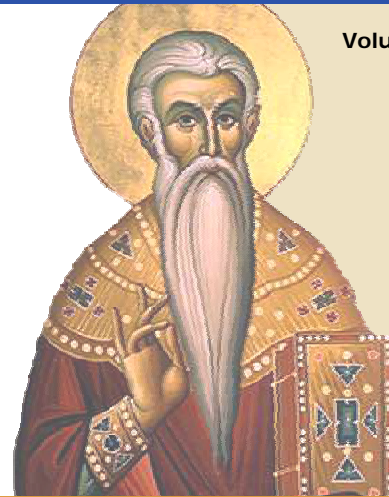


# in Touch

Volume 20, Issue 4

April 2012



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

## Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

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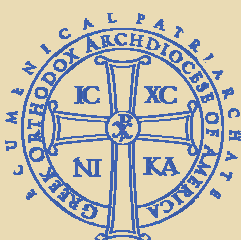
Χριστός  
Ανέστη!

Hristos a  
înviat!

Cristo ha  
resucitado!

Христос  
Воскресе!

Al-Masih-  
Qam!



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

# YOUTH GROUP

By Lindsay Vardalos and Chrissy King

## Holy Friday Retreat

Our Holy Friday Retreat will be held on Apr. 13 from 10:30 am to 3 pm, followed by the three o'clock Vesper service. Our theme is "Symbols of Pascha" and the children will be learning about many meaningful symbols of the Pascha season through games, crafts, bible verses and more. The cost is free and lunch will be served. Please register as soon as possible.

## Plastic Eggs Donation

The Youth Group is looking for donations of plastic eggs for our Holy Friday Retreat. Please drop them off in the church office.

## Myrrh Bearers

Children who will be myrrh bearers will be practicing during the Holy Friday Retreat from 12:45 - 1:15.

## Youth Group Meeting

Our next Youth Group meeting will be on Monday, Apr. 23 at 6 pm Come early for pizza at 5 pm.

## Cinco de Mayo Potluck

Looking ahead, our Cinco de Mayo Parish-wide POTLUCK celebration will be held on Saturday, May 5 at 4 pm. Please sign up after church in the social hall.

## Community Pascha Card

Please sign up for our community Pascha card. The deadline is Monday, Apr. 2.

## Thank You

The Youth Group would like to thank the entire parish for their generosity at the Pancake Breakfast. The donations fund our Holy Friday Retreat.



*The Youth Group had the opportunity to select and make their icons followed by Fr. Michael blessing them.*



## Holy Friday Youth Retreat

Friday, April 13 - 10:30 am to 3 pm

Please fill out the following registration form and return it to the church office by April 6.

### Holy Friday Youth Retreat Registration Form

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to help at the retreat? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Is your child allergic to nuts? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_



## His Infinite Love and Mercy

"Father, please come, I don't think she's going to make it, and I don't want her to go without any prayers!" Fortunately it wasn't far, and I arrived at the hospital a few minutes later, only to find that all the ER parking spots (including the designated clergy spots) were already taken. Finally on the top level of the parking structure, I pulled into one of the available spots, and hurried to the ER. As I rounded the corner towards the entrance, I met the daughter who had been waiting for me. The plea of a loving daughter at such a traumatic time is something that is easily felt over a phone line, and pushes all other responsibilities to the side.

Her eyes were already red with tears, she was relieved to see me. "I think this is it, Father. She's having difficulty breathing." "Which room is she in?" I asked. "She's having a chest x-ray right now and she'll be back in her room in a few minutes."

I sat down with her and her father who was in the waiting room. Both were pretty upset and told me what led up to the 911 call. To try to calm her down, and give her dad a few minutes alone, I suggested we go to the chapel, which was just down the hall.

Once there, she again poured out her heart through tears, talking about her close relationship with her mother, how she had cared for her throughout her adult life. She knew her mother had recently become quite weak, and if this was her time, wanted her to go quickly and without any pain.

We stood together for a minute, and after the prayer she said, "Thank you Father, you have no idea how much this means to me."

