail.com

Enjoy pysanky display at West of the Moon Art Gallery, 111 E. Aspen downtown, through the month of April.



Building a House of God

By the grace of God, our Capital Campaign is on a path of success. Through the generous contributions of the faithful, we have collected \$197,800 with \$71,200 in additional pledges. This puts us well on our way to establishing the first permanent Orthodox Christian place of worship in Northern Arizona.

These individuals and families who have contributed in our fundraising efforts have our sincere gratitude. Please call 928 774-8279 or visit www.holycrossgreekorthodoxchurch.org for further information on ways you can help.

Honorary Founder \$25,000 and greater

Paul & Sandy Boyce

Jerry & Athena Vasilatos

Janet Morin

*-In memory of Roger L. Morin,
Fr. Parry, Alex Harington,
Robert Owen & Inez Virginia*

Founder \$10,000 to \$24,999

Bette D. Maniatis

-In memory of Mary Alvantides

Toula Howington

*-In memory of Elpitha & Peter Kyparissakou
and Katy Demitra Drake*

Dn. William & Mary Andruchow

In memory of William and Helen Andruchow

Pete & Tammy Kretsedemas

Randy & Helen Schulz

Ted & Bessie Demos

Charles & Elizabeth Beck

Gus & Maria Demeris

Anonymous Donor

Christopher & Katherine

Staten

Benefactor \$6,000 to \$9,999

Bill & Jean Miller

-In memory of Peter & Georgia Georgakopoulos

Sue & Dan Neimy

David & Kathleen Park

George A. Howington

Sponsors \$1,000 to \$5,999

Abbie Lander

-In memory of Maxine & Irving Feiler

Millan & Denice Knezovich

Peter Cayias

Gregory Kleiner

-In memory of Mary Kleiner

Fr. Nicholas & Merilynn Andruchow

Deacon Seraphim & Mary Grove

-In memory of Warren, Monica, Joseph, & Julia

Greg Adondakis

-In honor of Michael Adondakis

George Kokalis, may his memory be eternal

Julie & Lew McCormick

Harris & Vicky Pappas

Anonymous Donor

Jane Nicoletti & LeLand Jones

Nick Sexton – In Memory of

Steven & Basiliki Papadopoulos

Supporters \$25.00 to \$999.00

Virginia Manatos

-In Memory of George & Athena Manatos

Constantinos & Aspasia Germanakos

Katherine Jordan

John Saledas

Hercules Dellas

Irene Canelos

In memory of George Canelos

Kay & Stan Coin

William Wafalsky

John & Linda Dexter

Phil & Helen Mitchell

Pauline Alexander

Olga & Nicholas Flouskados

George Kostas

Mary Lambros

Dr. Andreas & Mary Poulakidas

Argie Carmichael

William & Jantina Wilson

CJ & Marion Contes

Theodore & Maria Kotsonas

Maria & Vincent Sinisalchi

Xenophon & Helene Tsouprakos

Angeline Petroulakis-Miller

Jim & Connie Contes

Georgia & Sotirios Econopouly

Mary Demas

Margaret Dellas

Pat & Louis Katsos

Angela Hapgood

William & Andrea Potaris

Andrew Mitchell

Doris & Jim Demos

Maria Boyce

Christina Tzavellas

Maria & Adrian Hreshchshyn

Jane Nicoletti & LeLand Jones

Zella Zannis

-In honor of the Kretsedemans, Pappas & Schultz Families

George & Faith Drapan

George & Angela Janetakis

Joan Janetakis

Maria Schulz

John & Julie Galvin

Theologos & Dora Themelis

Dena Kantaros

P. J. Demas

Christene Libbares

Connie Morfogen

Gregory & Melita Calpakis

George Veres

Joanne & Theodore Lakis

Connie & James Contes

Cathleen & William Gould

A. Devolies

Connie Venetis

Elizabeth (Ellie) Sexton

Miomir Milivojen

Stewardship 2009

STEWARDSHIP



Dear valuable stewards: As of March 30, 2009, 49 of our stewards have returned their pledge form for the year 2009; pledging a total of \$62,090.00. Thank you for being committed to our Lord Jesus Christ and for seeing that His "house", our Holy Cross Church, His Church is cared through your loving offerings from His offerings to you. May our Lord open the windows of heaven and pour out on to you His abundant blessings.

