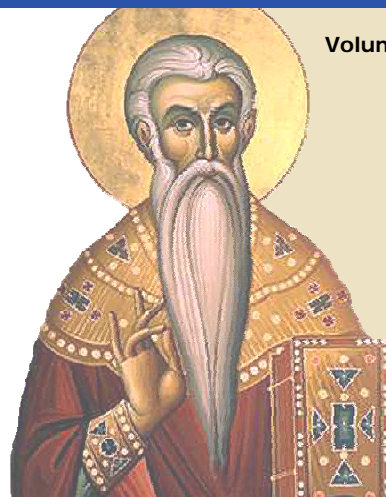


# in Touch

Volume 19, Issue 10

October 2011



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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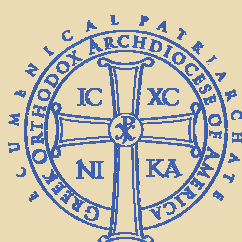
**IOCC  
Charities • 7**

## TASTE OF GREECE

2011 Food & Dance Festival



**Friday,  
October 21  
to Sunday,  
October 23**



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

# YOUTH NIGHT

These pictures were from our YOUTH FAMILY NIGHT on Sept. 10. We all gathered together for a fun family night! We had a Mexican themed potluck that was very fun! We also made Christmas ornaments that we are planning to sell at our Greek Festival and the money will be donated to the church for our building fund. All the children helped in making these ornaments and they had a wonderful time.







## Introduction to the Orthodox Church

How good to see a classroom of 16 – some parishioners, some friends of parishioners – attending the Introduction to the Orthodox Church Wednesday evening classes, which conclude on the 19th of this month. The class, held each Fall, presents the history of the Orthodox Church, its similarities and differences with the variety of other Christian denominations and traditions.

The goal of this class has always been to give a greater awareness of the timeless and consistent teachings and traditions of Orthodox Christianity in the context of the ever-changing religious landscape of modern society. The caution of St. Paul in the Letter to the Hebrews that, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines,”* (Hebrews 13:8-9), was meant for his contemporaries, but is equally applicable today with our continual exposure to philosophies and lifestyles that conflict with what we learn from Orthodox Church teachings.

In addition to being a worshipping community, it is

important for a parish to keep religious education – adult and youth – a priority, to at least provide a foundation of our teachings and traditions. Our young people, especially, thirst for knowledge that helps them develop a secure sense of their identity as Orthodox Christians. But if that knowledge is not reinforced in their homes, that foundation can begin to crack and wither; hence, the need for continual religious education for the adults, parents and grandparents.

It can't be over-emphasized that the religious education in an Orthodox Christian parish has never been confined only to what is available in books – including the Bible. The Bible is rightly understood as the Word of God, *“given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”* (2Tim. 3:16).

However, Holy Scripture should never stand alone as the only source of Christian life. The active, dynamic life of the Church as expressed through a variety of elements that comprise Holy Tradition, is equally as important as what we find written in the pages of the

Bible. Holy Tradition teaches, in accordance with Holy Scripture, how Christians from the earliest days of the Church understood and expressed their faith in Christ and his teachings.

Examples of Holy Tradition, such as making the sign of the cross, baptism of infants, the doctrine of the dual natures of Christ, developed naturally in the Church, even though we don't find their direct expression in Scripture. Holy Tradition, together with Holy Scripture, provides an extremely rich and dynamic expression of faith in Christ that has continued for more than 2,000 years.

The rich spiritual legacy we have received today as Orthodox Christians is a treasure that should not remain hidden in our – or any – generation. It is worth learning so we don't get led astray by any other way of life, and to help ensure our children and grandchildren follow the same path.

