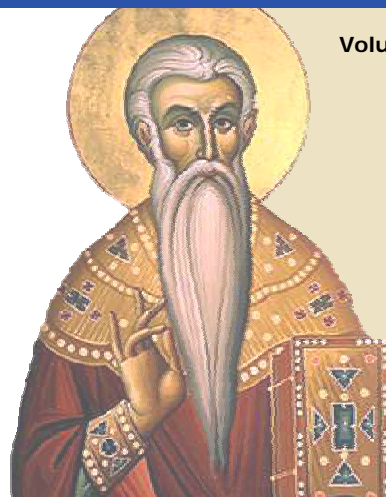


in Touch

Volume 18, Issue 8

August 2010



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, August 15

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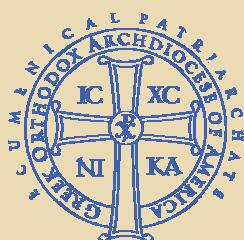
**Family Movie
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Dormition of the Theotokos



"In birth, you preserved your virginity; in death, you did not abandon the world, O Theotokos. As mother of life, you departed to the source of life, delivering our souls from death by your intercessions." (Feastday Hymn)



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

Open House

We are looking forward to hosting our exciting Open House this month! This two-day event is designed to introduce our Church to our new North Peoria neighbors, but please feel free to invite your neighbors and friends as well.

On Saturday, August 28, from 2pm to 5pm, the Open House will feature tours, various presentations, children's activities and baklava Sundaes.

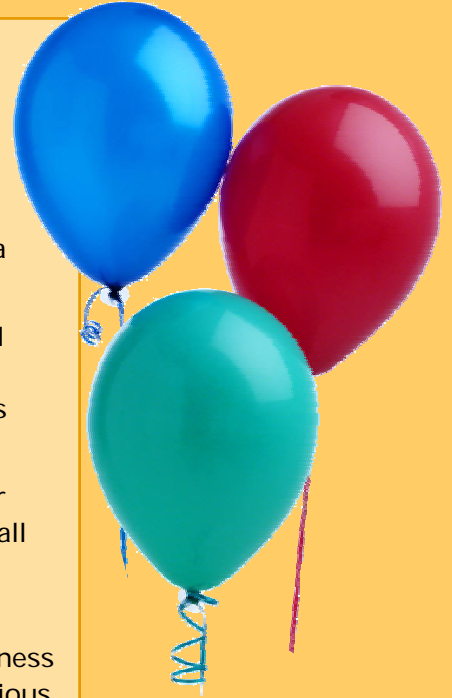
The open house will continue on Sunday, August 29, with a special narrative Divine Liturgy, when there will be a running commentary throughout the liturgy to help explain its background and history, as well as time for questions and answers afterwards.

Following services, coffee and refreshments will be provided in our Fellowship Hall at which time we will also hold the drawing for our Fall Break raffle. (You can obtain raffle tickets by contacting the church office.)

Our Open House will showcase our new Church home, raise awareness of our Church in the community, and inform everyone about our various programs and ministries.

Most of us would not hesitate for a moment to invite our friends and neighbors to our Taste of Greece festival. The Open House gives us an excellent opportunity to invite them to come and see our new church home and learn more as well.

Of course, we can use your help for the event, and need volunteers for publicity, refreshments, tours, and children's activities. If you can lend a hand, please call the church office or see Dennis Georgen during Sunday Coffee hour.



**Saturday
August 28
2pm – 5pm**





A Miraculous Vision for the Disciples

Was there an occasion during Jesus' adult life, when his disciples were clearly able to witness his divine nature? They watched as he performed miracle after miracle, healing the sick, raising Lazarus from the dead, even walking on water. Certainly the apostles were amazed and couldn't believe their eyes when they saw what these miracles did for others, and for themselves. But there was one miraculous event, not involving any person other than our Lord Himself, that revealed Jesus' divine nature unlike any other. This event is known as the Transfiguration.

Celebrated on the Orthodox Church calendar on August 6th, it was an event witnessed only by three of the disciples: Peter, James and his brother, John. They climbed a high mountain together (traditionally Mt. Tabor) where Jesus was transfigured before them. "His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as the light." (Mt. 17:2) Beholding their Master illuminated with divine light, they fell to the ground in awe, as did Moses when he beheld God on Mt. Sinai in the burning bush. (Ex. 3)

No mere human could be transfigured in such a way. St. Peter responds with the only words that seemed appropriate, "It is good for us to be here."

