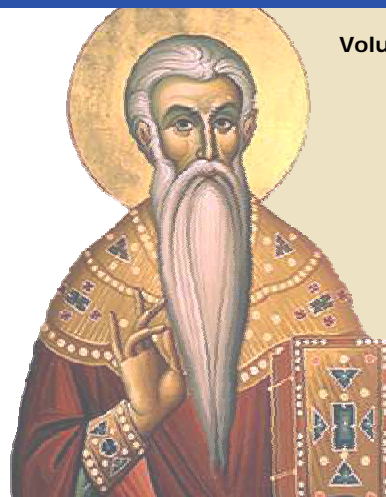


in Touch

Volume 19, Issue 8

August 2011



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

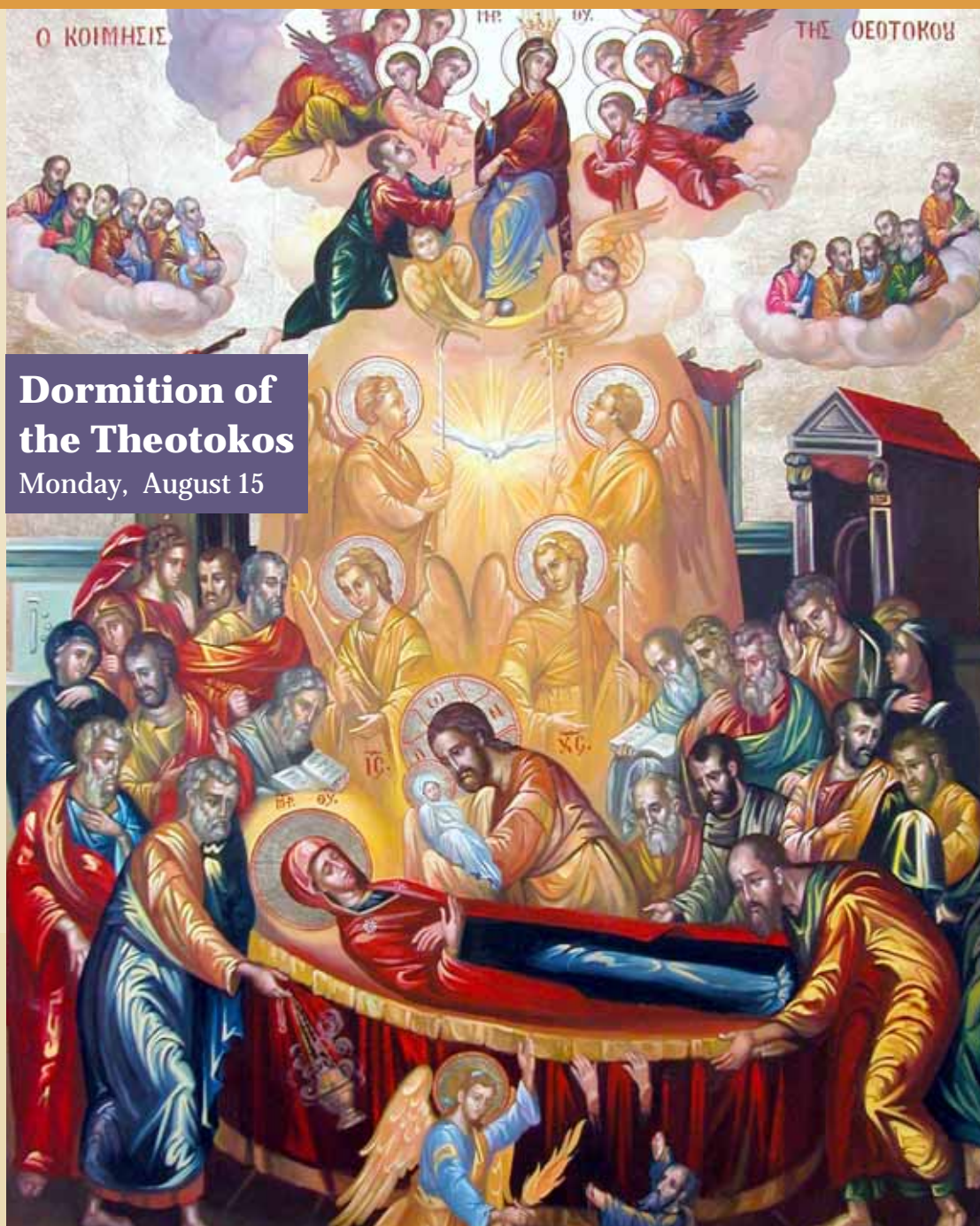
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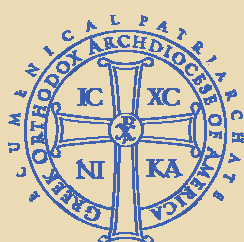
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**Dormition of
the Theotokos**
Monday, August 15