*“I am the way, the truth and the life.”* (John 14:16)

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*It is worth learning so we don't get led astray by any other way of life.*

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**St. Haralambos  
Greek Orthodox  
Church**

**Rev. Michael Pallad**  
[www.stharalambos.org](http://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](mailto:Office@StHaralambosAZ.com)  
[FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com](mailto:FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com)

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

### Parish Council

Dennis Georgen, President  
Ray Wysmierski, Vice President  
Dean Milonas, Treasurer  
Mike Danielek, Secretary  
Angie Cholas  
David Durgam

Dimitri Gryparis  
Mary Manos  
George Miller  
Katherine Tally  
Peter Vardalos  
Ken Wrona

## Soul Food

Now the will of God is precisely what Christ both did and taught. It entails being humble in our life-style, steadfast in our faith, modest in our words, just in our actions, merciful in our dealings, disciplined in our conduct, incapable of inflicting a wrong but able to bear one inflicted on us; keeping peace with our brothers; loving God with all our heart; cherishing Him as Father while fearing Him as God; putting absolutely nothing before Christ, since He put nothing before us; clinging tenaciously to His love; standing, brave and confident, by His cross; and whenever His name and honor are involved, displaying in our speech the constancy to confess Him, under torture the courage to fight for Him, and in death the patience for which we will be crowned.

## Assumption Church Consecration

So that everyone has the opportunity to witness the Consecration of their church building, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos has given his blessing for the local Orthodox Churches to close in order to gather as one Orthodox family on Sunday, Oct. 30 at the Scottsdale Assumption Church. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America will be presiding at the Consecration which will begin Saturday afternoon at 4pm with the

Procession of the Relics and Great Vesper service, followed by a celebration banquet. Please see the enclosed flyer for ticket information and other details.

**St. Haralambos Church will not be open on Sunday, Oct. 30**, so that all parishioners have the opportunity to witness this very special and sacred event in the life of one of our sister Orthodox parishes.

## Stewardship

We hear the word "stewardship" and our immediate reaction is often, "OK, so how much money am I going to pledge this year?" Today I want to share with you that this is not the question. Not that a financial commitment isn't important. It is. After all, it does pay the mortgage. But simply writing a check is not what Stewardship is all about.

Do you believe that God created the Heavens and the Earth? Do you believe that the air that you breathe, the water that you drink, the food that you eat, the talents (Spiritual Gifts) that He has endowed you with, and everything else that you have is a gift from God? It's true! It's all His, given to you, unconditionally, because He loves you!

Do you believe that God came to Earth in the flesh as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? And do you believe that the Church is the gathering of His people, on Earth, to do His Will? If you believe that these things are true, then everything that we do here on Earth is to be done in His Name, for His Purpose.

Christian Stewardship is what you DO... after you say I BELIEVE...

Christian Stewardship means that we, each of us, take ownership of our Church

and get actively involved in some way. Stewardship means that we need to be fully committed... 100% of the way. Not only when it suits us. Not just when it is convenient.

It serves no purpose for us to gather together on Sundays, sing along with the Choir, visit with our friends, enjoy refreshments in the social hall and then leave and not do anything to take the Light of Christ into the World.

Stewardship means that each of us is involved in Ministry; that we are connected to the work of the Church, doing something, reaching out to others in need. The work to be done, Ministry, can take many different forms, and we can respond in many different ways; each of us according to our own Spiritual Gifts, given to us by our Creator, for His purpose.

Stewardship isn't only about money. Stewardship is giving of yourself joyfully; your Time, your Talent, and your Treasure for His purpose. In the end, Stewardship is about... SALVATION.

In November, we will again be hosting our Spiritual Gifts Seminar and at our General Assembly we will be discussing Christian Stewardship. Come prepared to be involved.

## Philoptochos

By Reni Milonas, President

We had our first meeting and potluck dinner on Sept. 12. The potluck dinner turned out to be a feast and the variety of foods were amazing. Of course, we all ate too much, but it was worth it.

Did you know that the donations received at coffee hour are used to purchase all of the paper goods and plastic cutlery, as well as for supplementing the many financial commitments to our various charities? If you would like to help out with our paper goods expenses, we would gladly accept a monetary donation and we will do the shopping.

Well, once again it's festival baking time! Are you are interested in learning how to prepare some of our yummy Greek

pastries and entrees? Please see the Festival Baking and Food Prep Schedule, which is printed in this issue or available at the church office, and come down and join us!

