

# in Touch

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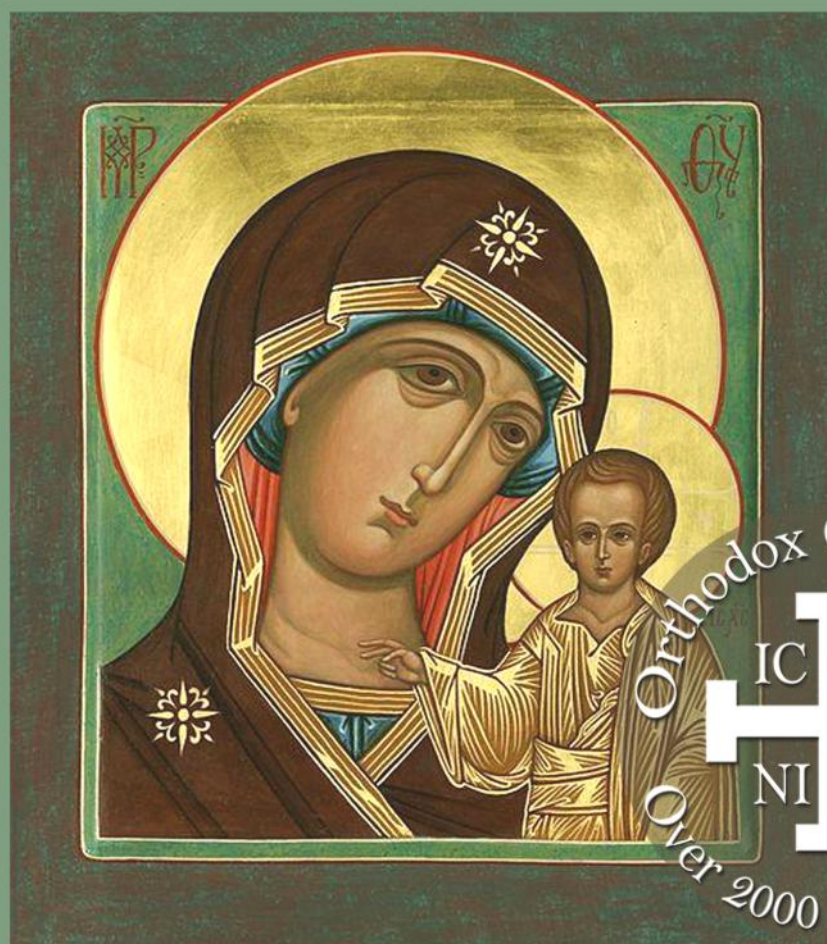
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Lord, You know that men are flesh and blood; forgive them their sins and pour out Your blessing on all. — St. Haralambos

# Forever Young

**Pot Lunch on Wednesday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m.**

Dear fellow seniors, we are planning to have a "Pot Luck" luncheon at our church hall; after lunch we will have various activities, from "Dance" lessons to "Bunco" to "Tavli" otherwise known as "Backgammon" and all sorts of fun things. We need to plan our Fall events, so come one and all and let us enjoy the fellowship before our Summer break. Who knows I may surprise you with an outing in July or August.

Please make your reservations ASAP; we need to know how many people to plan for, contact Julie at home, 623-972-2382 or [juliekaroutas@gmail.com](mailto:juliekaroutas@gmail.com). Julie will also be available at church on Sunday.

I am making Chicken Salad on a Croissant sandwiches; we will also need some potato salad; cole slaw; potato chips; pickles; soda; Iced Tea; and desserts. Let me know what you would like to bring so that I can keep track.

On our outings we have enjoyed not just the food or the music, but the "fellowship".

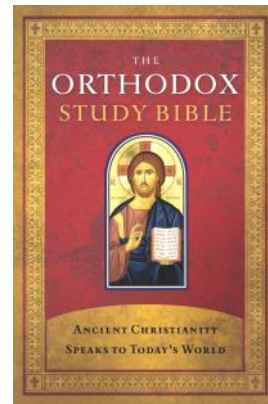
Those who attended our Cinco de Mayo luncheon had a wonderful time. Please note the smiling faces in the photograph.

