

in Touch

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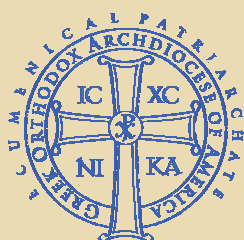
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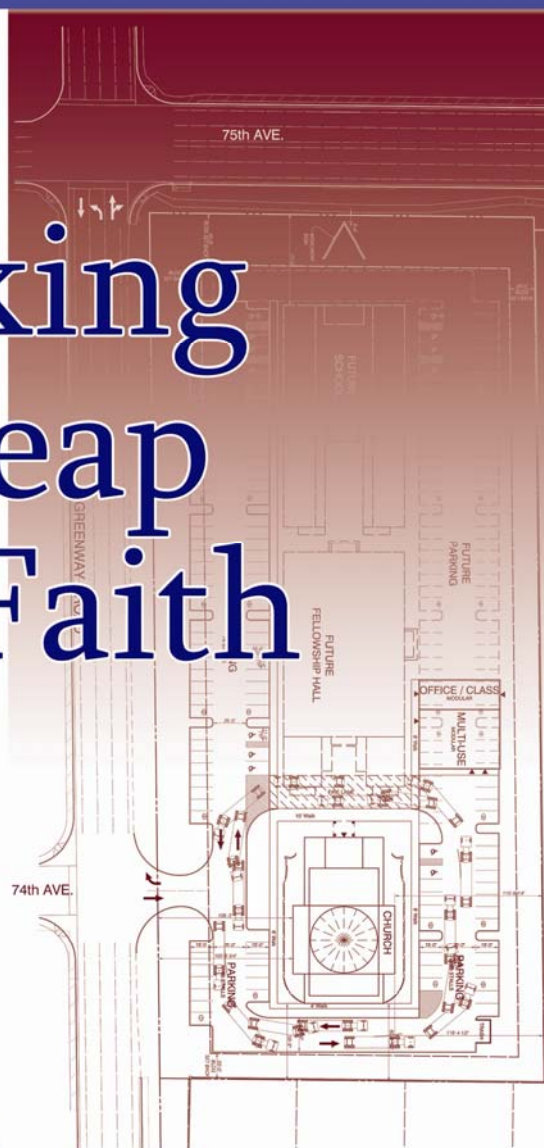
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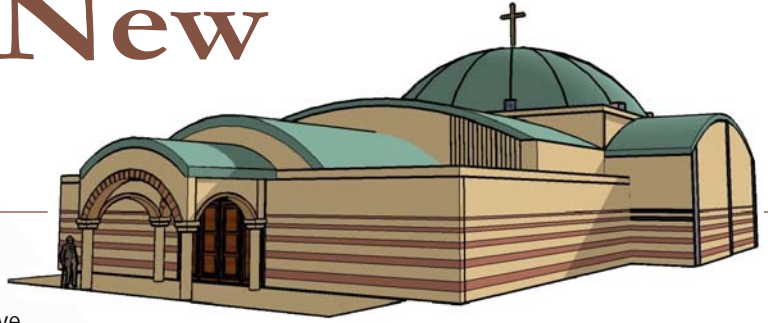
New Church Building Project, Phase 1

*"Whatever you do,
do everything for the glory of God."*

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

For Everything a Season:

Building a New Church



Exploring our Orthodox Church Building – Part II

We continue with the Elements of Orthodoxy with the description of what divisions there are in our new Church Nave.