A thick cloud then descends on the scene, and Moses and Elijah appear, conversing with Jesus. Finally, the voice of God the Father speaks from within the cloud, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" The disciples eventually lift up their heads to see the cloud had disappeared and Jesus standing alone.

What an experience! And then they had the long journey back down the mountain, but Jesus had already commanded them, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is raised from the dead." Don't tell anyone? Not the family, not the other disciples? Can you imagine a more difficult secret to keep? Perhaps Jesus knew it would seem too far-fetched for anyone to believe, or perhaps he didn't want these three to fall into pride, being privileged to witness an event that the other nine disciples did not. They saw the miracle, showing Jesus' divinity, but were forbidden to talk about it afterwards.

Not so simple. And yet, it could be something with which people of faith are very familiar. How easy a thing is it to describe your faith in God to someone? Has there been an event in your life that convinced you that God was real, that He is not just the God of the Bible, but a living and present God today? Again, not so simple. Some may not want to listen, or might not believe you, or believe what you have to say is true for you, but not for them. Others will insist on scientific proof before they will believe in God. So far, that proof doesn't exist.

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!"

The disciples Peter, James and John beheld something quite miraculous at the Transfiguration. They saw the other miracles that Jesus performed, and most importantly, along with the other disciples, saw Jesus after he had been resurrected from the tomb. In fact, hundreds of Jesus' followers saw him after the resurrection. (1Cor. 15) But their testimony was not enough to convince others. It helped, it

(Continued on page 8)



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

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
FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

Hours

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

Parish Council

Ray Wysmierski, President
Mike Danielek, Vice-President
Dennis Georgen, Secretary
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
Angie Cholas
David Durgam

Demetri Gryparis
Mary Manos
Dean Milonas
Roberta Szklarski
Katherine Tally
Mary Wysmierski



Summer Schedule

Please be aware that for the months of June, July and August, the Sunday service schedule is moved ahead by half an hour: Matins will begin at 8:30am and Divine Liturgy at 9:30am.



Imagine a Church

What thoughts would come to mind if you were asked to stop and think about what the Church is, and to imagine what it could become? Would it be a community of inspirational worship, fellowship, service and witness? Would it be a community that encouraged its members to use their God-given gifts in a way that would be personally fulfilling and challenging?

Imagine a Church community whose children were taught by people with the gift of teaching, whose senior citizens were served by people with gifts like caring and encouragement. Can you imagine a Church community that inspired its members to discover their God-given gifts so that they felt confident and motivated to serve in the Church? A Church community that had the right people, in the right places, for the right reasons?

Next month a new ministry begins at St. Haralambos Church, one that offers adults (18 and over) an opportunity to discover their God-given spiritual gifts

and to put them to their best use. If you have never had an opportunity to explore your God-given gifts, we highly recommend signing up for this seminar. Led by Dennis Georgen and Mary Wysmierski, the six sessions explore what Spiritual Gifts are and where they are found in the bible, incorporate individual passion and personal style to further complement the use of our gifts, all to help direct us into the most fulfilling areas of service.

The seminar's six sessions will be held on three Wednesday evenings: Sessions 1 and 2 on Sept. 8 at 7pm; Sessions 3 and 4 on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 7pm, and Sessions 5 and 6 on Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 7pm. The cost of the seminar, to be held in the church Social hall, is \$25 per person, which includes the workbook and materials for all six sessions.

To register for the seminar, please complete the form below and return it to the church with the registration check made payable to St. Haralambos Church, before the Aug. 25 deadline.

Seminar on Spiritual Gifts

September 8, 15 and 22
7pm – 9pm

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____

_____ I am enclosing the Registration fee of \$25 per person, payable to St. Haralambos Church.

Please return this registration form before Aug. 25, 2010.

The Office of Supplication to the Theotokos

Offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings Aug. 1 – Aug. 14, the Office of Supplication is the Orthodox Church's response to our need for special prayers for any number of situations: health, depression, anxiety, and other spiritual and physical needs. Known in Greek as the Paraklesis, various hymn-writers in the Orthodox Church have also composed the Paraklesis or Office of Supplication for our Lord Jesus Christ, and for several saints. Chanted to the Theotokos during the first half of August, during the fasting period in anticipation of the feastday of her Dormition (blessed repose) on Aug. 15, it is our way of acknowledging the Blessed Virgin Mary as our primary intercessor to God, the one who hears our needs, and prays on our behalf.

