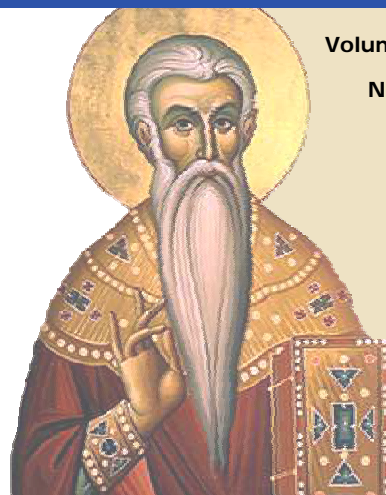


in Touch

Volume 17, Issue 11

November 2009



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

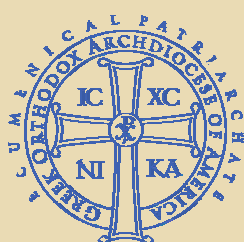
**Are you
thankful? • 3**

**General
Assembly • 4**

**Food
Drive • 4**

**Family
Events • 5**

**Treasurer's
Report • 7**



Our Newest Milestone: Groundbreaking Ceremony

September 20, 2009



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

Spirit of Stewardship



At the Spirit of Stewardship Awards Banquet, held at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Saturday, September 26, St. Haralambos parishioners Mike Danielek and Penny Obren received awards from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos.



GROUNDBREAKING





Thanksgiving — are you thankful?

The photo on the cover of this month's In Touch is a wonderful reminder of the memorable Groundbreaking ceremony we celebrated on September 20th. A beautiful photo-collage of the day also hangs in our social hall together with the four 3D renderings of our building plans. Planning for our Groundbreaking celebration began back in the Spring of this year, and, as we all know, as soon as this celebration came to an end, preparations for our annual Festival kicked into high gear. Now that November is here, we come to the first month of 2009 with no major parish event-planning! This comes as quite a relief to our many tireless volunteers who are, at this point, pretty tired.

Although the months of November and December are filled with holiday preparations and celebrations, I think it would help to approach the upcoming holiday season with a different sort of "to do" list; one that helps bring our focus to a more personal awareness of thanksgiving, to God and to

one another. If not, we run the risk of holiday burnout, of stressing over finances and schedules, and not coming close to experiencing the joy of family, of faith and of community life.

Let's start with our parish. We're celebrating our 23rd year, and we're preparing to build new church facilities at 75th and Greenway Road. A lot has happened in 23 years, a new generation is now part of our church family. Are you thankful for the existence of St. Haralambos Church? Do you and your family discuss your participation in the services and activities of the parish? Do you consider your responsibility as stewards of this parish, and think of additional ways you can care for and support its needs? Are you thankful for being able to celebrate the holy days of the Orthodox liturgical calendar together; thankful for the spiritual blessings, sacraments, prayers and blessings the church offers? Are you thankful for our church family: its elders, younger couples, children and infants? Do you remember your church family

during personal prayer time?

Stop and think about the gift of faith. It is not a simple thing, believing in something you can't see, touch or smell. And yet God has given us our five senses, each one capable of experiencing God's energies and activities in different ways. Are you thankful for the faith God has blessed you with? Do you wish for greater faith? Are you willing to put greater effort into prayer, reading from the bible, preparing to receive Holy Communion, attending liturgy regularly? Are you making an effort to ask forgiveness of those you've offended? Have you learned to forgive those who have offended you? Are you making an effort to call or visit parishioners who are sick or going through difficult times? Faith in God is not simply an exercise of the mind or just acknowledging God's existence. The teaching of Orthodoxy regarding faith is that it is, first and foremost, a gift of God, and must be put

Faith in God is not simply an exercise of the mind or just acknowledging God's existence.