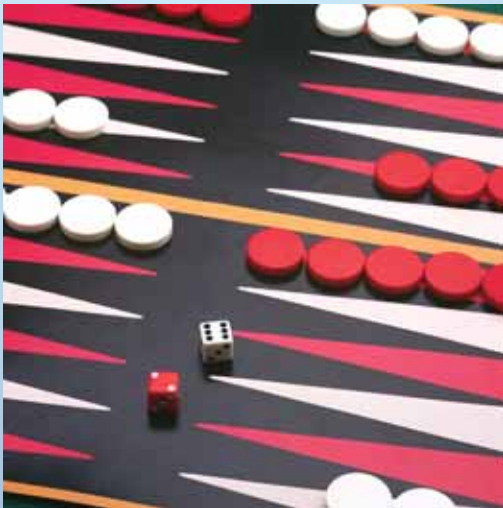
Lord, You know that men are flesh and blood; forgive them their sins and pour out Your blessing on all. — St. Haralambos

Seniors Club

Adult Activity Day

BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch)
Coffee And Water Will Be Provided

Backgammon



Dominos



Cards



Bingo

1st Tuesday of Every Month
11am to 3pm
Next Meeting: August 2nd

A Prize for Every Winner



Loving the Lord

Have you met anyone who has never heard of Jesus Christ? I'd be surprised if you had, but there is always the possibility that in some remote corners of the world, even in 2011, there may be some who fall into that category. But the majority of our world population – Christian and non-Christian – have, at least, some familiarity with Jesus of Nazareth; if not in terms of "Lord and Savior," then at least an awareness of His unique place in human history.

On the one hand, there is the missionary work of the Church which continues to bring an awareness of Christ and the Gospel throughout the world to those who have no knowledge of it, and on the other are practicing Christians striving to develop a more personal relationship with our Savior. As good as their intentions may be, the latter need to be aware of two important cautions taught by the apostles, saints and martyrs of the Church, regarding our relationship with Christ. (The first caution will be addressed here, the second in next month's article.)

The first has to do with God's immeasurable grace and love for us by sending His Son Jesus into the world, revealing to us a God to whom we can more easily

relate in His humanity. "For this reason," as we read in the Letter to the Hebrews, "he (Jesus) had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted." (Heb.2:17-18) Jesus' true humanity, particularly through his temptation and suffering, was an important point for St. Paul to make to the early Christians.

"For we do not have a high priest," St. Paul continues in Chapter 4, "who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Heb.4:15-16)

The first caution? Focusing on the Lord's humanity to the exclusion of His divinity; making our relationship with Jesus something more casual: "My dear friend Jesus," for example, or feeling like, "He's just like one of us - as the Good Book says!"

Well, a closer reading of the Good Book (the letter to the Hebrews in this case) shows an important distinction in Jesus' humanity that shouldn't be overlooked: He is like us "in every way," however, 1) He does not sin; and 2) He has made atonement for the sins of the people. Both are characteristics not merely of a good friend, but of the Son of God.

The teaching of the Orthodox Church on the person of Jesus Christ is that He, indeed, was fully human, while at the same time, fully divine. Friendship is an important relationship for human beings to

develop, but there is no human being created by God that has ever been deserving or worthy of our worship – neither the countless martyrs nor the holy saints of the Church. God alone is the one we worship.

We love the Lord, and we love our friends. We worship the Lord, but we do not worship our friends. As close a personal relationship as we can develop with our Lord Jesus Christ must always maintain this awareness so that Jesus remains for us the Son of God, our Lord, Master and Savior. (continued next month)

He, indeed, was fully human, while at the same time, fully divine.