She quickly left the chapel and headed back towards the ER. "I have to be there, and I want you to pray for her!" She pushed the intercom button on the wall next to the ER entry door, but no response. After a few more tries the door opened and we went towards her mother's room. We saw her dad standing in the corridor who said that we needed to stay outside for now. A nurse came out and spoke with him about some decisions that needed to be made regarding his wife's care.

The situation was pretty intense, and her daughter turned to me and asked what she should do; what would I do if I were her? I told her to do what she does best, be by her mother's side and help keep her as calm as she could.

She was worried about arguments with her dad, who didn't see things the way she did. I cut her off and told her not to respond, not to argue, just be there for her mother and help calm her down. "Will you go in with me?" "Yes," I said, and we walked in together.

Her mother had a mask over her face which administered a breathing treatment of some kind, to help with her asthma. She seemed quite nervous but smiled weakly as she recognized me and held out her hand in greeting. Surrounded by her husband and daughter I asked how she was feeling, and if I could offer a prayer for her. Keeping hold of my hand, she nodded "yes."

You never know, in advance, exactly what words will come out during a prayer at a time like this. And that's fine - whether for a priest or layman - the point is to pray. I didn't notice at the time, but thinking back, the room was very quiet during the prayer, which is a bit unusual for an ER room. But it helped make for a peaceful couple of minutes, after which the daughter looked back at

*(Continued on page 6)*

***"I have to be there, and I want you to pray for her!"***



**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  
7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ 85383  
[Office@StHaralambosAZ.com](mailto:Office@StHaralambosAZ.com)  
[FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com](mailto:FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com)

Hours  
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Parish Council

Roy Christian  
David Durgam  
Dennis Georgen  
Dimitri Gryparis  
George Miller  
Dean Milonas

Tony Panousopoulos  
Chris Theotocatos  
Peter Vardalos  
Dorothy Vordos  
Lee Vordos  
Ken Wrona

# 25th Anniversary

## Parishioner Profile

Each month of 2012 we'll spend some time with a member of our parish to get their memories, views and insights about the history, development and future of our parish as part of this year's 25th Anniversary celebration. This month's interview is with Charlotte Servetas.

**Question: How many years have you been a steward at St. Haralambos?**

**Answer:** Since the beginning. I remember meeting for Church in the cafeteria of the elementary school when we first started.

**Q: Where were you born and raised and what brought you to Arizona?**

**A:** I was born in eastern Pennsylvania in a coal mining area. My father worked for the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company. I became a nurse in the Air Force in the early 1950s and during my time, I met my husband Ernie and we married in Puerto Rico while we were both stationed there. Unfortunately, he died in a military plane crash in 1971 in Spain. As I worked as a nurse supervisor in New Hampshire for many years, I came to Arizona to visit. I liked what I saw in Arizona and decided to see if I could find work in healthcare. I soon found work as a nurse supervisor here and have been here ever since. I worked as a nurse supervisor for five years at Camelot before retiring.

**Q: What activities and groups have you been involved in at St. Haralambos?**

**A:** I've been involved in many activities of the Church. I have always been part of the choir, I have taught Sunday School, help prepare Koliva

for memorials, help as an Epistle reader, fill-in when needed as a chanter and served as president of Philoptochos. I'm still a Philoptochos member. In the early days of the



Church at the previous location, we had a babysitting club called Kids Club where we would watch kids on Wednesday morning allowing moms or parents to run errands or do something on their own. It was Mary Harrington, Mary Manos and I, and we loved doing it. I'd love to see something like that come back to our Church community today.

**Q: Weren't you also awarded the Medal of St. Paul?**

**A:** Yes I was blessed to receive this medal (at the parish's 15th Anniversary Dinner Gala). I was very surprised and proud to receive this honor.

**Q: What are some of your memories of the founding of the parish?**

**A:** Thinking about the people that I have met over the years and getting to know each one of them are some fond memories for me. Although I miss the people we have lost over the years.