With Christ's love, Julie Karoutas



## Orthodox Study Group

We will be finishing the Gospel of Luke this Summer, meeting Thursdays, May 22, May 29, Jun. 5, and Jun. 12. After this we will be suspending the bible study group for the summer starting Jun. 19 with the plan to start up again in September. Please feel free to join us for these last sessions of Luke. Meeting is at 7 p.m. at the church.





## Orthodox Christianity in America

What does the future hold for Orthodox Christianity in this country? Is there a growth plan that our parish, and all parishes, are following? If so, how was this plan created, and has it changed over time?

Over the summer months, we're going to be looking at an article entitled, "The Mission of the Greek Orthodox Parish in America" by Fr. George Nicozisin, a priest of our Archdiocese, lecturer and author of many books on the Orthodox Faith. Because of the length of the article, we will only be printing various portions each month; the complete article can be found here: <http://goarch.org/ourfaith/ourfaith7125>.

It's a fascinating look back, one that helps us remember our purpose as the Church, and helps to keep us on track into the future.

### The Mission of the Greek Orthodox Parish in America Prologue

Thanks to Alex Haley we have come to appreciate the importance of "roots." We, too, must take a look at our roots in order to comprehend, grasp and accept the mission of the parish here in America.

However, before we address the current mission of the parish, we first need to turn to the lessons of the past and look at how church history in America affected the mission of the parish. This historical backdrop notwithstanding, we will see that the aims and purposes - in short - the mission of the parish, remain the same.

The parish was and continues to be the rallying point and force around which Orthodox Christians find both solace and strength. The Church began with humble beginnings and grew by leaps and bounds. During the Great Depression the Church was there to counsel and nurture. And even though many changes have occurred from the early years of this century through World War II and since, the mission of the Church and parish remain constant: to evangelize, to safeguard family values and to share the beauty and fullness of Orthodox Christianity with the rest of America.

Join me in a historical jet trip through the past, to help us better understand today and the future.

### Greeks in America Before the Immigration Period

The first Greeks on American soil came in 1767, when Dr. Andrew Turnbull was given 20,000 acres of uncultivated Florida land by the English government. Turnbull brought 200 men from Mani, Greece, along with an equal number of Italians and Corsicans. They were to work as indentured servants for three years and then be given free title to fifty acres.

Turnbull, however, did not honor the terms of the contract. Those who did not die from heat, exhaustion and/or bad food stole away to St. Augustine, a few miles to the north.

Neither these Greeks nor others who came to America during and after the Greek War of Independence established themselves as Greek Orthodox, nor did they found churches and perpetuate the religious beliefs of their forebears. Perhaps the most important reason for their

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**St. Haralambos  
Greek Orthodox  
Church**

[www.stharalambos.org](http://www.stharalambos.org)

**Rev. Michael Pallad**

#### Sunday Worship

Matins: 8:45 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy: 10 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

Evanne Cuccorelli  
Dennis Georgen  
Kathy Harvey  
Timothy Harvey  
Lali Mekvabishbili

Russel Skocypec  
Dorothy Vordos  
Lee Vordos  
Russell Zook

## Our Parish as a Living Presence in the Greater Peoria Community

By Dennis Georgen, Parish Council President

During the depths of the Great Recession, on Sept. 20, 2009, our Church family celebrated the ceremonial groundbreaking for our new church home. Little did we know that day that our plans to build at the intersection of 75th and Greenway would not be realized, and that only a few short months later, our new church home would be planted on Pinnacle Peak instead.

That our move to Pinnacle Peak was ordained by the Lord Himself was made evident to us when the transfer of the title closed on the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, Haralambos, Feb. 10, 2010. The whirlwind of events that year that brought us to where we are today confused many of us. And at the time, we found ourselves asking ourselves, "Why?"