The Nave contains these specific Divisions

- A. **The Eperoon** (choir loft) is the staging area for the choir and organ and is located to the west end of our Church in an elevated mezzanine. Church music, hymns and responses add richness to Orthodox Services and peaks our *sense of complete belonging* as the music surrounds each of us, encapsulates us, draws each of us closer to Christ our Lord.
- B. **The Iconostasis** (Icon Screen) is the partition that separates the Sanctuary from the Nave. It symbolizes the *curtain of Solomon's Temple*. The Icon Screen has three doors, the Royal Door (Oraia Pyli) that is used only by the clergy and the two Deacon Doors located on the north and south ends of the screen and are used by altar boys, deacons and clergy. To the right side of the Royal Door is the Icon of Christ and St. John the Baptist while to the left is the Icon of the Blessed Theotokos and the Patron Saint of that specific church (in Peoria it is St. Haralambos). These four Icons are found in the same location on the 'Icon Screen' in every Orthodox Church along with other Icons as chosen by their respective churches.
- C. **The Dome** is the center of the ceiling and symbolizes Heaven. It is decorated with the Almighty Pantocrator (*The Lord Who Rules the World and Church from Heaven*); with Angels; the four Evangelists (who wrote of His life on earth in the *New Testament*); and the Prophets (who wrote about the coming of Christ on earth in the *Old Testament*).
- D. **Iconography** (Murals of the Saints and Holy Scenes) adorns the dome, interior walls and ceilings and depicts the Saints, Prophets, the Theotokos, Miracles, Jesus' Passion, the Resurrection, appearances after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and scenes from the life of our Patron Saint, St. Haralambos. Wherever you turn in our new Church, you look upon Divine and Holy figures creating reverence and exaltation.
- E. **The Solea** (platform) is the part of the Nave in front of the Sanctuary which is slightly higher than the floor of the Nave. The raised area signifies *one's stepping up from earthly existence to receive the Sacraments*. The Solea is used to perform special ceremonies such as weddings, Baptisms, funerals, memorial services, doxologies, the ceremony of blessing the Holy Water, the ceremony of the removal of the body of Christ from the cross, receiving the Holy Eucharist and Chrismation.
 1. **Amvon** (Pulpit) Left center of the Nave and mounted on the Solea and will be elevated. The Amvon symbolizes *the stone* placed in front of the Tomb of Jesus.
 2. **Despoticos Thronos** (Bishop's Throne) is a piece of Liturgical Furniture placed on the right side of Solea. The Throne symbolizes the *Head of the Church and Christ*. It is a constant reminder of our Archbishop.
 3. **Analogion** (Chanters Stand) psalti or chanter symbolizes and reminds the congregants of *martyrdom or suffering of the Christians* as they witness to their Greek Orthodox Faith. This will be located on the north side of the Solea.
 4. **The Baptistry** fount will be located left of our Solea and will include an in-ground fount for adult baptisms. The symbol of the Baptismal Fount is the numerous *bodies of water* referred to throughout the Bible where Baptisms took place.
 5. **The Honefteri** is a dedicated drain-line that drains onto the earth because the blessed Holy Water and Oils used during Baptisms, the Divine Liturgy and other Sacraments are forbidden from being introduced into the city drainage system.
- F. **The Main Center and Side Aisles** of our new Church are designed to be very wide. The main middle aisle will be nine feet in width in order to accommodate communicants as they approach the altar for Holy Eucharist as well as processions, funerals and wedding ceremonies. The side aisles are extra wide at seven feet to accommodate the overflow or peak periods of our liturgical year with additional seating for Pascha and Christmas.

Look for Part III of Exploring our Orthodox Church Building in the next issue of *In Touch*.



In God's Eyes, We Are All Equal

"Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able."

So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father."

And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first

among you, let him be your servant, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

This wonderful account in the Gospel of St. Matthew (20:20-28) reminds us just how human Jesus' apostles were, and, at the same time, how truly divine our Lord was. Not quite as bad as Judas' betrayal or Peter's denial, James and John just wanted a small favor from Jesus - and they (in this account) got their mother to go and ask for them! I can just imagine James and John arguing between themselves, "You ask Him!" "No, you ask Him!" "I'm not going to ask Him, you ask Him!" "I know, let's get mom to ask Him!" And ask Him she does, even with the other 10 apostles standing close by.