**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

Dennis Georgen, President
Ray Wysmierski, Vice President
Dean Milonas, Treasurer
Mike Danielek, Secretary
Angie Cholas
David Durgam

Dimitri Gryparis
Mary Manos
George Miller
Katherine Tally
Peter Vardalos
Ken Wrona

Summer Schedule

Sunday Services

As has been our long-standing practice, during 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.

Office Hours

June, July, and August
Monday - Friday
Hrs.: 10am to 2pm



Office of Supplication

The first two weeks of August begin the last of the major fasting periods of the Church Year, and precede the Feastday of the Dormition of the Theotokos on Aug. 15. Also known as the "Assumption," "Repose" or "Falling Asleep" of the Mother of God, this feastday commemorates the falling asleep in the Lord of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Church history records that following the death and burial of the Theotokos, the apostle Thomas – who was not at her funeral – requested her burial coffin to be opened so he could see her and pay his respects one last time. Agreeing to his request, the apostles found her coffin to be empty. The apostles praised God for receiving the body of the Theotokos into heaven without having it suffer physical corruption in the grave.

The feastday of the Theotokos was never made an official doctrine, but remains part of the teaching and Holy Tradition of the Orthodox Church. In preparation for the feastday, a special prayer service, the Office of Supplication to the Theotokos (Greek: Paraclesis) is celebrated during the first two weeks of August on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings (please see the Community Calendar for dates and times). Prayers for the living are offered during this service.

Great Vespers for the Feastday of the Dormition will be held at the Scottsdale Assumption Church on Sunday, Aug. 14 at 6pm, and the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at St. Haralambos Church at 9am on Monday, Aug. 15.

Greek Festival

By Pam Lemons, Festival Co-Chairman

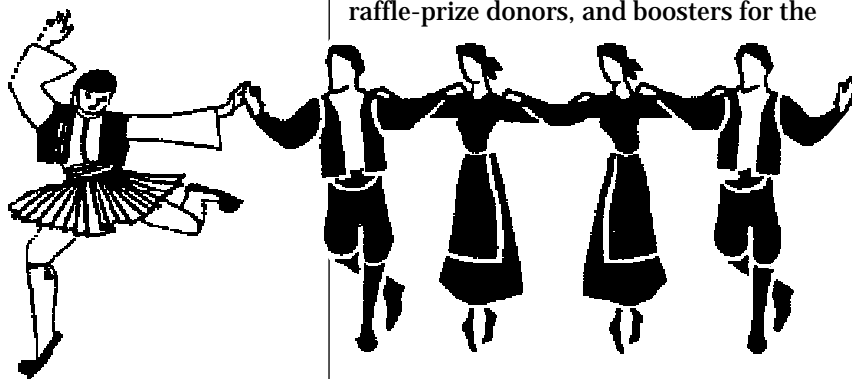
Sponsors, Advertisers, Raffle-Prize Donors, & Program Book Boosters

In just a couple of months we will be in the midst of entertaining thousands of Festival-goers valley-wide. And while you may not be directly involved in the planning and early preparations for our annual event, be assured that the committee and booth chairmen have already put the wheels in motion. We are still in need of sponsors, advertisers, raffle-prize donors, and boosters for the

program book. If you or someone you know would like to donate, please use the letter and form on page 7 and return it to the Church office at your earliest convenience.

Festival Volunteers

Everyone knows that volunteers (*YOU*) are critical to the success of our Festival. Each booth chair is responsible for recruiting volunteer coverage for their booth during the Festival, but Penny Obren and Desi Medina still need to coordinate all volunteers from pre-Festival baking to clean-up. To get a head start on this effort, please take a moment to fill out the Volunteer Registration Form on page 8 and return it to the Church office as soon as possible. Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV) has generously offered to lend their kitchen facilities to us again this year for our pastry and food preparation, so please let us know when you are available to lend a helping hand.



Orthodox Family Internet Links

If you don't already receive a weekly email from the Archdiocese Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, here's a sample of internet articles provided in a recent weekly email regarding the upcoming Feast of the Transfiguration on August 6.