Our Lord loves you and blesses you.
In Christ with love, *Toula*.

Thank you to our pledged stewards

George & Kim Adondakis
Fr Nicholas and Pres. Merilynn Andruchow
John and Nana Allen
Vicki and Brad Barber
Phil and Helen Blommendahl
Paul and Sandy Boyce
Anastasia Konomos and Paul Brinkmann
Lisa Brollini
Nick and Sharon Daniolos
Margaret Dellas
Elaine and Randy Dillingham
Richard and Martha Downey
Andrew Florea
Mary and Serafim Grove
Gabriel and Estela Ene Gruionu
Angela Hapgood

Sveltana Zitu & Micheal Horn
George A. Howington
Toula and James Howington
Kathy Lampros and Richard Jackson
Joan Janetakis
Jane Nicoletti- Jones and Lee Jones
Konstantinos and Natalya Kokalis
Dale and Elpitha Kraus
Pete and Tammy Kretsedemas
Nick and Marina Kretsedemas
Demetrios and Katherine Kretsedemas
George and Sophie Kretsedemas
Alexander Lucas
Bette Maniatis
Matthew and Carrissa Maxwell
William and Jean Miller
Jan Morin

Daniel and Susan Neimy
Georgia and Darrell Padilla
Angelo and Potoula Pappas
Magdaline Pappas
Dave and Kathleen Park
Fr. Timothy Pavlatos and Family
Marianne Poulos
Helen and Randy Schulz
Maria Schulz
Daniel and Elizabeth Sexton
Litsa, Jacob and Savana St Amand
Christopher & Tina St. Cyr
Christopher and Katherine Staten
Theresa and Wayne Tallent
Jerry and Athena Vasilatos
Connie and George Venetis

**** If you have returned a pledge prior to March 30th, and your name is not on this list, please call 928-774-8279 to notify us ****

Stewardship 2009 Pledge Distribution

Pledge Amount	# Stewards	Pledge Amount	# Stewards	Pledge Amount	# Stewards
\$5,001 - \$6,000.....	1	\$2,001 - \$3,000.....	7	\$501 - \$1000.....	6
\$4,001 - \$5,000.....	1	\$1,001 - \$2,000.....	10	\$1 - \$500.....	20
\$3,001 - \$4,000.....	4				

AVERAGE PLEDGE: \$1,267.15



HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF FLAGSTAFF STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE: JANUARY, 2009 – DECEMBER, 2009

Name _____ Spouse _____

Children, names and ages _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Home _____ Work _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Treasure

I/We, joyfully pledge this amount
to support the needs of
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox
Church of Flagstaff

\$ _____

Weekly Monthly
 Quarterly Annually

Time and Talent: I/We pledge to volunteer my time and talent to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Flagstaff in the following areas:

- Outreach Construction Coffee Hour Baking Greeters Parish Council
 Fund raising Sunday School Philanthropy Other _____

Please mail to: Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church • P.O. Box 2164 • Flagstaff, Arizona 86003-2164

Save the Dates!

ALL SAINTS CAMP

2009



Sunday, June 7th - Friday, June 12th

For campers entering 4th grade through Senior in High School.
(Entering 3rd grade may be added depending on interest.)



All Saints Camp is a sleep-away camp in Flagstaff, Arizona that offers volleyball, basketball, archery, a tree-top ropes course, Capture-the-Flag, hiking, nightly bonfires, games, arts and crafts *and more*—all within an Orthodox setting with daily Matins, Vespers and Christ-centered lessons.