The nine odes of the Office of Supplication, each containing four stanzas, are magnificent poetry and inspirational prayer. The English translation maintains the same poetic meter as the original Greek, so the melodies are unchanged and easily learned.

As an example, the First Stanza of Ode 1, begins, "By hosts of temptation sorely oppressed, in you I seek refuge in my eagerness to be saved. O Virgin and mother of the Word, from trouble and danger deliver me." The hymns bring to mind our own weaknesses – physical and spiritual – and also entreat the Blessed Virgin Mary's help and prayers. The Fourth Stanza continues, "Afflicted in body and in my soul, count me as deserving of divine love and of your care. You alone as birth-giver of God, in your goodness gave birth to the source of good."

Coming together and praying the Office of Supplication was never meant to replace private prayer, but rather to help strengthen it. They are two very different expressions and experiences of prayer; one no better than the other, both complementing each other in helping to strengthen our spirit and our relationship to God.

For parishioners who have never been before, choose one or more weeknight services, and begin participating in the Office of Supplication. Service books are available in the Narthex. To include the names of family or friends in the prayer list, simply print the names on a slip of paper and place it on the memorial table on the solea before the beginning of the service.



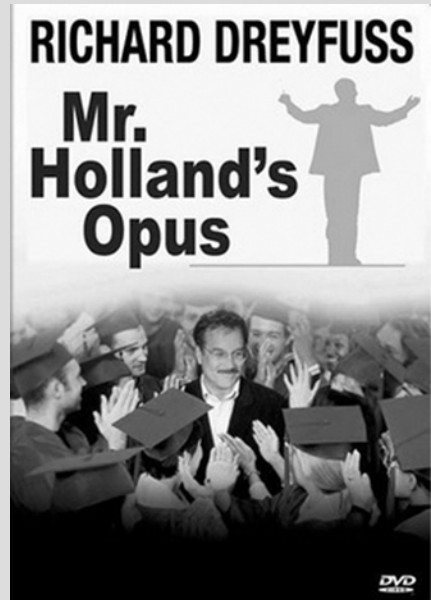
Family Movie Night

Friday, August 20th at 7pm



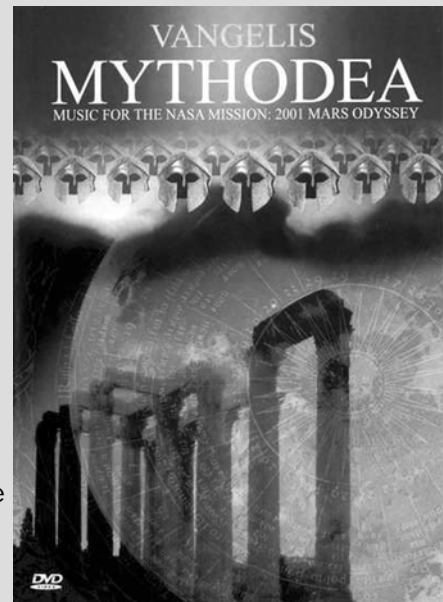
Mr. Holland's Opus

In 1965, passionate musician Glenn Holland (Richard Dreyfuss) takes a day job as a high school music teacher, convinced it's just a small obstacle on the road to his true calling: writing a historic opus. As the decades roll by with the composition unwritten but generations of students inspired through his teaching, Holland must redefine his life's purpose. Dreyfuss earned an Oscar nomination for his outstanding work in this emotional drama.



Vangelis: Mythodea

(Music for the NASA Missions)
Composed by Vangelis, "Music for the NASA Mission: 2001 Mars Odyssey" features world-renowned sopranos Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman, a 120-member chorus, members of the London Metropolitan Orchestra and Vangelis himself performing on electronic keyboards. "Mythodea" was staged for television as a thrilling live concert event in the ancient open-air setting of Athens' Temple of Zeus in June 2001.



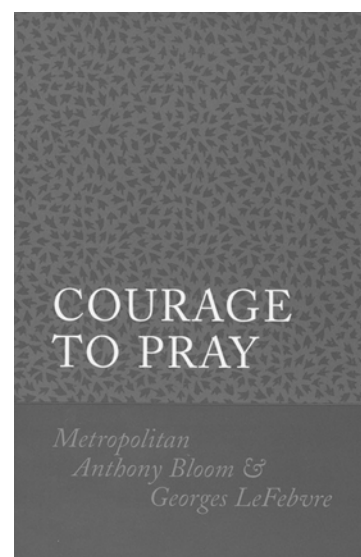
All families and their friends are welcome. Doors open at 6:30pm, and the movies begin at 7pm. Everyone is asked to bring a canned or boxed food item as they enter, which will be donated to the West Side Food Bank.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

COURAGE TO PRAY Metropolitan
Anthony Bloom and Georges Lefebvre
2002, p. 122.

