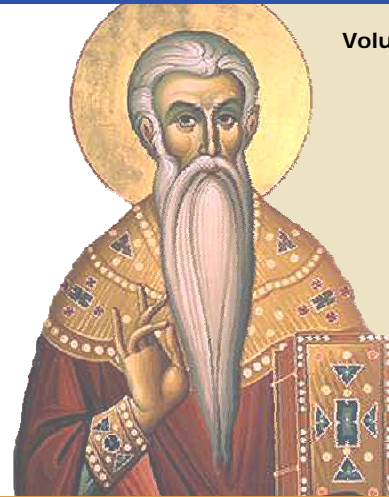


in Touch

Volume 19, Issue 1

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The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Happy New Year!

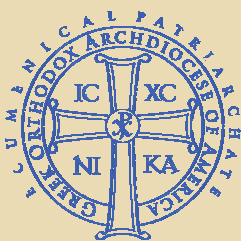
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*"A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another;
as I have loved you,
that you also love one another."
(John 13:34)*

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

House Blessings

Start the New Year with a special family event, according to the traditions of the Holy Orthodox Church, asking God's blessings for your home and your family!

Please complete the form below to indicate your preferred date and schedule your house blessing. Mail the form to the church office, or bring it with you to church on Sunday. You will be contacted by our secretary to confirm your day and time.



House Blessing Request Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE

Zone 1: North of Bell Road and West of Loop 101

_____ Saturday, January 8 _____ Thursday, January 13
_____ Wednesday, January 19 _____ Tuesday, January 25

Zone 2: North of Bell Road and East of Loop 101

_____ Monday, January 10 _____ Saturday, January 15
_____ Thursday, January 20 _____ Wednesday, January 26

Zone 3: South of Bell Road and West of Loop 101

_____ Tuesday, January 11 _____ Monday, January 17
_____ Saturday, January 22 _____ Thursday, January 27

Zone 4: South of Bell Road and East of Loop 101

_____ Wednesday, January 12 _____ Tuesday, January 18
_____ Monday, January 24 _____ Saturday, January 29



What type of people do we want to be?

There is no shortage of famous and infamous quotes regarding New Year's Day, and, as was typical, Mark Twain was always one to capture our attention with his inimitable literary style.

"New Year's Day," he wrote, "...is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual."

Most of us do begin the new year with a long list of good intentions or resolutions; and many of us soon realize (Mr. Twain included) it doesn't take long before we see them as too unrealistic, and are soon forgotten and abandoned.

What type of people do we want to be? God creates each of us as unique individuals; so unique in fact, that no human cloning could ever reproduce an exact duplicate of any one of us. Created beings will never be able to create as the Creator does.

What type of people do we want to be? If we stop and give this question some thought, most of us will compare ourselves with others: physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. This is normal; we all have role models, men and women whom we admire and

respect. Wanting to be like someone else, provided that we do not lose our individuality, and the qualities or characteristics we try to imitate are good and virtuous, is a good thing.

But press on a little further with an answer, and as Christians, we must also include other role models, including the saints of the Church, and our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. If this seems unrealistic we should remember that saints are not super-human beings; they are men and women, young and old alike, who, as fallible human beings, rose to the challenge of trying to imitate our Lord and Savior in a variety of ways, but one in particular.

What was this one way? Love. This, more than anything else, is what Jesus said would set us apart from others, and what would show others who our ultimate role model is. The quote from John 13 on the cover of this month's newsletter is our Lord's special commandment, a new commandment, for all who ask the question, "What type of people do we want to be?" This new commandment can be taken as not only a new year's resolution, but a life-long resolution.

See in how many ways this resolution differs from the many we hear so often: losing weight, quitting smoking, getting in shape, etc. Christ's new commandment has nothing to do with our bodies, but with our heart and soul. This does not mean that trying to lead a healthy life has nothing to do with following Christ, but puts a much greater emphasis on how we treat each other.

The consequences of following Christ and his commandments

shouldn't be overlooked. The cover icon of "Christ the Life-giver" also features an inscription found in the gospel of St. John, which reads, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:25)

What type of people do we want to be? This is a great question for the new year, and I hope we never lose sight of how our Christian faith answers this question.

Christ's new commandment has nothing to do with our bodies, but with our heart and soul.



**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

Angie Cholas
Mike Danielek
David Durgam
Dennis Georgen
Dimitri Gryparis
Mary Manos

George Miller
Dean Milonas
Roberta Szklarski
Katherine Tally
Ken Wrona
Ray Wymierski

2010 FESTIVAL RECAP

As of: 12-15-10

Total Income from all
Sources: \$93,400

Total Expenses:
\$39,806

NET INCOME:
\$53,594

*THANK YOU FOR A
GREAT JOB!!!*

"KE TOU CHRONOU"



Wall of Honor Grows

Our "Wall of Honor" showing photos of U.S. military (past and present) service men and women of our parish families is growing! Frosene Bravos, who started this display, is a member of Blue Star Moms, a support and service organization of mothers with sons and daughters serving in the military. She will gladly accept names and photos to add to this wall.