### October Commitments

National: Amount determined by Chapter

- National Philoptochos Emergency Fund (Enables Philoptochos to respond immediately to national or international disasters)

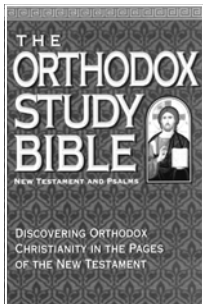
### Reminder

Our next meeting is Oct. 3. We will have a baby picture contest. Everyone who wishes to participate should bring a baby picture and a current picture. Whoever matches the most pictures will win a prize.



## Sunday School

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School Director & Teacher



It is a blessing to have new and returning volunteers contribute their Time, Talent, and Treasure to the Sunday School Ministry. Involvement from parents and parish members is very

important to the ongoing religious education of our children. To all who have been willing and able to participate in one way or another, thanks so much for your contribution.

This year's Sunday School Teachers:

- Nursery/Pre-K/Kindergarten – Lead Teacher Lindsay Vardalos & Teacher Assistants Helen Antonatos, Mary Wysmierski, Elaine Young
- 1st-3rd Grades – Martha Stithem, Connie Scouffas

- 4th-6th Grades – Andrianna Hensen
- 7th-12th Grades – Monthly Teacher Pool including Cynthia Bingham, Paul DeTrana
- Oratorical Festival – Jeannette Hollander
- Snack Volunteers: Luta Durgam, Ruth Panousopoulos, Mary Wysmierski

Although we had a good start in September, we still have a need for volunteers in these areas: 7th-12th Grades Monthly Teacher Pool; Teacher Assistant/Substitute (any class); Snack Volunteer; Christmas Pageant Director & Volunteers.

Planning for the Christmas Pageant needs to be underway as soon as possible, so if anyone is willing and able to coordinate this program or offer help in any way, please notify Martha Stithem at 623-936-5896 or [mjstithem@cox.net](mailto:mjstithem@cox.net).

## Greek Festival

Our 24th Annual Taste of Greece is just a couple of weeks away - October 21, 22 and 23. If you haven't already signed up to volunteer, please get a form from the church office as soon as possible. Volunteers are always welcomed and needed for pre-festival baking, flyer distribution, set-up, and tear down.

Let your friends and neighbors know that the Taste of Greece is sure to be a weekend full of great food, music and fun for the whole family. OPA!

# ORGANIZATIONS

## *Name Days*

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

St. Ananias (1st)  
Sts. Cyprian and Justina (2nd)  
St. James (9th)  
St. Philip (11th)  
St. Lazaros (17th)  
St. Luke (18th)  
St. Gerasimos (20th)  
St. James (Iakovos) (23rd)  
St. Sebastiane (24th)  
St. Demetrios (26th)

## Bible Study

By Ted Manos

We are trying to initiate an Orthodox bible study group at the church that will help one evaluate the Gospel and other Orthodox spiritual works in the context of the contemporary world. We will be using the Orthodox Study Bible and other Orthodox study guides in this endeavor. The only requirement for these sessions is a desire to increase one's understanding of various interpretations of the bible and to do so in an open-discussion manner along with the study materials. All levels of experience and learning are invited.

These classes would be starting in early November, after Father Michael's "Introduction to Orthodoxy class," which

will be a good prologue to this type of learning. We anticipate Wednesday evenings around 7pm at the church with a proposed start date of Wednesday Nov. 2.

I have been reviewing study guides and have found a nice set of four books written by Theophylact, the archbishop of Bulgaria, which systematically examines the four apostles' writings. We could also review other materials that discuss orthodox spirituality and asceticism. If you are interested or have further ideas or concerns, please contact me at tedmanos@zona.net with the header "study group" or call my home phone at 623-698-6078. I have also set up an area at the coffee hour on Sundays to register.

## Youth Group

By Chrissy King and Lindsay Vardalos

The St. Haralambos Church Youth Group had a great kick-off potluck on Sept. 10, with a Mexican theme. The youth began working on our first service project, making ornaments to sell at the festival, with the proceeds to benefit our church.