Our relationship with God gives us hope and courage to pray. This book guides us to make this discovery. Some quotes follow:

- We discover the Lord's presence within us as we become aware of our total dependence on him.
- We must see our neighbor as God sees him...Then we can love him with love that comes from Christ.
- The Lord is infinitely beyond us, but also infinitely beyond us, but also infinitely close.
- Life is given to us to learn to believe. Everything that happens, however upsetting, should lead us further in our faith.
- We can only live by an act of trust... [in] him who is our only hope.
- God has a loving plan for us...How could such an amazing love fail us?
- Our need to love makes us like God. We are created in his image and likeness which is deeper than we know.
- The Lord is in our heart and always says yes even when we say no.
- God to whom we pray is not unknown or far away. We know him from the Gospels and the Eucharist.
- If we can only stammer in his sight, God can understand what we are trying to say.
- If we recognize that we ourselves need mercy, we'll be merciful with each other.
- In prayer we should expect everything from God, for his love never grows weary.
- We must find the point where our self-love should give way...let the Lord form us...This is freedom.
- We should pray, 'Lord make me what I should be, change me whatever the cost!'
- Isn't God's apparent absence in our prayers often because we're strangers to him and...can not recognize him?
- What prayer often lacks is strength of spirit, the sense of the seriousness of our situation.
- We often do not pray for what is necessary but for what is superfluous.
- Because eternal life is possible...it is so desperately urgent not to vegetate in a life which passes.
- Life is ruthless whereas our inner peace...is fragile.
- If we use 'ready made' prayers we must be careful not to lie to God under the pretext of offering him prayers worthy of him.
- Sometimes Christ is silent to our prayers in order to provoke us to respond, to grow to [our] capacity.
- Learn to make room for silence, contemplation and watchfulness.
- Praying for others is going the way of Christ...uniting ourselves with him.
- Prayer is an end to isolation. It is living our daily life with someone...we can find in our own heart.
- Prayer makes us fully aware of who we are—children of God. Praying is being.



Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Sunday School Director

Sunday School begins on Sept. 12. Registration begins during fellowship hour on Sunday Aug. 8, and continues every Sunday through Sept. 5.

2010~2011 Sunday School Calendar

- Sept. 12 - Opening Day
- Oct. 24 - 'Taste of Greece' (No School)
- Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving Weekend (No School)
- Dec. 25 - Christmas (No School)
- Jan. 1 - New Years (No School)
- Apr. 17 - Palm Sunday (No School)
- Apr. 24 - Pascha Easter Sunday (No School)

- May 22 - End of Year Ceremony (No School)

May the Blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ bring us together again for another successful year. We are excited and honored to have your children under our care and we Pray that we build an Orthodox Christian foundation that will hold all of us under our Lord's care.

For additional information or if you would like to volunteer as a teacher or assistant, please contact the Church office or you can email Mike Danielek at mdanielek1@cox.net



Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

inspired, it persuaded some.

But second-hand evidence can only do so much. To be absolutely convinced, and to be converted from the heart, where real faith takes root, one must experience the living God personally. Although created in the image and likeness of God, and having been baptized in the Orthodox Church, and having the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, God still gives each of us the ability to turn away from Him, to say "no" to faith, to walk in the exact opposite direction His teachings lead, to deny His existence in the world and in our personal lives.

Until we, ourselves, decide that we've had enough in life without God, that living in the world is empty without Him, that to be truly human means recognizing our need for something more, something better, something eternal, something beyond what we can see, touch and hear, until we come to know the love of God for us in spite of our weaknesses, sins and pettiness, we will never be convinced of

His existence, let alone the need to love and follow Him.

How can we have this personal experience of the living God? A good place to start is to learn from the experiences of those who have come before us: they did so by reading scripture, by regular prayer, by being an active part of the church community, by attending corporate prayer services (the Divine Liturgy, among many others), by regular participation in the Sacraments of the Church, by following the fasting periods, by listening to the common struggles of others who are trying to live a similar life, by praying for them, and by asking others to pray for you.