"The Transfiguration" by Fr. Thomas Hopko, who serves with the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) and regularly contributes to the Orthodox Christian Network (OCN); the link: <http://www.myocn.net/index.php/20070803245/Bonus-Articles/The-Transfiguration.html>

"The Parenting Vocation: Living the Life of Christ" by Fr. George Morelli, who writes about how parents must transform to live a life in Christ; the link: <http://www.antiochian.org/node/17694>

"Lord, It Is Good For Us To Be Here" (MT 17:4) – "The Mystery and The Gospel of The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ," a sermon by Fr. Peter A. Chamberas; the link: [http://goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/outreach/resources/sermons/2006/ser-](http://goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/outreach/resources/sermons/2006/ser-transfiguration-08-06)

transfiguration-08-06

Also, of interest for the upcoming Dormition Fast beginning August 1 and the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15 are the following articles:



"The Fast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos" by Fr. Gabriel Barrow, from The Word; the link: <http://www.antiochian.org/node/18058>

"Why a Fast for the Dormition?" by Daniel Manzuk, from The Word; the link: <http://www.antiochian.org/node/20148>

Agora Pavilion

Only two and a half months to go! What a great response we have had from you, our parishioners. Orchids and thank-yous to Charlotte Servetas and our super Philoptochos, and also to the ever-ready, ever-dependable Penny Obren!

Looking for different and unusual items? Bring your Christmas lists, there will be stocking stuffers galore! More glamorous pashminas in many beautiful colors, patterns, and materials; Greek-key jewelry, sterling silver, 14-karat gold, "mati" jewelry in gold, and Swarovski crystals; dazzling Murano glass; fun t-shirts and hats; comfortable gauze outfits - perfect for Arizona or your winter cruises.

Does anyone have a clothing rack we can borrow? The blacktop and gravel are quite difficult for us to stand on for many hours every day – does anyone have carpeting you can lend us to protect our tender feet?

Contact us if you can help. Please do not take donated items to the church before the week of the festival and no later than Thursday, Oct. 20, the day of the set-up.

Remember, this booth's total net profits go directly to our church. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Dorothy Ayan, Lourdes Kotsobeis, Maria Maniatis, Elaine Yaghooti

Family Barbecue

On Saturday Aug. 27 at 5pm, St. Haralambos' parish family is invited to partake of delicious melt-in-your-mouth beef brisket, chicken grilled to perfection, side dishes, and drinks. We ask those attending to bring a side dish to share with the other party-goers.

Fun games will be provided for the youngest members of our community and admission is free. A sign-up sheet will be available during the preceding Sundays coffee hours after services. Although this event is free to all parishioners, free-will donations are welcome.

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)

Birthdays



Pierce Retsinas (11)
 Raymond Wirsing (11)
 Tania Ballas (14)
 George Christie (16)
 Kristian Barbes (17)
 Alexis Tremoulis (17)
 Chryss Danielek (18)
 Fr. Michael Pallad (18)
 Thalia Zorbas (18)
 Brittany Nicholas (19)
 Valla Wrona (19)
 Michael Fulghum (22)
 Anna Yacyshyn (22)
 Parker Rosekrans (24)
 Greg Solomon (24)
 Bill Tsoukalas (24)
 Eva Vardalos (25)
 Val Danos (27)
 Mary Harrington (27)
 Elias Caratachea (29)
 Louis Pappas (30)
 Yvette Nicholas (31)

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.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Journeys to Orthodoxy

Excerpted from **Journeys to Orthodoxy**

Doulis, Thomas (ed.) 1986

The only constant in these "Journeys to Orthodoxy" is 'the constancy of God's love and grace.' In their own words, the contributors made these discoveries:

It seemed impossible to doubt that Orthodoxy could uniquely claim to be the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

The Roman Catholic Church consistently [made] dubious innovations in the theology and spirituality, and Protestantism exists as a reaction against Romanism... Neither... evidenced catholic fullness.

Science is only the interpretation of information possessed at the moment... and is also subject to change to discover the truth about God, who is eternal and changeless.

Holy Tradition is important because ... there are hundreds of Protestant sects, all claiming ... the true teachings of Scripture.