(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
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345
Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com
FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com

Hours

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

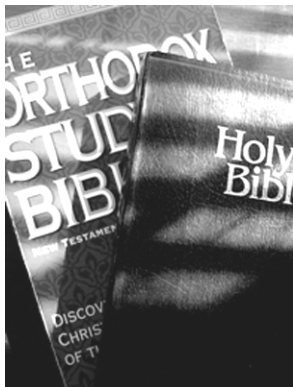
Parish Council

Ray Wysmierski, President
Mike Danielek, Vice-President
Mary Wysmierski, Secretary
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
Angie Cholas
Dave Fredericksen

Mary Manos
Peter Retsinas
Roberta Szklarski
Katherine Tally
Peter Tremoulis

National Youth Sunday

The third Sunday of November has been designated by our Archdiocese as National Youth Sunday. During the Divine Liturgy, several of our young people will be helping with the service and will be giving brief sermonettes at the conclusion. It is always a joy to listen to the thoughts of our young people, and to see them take an active role in the church.



Building Fund Raffle

The winners for the Building Fund raffle were drawn during the Groundbreaking banquet on Sunday, Sept. 20. Since only 150 raffle tickets were sold, the prizes were reduced to the following:

First prize of \$3,000 — Soula Davis

Second prize of \$900 — Lisa Singleton

Third prize of \$600 — George Stathopoulos



General Assembly

The Fall General Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 8 in the Social Hall following the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting and listen to the presentations and discussions

on activities of our parish, including the approval of the 2010 parish budget. Nominations for Parish Council will also be accepted during the Assembly.

Food Drive

For the months of November and December, we're working once again with the Peoria Community Action Agency, and collecting canned and boxed foods to benefit needy families. We're going to need help on Monday, Nov. 23 at 10am to sort the food into family boxes for delivery to the Peoria Community Center. We'll also be collecting foods up until Sunday, Dec. 20 for Christmas dinners. Collection boxes are in the main hallway. They really rely on our help, so please remember to bring foods either on Sundays or 10am-3pm during the week. Thank you!



Adult Education and Study

The Know the Faith classes will be finishing this month with the final three meetings scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 4, 11 and 18. These classes explore the history and development of Orthodox Christianity.

For the month of November, the Tuesday morning Bible Class will be an

overview of the Bible, when and by whom the various books were written, how the Orthodox Church views the Bible, the differences between the Greek and Hebrew Old Testament, as well as its inspiring eternal message for us today. Classes meet in the library at 10:30am. Friends are welcome.

Parish Family Events

Note: The tour of the Indian Sikh Temple that was scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, has been postponed until further notice.

A little further into the future, we're planning a visit to St. Paisius Serbian Orthodox Women's Monastery in Safford, Arizona. The date is scheduled for Saturday, Mar. 6, 2010. More information regarding bus cost, proper attire, etc. will be available later. We will leave St.

Haralambos Church at 6:30am. and arrive at St. Paisius Monastery around 10:30am. We will have lunch together, attend Vespers, be given a tour of the facilities, and leave for home at 3:30 pm and arrive back at St. Haralambos Church by 7:30pm. Everyone is invited, including friends and other parishioners from the other Orthodox parishes. For more information see Penny Obren or call her at 623-214-1289.



Saturday, March 6, 2010
St. Paisius Monastery, Safford, AZ

Philoptochos

"To them that love God all things work together unto good. Romans 8:28"

This month of Thanksgiving, thank God for your many blessings and please remember those less fortunate. Let us fill the Food Bank Box.

Congratulations to Penny Obren and Michael Danielek who were honored by the Metropolis for their many hours of volunteering for the church.

Correction from October In Touch: Sunday Social hour chairperson, Arliss Dennison; phone: 623-478-2058.

Sunday, Nov. 15 after Liturgy, Sylvia Vasquez will sponsor brunch and is

requesting a donation of \$5 per person benefiting the building fund.

New guidelines adopted: Starting Nov. 1 we are asking that the number of items donated and served at coffee hour be limited to two food items, such as fruit with a bakery item. We also request that the cold beverage (punch, lemonade, juice) be provided. Philoptochos will offer coffee each week. The exception to limiting the coffee hour is when a holiday, memorial, or fund raiser on special event is being commemorated or celebrated. Any questions contact Arliss Dennison.

Next meeting: Nov. 2, 7pm. Hope to see you there. Happy Thanksgiving!



