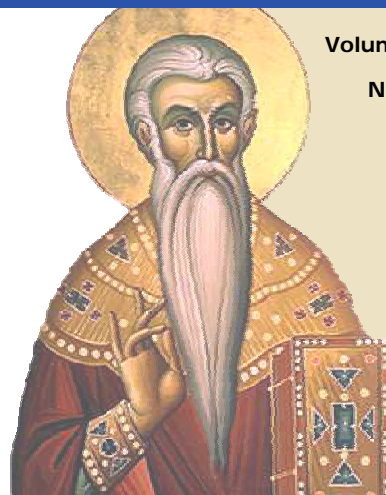


in Touch

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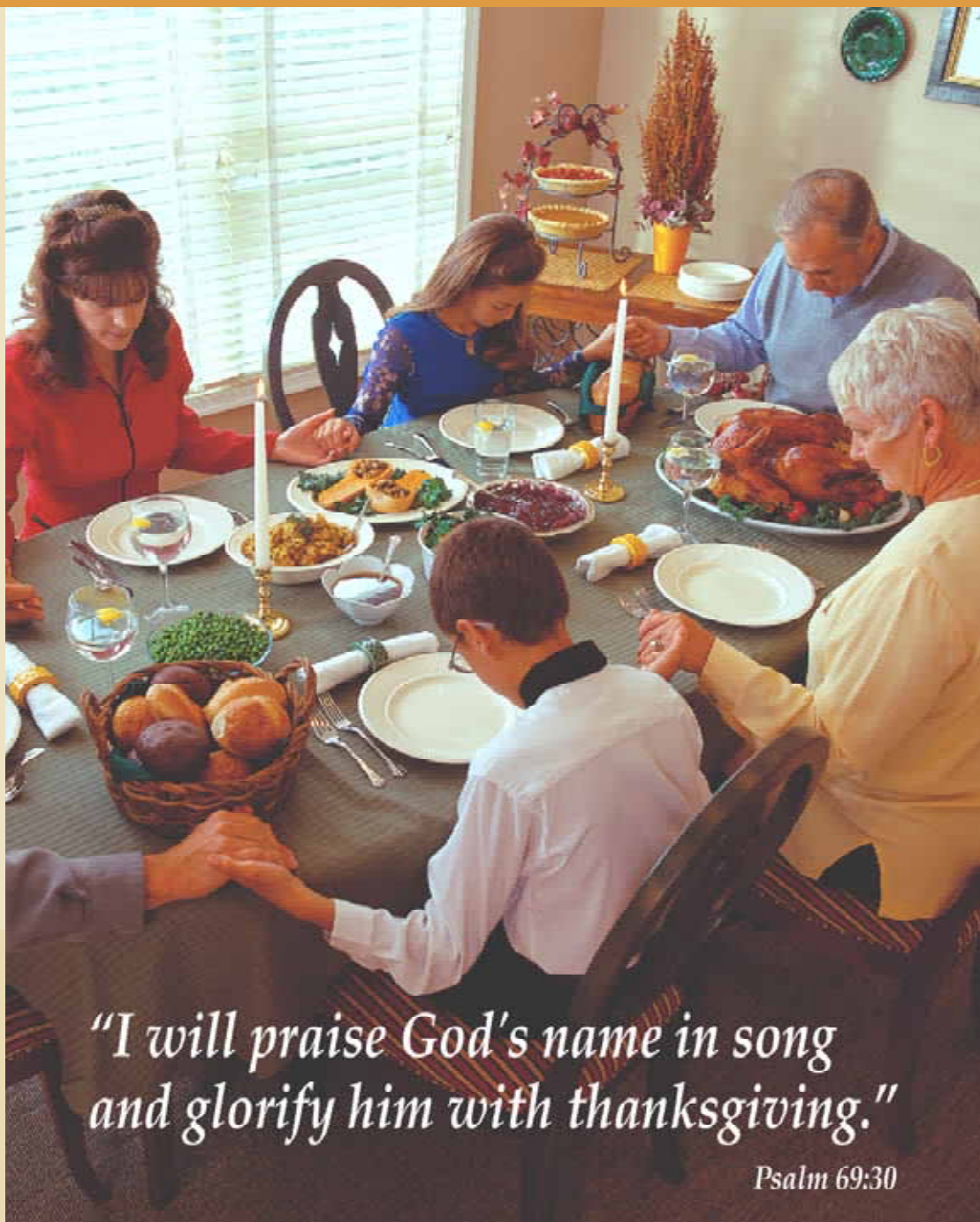
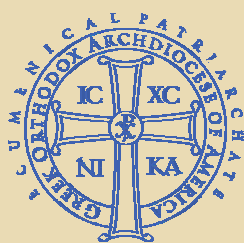
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*"I will praise God's name in song
and glorify him with thanksgiving."*