Christ said, "This is my body," not "This 'symbolizes' my body." "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no life in you" (John 6:53).

Only the Orthodox Church has preserved the faith of the ancient ... Church without change. Christ and His Apostles founded the Orthodox Church.

In the Orthodox Church ... we enter into the closest relationship with our Creator that is possible in this life.

The early Fathers of the Eastern churches took up where the Apostles left off. Yet in our self-conceit, few Westerners ... realize that.

Infant baptism was held to be invalid ... until [one] reached "the age of responsibility," a totally non-Biblical term.

Grace is actually conferred in the sacraments.

There was liturgy in worship from the ... beginning. "As they ministered to the Lord and fasted" (Acts 13:2); the word "ministered" is "leitourgia" from which "liturgy" is derived.

As for the danger of worshiping the icon, I no more mistake it for the one it pictures than I mistake the pictures in my wallet for my loved ones.

I failed to see the drastic difference between "the tradition of men" and the

Tradition of God. "...hold to the traditions which you were taught whether by word of mouth or by letter from us" (II Thes. 2:15).

Christ came to establish the Church - "the pillar and support of the truth" - not the Bible.

The Bible can only be interpreted by the infallible Church ... No one person can be infallible for "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

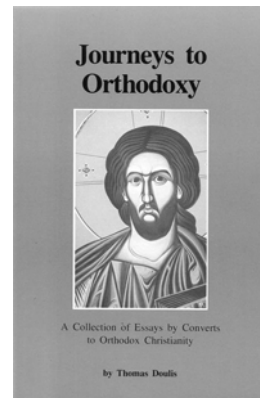
Christ is the head of the Church (see Eph. 5:23). It is infallible because Christ is infallible.

The Church that Christ said he would establish would last forever (see Matt. 16:18) and contains the entire truth about God (see John 16:13).

God's grace was transmitted through His Word, but also through ... the sacraments, hymnology, icons...

My journey towards God ... is far from complete.

"Pray for me, a miserable sinner; that of his great mercy God may bless my journey" (Way of the Pilgrim, p. 87).





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

Summer, 2011

Dear Festival Friends,

The 24th Annual "Taste of Greece" Food and Dance Festival fundraiser is slated for October 21, 22 and 23, 2011 at St. Haralambos Church, located at 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road in Peoria. This will be the second year at our new home and, judging from last year's spectacular event, the improved grounds and parking will again attract thousands of local and valley-wide residents for a weekend full of authentic Greek food, dancing and entertainment.

As we begin the planning stages, we are in need of sponsors to offset the costs associated with the Festival. We hope you will consider being a Festival supporter by advertising in our program book, donating a raffle or door prize, or participating as a Festival booster. Please refer to the form below for donor levels. All contributors will be acknowledged in the Festival program and, of course, donations are tax-deductible. For your records, the Federal tax ID number for St. Haralambos Church is 86-0594146.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Church office at 623-486-8665. Thank you for your consideration, and we hope you will join the fun on October 21-23 for another fantastic "Taste of Greece" – the only Greek Festival in the greater west/northwest valley. OPA!

Sincerely,

Pam Lemons, Annual Greek Festival Co-Chairman

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2011 "TASTE OF GREECE" FOOD AND DANCE FESTIVAL

October 21, 22 & 23, 2011

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Company/Individual Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

FESTIVAL PROGRAM ADVERTISING

AD DEADLINE: September 15, 2011

Check One	Type	Cost/Value	Description/Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Page Ad	\$500	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 7 ½" h Recognition at event
<input type="checkbox"/>	Half Page Ad	\$300	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 3 ½" h
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Card Ad	\$100	2" x 3 ½" Standard size
<input type="checkbox"/>	Festival Booster	\$25	Name recognized in Festival Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raffle/Door Prize/Other Donation	\$	Description:

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

2011 Greek Festival: October 21, 22, & 23
VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

I am available to work the following boths:

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Admission | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival Bank | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Imports/Deli | <input type="checkbox"/> Gyros/Souvlaki |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Info/Door Prizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Loukoumades | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Food Line | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastries | <input type="checkbox"/> Runner | <input type="checkbox"/> Saganaki & Kalamari | <input type="checkbox"/> Taverna | |