Attempting to answer the question of why our Church planted in North Peoria on Pinnacle Peak, in November of 2011, our Church adopted a Mission Statement, which reads:

*We are a loving Christ-centered community whose mission is to keep, practice and proclaim our Orthodox Christian Faith as a living presence to those around us.*

And in the General Assemblies that followed, we discussed what that parish mission statement directs us to do.

It is important to develop that understanding because mission statements guide what organizations do, and ours is very clear, and it concludes with the words, "to be a living presence to those around us."

Our Festival is our largest single fundraiser and we rely heavily on the income from it to fund our operations. It shouldn't be that way, operations should be funded by stewardship, but that was and is our reality. When we first moved to Pinnacle Peak, we didn't have an answer on how we would prepare for our festival. Our kitchen was an empty room; Bare walls.

Through the Grace of God, another community showed us what it means to be Christian, and we were again blessed by God when CCV offered us the use of their kitchens to prepare for our festival. No charge! And in 2010, we held the most successful festival in our history.

We now have an opportunity to pay that kindness forward. Beginning in a few short weeks, the Bayer School, a private Christian based school, will be operating from our church. The Bayer school has a long history, and its current form is being born out of nothing short of a miracle.

A few years ago, the founders of Rancho Solano sold their school, to another organization with the expectation that their Hillcrest location would continue to operate. That promise was broken earlier this year and the founders found themselves compelled to come out of retirement and operate a school for families who they had known for many years.

They had also identified a temporary location to operate from until their new building opens, but an unexpected turn of events left them without a location. And then, through another unexpected chance, they were introduced to us. Showing

*(Continued on page 5)*





## St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Valla Wrona, President

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

Thank you to all my fellow Philoptochos sisters and everyone else who has helped throughout this year. We won't be having a meeting again until Sept. 8, at 6 p.m. We will be having a potluck dinner, a short meeting, and then we'll have a game night for those who wish to stay and play!

Don't forget about our Mending Hearts group. These ladies sew up heart pillows

for the cardiac patients at local hospitals. We put our Philoptochos business card in a pocket to let them know where they came from. Even if you don't sew, you could help stuff pillows. If you would like to be a part of the group or would like to donate for supplies, please see Valla Wrona or Stella Pagos for further information.

We hope to see you in September for fun, food, and games!



## Our Parish as a Living Presence

*(Continued from page 4)*

them the same kindness shown to us and opening our building to them is an example of our being "a living presence to those around us." The benefit that we will receive by welcoming over 100 families who live in our community and may not know who we are today far surpasses the rental income we will receive.

Our festival serves two purposes. 1) To build greater awareness of our Church in the Greater Peoria community, and, 2) to raise funds. All of us would agree that it is a high quality event, with the best Greek food this side of the Atlantic. However, since 2010, our Festival has languished. We have talked at length about how to drive greater attendance. Our discussions have ranged from more activities for Children, to how to better promote our event, to changing the date.

We are working on exciting new developments and have updated plans for our festival that again may help us answer the question, why Pinnacle Peak and what does it mean "to be a living presence to those around us."

Recently, we approached the City of Peoria on how we can participate in the various city events as a vendor, perhaps selling loukoumades. Instead, during our meeting with the City, tables were turned and the City asked us about the possibility of partnering with us on our festival.

This opportunity to partner with the City of Peoria came to us out of the blue, and the result may be that we have an even greater opportunity than ever before to build more awareness of our Church in our local community. To accommodate this opportunity, the new date for our Festival will be February 6 – 8.

These two events, both completely unexpected, and both creating new opportunities for us to witness our love for Christ cannot be understated. What we do as a result will demonstrate to all how we are a Christ-centered community who "keeps, practices, and proclaims the Orthodox Christian Faith as a living presence to those around us."