Psalm 69:30

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

YOUTH NIGHT

"I am the Vine" was the theme for the October Youth Night, where we learned how we are all connected to one another and to God by being members of the Church. The main activity was placing everyone's patron saint icon on large grape vine traced and colored by our young people, showing Christ at the root. Everyone did a great job at participating and helping illustrate an important lesson.



This month Youth Night will be on Thursday, Nov. 4, beginning at 5:30pm with a Thanksgiving dinner. All youth through High School are welcome!



All parish families are welcome to join us for a fun day at the Wildlife World Zoo & Aquarium on Thursday, Nov. 11 (Veteran's Day), 16501 W. Northern Ave., Litchfield Park at 9:30am. We'll be meeting at the East Entrance.

Group rate tickets must be purchased in advance:

Adults are \$15 each (regularly \$27.50)

Children are \$8 each (regularly \$14.25)

The deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, Nov. 7.

Don't be left out – get your tickets early!



Giving Thanks for Christ Today

How relevant is the gospel of Christ today? Does it continue to have the same life-changing effect as it did from the days of its inception? The Good News of our Lord's Resurrection, the *Evangelion*, is nearly 2,000 years old and has been translated into almost 3,000 languages (United Bible Society, 2008). The Bible is only a click away on the internet, and available in virtually every public library and retail bookstore, so access has never been greater.

If we look back in time, we can quickly see that so many people, communities, even nations, became followers of the Christian gospel throughout history. However, for most all of the first converts, their conversion to the Faith did not come about by reading. In the first place, the books and letters of the New Testament were being written during the last half of the first century AD, but were not compiled into the New Testament canon (official listing) we have today for another three centuries. St. Athanasius provides the earliest complete listing of the New

Testament in his 39th Festal letter of 367AD. Secondly, prior to the invention of moveable type printing in the mid-fifteenth century, copies of bibles were kept only in churches and monasteries.

For centuries there were no copies of the bible around the house, and no Sunday School classes; so how did they do it? How did people learn - and not just learn but adopt as their way of life - the gospel of Christ? Only one way: the Church.

As St. Paul made his travels following his own conversion experience, he would preach the gospel everywhere and anywhere he would find an audience: indoors, outdoors, in synagogues and in homes. (Much later in the early 13th century, St. Francis of Assisi, with a similar evangelical passion, would say, "Preach the gospel always, if necessary use words.")

The gospel, being transmitted by word of mouth, began spreading to a variety of nations beginning on the feastday of Pentecost. In every case, the message was met with either

whole-hearted acceptance or total rejection. Those who accepted it, embraced and lived the message, and continued to meet, pray and worship together, forming the first Christian church communities. Encouraged by St. Paul, the other apostles and by newly baptized converts, their new-found faith in Christ filled their hearts with hope and love.

Living in a society that was openly hostile to Christians, many were confronted, often with very little warning, with a life or death decision: renounce their faith or be put to death.

The number of martyrs in the first three centuries after Christ's resurrection gives more than ample testimony to the fact that the gospel meant so much more than belonging to another group or social organization. They would not have given their lives for anything less than what they knew was something greater and eternal; the hope of

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...their new-found faith in Christ filled their hearts with hope and love.



**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

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

Festival Appreciation Lunch

Everyone is invited to our annual Festival Appreciation Lunch on Sunday, Nov. 14.

We'll be reviewing all the record-breaking stats for our first festival on our new property, as well as saying a heart-felt "thank you" to all our fantastic volunteers.



Fall General Assembly

All parishioners are encouraged to attend the Fall General Assembly on Sunday, Nov. 14 in the social hall. The agenda and proposed 2011 parish budget are being mailed out to review

beforehand. Important issues regarding the future of our parish will be discussed. A Festival Appreciation Luncheon will be served before the start of the assembly.