Our next potluck, Greek-themed, will be held on Oct. 8. The entire parish is invited to come spend time with our Youth Group, and we would love to

have a great turnout. Besides a potluck dinner, we will all be playing games and spending some fun time together. Please add your name to the sign-up list available at the church.

### Upcoming Events

- Saturday, Oct. 8: Potluck- Greek Theme & Games, 4pm
- Monday, Oct. 17: Youth Night, 6pm
- Friday, Nov. 11: Family Parish Park

Day, 10am-1pm, at Fletcher Heights Park, 8135 W. Lone Cactus Drive. Please bring your own lunch no glass containers permitted, however).

- Monday, Nov. 21: Youth Night at 6pm
- Saturday, Dec. 10: Christmas Caroling, 3pm
- Monday, Jan. 16: Youth Night at 6pm

## Caring Friends

By Judy Jolly, Chair and Zoe Dress, Co-chair

The Caring Friends program reaches out to parishioners in need of a friendly or comforting word. Our volunteers have been doing a wonderful job of supporting our parishioners and friends with phone calls and visits. Their devotion is much

appreciated by the people they have seen and called.

We still have a definite need for more volunteers! We especially need some men volunteers and people who speak Greek. Our activities consist of visiting people who wish us to call on them approximately once a week, or as needed, at their home or in hospital;

and/or phoning them periodically just to "check-in." This is a particularly personal and giving way to use your gifts for your church community.

Please contact the church office at 623-486-8665 if you would like to join our group, or if you know of someone who would like us to visit or phone them.

## International Orthodox Christian Charities

The St. Haralambos Parish Council decided to limit the second offering tray on Sundays to once a month. The donations collected will go to the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). The mission statement of the IOCC reads as follows: "IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond."

IOCC's charitable work has benefited many unfortunate communities all across the globe. Following is a sample of the countries that have received IOCC aid:

**Iraq:** Distributed food and hygiene parcels to 1,750 refugees in partnership with churches, local associations, and local government.

**Syria:** Delivered over 15,000 hygiene and 15,000 school kits to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and provided vocational training, educational support for youth, material aid, and community building to Iraqi refugees.

**Uzbekistan:** To assist refugee families who fled ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan, IOCC delivered Emergency Health Kits. One kit filled with medicine and supplies can treat 10,000 people for three months. The kit was provided in cooperation with Medical Teams International.

Many of the health kits delivered to refugees all over the world were assembled by Orthodox Christians in the United States. To learn more about IOCC Emergency Kits, visit [www.iocc.org/kits](http://www.iocc.org/kits)

### Agricultural Development

In addition to helping refugees, IOCC aids countries with Agricultural Development such as in Haiti where they initiated a reforestation project in two threatened forest areas that experienced severe erosion and landslides after last year's devastating earthquake.

### Health Programs

Delivered quilts, baby and hygiene kits

valued at approximately \$200,000 to institutions for physically and mentally challenged children and adults in Serbia. IOCC delivered 170 wheelchairs for children and adults and over 250 other items (walkers, crutches, physical therapy equipment).

### Education

In the United States under-served children in more than 20 states received more than \$10 million in brand-new books and textbooks, classroom resource materials, math manipulatives and other educational supplies to support after-school programs, tutoring and mentoring programs.

### Disaster Relief

In response to the wildfires that swept across central Russia in August, IOCC provided \$50,000 in assistance to provide hygiene kits, bedding sets and other essential supplies to families affected by the wildfires.

Ninety-two percent of IOCC's resources go towards emergency relief and development programs. Every dollar we give helps IOCC secure \$7 in support from governments, foundations and other sources. Donations have enabled IOCC to provide almost \$40 million in assistance to 22 countries - including the United States, where IOCC volunteers helped build homes for homeless hurricane victims and donated much-needed learning tools to help at-risk schoolchildren. Our community at St. Haralambos Church has generously given, from May through August of this year, we sent a total of \$592 to the IOCC.

"IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond." Michael S. "Mickey" Homsey, Chairman of the Board and Constantine M. Triantafilou, Executive Director & CEO.

For more information and to get a better sense of just how much good work the IOCC does all over the world, visit the IOCC web site at [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org).