## Name Days

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

St. Dorotheos (5th)  
St. Cyril (9th)  
St. Methodios (14th)  
St. Tychon (16th)  
St. Jude (19th)  
St. Julian (21st)  
St. Sampson (27th)  
Sts. Peter and Paul (29th)

# ORGANIZATIONS



## Sunday School

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School

On Sunday, May 18, our volunteer Sunday School teachers and two students with 'Near-Perfect' Attendance were recognized in an End of Year Recognition presentation. Also recognized were our Oratorical Festival participants and winners. This year, our Parish had five high school graduates, and they were

recognized as well, and presented with Orthodox Study Bibles as gifts from the church.

On Sunday, Jun. 8, we will be celebrating the Feast of Holy Pentecost. To learn more about the biblical story and icon of this feast visit the website, [www.goarch.org/special/listen\\_learn\\_share/pentecost](http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/pentecost).

## Spring General Assembly

At last month's Spring General Assembly, we welcomed Steve and Kelly Lovelady with Bayer School, and made the announcement that we have offered the temporary use of our building for their school so they can begin classes in August. Bayer School has plans to build a new school campus, but until construction has

been completed, they will be using our rooms during the week. Classes will begin Aug. 11, and we want everyone to be aware that during the day, school will be in session until 4 p.m., Monday - Friday. More information on Bayer School can be found at [www.BayerSchool.com](http://www.BayerSchool.com).

## Memory Eternal

A long-time and beloved parishioner of our St. Haralambos Church community, George Christie, fell asleep in the Lord Sunday, May 18, at his home surrounded by his family. George was also a member of Holy Trinity in Phoenix going back even

further, and was very active with the GOYA sports program.

Our condolences to his wife Patti and family. May God grant eternal rest to his soul, and may his memory be eternal.

## Thank You

Thank you so much to our St. Haralambos church family for generously supporting us in Elizabeth's participation in the St. John Chrysostom Metropolis Oratorical Festival at St. Nicholas Ranch. It was truly a blessed experience. Elizabeth placed second in the Senior

Division. It means the world to us that you uphold us with your prayers and faithful support. We felt you were present in spirit with us. Thanks so much.

Love, the Baxter Family

## Clergy Column

*(Continued from page 3)*

absorption into the mainstream of America, and their religious and ethnic eradication, was the conspicuous absence of Greek Orthodox parishes and clergymen.

The first to recognize these primary needs were the Greek import-export merchants. In 1851, the House of Rallis opened branch offices in New York, New Orleans and Savannah, to import foreign goods and to export cotton. By the 1860s, quite a few Greek cotton merchants were residing in New Orleans with their families. In 1864 they organized the first Greek Orthodox parish in America, dedicating it to the Holy Trinity, and in 1866 they built their first house of worship. Although an attempt was also made to organize a parish in New York, this did not happen until the immigration period began in 1890.

### Greek Immigration Period

The Greek immigration period began in the last decade of the nineteenth century. By the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, there were over fifty Greek Orthodox parishes. The first parishes were founded in New York City, Lowell, Massachusetts and Chicago, Illinois. They, along with other parishes, were founded by the faith, dedication and initiative of the lay immigrants who recognized the need for a parish mission to meet their religious and sacramental needs.

### Early Beginnings of the Greek Orthodox Church in America

At the beginning, the Greek Orthodox parishes were under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. However, priests were being dispatched and assigned from both the Patriarchate and the Holy Synod of Greece. For the most part these priests were theologically trained. But since there was no bishop to assign the priests, nor from whom they could seek redress, the priests were generally at the mercy and disposition of the lay leaders who had introduced the process of "hiring and firing." Thus, in the absence of a bishop from 1890 to 1918 the Protestant concept of locally-owned and locally-governed churches began to proliferate.

As the Church grew in numbers, the problems of uniformity, conformity and cooperation become more complex. Therefore, the priests and lay leaders in the Greek Orthodox churches in America petitioned the Patriarchate to assign a bishop who would organize the churches into a uniform and canonical diocese. Instead, in March of 1908 Patriarch Joachim III transferred spiritual jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox churches in America to the Holy Synod of Greece. Rather than solving the problem, this action greatly aggravated it because it politicized the mission of the parish. Nevertheless, the parishes continued to grow and meet the spiritual needs of the people. *(Continued next month)*

## Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts/sponsors.