I am available to work the following shifts:

Friday

- ☐ 5pm to 10pm

Saturday

- ☐ 11am to 4pm
☐ 4pm to 10pm

Sunday

- ☐ 12pm to 4pm
☐ 4pm to 8pm

I am available to help with the following Pre-Festival and Post-Festival needs:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Booth Setup (week before) | <input type="checkbox"/> Booth Teardown | <input type="checkbox"/> Food and Pastry Preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer/Signage Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion & Advertising | |

Name _____ Phone _____

Your assignment will be confirmed, if you cannot fulfill your assignment,
please call Penny: 623-214-2189, Desi: 623-876-1967, or the Church office: 623-486-8665.

Please return this form as soon as possible. Thank you!

2011 Greek Festival: October 21, 22, & 23
VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

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- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
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Please return this form as soon as possible. Thank you!

AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 11:00am Adult Activity Day	3 7:00pm Office of Supplication	4	5 7:00pm Great Vespers	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Holy Transfiguration of Christ
7 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Festival Meeting (after Divine Liturgy)	8 7:00pm Office of Supplication	9 7:00pm Parish Council	10 7:00pm Office of Supplication	11	12 7:00pm Office of Supplication	13
14 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Great Vespers (Assumption, Scottsdale)	15 9:00am Divine Liturgy Dormition of the Theotokos	16	17	18	19	20
21 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	22	23	24	25	26	27 5:00pm Family Barbeque
28 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	29 9:00am Divine Liturgy Beheading of John the Baptist	30	31			




STILL

WANTED



Your Time, Talent & Treasure for Sunday School Program

Updated wish list of supplies for our classrooms:

- 
- 5 **Staplers and Staples**
 - 4 **3-Hole Punch**
 - 2 **Electric Pencil Sharpeners**
 - 30 **3-Prong Pocket Folders**
 - 8 **Packs of Loose Leaf Paper (wide-ruled and/or college-ruled)**
 - 20 **1 Subject Spiral Notebooks (wide-ruled and/or college-ruled)**
 - 2 **Reams of Copier Paper Construction Paper (white and colored)**
 - 30 **Boxes of Washable Markers (8-10 Ct) (Crayola or RoseArt)**
 - 30 **Boxes of Colored Pencils (12 Ct) (Crayola or RoseArt)**
 - 25 **Boxes of Crayons (24 Ct) (Crayola or RoseArt)**
 - Sharpie Markers**
 - Construction Paper (white and colored)**

Also on our wish list: Teachers and Teacher Assistants for various age groups



By Martha Stithem, Director & Teacher

Did you notice that last month's "inTouch" issue contained not one, but three articles pertaining to the 3 T's: Time, Talent and Treasure? I believe that it was by the Holy Spirit and not mere coincidence that a common theme was on the minds and hearts of three different writers. Surely, the Holy Spirit is working in us to guide our thoughts, actions, and hearts to continue to do the work of our Lord.

Won't you let the Holy Spirit guide you to a way you can offer your Time, Talent, and Treasure to the Sunday School Ministry? Please don't think that you don't have the "Time." When we willingly commit our Time to the Lord in this ministry, He will provide all the Time we need to do His work. We will find that our Time has been well spent and that it was for the benefit of our own souls as well.



If it has been years since you last taught or assisted with Sunday School, it's Time now to think about how you can share your Talent, experience, and love with a new group of children. If you've never taught before, your best assets are a loving heart and a genuine desire to help children grow close to the Lord. It may be that you have a hidden Talent that is yet to be explored.

Your shared Talent could also include providing snacks for the children, leading a craft-making project, organizing a Christmas presentation, etc. During this church year (Sep'11 – Aug'12), I hope to see more parent volunteers in these areas. After all, Parents, your participation in the Sunday School Ministry supplements the Christian education your children should acquire from you.

To share your Treasure as a monetary donation, please contact Stella Pagos in the church office. To donate classroom supplies, please leave items in the classroom with the purple and yellow sign on the door (next to the Veterans' Wall of Honor). To share your Time and Talent, please contact Martha Stithem by phone 623-936-5896 or email mjstithem@cox.net. Equally important as the three "T's", please remember to pray for all of our teachers, students, and families.