She also brings to our attention this notice regarding Gold Star Wives: "For the first time, America officially recognizes the contributions and dedication of military widows with Gold Star Wives Day." A Senate resolution designates Dec. 18, 2010, as a day to

honor and recognize the contributions of the members of the Gold Star Wives of America Inc.

The group, with about 10,000 members, provides service, support and friendship to the widows and widowers of military personnel who died on active duty or as the result of a service-connected cause.

"This is the first year we've had a Gold Star Wives day. It's something that our government relations committee has been working on," said Kit Frazer, president, Gold Star Wives of America Inc. "It's national recognition for the organization, which is wonderful. It's something very special to us." (Army News Service, December 7, 2010)

Parish Council Elections

Congratulations to the following parishioners elected to serve on the parish council: Michael Danielek, Roberta Szklarski, Ken Wrona and Ray Wysmierski. Their 3-year term begins Jan. 1. They will be joining Angie Cholas, Dave Durgam, Dennis Georgen, Dimitri Gryparis, Mary Manos, George Miller, Dean Milonas and Kathy Tally. George and Mary were appointed by the council

to fill two vacancies created by resignations.

We look forward to continued progress and growth of our parish for the new year. Our parish council members are your parish leaders. Please feel free to contact any of them with constructive comments and suggestions for the betterment of our church community.

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.

Seminar on Spiritual Gifts

All adult parishioners are encouraged to register for the next Seminar on Spiritual Gifts to be held on Saturday, Feb. 5, Feb. 12 and Feb. 19 from 9am – 11am at the church. This informative seminar helps give a better understanding of spiritual gifts and how, when matched with our passion and personality, they lead to a more fulfilling life that both glorifies God and edifies others.

The six sessions (two sessions each Saturday) presented by Dennis Georgen and Mary Wysmierski, list and describe the spiritual gifts

found in the bible. Through a series of questionnaires, small-group discussions and real-life examples, participants are guided to finding their most appropriate and fulfilling opportunities for service.

The seminar, including the workbook, all materials and refreshments, is just \$25 per person. Please return the registration form below, together with payment (checks made payable to St. Haralambos Church) and return to the church office by Jan. 25.



Seminar on Spiritual Gifts

February 5, 12 and 19
9am – 11am

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 Jan. 25, 2011.

Vasilopita Sunday

Join in the fun of the traditional new year's celebration with the cutting of the New Year's Vasilopita on Sunday, Jan. 9. Pieces of the vasilopita are cut for each of our church and parish leaders and organizations – each one looking for the St. Basil coin hidden inside.

A variety of new year's breads will be baked and offered for sale by our Philoptochos. All proceeds from the auction and sale will be sent to St. Basil Academy in Garrison, NY (saintbasilacademy.org).



ORGANIZATIONS



Name Days

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

St. Basil (1st)
Epiphany (6th)
St. Gregory (10th)
St. Tatiani (12th)
St. Anthony (17th)
St. Athanasios (18th)
St. Mark (19th)
St. Euthymios (20th)
St. Timothy (22nd)
St. Xenia (24th)
St. Gregory (25th)
St. Ephraim (28th)

Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

"Faith without works is dead" (James 2:17)

We were few in numbers at the Christmas Party, but we enjoyed the company and music of the Peoria High School Choir.

Thank you for your generous support of the diaper drive which helps keep the Homeward Bound closet full.

Vasilopita Sunday is Jan. 9. Won't you

help by baking vasilopita for the auction? All proceeds to benefit St. Basil Academy.

Remember: Hosts needed for Social Hour after Liturgy on Sundays. If interested notify Valla Wrona at 623-245-0917.

Time to renew your membership!

Next meeting is Monday, Jan. 3 at 7pm.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Easier Method for Parish Contributions

Join the families that have signed up for Parish Pay, making donations to our parish safe, beneficial and simple.

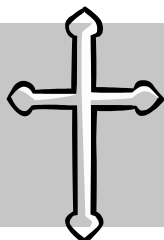
Parish Pay is a means of sending church contributions electronically via the internet. By going to our parish website (www.stharalambos.org) and clicking on the "Parish Pay" button, you are directed to the Parish Pay site to easily set up your account.

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.

Benefits are: eliminates the need for writing checks; automatically sends contributions even if you are ill or out of town, earns points, bonuses or mileage when coupled with credit card accounts.

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™



Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of George Nicholas who fell asleep in the Lord on Dec. 1, 2010. We offer our heartfelt prayers for his beloved wife Athanasia (Ethel) and the entire Nicholas family that our Lord grant them comfort during this time of grief. May his memory be eternal!

St. Christopher's Bookstore

BECOMING ORTHODOX: A Journey to the Ancient Christian Faith, by Peter E. Gillquist, 1992 p. 191.