When you knock at God's door, he not only hears you knocking, but he opens the door. This is a promise of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Knocking on the door is just the first step. I encourage you to take that step, and begin a life of faith that can convince you of God's existence, of his love for you, and of the great joy in becoming one of his followers.

Military Care Box Program

Items needed

Toiletries - toothpaste, mouthwash, toothbrushes, shampoo, body wash, body powder, razors, baby wipes, dental floss, chapstick, foot powder, lotion, hand sanitizer, toilet paper.

Food items - canned tuna or chicken salad, single serving containers of fruit cocktail/peaches/pears/pineapple/applesauce, Cup O'Noodles, single serving packages of cookies, instant hot chocolate packets, single serving packages of trail mixes, cans of Spaghetti O's, Beef-A-Roni, single serving packages of Mac & Cheese, Ramen noodles, single serving cans of

soups, candy bars, single serving cans of chili (with or without beans), single serving containers of pudding, dried soup mixes, single serving packets of coffee/sugar/powdered creamer, tea bags.

Miscellaneous - gallon, quart, pint & sandwich sized plastic bags. Bags of hard candy to use as fillers. Paperback books, magazines, puzzle books, hand-held games, blank cards they can send home for the upcoming holidays.

Hope this helps... and as always, thank you all so much for your continued support of our troops with your generous donations, Frosene Bravos.



Parish Pay

Parish Pay is a means of sending church contributions electronically via the internet. By going to our parish website (www.stharalambos.org) and clicking on the "Parish Pay" button, you are directed to the Parish Pay site to easily set up your account.

There is no cost to parishioners, and you decide how much and how often contributions are sent for stewardship, building fund or any other fund you designate. Contributions can be a one-time gift, or you can set up regular

monthly payments to be deducted from a checking or savings account or credit card. It is a safe and secure system.

For further information, please contact our Parish Council Treasurer Stella Pagos at 623-975-0027. Consider Parish Pay for all your church donations.

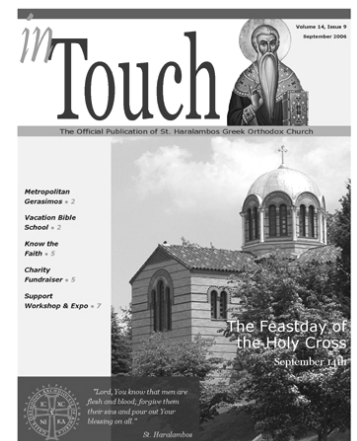
ParishPay
Making it Easier to Give™

In Touch Online Survey

Our monthly newsletter is available on our website and with postage costs continuing to rise, the question regarding the need to mail the newsletter to all our families needs to be asked.

We realize that not all parish families have access to the internet, and many prefer to read through their own printed copy. But are there any families who would prefer or who only need on-line

access to the In Touch newsletter, and wouldn't mind if they stopped receiving a printed copy at home? If so, please let us know by sending an email to: Office@StHaralambosAZ.com



Birthdays



Dorothy Ayan (5th)
 Olga Fredericksen (6th)
 Helen Lape (7th)
 Pres. Miriam Paraschou (9th)
 Tom Langas (13th)
 Aphrodite Devolites (14th)
 Victoria Georgen (15th)
 George Christie (16th)
 Kristian A. Barbes (17th)
 Fr. Michael Pallad (18th)
 Anna Yacyshyn (22nd)
 Greg Solomon (24th)
 Evanthia Vardalos (25th)
 Elias Caratachea (29th)

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.

Hospitalization and Confidentiality: New Policies

At a recent meeting of Volunteer Chaplains and Spiritual Care Givers at Banner Boswell Hospital, several new policies regarding patient confidentiality were addressed that affect information we are allowed to print in our monthly newsletter. (Although this meeting addressed policies at Banner hospitals, we were told they have now become standard policies throughout the healthcare industry.)

We can no longer publicize, in print or by other public announcement, that parishioners have been admitted to a hospital or any information regarding their medical condition. Hospitals no longer contact churches when one of their parishioners has been admitted. Visiting clergy (with appropriate identification) can get a listing of parishioners who have been admitted only after checking in at the information desk.

This is a sensitive issue; some people prefer to keep their medical condition private, and we must respect those wishes. As before, parishioners and/or their family may choose to notify the church that they have been admitted to a hospital, but the church may not publish this information.

