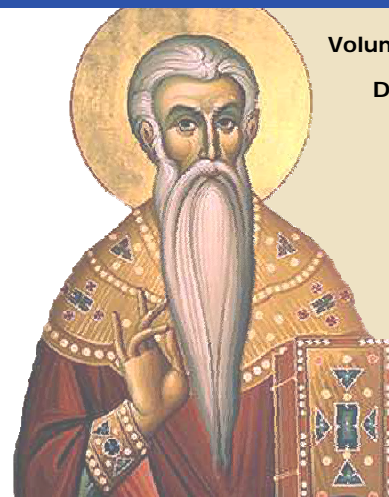


# in Touch

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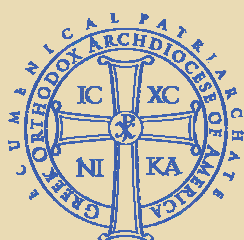
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And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:13

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





The theme "I am thankful" gave our young people the opportunity to consider God's many blessings, and to write their blessings on "leaves" for the Blessings Tree they constructed.



This month's Youth Night is on Thursday, Dec. 2, from 6pm – 7:30pm. In addition our youth group will be caroling on Saturday, Dec. 4. Merry Christmas!

# YOUTH NIGHT



Last month's family trip to the **Wildlife World Zoo** was a lot of fun. Small crowds and ideal weather made for a wonderful day.





## Our Permanent Home

All who attended the General Assembly last month agreed that St. Haralambos Church truly has much to be thankful for. On the subject of whether or not to consider our new church property to become our permanent location, an enjoyable and persuasive presentation by Dennis Georgen clearly showed not just how much sense it made, logically and financially, to stay here rather than to move back to the Greenway Road property, but also how our journey to this location was truly divinely guided and blessed. The result? A vote declaring that St. Haralambos Church is home at last, permanently, in North Peoria.

For those parish families that remember meeting in a Day Care Center cafeteria in Glendale before moving to the 84th Ave. Church in 1986, this final move must bring a sigh of relief as well as continued excitement for the future. Moving from a building originally built for the Nazarene Church to another building originally built for the Baptist Church, may give a false impression that we have no

plans to build a traditional Orthodox Church temple. But one look at the finished rendering (hanging in our narthex) of our future byzantine-style temple will show that we have no intentions of resting on our laurels, but continue to build for the future of St. Haralambos Church, and for Orthodox Christianity in the northwest valley.

Special mention also needs to be made for the thought-provoking talk by Dean Milonas towards the end of the General Assembly. His theme of taking ownership of our new property is both timely and challenging. As we prepare to celebrate Stewardship Sunday this month on the 12th, the message of accepting the responsibility of maintaining and developing our new church home is one we need to hear and respond to out of love.

We cannot be reminded often enough from one of the prayers of the Divine Liturgy, that "... every good and perfect gift is from above, coming from You the Father of lights..." Stewardship teaches us to recognize that all we have comes from God, that nothing in life

really belongs to us. Think about the fact that our new church property has now been established as our permanent location; that future generations will be meeting for worship, education, fellowship - and even Festivals - on this same property. It's now ours, not simply to possess, but to protect, preserve and hand over to our children for their spiritual growth and development.

This month brings our first Christmas celebration in our new church, with services on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (see calendar for service times). Our Philoptochos is taking charge of interior décor, and our parish council will be setting up an outdoor nativity scene.

May we all take the time to turn our thoughts and hearts to the message of God's unconditional love for us by sending us His Son whose divine birth we celebrate during this holy season. Merry Christmas to all!

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*Stewardship teaches us to recognize that all we have comes from God, that nothing in life really belongs to us.*

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**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

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

## Christmas Holiday Donations



Once again we are putting up an Angel Tree to provide food and gifts to needy families in Peoria. If you are able, please take an angel from the tree and return it with your wrapped gift by Sunday, Dec. 19.

We are also continuing our Canned/Boxed Food Drive until Dec. 19.

To everyone who donated for the Thanksgiving Food Drive – thank you so much! The ten family baskets we donated were fantastic.