### June

- 1: Anna Giles – Charlotte Servetas – Ethel Nicholas
- 8: Available
- 15: Available
- 22: Available
- 29: Available

### July

- 6: Available
- 13: Available
- 20: Available
- 27: Available

Note: due to publication printing deadlines, any changes to the coffee hour listings will be noted in next month's newsletter.



## Youth Group

Thank you to all the families who came to the pizza and ice cream party on May 10. The kids had a great time playing and loved the water balloon fight. The Youth Group will not have any summer

meetings, and we will start up again in September. If you have any suggestions for activities in the fall, please let Lindsay Vardalos know. Have a great summer!

# ORGANIZATIONS

## *Birthdays*



Danny Romero (1)  
Michael Christenson, II (3)  
Alex Papamatheakis (4)  
Cody Moore (5)  
George Theoharatos (6)  
George Miller (8)  
June Nicholas (8)  
Aaron Johnson (11)  
Stefania Papamatheakis (11)  
Despina Medina (14)  
Soliana Desta (15)  
Christopher II, King (15)  
James Savaidis (15)  
Nile Woldesilassie (15)  
Pam Lemons (17)  
Lois Batalis (18)  
Stavroula Dodd (18)  
Niat Woldesilassie (18)  
Paula Theotocatos (21)  
Duane Schepers (22)  
Ezekial Retsinas (23)  
Gale Farr (24)  
Madelyn Pritchard (27)  
Divinius Romero (27)  
Anna Kinniburgh (29)  
Nadia Schepers (30)

If you don't see your name, or those of family members, and would like to be included on the monthly birthday listing, please send the information to the church office.

## Festival Moves to a New Date!

### **Think Big —Think Bold—Think Innovative**

We are blessed to gain a new long term partner for the "Peoria Greek Festival". Our partner is the City of Peoria – Special Events whose focus is to provide and to promote a variety of community events for local residents.

Why the date change? The City already hosts an annual Halloween event which conflicts with our previously scheduled October date. So, we proposed a February weekend and the City said it was available. The proposed date is after Superbowl Sunday, before spring training begins, prior to the onset of lent and coincides with the Feast Day of St. Haralambos.

The City of Peoria will assist with marketing to local residents through flyer distribution, website calendar announcements

and a variety of publications. The Special Event staff will lend us, at no charge, and staff a Kids Zone. They will also provide us a list of craft vendors and performers that we can select to enhance the experiences of our visitors.

How can you help? Are you interested in joining the Festival Committee? We are looking for parish members or friends to lead and/or take responsibility for the following areas:

- Centralized Ordering and Inventory Supervision
- Children's Activity Coordination
- Social Media Development
- Print Media Design

Please contact Jeannette Hollander or attend our next planning meeting on Saturday, Jun. 7 at 10:30 a.m.

**Mark Your Calendars  
February 6, 7, and 8, 2015**



# JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Saturday of Souls</b> 10:30am Festival Meeting
<b>8</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Pentecost</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Parish Council	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11:30am Forever Young Fellowship	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy <b>All Saints Day</b> All Saints Orthodox Summer Camp <b>Father's Day</b>	<b>16</b> All Saints Orthodox Summer Camp	<b>17</b> All Saints Orthodox Summer Camp	<b>18</b> All Saints Orthodox Summer Camp	<b>19</b> All Saints Orthodox Summer Camp	<b>20</b> All Saints Orthodox Summer Camp	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Executive Council	<b>24</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Nativity of John the Baptist</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> San Francisco Metropolis Church Music Conference	<b>28</b> San Francisco Metropolis Church Music Conference
<b>29</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy San Francisco Metropolis Church Music Conference	<b>30</b>					

# Holy Pentecost

Sunday, June 8



The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.