I've enjoyed working with different people on various committees and groups. I remember many of the Greek ladies helping me with my Greek pronunciation of words and phrases.

**Q: What would you like to see happen in the next 5-10 years of our parish?**

**A:** I hope we can pay off the current mortgage on our building and then take the steps to build a Church the way we would like it to be on this property and turning the current building we use into a social hall and community center. We also need to be sure to keep our young people involved in the Church and Church activities. We'll need to keep the lines of communication open, solicit feedback and use everyone's input to move forward and build the new church building.

**Q: What legacy would you like today's parishioners to develop and leave for future generations during the next 25 years?**

**A:** Well the basics or fundamentals of Orthodoxy will remain the same. But, it is up to each one of us to continue to reach out to visitors and new parishioners to make them feel welcome and comfortable here. And, I think we're doing that but we must continue to do that. That will make the Church what it is and that is the body of Christ.

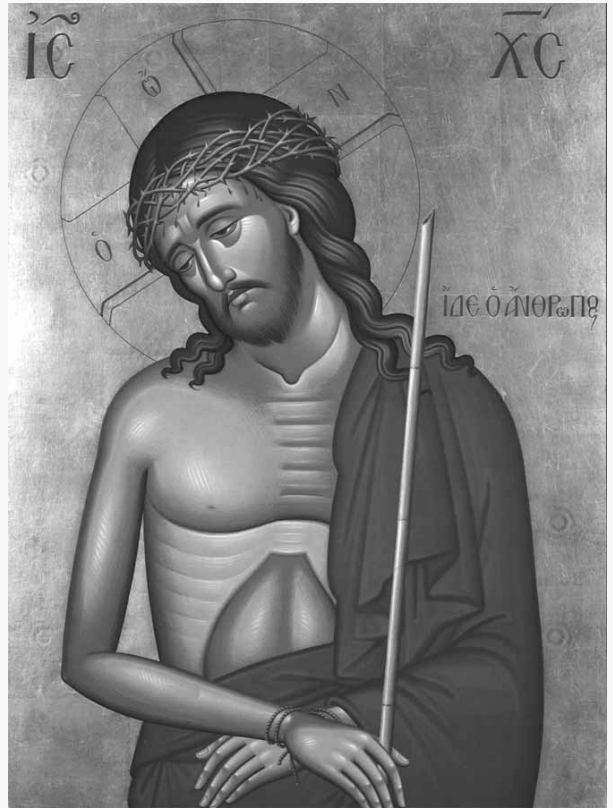
**Q: Anything else you would like to share?**

**A:** I love all of our parishioners and I'm overjoyed at the number of kids and how well behaved they are. I enjoy interacting with the kids as they bring great joy to the parish and are the future of our Church.

## Lent and Holy Week Services

The final week of Great Lent is here, followed by Holy Week. The Community Calendar lists dates and times for the weeknight Lenten services and the Holy Week schedule. All are encouraged to continue the Fast, attending as many services as possible, and continuing with charitable works.

- The final Compline service on Tuesday, Apr. 3 will be followed by a film on the life of St. George, the Great martyr.
- Wednesday evening, Apr. 4 will be the final liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified gifts, followed by a Lenten dinner.
- Following the liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, we will be making the palm crosses in preparation for Palm Sunday. Volunteers are needed!



## Sunday School

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School Director

It was so nice to see our Sunday School students participate in the Sunday of Orthodoxy icon procession last month. It's always a blessing to have our youth in attendance for both Divine Liturgy and Sunday School. Being diligent in coming to church each week may be difficult at times, but in doing so, we parents set the right example for our children by showing

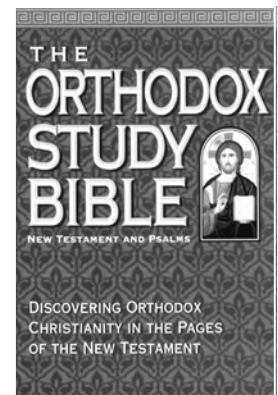
that we value our Orthodox faith and church.