## Oratorical Festival

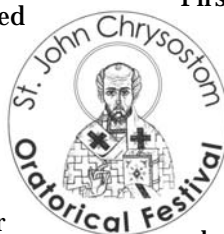
The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival purpose is to give our youth (grade 4 - grade 12) an opportunity to learn, write, and speak about their Orthodox Faith, Church and Heritage. St. Haralambos Church is pleased to announce our goals and schedule for the 2011 Oratorical Festival.

### Our Parish Goals

- Initiate all three divisions for the 2011 Festival
- 100% of youth write a speech/talk
- 80% of youth present their speech/talk

Within 10 years, at least one parish teenager represents our Metropolis at the Archdiocesan Festival

Based upon the feedback at the student/parent orientation meeting, our parish festival speeches for Junior (grades 7 - 9) and Senior (grades 10 - 12) Division will



be held **Sunday March 27, 2011**. The Elementary Division talks will be held during the Sundays in February and March.

First step is for all participants to select a topic. Junior and Senior Division participants should select a topic from the official 2011 Topic List and complete a speaker registration form by **December 5, 2010**. Need more information about the Oratorical Festival? The Department of Religious Education publishes information about the Oratorical Festival at their website ([www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religious/sjcof](http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religious/sjcof)) and on facebook (search for St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival). Want more information locally from our parish? Please contact Jeannette Hollander at [jechollander@gmail.com](mailto:jechollander@gmail.com) or your Sunday School Teachers or Father Michael.

## Stewardship

By Roberta Szklarski

We thank all our Stewards for their continual support of time, talents and treasures. Giving back to God by supporting the ministries of the Church is what Christian Stewardship is all about. He gives us everything; we are called to return a portion of His blessings, and to do so cheerfully!

We remind all parishioners that Stewardship Sunday will be held on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Everyone should have received their 2011 Stewardship Pledge Cards in the mail. If not, please contact the church office for additional cards.

### Summary of 2010 Stewardship Pledges

Pledge Amount	Pledge Count	Totals
\$20 – 299	65	\$9,240
\$300 – 499	34	\$11,637
\$500 – 999	37	\$23,305
\$1,000 – 1749	28	\$35,380
\$1750 or more	8	\$29,992
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>\$109,554</b>



## Parish Council Corner

By Ray Wysmierski, President

*But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:3-43)*

Apologies to Jeanette Hollander for our failure to properly recognize her efforts during this last festival. Jeanette made the arrangements to use the wonderful kitchen facilities at CCV to cook our food at no cost to us. This was a great benefit to our very SUCCESSFUL festival. Thank you Jeanette and sorry for the oversight.

To all parishioners who attended the General Assembly and heard about the progress we are making on our permanent home. Thank you for the vote of confidence to the council to investigate the sale of the property at 75th and Greenway. For all of you that invested in that location for the future, know that

what we have now would not be possible without that asset.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to seek election to parish council. Remember that Dec. 5 is election day.

We also have NEEDS at our church. If you are looking to identify a special earmark donation for the end of the year, we have several projects that need funding. See Fr Michael if you are interested.

Finally I would like to thank all of you who have supported me during my last two years as parish council president. WE have done so much, not only in the last two years, but in the time I have been on council since 2006.

I know that your future council members will take this parish to the next level and we will realize a Byzantine Church in the future. Now we will be in a position to watch the church being built, since it will be right in front of us.

## Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

**"CHRIST IS BORN – GLORIFY HIM"**

Our next meeting is Dec. 6 at 6pm, with our annual Christmas Pot Luck Party.

Bring a dish with enough to share. Wonderful holiday entertainment will be provided by the Peoria High School Choir. Spouse and friends invited, too.

The annual Bishop Anthony/Philoptochos Seminarian Aid Endowment Fund Holiday Brunch is being held Saturday, Dec. 11 at 11 am. at the St. Katherine Church Community Center in Chandler (see flyer on Inside Back Cover). More information and reservation forms are in the Narthex. This event is

sponsored by all Valley Philoptochos Chapters. Hope to see you there!

### FYI

1. Valerie Roumeliotis – past Metropolis Philoptochos President honored. \$200 gift to Metropolis House in her honor.
2. Outreach Christmas donation to Homeward Bound. (\$200 plus Diaper Drive)
3. Donation to Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Seminarian Student Aid Endowment Fund. (\$500)

Merry Christmas to All!