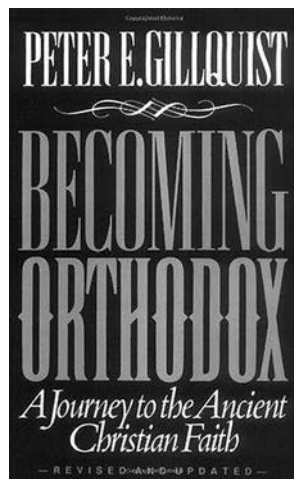
Father Gillquist and his brothers in Christ began their journey as founders of the Campus Crusade for Christ during the 60's. At colleges all over the United States, including Notre Dame, these Evangelists were "win[ning] the Campus for Christ." However, they saw that "the world was getting worse" and the campuses were unraveling "morally, politically and culturally." Gradually, they realized they needed "a Christian community...a Church [and] more meaningful worship." They started attending various Protestant churches, but found churches, even of the same denomination, preaching different beliefs, some of which denied the resurrection of Christ or His virgin birth! So they decided to become what they called "the New Testament Church."

Soon they learned that "Everybody claims to be the New Testament Church." Therefore, they committed themselves to reading the earliest writers of "the root documents," from the First Century forward, and "get hold of the historic continuity of the Church—who the right Church is." As they studied history and doctrine, they "check[ed] out everything...against the Bible."

Soon they decided that the Church defined by the Seven Ecumenical Councils (which met between A.D. 325 and A.D. 787) held "the fullness of the truth." Of course, eventually they found "the best-kept secret in America, Orthodox Christianity." In 1979, their

group became the Evangelical Orthodox Church.

Part One of the book includes a two-page time line of Church History beginning at Pentecost. Part Two, "Orthodoxy and the Bible", explains many aspects of the Orthodox Faith, its beliefs, worship and practices (especially those that differ from the Protestant and Roman Catholic faiths) defending them with Scripture. Part Three tells the long process that eventually brought these courageous men and their congregations (some 2000 people) to be Chrismated into the Antiochian Orthodox Church in 1986/1987.



The Epilogue jumps ahead six years to tell us about the new Mission Churches they established during those years. When discussing challenges that remain, Fr.

Gillquist writes, "I question why it is that people in a given North American Orthodox parish can read the paper, trade securities and order a Big Mac all in English, and then insist the Sunday services be in Greek, Slavonic, or Arabic—especially when their kids can't grasp a word of it."

Bishop Maximos Aghiorgoussis wrote in the Forward: "Father Gillquist's work is indeed very exciting, both from an historical and from a theological point of view. The reader, whether Orthodox or not, will enjoy reading about this exciting adventure of people who were searching for the New Testament Church, and who were able to pursue their heroic commitment to truth, no matter how great the obstacles to finding... Orthodoxy."

Birthdays



Areti Karandreas (3rd)
Nina Milonas (4th)
Tyke Solomon (6th)
Peter Stamas (11th)
Sophia Mallos (14th)
Elaine Giannias Winn (14th)
George Pikoula (20th)
Dimitri Theoharatos (22nd)
John Obren (23rd)
Zachary Waters (26th)
Catherine Jie Baxter (28th)
Mary Wysmierski (29th)
Reni Milonas (31st)
Frosene Bravos (31st)

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.



It's important to plan ahead for the legacy you want to leave behind.

With foresight, an estate plan can accomplish more than transferring your assets. It can protect your heirs, help you minimize tax obligations utilizing current tax law, and achieve your wealth transfer goals so that your legacy can live on. To learn how Morgan Stanley Smith Barney can assist you in the development of your estate plan, please attend our informative seminar, which will address important issues such as:

- Who will receive my legacy?
- How will my wealth be transferred?
- When will my assets be distributed?

Together, we can work on planning your legacy when it can do you and your heirs the most good—now.

Plan for Your Legacy: The Building Blocks of Estate Planning

Date: Saturday, January 22, 2011

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Church Social Hall

Speakers

- Dimitri A Spanos, CIMA, CIMC
- Douglas Hodges
- Christine Asimou, PC

Please call us at 623-486-8665 to reserve your place.
Admission is free but seating is limited.

**MorganStanley
SmithBarney**

JANUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Basil Circumcision of the Lord (Church Office Closed)
2 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	3 7:00pm Philoptochos	4	5 9:00am Royal Hours of Epiphany 6:00pm Liturgy Eve of Epiphany	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy Epiphany 7:00pm Choir Practice	7 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. John the Baptist	8
9 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Vasilopita Sunday	10	11 7:00pm Parish Council	12	13 6:00pm Youth Night 7:00pm Choir Practice	14	15
16 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	17	18 9:00am Divine Liturgy Sts. Athanasios and Cyril	19	20 7:00pm Choir Practice	21	22 9:00am Estate Planning Seminar
23 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	24	25 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Gregory the Theologian	26	27 7:00pm Choir Practice	28	29 4:00pm Family Potluck & Movie Night 6:00pm Kids N Cancer Banquet (Holy Trinity)
30 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy The Three Hierarchs	31					

YOUTH NIGHT



Happy New Year to all our young people!

We ended the year making Christmas ornaments and decorating the tree in the Social hall, and going Christmas caroling. There are many wonderful events and activities planned for 2011, and we invite all youth in our parish from childhood through High School to join in the fun.



Youth Night this month is on Thursday, Jan. 13 at 6pm in the social hall. Hope to see everyone there!