It is hoped that all of our Sunday School children will continue to attend church and Sunday School during not only the remaining weeks of Great Lent, but also the weeks following Pascha. May all of our parish families be blessed as we celebrate the joyous Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Orthodox Bible Study

The Orthodox bible study group has been suspended over the Lenten season. We will start again at 7 pm on Wednesday, Apr. 25 at the church with the Gospel of John, chapter 8. Please feel free to come and join us and keep your Lenten spiritual goals active. We study the meaning of the

gospel and apply some of the topics to contemporary life. No special skills are necessary and all are invited. If you have any questions please feel free to call Ted Manos at 623-698-6078 or email him at [tedmanos@zona.net](mailto:tedmanos@zona.net)





## Philoptochos

By Reni Milonas, President

Christ Has Risen! Truly He Has Risen!  
Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

As we come to the end of Great and Holy Lent and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I want to thank: Ken and Valla Wrona, Voula Dodd and Lindsey Vardalos, Anna Kinniburgh and Charlotte Servetas, Alice Hecht and Anne Yacyshyn, Aphrodite Devolites and Flo Curran, and my wonderful husband Dean Milonas for hosting the Divine Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Lenten meals, as well as all of our amazing members of St. Anna's Philoptochos for all of the Lenten refreshments they have provided.

On Apr. 1, St. Haralambos will be hosting Sunday night Lenten Vespers. Refreshments will be provided following the service.

On Apr. 8, the Philoptochos will host The Palm Sunday Fish Dinner; \$12 for

adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. Please see Flo Curran for reservations by Apr. 3. Proceeds will benefit the Philoptochos Ministries.

Apr. 15 we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at midnight on Holy Saturday. Refreshments will be provided following the Divine Liturgy.

### April National Commitments

Sisterhood of St. Basil Academy

- Amount determined by chapter
- Provides for the physical needs of the children of St. Basil Academy as well as graduation costs, awards, and gifts.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

- Amount determined by chapter
- Provides food, shelter, and economic self-sufficiency to those in need.

Next meeting is Apr. 2 at 7 pm

## Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

one of the monitors and excitedly remarked that her mother's oxygen level had increased, and heart rate and blood pressure had lowered to normal levels.

I told her, and her mother and father, that prayer is always effective, even when we don't see immediate results. I asked her mother to try to stay as calm as she could, that it would help her treatments, and that God was watching over her.

I left the family in the ER. The husband followed me out and said he'd stay in touch and let me know how she progresses.

On the drive back to the church I was

thinking how grateful I was to have been able to make this hospital visit. Couldn't the daughter have prayed for her mother without me? What if I wasn't available? And a host of other questions kept creeping into my thoughts, none of which did me any good. I returned to thoughts of gratitude, to God for his infinite love and mercy, and for giving me this opportunity to be with this family.

Our Lord Jesus Christ lives. He is Risen. He loves, He hears and is merciful. Let our hearts and prayers turn towards Him during this season of His Holy Resurrection. Let our personal relationships with Him grow, and let us never doubt His loving compassion for us.

## St. Christopher's Bookstore

### **Christ in Our Midst, Spiritual Renewal in the Orthodox Church**

by Theodore Stylianopoulos, 1981

*"Make (Christ's) love your aim." (1 Cor. 14:1)*

Human beings naturally crave and seek renewal: "A joyful heart, freshness of spirit, inner strength, a sense of well-being-- these are some of the characteristics of renewal." The author of *Christ in Our Midst* best describes spiritual renewal as "nearness of God in Christ." Our love of Christ and how we practice that love in our daily lives, making Christ the center of all we think and do, brings spiritual rejuvenation. Indeed, this love transforms us and creates newness in our relationships, in our jobs, in our parish, and in our world.