## Name Days

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

St. Myrope (2nd)  
St. Theodore of Alexandria (3rd)  
St. Barbara (4th )  
St. Savvas (5th)  
St. Nicholas (6th)  
St. Ambrose (7th)  
St. Daniel (11th)  
St. Lucia (13th)  
St. Modestos (16th)  
St. Sebastian (18th)  
St. Juliane (21st)  
St. Anastasia (22nd)  
St. Eugenia (24th)  
Nativity of Christ (25th )  
St. Simon (28th)  
St. Melania (31st)



# ORGANIZATIONS

## Taste of Greece Festival

By Pam Lemons, Festival Co-Chairman

As I am sure you know by now, the 2010 Festival exceeded all previous revenue and attendance records. What a great first year at our new home!

Whether you served as a booth chairman, volunteer or attended as a spectator, please take a moment to complete the Evaluation Form (page 8) and return it to the Church office at

your earliest convenience. Your opinions and comments will assist the Festival Committee in determining what positive changes should be made in subsequent years. Thank you.

## Parish Council Elections

Elections for new parish council members who will begin serving a three-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2011, will take place on Sunday, Dec. 5. All parish stewards are reminded to cast

their votes for the four parish council open seats following the Divine Liturgy. A table will be set up to sign-in for a ballot and vote for the candidates of their choice.

The Absentee Ballot below may be used for those not able to vote in person. Absentee Ballots must be signed and received at the church no later than Saturday, Dec. 4.

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, Peoria, Arizona

### Parish Council Elections

Sunday, December 5, 2010

### ABSENTEE BALLOT

The following Members in Good Standing are candidates for the 2011 Parish Council. Place an "x" next to the candidates of your choice. There are four (4) openings.

\_\_\_ Michael Danielek

\_\_\_ Mary Manos

\_\_\_ Ray Wysmierski

\_\_\_ Roberta Szklarski

\_\_\_ George Miller

\_\_\_ Ken Wrona

\_\_\_ Dena Surman

Print Name

Signature

## Community Christmas Card



We will again be providing parishioners the opportunity to send Christmas greetings with a beautiful full-color icon greeting card to all our parish families. For each family name, the cost is just \$10.

Please print your name clearly, exactly as you would like it to appear on the card. You may mail this form to the church office or sign up on Sundays during the Coffee Hour. Please make checks payable to: St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church. **The deadline is Monday, Dec. 6, 2010.**

Please include my family's name in this year's Community Christmas Card.

Enclosed is my check for \$10.

(Please return to the church office)

Names (please print clearly)

## St. Christopher's Bookstore

**THE GREAT I CAME'S OF JESUS:**  
**Meditations on the great "I came..."**  
statements of Jesus wherein He explains the reasons for His coming into the world. Anthony M. Coniaris. 1980, 195 pp.

Fr. Coniaris is very knowledgeable about the Bible, the Orthodox Faith and its history. Furthermore, he seems very well read in a variety of other areas, enabling him to quote many other people. In addition to the following quotes, he quotes many interesting people such as Admiral Perry, Alexander the Great, Diogenes and Winston Churchill.

T. S. Eliot "Where is the life you have lost in the living?" Many people making a living are making death, not life."

St. Augustine: "If we are looking for a happy life without God, we are looking in a graveyard.

"Matisse, the great painter, when asked if he remembered all of the works he painted: 'No, I don't remember all of them; I remember each and every one of them.' God loves us with that kind of an individual and personal love."

Bobby Richardson, former New York Yankee second baseman prayed: "Dear God, Your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Amen'."

Quarterback: "Coach gave us an excellent game plan and we stuck to it.' Has not our Coach (Jesus) given us the best game plan of all, one that guarantees ultimate victory? Are we sticking to it?"

Evelyn Underhill compares the perfect Christian to a sheep dog: 'It listens to learn the will of its master and then dashes off to do what the master wants happily wagging its tail.' This is the kind of...joyful obedience God deserves.

C. H. Hough: "The tragedy of the world is that men have given first-class loyalty to second-class causes."

St. Augustine: "Love God and do as you please.' If we love Him, we will always do what is pleasing to Him."