## *Birthdays*



- Jackie Michas (2)
- Aristi Ballas Baroutas (4)
- Sandra Dutton (5)
- Banna Tesfay (5)
- Athena Papamatheakis (11)
- Dutch Rosenberg (13)
- Arleen Pappas (14)
- Christian Leros (15)
- Theodore Manos (15)
- Ammiel Desta (18)
- Gabriella Saenz (18)
- Joseph Durgam (21)
- Carl Surman (23)
- Stavroula Papamatheakis (26)
- Gus Macrides (27)
- Lindsay Vardalos (31)

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.

# OCTOBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 9:00am Church Music Institute, Assumption Church, Scottsdale
<b>2</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy National Church Music Sunday	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Philoptochos	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Know the Faith	<b>6</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 4:00pm Youth "Greek" Potluck
<b>9</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Parish Council	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Know the Faith	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>17</b> 5:00pm Pizza 6:00pm Youth Night	<b>18</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Luke	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Know the Faith	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>21</b> 5:00pm Greek Festival	<b>22</b> 11:00am Greek Festival
<b>23</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. Iakovos 12:00pm Greek Festival	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Demetrios	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 4:00pm Consecration Vespers, Assumption Church, Scottsdale
<b>30</b> 9:00am Consecration of Assumption Church, Scottsdale St. Haralambos Church Closed	<b>31</b>					



# FESTIVAL BAKING AND FOOD PREP SCHEDULE OCTOBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>30</b> 8:30am Tsourekia Our Kitchen	<b>1</b> 8:30am Tsourekia Our Kitchen
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00am Koulouria Social Hall	<b>5</b> 9:00am Koulouria Social Hall	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00am Tiropites Social Hall	<b>8</b> 9:00am Spanakopites Social Hall
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00am Pastitsio *CCV	<b>11</b> 9:00am Mousaka *CCV	<b>12</b> 9:00am Melomakarouna Paximadia Social Hall	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00am Kourabiedes Social Hall	<b>15</b> 9:00am Dolmades Social Hall
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00am Baklava *CCV	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00am Melo Dipping Pastry Room	<b>20</b> 9:00am Pastry Packing Pastry Room	<b>21</b> OPA!	<b>22</b> OPA!
<b>23</b> OPA!	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

\*CCV (Christ's Church of the Valley) enter from Happy Valley Rd West of 67th Ave.

**SIGN UP WITH PENNY OBREN: 623-214-1289**

# Consecration

October 29 & 30, 2011

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

Scottsdale, Arizona

*Presided by*

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco



**Saturday, October 29**  
**Procession of Holy Relics &**  
**Consecration Vespers**

**4 p.m.**

**Consecration Grand Banquet**

**6 p.m.**

**Westin Kierland Resort**  
**6902 E Greenway Parkway, Scottsdale**

**Sunday, October 30**  
**Orthros 7:30 AM**  
**Consecration 9:00 AM**  
**Archieratical Divine Liturgy**

**Family celebration luncheon to follow**

**~ \$10 per person**

**Reservations required**

**Westin Kierland Resort—Accommodations Special**  
**Resort Rate for “Assumption Grand Banquet Guests”**  
**\$129 per night - phone 1-800-354-5892**

*Grand Banquet*

Hors D'oeuvres Reception

**Salad**

**Mixed Greens, Manchego Cheese,**  
**Poached Pear and Maple**

**Vinaigrette**

**Bakery Warm Rolls with Sweet Butter**

**Entrée**

**Grilled Filet of Beef &**  
**Shrimp Scampi**  
**Garlic Fingerling Potatoes &**  
**Fresh Baby Vegetables**  
**Or**

**Vegetarian Entrée**

**Wine Service with Dinner**

**Dessert**

**French Chocolate Silk Tart**  
**Marinated Berries &**  
**Raspberry Sorbet**  
**Coffee or Tea**

**\$175 per person**

**Black Tie Optional**  
**Reservations required**

For Grand Banquet information, please contact Christina Dimtsios 602.762.7091,  
Michele Genetos 602.692.1015 or mdgenetos@gmail.com or Sally Solomon 602.400.8497