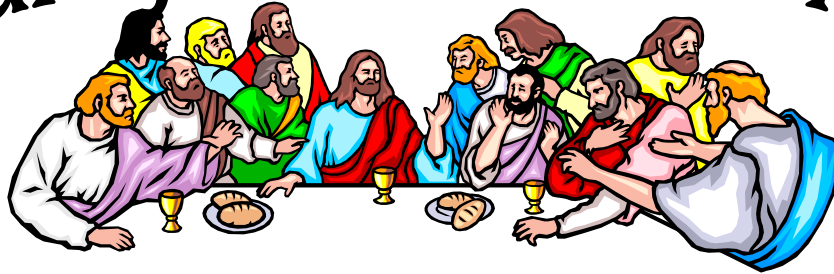
6 days, 5 nights, all meals and transportation*
for *only* \$250 per camper!

*Transportation to Flagstaff from either St. Katherine's Church in Chandler or Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix and return.

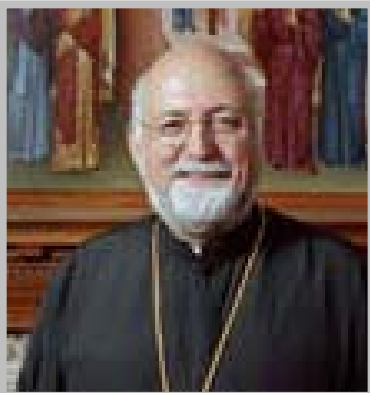
Check out www.holytrinityphx.org
and click "camp" for more information.

Supported by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches

Live for Today Plan for Tomorrow



Christ sent out his Apostles to preach to the world the Good News of the coming of the Lord's Kingdom. He encouraged the disciples to prepare for the last days and He challenged them not to worry about the concerns of today's world. God will take care of you. On the last weekend of June we will evaluate the 12 areas of ministry of our church that are essential to continue the apostles' efforts of preaching the Gospel to the entire world. The community forum will be facilitated by Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou, the President Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we work together we can reflect on the community's history and look to the future.



Rev. Triantafilou has over thirty years of experience in church administration, pastoring and leadership. In addition to his extensive parish experience, Fr. Triantafilou has also held various high-level leadership roles in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, including Director of the Leadership 100 Archdiocesan Endowment Fund, which grew from \$15 million to \$27 million in four years under his leadership. He was a co-founder and director of the Annunciation Orthodox School in Houston, TX, which began with 14 students and increased to 300 during his seventeen-year tenure.

- **What:** Strategic planning for Holy Cross
- **When:** Saturday, June 27th 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- **Where:** Holy Cross Church of Flagstaff, AZ
319 S. San Francisco Street.
- **Info./RSVP:** Church office (928) 380-2918
[Priest@holycrossgreekorthodoxchurch.org](mailto: Priest@holycrossgreekorthodoxchurch.org)

Church News

Rummage Sale

Spring Cleaning time is here again! Time to clean out your closets and bring all your unwanted items for our 6th Annual Rummage Sale. It will be held **Friday May 15th, Saturday, May 16th and Saturday May 23rd** at our NEW Church location, 319 S. San Francisco St. We will begin accepting donations in the Community Room after Liturgy on Sunday May 3rd, 2 weeks prior to the sale and also on Sunday May 10th. (Please bring donated items in boxes so they can be stacked.) Other donation dates and times may be arranged by calling Kathleen Park at 525-9489.



We will also be having a Bake Sale at the same time and location as the Rummage Sale. Homemade Greek goodies are always our best sellers, but donations of any type of baked goods or candies are welcome and greatly appreciated.

Please bring Bake Sale items Thursday evening May 14th or early Friday morning. Sign-up sheets for volunteers to help with the sales will be posted in the Community Room.