But the good message that comes from the ensuing dialogue not only puts the brothers in their proper place, but is very helpful for us today, as well. It's good to know that God does not play favorites, and sees every human being as equal; not identical, but equal. He is the most impartial judge imaginable. He cannot be bought (God has need of

material possessions?), or swayed (He's heard it all before). There is nothing any human being can do to earn a special place in heaven. Think about it: if the apostles couldn't do it, who can?

What we can do, of course, is a variety of things that are pleasing to God, and that keep us on the path towards the Kingdom. We can learn to love one another, we can practice patience, mercy, forgiveness and charity. And one more thing, taken from the above passage: we can learn to serve one another. This, our Lord teaches, is what really makes a person great in God's eyes.

This means not focusing exclusively on our own needs and wants, but serving the needs of others. It doesn't mean to neglect ourselves completely, but not to become selfish and egotistical, thinking that we're better than others.

In God's eyes, we are all equal, all human, all imperfect, all struggling, all part of His

We can learn to serve one another. This, our Lord teaches, is what really makes a person great in God's eyes.

(Continued on page 6)



**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

George Retsinas, President
Ray Wysmierski, Vice-President
Roberta Szklarsk, Secretary
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
George Christie
Mike Danielek

Olga Fredericksen
Mary Manos
Peter Retsinas
Katherine Tally
Peter Tremoulis
Mary Wysmierski

Taste of Greece Festival

October 24, 25 and 26

The Taste of Greece Festival is just around the corner and final preparations are being made to bring the finest Festival to the West Valley. Your help is needed. Volunteers are not only needed during the Festival weekend but during the month of October preparing food and pastries, distributing flyers, setting up, and more. See the calendar on page 8 for food preparation and baking schedule.

Please note - there are a few changes including:

- The entrance will be located in front of the Church
- New live music is lined up to perform
- New food items have been added

- Our own imports and deli will be available along with several vendors who will be bringing some very unique imports and gifts

- For the kids, there will be pony rides, games and activities

Be sure to make your plans now to spend the weekend enjoying beautiful music and delicious foods of the Greek culture while sharing the history of St. Haralambos Church and the warm hospitality of our Parish with our community. Also, be sure to tell your friends, co-workers and family about the event.

Let's make this a Festival to remember!



Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Director

First and foremost, I want to thank each of you who have expressed an interest in our Sunday school program. I firmly believe that the future of our Church, the vitality of our stewardship and the Spiritual vigor of our parishioners will increase many fold because of the synergistic strength and positive participation that we are experiencing this year from our teachers and students and support volunteers.

Our theme this year for all of us here at St. Haralambos is to recruit... recruit... recruit. If you see any new faces, I challenge each of you to be the first to smile, extend a hand and inquire. Bring them into our fold to help grow our student body and treat each and every new parent with enthusiasm. I promise you, it is contagious!

The strength of our teachers is evident. Martha is returning for her second year with us and hopefully for many more. Connie has been with us doing whatever

she can when we asked for the past several years. Andriana has taught Sunday School in the past and we are fortunate to have her teaching the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade this year. Monique is returning to teach the 7th & 8th grades and we are really glad she is back. Chryss has the most years in Sunday school participation – I believe this is her 23rd year between St. Haralambos and Holy Trinity. Margaret, Presvytera Kristin and Lindsay did such a great job last year with our Christmas program that we recruited them again this year for a repeat performance. Margaret and Lindsay also are investing time in other youth programs that we anticipate will grow and flourish (God Willing). Of course, Olga is our returning administrator who does the “little things” behind the scenes as well as our Greek Dancing Troupe and has been an elementary school teacher for 20 years.

God has blessed us this year and we pray that He continues to watch us grow and flourish in His Glory.