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. 7, 2009.**

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)

ORGANIZATIONS

Sunday School Canned Food Drive

**Benefiting Peoria families
and the West Side Food
Bank**

We will be collecting canned or boxed foods for the months of November and December. Food items can be brought to the Sunday School classes, or left in the collection boxes in the hallway outside the Social Hall.



Thank You

It is with shattered hearts of sorrow at the passing of our beloved Roy Peter that we acknowledge with love and deep gratitude your kindness shown and expressions of sympathy.

May his memory be eternal.

The Giannias, Lampropoulos
and Lazelle families.

Choir

Notes from the Loft

What an exciting start to the new Ecclesiastical year with the visit of Metropolitan Gerasimos, September 19 and 20. And what a challenging and fun experience it was for us to learn the music for Great Vespers and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy! With the groundbreaking now behind us, we look forward to the construction of our new Church home.

You may have noticed that we have been blessed with a new organ accompanist. You might be interested to know a little about her. Luba, a shortened form of the Russian name Liubov, meaning “love”, was born in a small town nestled in the Ural Mountains of South East Russia. Early on, Luba displayed a talent and interest in music and at the age of 4, her parents enrolled her in vocal classes.

When she was 14, Luba was accepted into Kurgan Music College, a prestigious school. During her four years of study, Luba would practice and perform vocals, piano, and dance. Her education did not stop there. She continued her studies at Moscow State University of Culture and Arts majoring in “Director of Show Programs.” Luba has enjoyed many accomplishments, including winning Moscow’s premier local pop music contest “Art-Arena,” performing at various high profile nightclubs, live concert performances, and winning numerous vocal competitions.

In the summer of 2008, Luba traveled to the U.S. for a cultural experience and to broaden her musical horizons. On her first day while visiting Las Vegas, Luba met her future husband, Steve. With his encouragement, Luba has overcome many

of her initial language barriers and she has successfully written and recorded several tracks for her soon to be released CD. Fortunately for us, Luba wanted to live someplace “warm” and they moved to Phoenix earlier this year from Wisconsin.



Luba is not only our accompanist; she is an exceptional pianist, singer, dancer, songwriter, and ultimately, an amazing artist and young woman. Please welcome Luba to St. Haralambos Church!

You may have also noticed that our once full ranks have thinned out recently as we said goodbye to a number of our friends who moved away.

In addition to funding to help us pay for things like accompaniment, there are a few other things that all choirs need. They are: Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, and Basses! Fortunately, we still have an amazingly dedicated core group that we count on. Unfortunately, if on occasion someone is unable to be with us, we may not have enough voices to sing in harmony. That could mean, we would not be able to sing the new harmonized English versions of “Holy God,” the Cherubic Hymn, or “We Praise You” that so many appreciate.

There are a number of you that have been given the gift of song... even if you don’t want to admit it. Yes, I’m talking to you, and you know who you are. We have an exciting calendar of music to learn, not only to add to our repertoire of hymnography for the Divine Liturgy, but also for Christmas, and various special services throughout the year. The time is NOW for YOU to make the commitment to join us in singing His Praises!

Taste of Greece Festival

By Pam Lemons & Stella Pagos,
Festival Chairmen

Now that the Festival is behind us, we would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all of the wonderful Festival volunteers who made this year's Taste of Greece another spectacular event. The countless

volunteer hours spent preparing food and pastries, setting up, tearing down, fielding phone calls, distributing fliers, running errands, etc. etc. for our "showcase" weekend is the reason for our success. You are the reason our parish feels like family!

Stewardship

With the new year approaching, the 2010 Stewardship packets will be mailed this month to all parishioners. The new

pledge cards should be thoughtfully completed, signed, and returned on Stewardship Sunday, Dec. 13.

Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee
Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Nov 1	Appreciation luncheon
Nov 8	General Assembly-Philoptochos
Nov 15	Egg Luncheon—Donations for Building Fund, Sylvia Vasquez
Nov 22	Available
Nov 29	Available

Note: Due to publication printing deadlines, any modifications or changes to coffee hour listing will be noted in next month's newsletter.