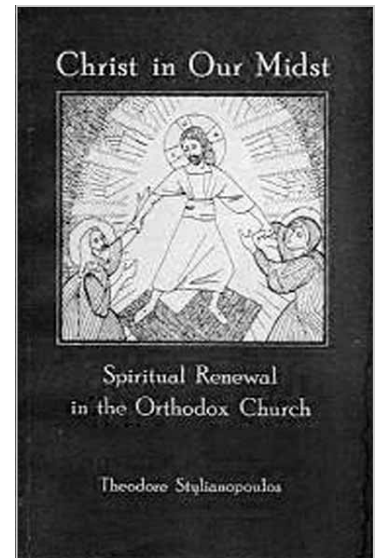
Spiritual renewal, however, does not happen just because we want it—we have to work toward it. Stylianopoulos identifies three basic principles for spiritual renewal to occur, the first of which is faith, repentance, and obedience to God. Second is participation in the life of the Church and its holy mysteries and, lastly, experiencing the Holy Spirit through love.

Christian hope during these troubled times is that we can all be spiritual agents and bring about "social and cosmic renewal through God's love." We do this through our examples and by being more Christ-like to others. The author provides guidelines to follow throughout our life. The first guideline toward spiritual renewal is to develop a life of prayer. Per Theophan, a nineteenth century Russian bishop, "the whole struggle for effective prayer is to descend with the mind into the heart, to pray from the heart with attention, understanding and feeling and to see there in the heart the ever-present and invisible God."

The second step toward spiritual renewal is righteous living. By living a life of integrity, and by struggling with pureness of conduct, we become closer to God and purer in heart. Practicing this guideline naturally leads to the next phase which is developing a Christ-like attitude toward differences. When we practice tolerance and affirmation of others instead of faulting or judging them we embrace the teachings of Christ.

The final guideline for renewal is "to give all the glory to God." We do this when we honor and praise Him and seek His mercy. "We are but his servants, seeking His will, His purpose, His timing." Thus, when we surrender our ego to God, we break open so that Christ may live in us. In essence, it is this humility or our humbleness which allows us to be saved.

Spiritual renewal is not limited to the individual. The author outlines how families and parishes can also follow guidelines toward newness. These collective efforts create opportunities for liberation and universal renewal of life through Christ. Thus we are active participants and can choose to change the spiritual flow of energy by the positive paths we take. Ultimately, the hope of spiritual renewal is "a transformation of this earthly flow of daily life by the newness of heaven."



## ***Name Days***

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

|                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| St. Mary (of Egypt) (1st)           | St. George (23rd )              |
| St. Joseph (the Hymnographer) (3rd) | St. Mark (25th)                 |
| St. Alexandra (21st)                | Sts. Jason and Sosipater (29th) |

## Birthdays



Areti Karandreas (3)  
 Chris Fredericksen (7)  
 Stefanos Macrides (12)  
 Dennis Germenis (14)  
 Paula Farr (15)  
 Lee Vordos (16)  
 Steve Harrington (17)  
 Dorothy Vordos (17)  
 Kimon Ayan (18)  
 Chrissy King (18)  
 Jackson Savoy (18)  
 Jeff Farr (20)  
 Georgia Trakas (20)  
 Katelyn Pritchard (22)  
 Melanie Singleton (22)  
 Roy Christian (28)  
 Eve Devolites (30)

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.

## Soul Food

By Fr. John of Kronstadt

### The resurrection

What is most terrible to man? Death? Yes, death. None of us can imagine without terror how they will have to breathe their last breath. But brethren, do not fear, and do not sorrow beyond measure. By his death, Jesus Christ has

conquered our death, and by his resurrection, he has laid the foundation for our resurrection. Every week, every Sunday, we solemnize in the risen Christ our common future resurrection from the dead, and begin beforehand the eternal life, to which this present temporal life is but a short, narrow, and most sorrowful way.