Thank you for all you do, *Kathleen*



Nursing Home Ministry

Visits to the Afinia Nursing Home are planned for **April 25th, and May 23rd**. We will meet at Holy Cross at 9 am to drive and/or caravan to the site together. We usually spend about one hour visiting individual rooms from 9:30-10:30; then, time permitting, go for coffee. If you would like to join us, have an idea for an activity, or just need more information, contact Mary Grove at 928-226-1882 or mfgrove@hotmail.com



Thank You for Supporting Church School!

On April 5 we held our annual Church School Brunch Sale after our first Sunday Liturgy at our new location! A total of \$230 was donated, and we thank everyone for your immense generosity, support and most of all – Love!

As the school year winds down, please mark your calendars for the following events:

April 17: Holy Friday Retreat

May 17: End of year presentations, and the last day of Church school

Project Mexico: July 7-14

The dates for Project Mexico are set for June 7th thru 14th. We will be joining more than 200 other Orthodox Christians in order to build 10 homes in one week. Please keep those who have volunteered thus far in your prayers.

Those who have committed to date include: Fr. Nicholas, Joshua Andruchow, Lisa Brollini, Cody Burket, Andrew Florea, Elyse Dillingham, Nick Sexton, and Alexa Tavlaletis. For more information contact Lisa Brollini at lisam731@npgcable.com

Upcoming Bible Study Class...

Liturgy in the Bible

Learn how the Orthodox Liturgy emerges from the Bible.

Wednesday evenings following Paraklesis Service 6:30 pm

April 29 through June 24

in the Community Room

More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Think Jesus 2009

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Think Jesus dinners we will be hosting: **Sunday May 10th (Bushmaster Park)** Sunday September 6th (Bushmaster Park) Sunday December 27th (Killip School) All your help and donations are greatly appreciated.

In Christ,

The Philanthropy Committee

Men's Morning Breakfast

Please join us for our monthly men's breakfast.

This is a great opportunity for the men of our parish to have a morning out, and share fellowship over breakfast and coffee!

Place: Alvin's Mason Jar

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Dates: April 30th, May 14th, June 18th



Bookstore and Library

We now have a new and permanent location for our Bookstore. Stop by the Community Room and see the new and existing items our store has to offer. Including baptism, chrismation and wedding candles, icons from Greece, small gift items and our own cookbook! Bibles, Prayer books, books for the Lenten season, music and more. I will be excited to see you come and browse my new corner! Love, *Toula*

NEWS FROM IRAQ



Hello Father,

Well, times are certainly changing here. A new CORPS, I CORPS, is coming in to replace the XVIII airborne corps. So that along with the elections it is setting a new direction for the mission. We've had both the Department of Defense and the Department of State here this week doing their evaluations. It appears they want this to become a civpol mission so as to free up more troops for Afghanistan. Unfortunately that means a lot of work for us planners at CORPS. A lot of travelling around the country. Multiple meetings on a daily basis. I met with Brigadier General Walker today and have to meet with Major General Cannon tomorrow. Alas, this means I will not be home for Easter. I'll come home in June instead. I'll truly miss spending Easter with all of you. It is the highlight of my year. My wife, Linda will try to make it in my place. At least I have an Orthodox Chaplin, Father John Kalantzis, here and we will celebrate Easter together. Remember to pray for the troops here, they are a fine group of people and they work very hard, usually 12 hours a day.