2008–2009

Sunday School Staff

Teachers

Martha Stithem, Primary
 Connie Scouffas, K- 3
 Andriana Henson, 4- 6
 Monique Klabis, Jr High - 7 & 8
 Mike Danielek, Senior High

Substitutes

Chryss Danielek, 4-6
 Presvytera Kristin Pallad, Jr High

Christmas Pageant

Margaret Michailidis
 Presvytera Kristin Pallad
 Lindsay Vardalos

Snacks

Chryss Danielek

Assistant

Olga Fredericksen

Director

Mike Danielek

Help Needed

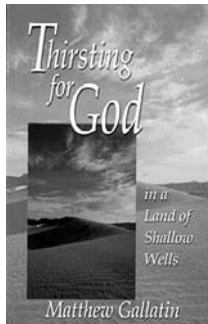
For the past two years, Peter Vardalos has been serving as the Managing Editor for our monthly newsletter, In Touch. He has done an outstanding job keeping production moving along smoothly each month, but unfortunately, is not able to continue.

We are very grateful for all the time and expertise Peter has contributed, and are now in search of a new Managing Editor. Responsibilities include: prepare the monthly production schedule, send the schedule to the various parish organization contacts, edit rough copy and send for formatting, oversee the development of new columns and features, work with church office staff.

Any interested parishioners should contact Fr. Michael by e-mail at FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxco.xmail.com or call the church office at 623-486-8665.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Thirsting for God in a Land of Shallow Wells, Matthew Gallatin, 2002, 188 pages.



Father Gallatin, a former Protestant minister who converted to Orthodoxy, says he has two goals for this book: to help Protestants "see Christianity in light of its historical truth" and "its sacramental spirit,"

and to help Orthodox readers gain "a deeper appreciation ...of their faith."

He says that as a Protestant, he reached the age of 40, "with neither the assurance that my doctrine represented truth, nor the abiding awareness of the living Christ that I so earnestly craved."

The major trouble with Protestants, writes Fr. Gallatin, is that they believe, "that truth is determined by the Scriptures alone, without help from Church history." Of course, there are many different Protestant denominations, and each interprets Scripture differently. They think that if you love God and live up to whatever you believe to be true, then you can establish a saving relationship with God.

The author writes, "It seems impossible to believe that the Father who is worshipped in *truth* (John 4:24) the Son who is the *truth* (John 14:6) and the Spirit of *Truth* who leads us into the *truth* (John 16:13) really don't care" what "I believe" to be "the *truth*."

Eventually, Fr. Gallatin came to this conclusion: "The Church was functioning as the pillar of truth (see 1 Tim. 3:15)...for many years before the first New Testament documents were even produced. It operated under the guidance of the Holy Spirit...following the traditions of the Holy Apostles."

The author quotes one verse of Scripture in several chapters: "...brethren, stand fast and hold the *traditions* which you were taught, whether by word or our epistles" (2 Thess. 2:15).

When discussing topics such as prayer, infant baptism, salvation, veneration of saints (especially the Theotokos) and the sacraments, Fr. Gallatin points to the practices of the early Church. God did not intend for **individuals** to pick and choose, change or reject any of these "traditions." This is why the Ancient Church held councils. The author insists that the sacraments are not "empty rituals;" God "has ordained we perform" these acts taught by the Apostles so we can participate "directly in Christ's life."

He writes, "We are not called to create the Faith. Instead, we are enjoined to keep *all* its tenets and observe *all* its sacraments." All are necessary to transform us "from sin-sick creatures into beautiful Christ-like beings."

This book shows its readers that the Orthodox Church holds the unchanging truth from ancient times and helps them to defend it with conviction!

Pastor's Column (Continued from page 3)

creation. The Kingdom of heaven is the ultimate goal of every human being, and as Christians, we should never lose sight of that goal. It is God's great desire to share His Kingdom with each of us. There are no minimum IQ requirements, no prerequisites of fame or great accomplishments, and no special knowledge available to only a select few. No great deed we can do in this life will earn us a free ticket into God's kingdom. True greatness, as Jesus taught, comes through service; opening up our eyes, and responding to the needs of our neighbor.

Choir

This month, the Assumption Church in Scottsdale is hosting a Church Music Institute on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 9 a.m. for the southwest region Orthodox churches. All choir members, directors and accompanists are welcome to attend, as well as newcomers who would like to learn more about singing in the choir.