Oratorical Festival



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival purpose is to give our youth (grade 4 thru grade 12) an opportunity to learn, write, and speak about

their Orthodox Faith, Church and Heritage. St. Haralambos is pleased to announce our Kick-off for the 2011 Oratorical Festival. Please plan to attend a very entertaining student and parent (yes, this includes godparents and grandparents) orientation meeting on Sunday, Nov. 7 after Liturgy and Sunday School.

The orientation meeting will include:

- Introduction to the Oratorical Program and benefits for students
- St. Haralambos Program Goals.
- Discussion of timelines and important dates.
- Distribution of topics and program guidelines for
 - Elementary Division (Grade 4 - 6)
 - Junior Division (Grade 7 - 9)
 - Senior Division (Grade 10 - 12)

If you can not attend the orientation meeting, please contact Jeannette Hollander at jechollander@gmail.com or Father Michael for more details.

Taste of Greece Festival

By Pam Lemons, Festival Co-Chairman

Well, we did it! The 23rd Annual Taste of Greece and our 1st Festival at our new home on Pinnacle Peak is behind us. To all the wonderful volunteers who put in countless hours to ensure that the planning, layout, electrical, cooking facilities, food and pastry preparation, volunteer coordination, dance team, set up, parking, publicity (and the list goes on) was ready in time... THANK YOU!

This year's Festival was truly a team effort. The camaraderie, dedication and



commitment of our volunteers is a testimony of the wonderful people at St. Haralambos Church.

Until next time... **OPA!**

Wall of Honor

In honor of all our Military Veterans, we are putting together a Wall of Honor with all past and present military veterans from our Church and family members. If you have a photo, in uniform if possible that you can spare (or I can make a copy of it) it would be greatly appreciated. Please state if they are currently active duty, retired or veteran; branch of service; which war if applicable and rank.

Thank you to all our veterans who have served our country in peace and in war.

Frosene Bravos, Military Liaison and Proud Army Mom



Thanksgiving Food Drive



We're collecting for the Peoria Community Action Agency, and putting food boxes together for needy families in Peoria. We can use everyone's help in donating turkeys, canned and boxed food used for the Thanksgiving meal.

Volunteers are needed on Monday, Nov. 22 at 10am to help sort and deliver the food.

Youth Workers and Religious Educators Workshop

On Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9:30am to 4pm, Assumption Church in Scottsdale will be hosting an opportunity for religious educators and youth workers to revitalize their parish ministries.

Continental Breakfast and Welcome is at 9:30, followed by a full day of presentations by Dr. Eve Tibbs, Coordinator of Religious Education and Christian Formation of the Metropolis of

San Francisco, together with her husband Steve, religious educator and parish council president of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, California.

There is no charge for this workshop, and lunch is included. RSVP to UrbanXian@gmail.com. Further information is available at the Assumption Church office, 480-991-3009.

Know Your Faith

Classes on the teachings of the Orthodox Church continue this month on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the conference room. Please see the calendar for dates.

Topics to be covered include: development of Christianity outside and within the United States; similarities and differences of doctrine with other Christian traditions.

ORGANIZATIONS

Name Days

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

SS. Cosmas and Damian (1st)
St. Nektarios (9th)
St. Theodore (11th)
St. John Chrysostom (13th)
St. Philip (14th)
St. Gregory (14th)
St. Theodora (15th)
St. Matthew (16th)
St. Philemon (22nd)
St. Katherine (25th)
St. Andrew (30th)

Parish Council Nominations

As we do every year during the Fall General Assembly (Sunday, Nov. 14), nominations for parish council candidates will be accepted in preparation for elections on Dec. 5. Once the final list has been created, the nominees must attend a seminar with Fr. Michael on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 7pm to review the

responsibilities and expectations of parish council service.

As a reminder, to be eligible to serve on parish council, candidates must be Members in Good Standing for at least one year prior to the date of the election.

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™

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)

Parish Council Corner

By Ray Wysmierski, Parish Council President

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15(NIV)

The festival is over, and we have so many volunteers who have worked so hard to make this festival at our new home to be extremely successful. The countless hours before and after can never be given too many THANK YOU'S! for all the dedicated workers.