In Christ,

Nick Lucas

Hajji Kareem"

Camp Klecker

Baghdad, Iraq

Flagstaff Music Festival June 20th & 21st Heritage Square

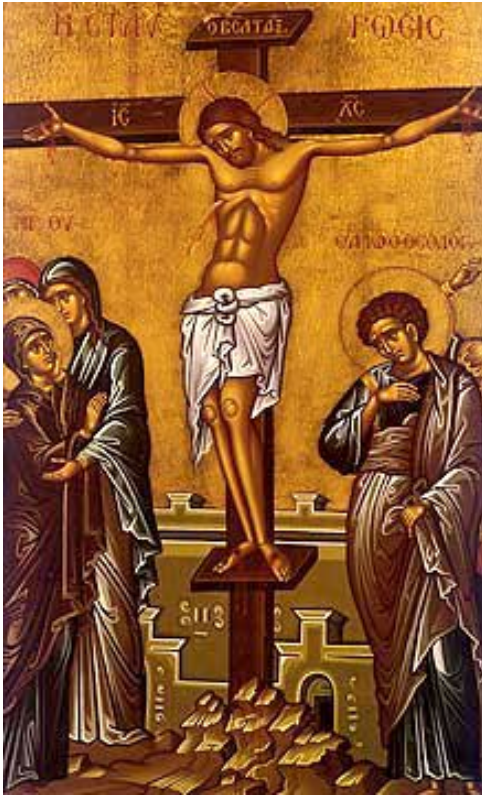
We will be joining numerous other vendors as we try a 'new' fundraising activity. Tammy and Toula are planning a 'Greek Delicacies' Booth selling their delicious Greek gyros and baklava. Mark your calendars as they will be requiring our assistance for this new endeavor. What a great way to share these delicious dishes with our Flagstaff friends/neighbors and spreading the word of the Orthodox faith. Toula and Tammy will be letting us know more in the coming month.

Collection for the Homeless

On **Sunday June 7th**, we will pass a second basket for an offering for the homeless. Please plan accordingly.



Great Lent, Holy Week, Pascha and Feast Day Services & Events



- April 11th** ...Lazarus Saturday: Matins 9:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM followed by Pancake Breakfast and Palm Cross Making
- April 12th** ...Palm Sunday: Matins 8:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM
6:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins
- April 13st** ...6:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins
- April 14nd** ...10:00 AM Presanctified Service
6:00 PM: Bridegroom Matins
- April 15rd** ...10:00 AM Presanctified Service
6:00 PM: Holy Unction Service
- April 16th** ...10:00 AM: Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil
6:00 PM: 12 Passion Gospels
- April 17th** ...8:00 AM: Royal Hours
11:00 AM: Holy Friday Retreat *for all ages*
2:00 PM: Entombment Service
6:00 PM: Lamentation Service
8:00 PM to 10:00 AM: All Night Vigil
(To sign up contact Alex Lucas at (702) 279-7963 Glm84@hotmail.com)



Flower Donations Needed

For Holy Week flowers need to be donated for the various services. If you are interested in helping, please contact Fr. Nicholas or Toulia Howington.

April 18th ...10:00 AM: Holy Saturday Vespereal Liturgy
11:30 PM: Pascha Midnight Liturgy

April 19th1:00 PM: Agape Vespers followed by Pascha Picnic at Bushmaster Park

Holy Friday Retreat – April 17 • 11:00 AM RSVP by Sunday April 12

We are holding our seventh annual Holy Friday Retreat at our new church location, 319 S. San Francisco Street . Please make all attempts to attend, and RSVP to a Church School teacher by Sunday April 12th, either by letting a teacher know, or call Cookie Kraus at 928-774-2883 or email familykraus@hotmail.com.

The retreat will begin with 'rotation learning'. Participants will travel in small groups from station to station where themes about Pascha will be explained, and each participant will receive a small memento of the topic covered. We will break for a lenten potluck lunch (NO NUTS PLEASE), and time permitting, we will end the retreat by practicing the Lamentation Hymns. We should be done in time for the Entombment service at 2:00 pm

DATE:
Sunday, April 19th

PLACE:
Bushmaster Park,
Flagstaff, AZ

TIME:
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

PASCHA PICNIC



WHAT TO BRING:

POTLUCK
Meat Dishes
Recommended

INFO:
Contact Sandy Boyce
@ 928-203-9876 or
sboyce@csg-i.com

Sayings of our Holy Fathers

The Writings of Staretz Silouan:
Adam's Lament

ON THE MOTHER OF GOD AND THE SAINTS

The Saints were people just like ourselves. Many of them started with grievous sins but through repentance they attained the Kingdom of Heaven. And every one who comes to the Kingdom of Heaven does so through repentance which the Merciful Lord granted us by His sufferings.