Virgin Mary: "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say" (Luke 1:38). When the angel told her she would bear a son of the Most High, she didn't protest or make excuses.

A person who unexpectedly visited her friend: "'Does your house always look this neat?' The friend replied, 'Of course! I never go to bed without leaving my house in dying condition.' Christians should try 'to leave everything in dying condition, especially [their] relationship to God and ...loved ones."

An orphan dropped a note over the orphanage wall: "To anyone who finds this: I love you." God did not send us a letter to tell us that He loves us. He sent His only Son to tell us in Person.

Young woman dying slowly when asked if she suffered much: "Yes...but He had the nails. I have the love...He had the thorns. I have the forgiveness."

St. Anthony of the Desert: 'I pray God will send...the fire of [His] love.' "May the Church of Jesus spread...today—like fire!"

St. John of Kronstadt: '[D]o not let your heart be cold, but burn with faith and love.' Is not this a sad commentary on the state of many Christian parishes today [that] are lukewarm?

Budda, near death: "I am still searching for the truth." But Jesus said, 'I am the embodiment of truth.'

## *Birthdays*



Martha Jannis (8th)  
John Ioannou (16th)  
Steve Mallos (17th)  
Leonidas Karandreas (18th)  
Christos Kotsobeis (25th)  
Peter Retsinas (25th)  
George Stivaktakis (26th)  
Connie Scouffas (27th)

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.

## 2010 Taste of Greece Festival Evaluation

Please provide your comments/opinion regarding the 2010 Festival. Your input is valuable to the success of future events. Rate each area as follows: Needs Improvement, Average, Good, Excellent (please check). For any area which you feel needs improvement, please provide your comment on how you feel this area can be improved.

	Needs Improvement	Average	Good	Excellent
Admissions Booth				
Door Prize/Raffle Booth				
Vendors				
Greek Imports/Deli				
Church Tours				
Pastries Booth				
Coffee Booth				
Ice Cream Booth				
Loukoumades Booth				
Saganaki/Kalimari Booth				
Gyros/Souvlaki Booth				
Main Food Booth				
Taverna/Beverage Booth				
Entertainment – Band				
Entertainment – Dancers				
Carnival Games				
Bank				
Advertising				
Flyers				
Program				
Signage				
Set up/Layout				
Security				
Outside Labor				
Other <i>(please identify)</i>				

**Additional comments/suggestions/ideas**

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Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



# DECEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Youth Night 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Barbara John of Damascus 3:00pm Youth Christmas Caroling
<b>5</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Parish Council Elections	<b>6</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Nicholas 6:00pm Philoptochos Christmas Potluck	<b>7</b> Pan-Orthodox Clergy Retreat	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11:00am Seminary Students Endowment Fundraiser (St. Katherine Church)
<b>12</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Stewardship Sunday	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Parish Council	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday School Christmas Program	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>24</b> 9:00am Royal Hours of Christmas 6:00pm Divine Liturgy Christmas Eve	<b>25</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy Christmas Day
<b>26</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Installation of New Parish Council	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>31</b>	



HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS  
THE METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO  
PHILOTOCHOS BOARD AND CHAPTERS  
JOYFULLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

## A HOLIDAY BRUNCH

IN SUPPORT OF  
THE BISHOP ANTHONY  
PHILOTOCHOS STUDENT AID  
ENDOWMENT FUND  
SEMINARIANS AND STUDENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010

ST. KATHERINE COMMUNITY CENTER  
2716 N. DOBSON ROAD  
CHANDLER, ARIZONA 85244

FOR INFORMATION AND RSVP, PLEASE CALL:

HOLY TRINITY  
ALEXANDRA ANAGNOSTOPOULOS  
602.957.7764

SAINT KATHERINE  
KATHY CONNELL 602.524.1959

ASSUMPTION  
MICHELE GENETOS 480.837.0138

*"The Student Aid Endowment Fund is a tangible effort to secure the future of our faith and culture in this metropolis; for it is through this Fund that our future priests, educators and pastoral assistants are supported both financially and morally in their education. From the beginning, the Metropolis Philoptochos has been the guardian angel of this important project. May our Lord grant His love and grace to all who labor and support the Student Aid Endowment Fund."*

**His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos | Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco**