The parking lots certainly make a big difference to our grounds. Plus the extra parking for the festival wasn't too bad either; no more closed lots on a Friday night as was the case at our former location. Great job to all those who worked so hard to make it happen before the festival.

Also calling out to all potential parish council candidates, elections and nominations are just around the corner. Here is another opportunity to serve the parish. You must be a steward in good standing for at least one year to be eligible. (Please refer to the opening scripture passage if you need some help.)

Also mark your calendars for the Fall Assembly this month which will have important operational updates and discussions to take place.

Please take time to pray as we prepare for Stewardship Sunday. As you will see the budget for 2011 at the General Assembly, it will warrant some deep soul searching for the operational costs of our church.

As always, please remember the food banks this Thanksgiving and be generous, as the economy has really affected the inventories.

See you at the next meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, Philoptochos President

In all things give thanks [1 Thess. 5:18]

Our next meeting is Nov. 1 at 7 pm in the conference room.

The September and October Sunday social hours have been very busy. Thank you to all who donated refreshments and those who gave time for clean-up. Remember if you would like to host a social hour contact Valla Wrona at 623- 245-0917.

Keep this date open: December 11, 2010

BAPSAF Holiday Luncheon hosted by the 4 valley Philoptochos chapters at St. Katherine church in Chandler.

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.

Support Our Troops

Birthdays



Argyro Vasquez (3rd)
 George Speros (5th)
 Nicole D. Barbes (7th)
 Cynthia Bingham (12th)
 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.

Sacraments

Congratulations and God's blessings to Surafeal Asgedom who was married to Semhar (daughter of Ocbaï and Genet) Tesfay on Saturday, Oct. 9. We wish them many years of good health and happiness.

Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of Dennis Curran, who fell asleep in the Lord Oct. 9. Our deepest condolences to Flo and her family. May his memory be eternal.

Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

rejoining their loved ones who had gone before them, and to be in the loving presence of their Creator and God.

The writers of the New Testament did not write in a vacuum; they wrote about the faith they lived. They were the ones who walked with Christ, who witnessed his crucifixion and spoke with him following his resurrection. They were forever changed, and were compelled to talk and write about it, to share this Good News at every opportunity. The gospel is meant for every nation on earth, just as Jesus Christ died for all of humankind.

Learning about the gospel by reading the bible should be part and parcel of our lives as Christians. Living the gospel, however, can't be done alone, reading in our room by ourselves. It requires contact with others, within a community of believers, the divine/human living organism we know as the body of Christ, the Church. This is how Christianity developed and grew from the beginning; and this is how people are still converted today.

The bible may indeed be ancient writing, but its contents communicate God's eternal story for mankind. This is why it will continue to be relevant in every age, and in every society. There will always be people willing to listen, to learn

and to convert their minds and hearts to faith in the living God.

We all know people who are apathetic about the gospel and others who insist it is irrelevant to contemporary life. Never let those people or that kind of thinking sway your faith or cause anger or despair to overcome you. We celebrate Thanksgiving this month, and turn our thoughts to thanking God for his blessings in our lives. Read the words of St. Paul, who suffered greatly for his faith, and the remarkable strength he had, giving thanks always to God.

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Col.3:12-17)

NOVEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00am Divine Liturgy Sts. Cosmas and Damian 7:00pm Philoptochos	2	3 7:00pm Know The Faith: Teachings of the Orthodox Church	4 5:30pm Youth Meeting 7:00pm Choir Practice	5 10am – 3pm Orthodox Clergy Synaxis	6
7 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	8 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel	9 7:00pm Parish Council	10 7:00pm Know The Faith: Teachings of the Orthodox Church	11 9:00am Family Trip to World Wildlife Zoo Veteran's Day 7:00pm Choir Practice	12	13 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. John Chrysostom
14 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fall General Assembly Festival Appreciation Lunch	15	16	17 7:00pm Know The Faith: Teachings of the Orthodox Church	18 7:00pm Choir Practice	19	20 9:30am – 4pm Religious Education Seminar (Assumption Church)
21 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy IOCC Sunday National Youth Sunday	22 10:00am Thanksgiving Food Drive Sorting	23	24 7:00pm Great Vespers (St. Katherine, Chandler)	25 Thanksgiving Day (Church Office Closed)	26	27
28 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	29	30 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Andrew				



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 22nd, 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**