In the Kingdom of Heaven the holy Saints look upon the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ; but through the Holy Spirit they see too the sufferings of men on earth. The Lord gave them such great grace that they embrace the whole world with their love. They see and know how we languish in affliction, how our hearts have withered within us, how despondency has fettered our souls, and they never cease to intercede for us with God.

The Saints rejoice when we repent, and grieve when men forsake God and become like unto brute beasts. They grieve to see people living on earth and not knowing that if they were to love one another the world would know freedom from sin; and where sin is absent there is joy and gladness of the Holy Spirit, in such wise that on all sides everything is pleasing, and the soul marvels that all is so well with her, and praises God.

The Saints in Heaven through the Holy Spirit behold the glory of God and the beauty of the Lord's Countenance. But in this same Holy Spirit they see our lives too, and our deeds. They know our sorrows and hear our burning prayers. When they were living on earth they learned of the love of God from the Holy Spirit; and he who knows love on earth takes it with him into eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven, where love grows and becomes perfect. And if love makes one unable to forget a brother here, how much more must the Saints remember and pray for us!

The Lord bestowed the Holy Spirit on the Saints, and in the Holy Spirit they love us. The souls of the Saints know the Lord and His goodness towards man, wherefore their spirits burn with love for the peoples. While they were still on earth they could not without sorrow hear tell of sinful men, and in their prayers shed tears for them.

They were chosen of the Holy Spirit to pray for the whole world, Who gave them a well-spring of tears. The Holy Spirit gives His chosen such wealth of love that their souls are possessed as it were by a flame of desire that all men should be saved and behold the glory of the Lord.

Preparing for Pascha (Easter) through Confession

March 1st beings the journey to the celebration of Pascha which is on April 19th. All should prepare for the feast of all feasts. Be reflecting on how we need to grow in Christ and participate in the sacrament of confession. Fr. Nicholas hears confessions on Saturday nights after Great Vespers or by appointment. Please contact the church office.

Let us all be prepared and not be caught spiritually asleep.

Up-coming Calendar of Events



APRIL

- Sunday, April 5th - 1st Service in New Church
Church School Luncheon
- Saturday, April 11th - Pysanky Class
- Easter Egg Workshop
- Holy Week – Sunday, April 12th to Saturday, April 18th
See Page 15 for schedule of Services/Times
- Sunday, April 19th - Pascha Picnic/Bushmaster
- Sunday, April 26th - Spring General Assembly

MAY

- Sunday, May 10th - THINK JESUS
- Friday, May 15th - Rummage Sale
- Saturday, May 16th - Rummage Sale
- Saturday, May 23rd - Rummage Sale

JUNE

- June 7th to June 12th - Church Camp
- Saturday, June 20/21 - Flagstaff Art Fair - Booth
- Saturday, June 27th - Live for Today/Plan For Tomorrow Workshop

JULY

- July 7th to July 14th - Project Mexico

AUGUST

No events at this time

SEPTEMBER

- September 4th to 7th - County Fair Days - Booth
- September 6th - THINK JESUS
- September 20th - Holy Cross Feast Day Picnic

OCTOBER

No events at this time

NOVEMBER

- Sunday, November 15th - Fall General Assembly

DECEMBER

- Sunday, December 6th - General Elections
- Sunday, December 27th - THINK JESUS

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Flagstaff, AZ
319 S. San Francisco Street - Flagstaff, AZ 86001 - (928) 774-8279
P.O. Box 1264 - Flagstaff, AZ 86003
www.holycrossgreekorthodoxchurch.org