# FAMILY PICNIC

Sponsored by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches

Saturday, April 21, 2012 10am -2pm

**Granada Park**  
**6505 N. 20th St.**

(South of Lincoln Dr., near Holy Trinity Cathedral)

*Bring Your Own Lunch | Soft Drinks Provided*

*Family Games and Activities*



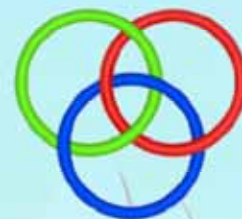
# APRIL 2012

| Sunday                                                                                                                                | Monday                                                                        | Tuesday                                                                     | Wednesday                                                                                                                                 | Thursday                                                                                   | Friday                                                                                                                                             | Saturday                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy<br><b>5th Sunday of Lent</b><br>Special General Assembly<br>6:00pm Lenten Vespers | <b>2</b><br>7:00pm Philoptochos                                               | <b>3</b><br>7:00pm Compline Service                                         | <b>4</b><br>6:00pm Pre-Sanctified<br>Divine Liturgy                                                                                       | <b>5</b><br>7:00pm Choir                                                                   | <b>6</b>                                                                                                                                           | <b>7</b><br>9:00am Divine Liturgy<br><b>Saturday of Lazarus</b><br>11:00am Lenten<br>Breakfast<br>Palm Crosses |
| <b>8</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy<br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br>Fish Luncheon<br>6:00pm Christ the<br>Bridegroom Service | <b>9</b><br><b>Holy Monday</b><br>7:00pm Christ the<br>Bridegroom Service     | <b>10</b><br><b>Holy Tuesday</b><br>7:00pm Christ the<br>Bridegroom Service | <b>11</b><br><b>Holy Wednesday</b><br>9:00am Pre-Sanctified<br>Divine Liturgy<br>4:00pm Holy Unction<br>(children)<br>7:00pm Holy Unction | <b>12</b><br><b>Holy Thursday</b><br>9:00am Divine Liturgy<br>7:00pm 12 Passion<br>Gospels | <b>13</b><br><b>Holy Friday</b><br>11:00am Holy Friday<br>Youth Retreat<br>3:00pm Vespers: The<br>Descent from the Cross<br>7:00pm The Lamentation | <b>14</b><br><b>Holy Saturday</b><br>10:00am Divine Liturgy<br>11:15pm Resurrection<br>Service                 |
| <b>15</b><br><b>Easter Sunday</b><br>1:00pm Easter Agapi<br>Love Vespers<br>Children's Easter Egg<br>Hunt                             | <b>16</b><br>Bright Week (No fasting)                                         | <b>17</b>                                                                   | <b>18</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>19</b><br>7:00pm Choir                                                                  | <b>20</b>                                                                                                                                          | <b>21</b><br>10:00am Pan-Orthodox<br>Family Picnic                                                             |
| <b>22</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy<br>IOCC Tray                                                                     | <b>23</b><br>9:00am Divine Liturgy<br><b>St. George</b><br>6:00pm Youth night | <b>24</b>                                                                   | <b>25</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>26</b><br>7:00pm Choir                                                                  | <b>27</b>                                                                                                                                          | <b>28</b>                                                                                                      |
| <b>29</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy                                                                                  | <b>30</b><br>7:00pm Executive Council                                         |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                |

Pan-Orthodox Camp for campers entering  
3rd grade through High School Seniors

The Camper Application can be found at  
[www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)  
or on Facebook at All Saints Camp Arizona +

Submission deadline is May 18, 2012



"Let us run with perseverance  
the race that is set before us..."  
Hebrews 12:1



# All Saints Camp 2012

Monday, June 4—Saturday, June 9



All Saints Camp is a sleep-away camp in Prescott, Arizona, that offers volleyball, basketball, Capture-the-Flag, a climbing wall, hiking, miniature golf, bonfires, songs, games, arts and crafts, organized Olympics, delicious meals, and more—all within an Orthodox setting with daily Matins, Vespers and Christ-centered lessons.

We're at Pine Summit Camp in Prescott!  
[www.pinesummitcamp.com](http://www.pinesummitcamp.com)

For more information, contact Directors  
Kathy Clarke at **602.757.1025** or  
[kathyclarke@cox.net](mailto:kathyclarke@cox.net)

or  
Kristen Vasilarakos at **602.332.8809** or  
[kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net)

**\$275.00**

Contact the church office if you would like a Camper Application.