Name Days

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

St. Teodosios of Argos (7th)
 St. Laurentios (Laurence) (10th)
 Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15th)
 St. Stamatios (16th)
 St. Theophanes of Mt. Athos (19th)
 St. Irenaios (23rd)
 St. Moses the Ethiopian (28th)

Greek Festival

We would like to sign up as many sponsors as possible to offset the cost of festival operations to the church. Please distribute the letter and Sponsor Form on the next 2 pages to any companies or individuals that you feel may want to sponsor.

Calling all Festival Booth Chairmen and interested volunteers...

The next meeting of the Festival Committee is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 14 at 11am Please join us and share your ideas as we plan for the first Festival at our new location.





SAINT HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ 85383 • Tel.: (623) 486-8665 • Fax: (623) 486-5290
Web: www.stharalambos.org • E-mail: Office@StHaralambosAZ.com • FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

August, 2010

Dear Friend,

The 23rd Annual Taste of Greece Food and Dance Festival will be held October 22, 23 & 24, 2010 in Peoria. The "Taste of Greece" Festival attracts thousands of local and valley-wide residents each year and is the only Greek Festival in the West Valley. Proceeds from this annual event benefit parish ministries and our new Church building fund.

I write to you today to request your support of the 2010 Taste of Greece Festival. Various sponsorship opportunities are available from advertising in the Festival program to donation of raffle/door prizes. A Sponsorship Form, on the back of this letter, identifies levels of participation for your consideration. Of course, a contribution at any level is greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in the Festival program and all donations are tax deductible. For your records, the Federal tax ID Number for St. Haralambos Church is: 86-0594146.

This past Spring, St. Haralambos Church moved from its downtown Peoria location to a new facility located at 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, in north Peoria. This new location will provide improved parking and more spacious Festival grounds. I do hope that you will join us as a contributor and also for a fabulous weekend of authentic Greek food, dancing and entertainment.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Church office at 623-486-8665.

Thank you, again. OPA!

Sincerely,

Pam Lemons

Co-Chairman, Annual Greek Festival

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2010 "TASTE OF GREECE" FOOD AND DANCE FESTIVAL

October 22, 23 & 24, 2010

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Company Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

FESTIVAL PROGRAM ADVERTISING

AD DEADLINE: September 10, 2010

Check One	Type	Cost	Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Page Ad	\$500	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 7 ½" h 4 admission tickets & recognition at event
<input type="checkbox"/>	Half Page Ad	\$300	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 3 ½" h 4 admission tickets
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Card Ad	\$100	2" x 3 ½" Standard size
<input type="checkbox"/>	Festival Booster	\$25	Name recognized in Festival Program

Please provide logo, ad or business card in .jpeg format or camera ready artwork.

Email artwork to: pamruss30@msn.com

	Other	Value	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raffle prizes-gift card, donation, etc.	\$	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!

Please return completed form to:

Pam Lemons, Greek Festival

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Peoria, AZ 85383

For tax purposes, St. Haralambos Federal Tax ID Number is: 86-0594146

AUGUST 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Beginning of the 14-Day Fast	2 7:00pm Office of Supplication	3	4 7:00pm Office of Supplication	5	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Holy Transfiguration of Christ 7:00pm Office of Supplication	7
8 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	9 7:00pm Office of Supplication	10 7:00pm Parish Council	11 7:00pm Office of Supplication	12 7:00pm Choir Practice	13 7:00pm Office of Supplication	14 7:00am Church Maintenance 11:00am Festival Meeting 7:00pm Great Vespers Assumption, Scotsdale
15 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Dormition of the Theotokos	16	17	18	19	20	21 10:00am Youth Swim Party
22 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	23	24	25	26 7:00pm Choir Practice	27	28 2:00pm - 5:00pm Open House
29 8:30am Matins 9:30am "Narrative" Divine Liturgy The Beheading of John the Baptist	30	31				



Youth Programs are Coming!

We are taking a survey to help meet the needs of our Parish Family.
Please take a moment to fill out the survey and return it to the church office.
Your assistance will help make the program a success.

Youth Program Survey

Name _____ Email _____

Spouse _____ Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Names and ages of your children: _____

What are you interested in? _____

What day would be the best for your family? _____

Would an evening or afternoon be better? _____

Would you be willing to help in: Hosting an event ☐ Leading a lesson ☐ Refreshments ☐

Transportation ☐ Planning ☐ Communication ☐ Sports ☐ Crafts ☐ Camping/Retreats ☐

Any other ideas _____

Next planning meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Thursday, July 29. Please RSVP to church office if you can make it.
For further information, contact: Father Michael at 623-486-8665