The morning begins with a Continental breakfast, and is followed by the first workshop at 9:30. Topics covered during the day will be the Divine Liturgy and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – changes needed when a bishop or archbishop

celebrates. Lots of music will be reviewed throughout the day. Lunch is included, as well as the opportunity to meet and sing with fellow church musicians from the other parishes.

The next day is National Church Music Sunday; the day our Archdiocese has set aside to give special recognition and honor to our church musicians: choir members, accompanists and directors. Our choir members are such a blessing to our parish – be sure to let them know they are appreciated!

Sacraments

Christopher Szklarski was married to Madeline Molina on Saturday, Sept. 27. May our Lord Jesus Christ grant them many years of happiness and good health together.

Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of his servant George Costa, of Wickenburg, who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, September 7th. May his memory be eternal.

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, Fannie Huzinec, Tom Pallad, Nikita and Josette Reisler, and John and Mary Karavaras.

Name Days

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

St. Romanos, the Melodist (1st)	St. Florentios (13th)	St. Gerasimos (20th)
Sts. Cyprian and Justina (2nd)	St. Artemios (14th)	St. James (Iakovos) (23rd)
St. John (Koukouzelis) (1st)	St. Kosmas, the Melodist (14th)	St. Sebastiane (24th)
St. James the Lesser (9th)	St. Lazaros (17th)	St. Demetrios (26th)
St. Philip the Deacon (11th)	St. Luke the Evangelist (18th)	St. Anastasia of Rome (29th)

Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Sept. 7	Maria Wardzinski
Sept. 14	Fannie Huzinec
Sept. 21	Robert Szklarski and Kathy Tally
Sept. 28	Tom & Margaret Michailides
Oct. 5	Mary Dascalos
Oct. 12	Argyro Vasquez and Roy & Maria Christian
Oct. 19	Ray & Mary Wysmierski
Oct. 26	Greek Festival

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

Birthdays



Monique Klabis (5th)
Artemesia Tremoulis (10th)
Dutch Rosenberg (13th)
Joan Coor (20th)
Carl Surman (23rd)
Sabrina Tremoulis (23rd)
Dimitri Genes (29th)

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 BAKING AND FOOD PREP SCHEDULE OCTOBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 8:30am Till ? Tsourekia Kitchen	4 8:30am Till ? Tsourekia Kitchen
5	6	7 9:00am Till ? Koulouria Social Hall	8	9	10 9:00am Till ? Spanakopites Tiropites Social Hall	11 9:00am Till ? Melomakarouna Paximadia Social Hall
12	13	14 9:00am Till ? Kourabiedes Social Hall	15 9:00am Till ? Mousaka Kitchen	16 9:00am Till ? Pastitsio Kitchen	17 9:00am Till ? Leaf Washing Social Hall	18 10:00am Till ? Dolmades Social Hall
19	20 9:00am Till ? Baklava Social Hall	21 9:00am Till ? Diples Social Hall	22 9:00am Till ? Pastry Packing Pastry Room	23 9:00am Till ? Pastry Packing Pastry Room	24 OPAA!	25 OPAA!
26 OPAA!	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 12:00 Noon Appreciation Luncheon						

No Experience Necessary - Will Train! Just come with your enthusiasm and an apron.

SIGN UP WITH PENNY OBREN: 623-214-1289

OCTOBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	9:30am Church Music Institute Assumption Church, Scottsdale
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy National Church Music Sunday	6 7:00pm Philoptochos	7	8 7:00pm Know Your Faith	9 7:00pm Choir	10	11
12 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	13	14	15 7:00pm Know Your Faith	16 7:00pm Choir	17	18 9:00am Liturgy St. Luke the Apostle
19 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	20	21 7:00pm Parish Council	22 7:00pm Know Your Faith	23 7:00pm Choir	24 5:00pm-10:00pm Greek Festival	25 11:00am-10:00pm Greek Festival
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Noon-8:00pm Greek Festival	27	28	29	30 7:00pm Choir	31	