Treasurer's Report January to September 2009

ORDINARY INCOME

Stewardship	\$82,088
Candle and Tray Collection	13,366
Pascha	4,939
Christmas	285
Rental Property	2,850
Miscellaneous	816

OTHER INCOME

Investment Income	2,261
Bookstore	586
Festival (2009)	3,848
Fund Raiser	5,448
Down Payment	50,000

SPECIFIED DONATIONS

Bldg Fund	72,380
Memorials	25
Choir	1,000
Misc	2,858
	242,750

EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	\$71,678
Diocese Assessments	10,300
Capital Improvements	665
Closing Costs	1,384
New Bldg Expense	181,080
Charity	2,329
Fund Raiser	1,611
Festival (2009)	2,303

OPERATING EXPENSE

Utilities	8,559
Facility Maintenance	5,998
Office	6,458
Audit	2,000
Candles	1,852
Bookstore	365
Holiday Expense	2,104
Insurance	3,075
Religious	1,167
Sunday School	278
Choir	2,450
Educational	314

NET INCOME - \$63,220



Birthdays



Argyro Vasquez (3rd)
George Speros (5th)
Nicole D. Barbes (7th)
Andrew Stithem (15th)
Larry Coor (16th)
Maria Christian (18th)
Mary Dascalos (19th)
Judith L. Jolly (19th)
George J. Sgouros (23rd)
Niko Panousopoulos (25th)
Arthur Manos (28th)
Pres. Kristin Pallad (28th)
Dean Milonas (28th)
Andriana Henson (30th)
Estelle Lazzele (30th)

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.

Assisted Living/Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish, and we ask you to please remember them in prayer: Orin Davis, Lee Feutz, John and Mary Karavaras, Gus Macrides.

Sacraments

We wish many years of good health and happiness to little Naomi Tesfay, daughter of Bahta and Aida, who was baptized on Saturday, Oct. 10. Her godmother is Lydia Tesfay.

Name Days

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

SS. Cosmas and Damian (1st)	St. Matthew the Evangelist (16th)
St. Nektarios (9th)	St. Philemon (22nd)
St. Theodore (11th)	St. Katherine (25th)
St. John Chrysostom (13th)	St. Andrew (30th)
St. Philip, the Apostle (14th)	

Pastor's Column

(Continued from page 3)

into practice. We must learn to put our faith into practice. A strong and vibrant faith in God has limitless possibilities of expression. Let's be aware of our faith, and be thankful for God sharing his love with us through this special gift.

Finally, are you thankful for your family? We see our family members day in and day out, and it is easy to take them for granted. We can get so wrapped up in our own schedules and our own needs we can sometimes forget we share the same home together! A family is more than just a bunch of roommates! The Thanksgiving season is a great time to step out of our regular routines and do something different, creative, something that causes us and our parents or siblings or children to take a new look at one another. Write a creative list of positive qualities about family members and drop them in the mail (yes, the regular US mail). See what

kind of reaction comes your way. What Thanksgiving plans will your family consider this year? Step out and try something meaningful for others – through the Church, through the West Side Food Bank, through a local hospital – let your imagination explore all kinds of helpful possibilities. Involve the whole family to experience something new together, and see the wonderful effect it has.

The Thanksgiving holiday offers us an opportunity to really think about, and to count, our blessings. In addition, we always want to remember the Giver of all Good Things, and not forget to direct our prayers to Almighty God, to offer our personal prayers of thanksgiving for blessing us in ways we are aware of, and in ways we are not!

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
and His steadfast love endures forever!
(Psalm 136)*

NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Festival Appreciation Luncheon	2 7:00pm Philoptochos	3 10:30am Bible Study	4 7:00pm Know Your Faith	5 7:00pm Choir	6	7
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fall General Assembly	9	10 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Parish Council	11 7:00pm Know Your Faith	12 7:00pm Choir	13 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. John Chrysostom	14
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy National Youth Sunday	16	17 10:30am Bible Study	18 7:00pm Know Your Faith	19 7:00pm Choir	20	21
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy IOCC Sunday	23 10:00am Thanksgiving Food Drive Sorting	24 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Great Vespers: St. Katherine Church, Chandler	25 7:00pm Know Your Faith	26 Thanksgiving Day (Church office closed)	27	28
29 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	30 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Andrew					