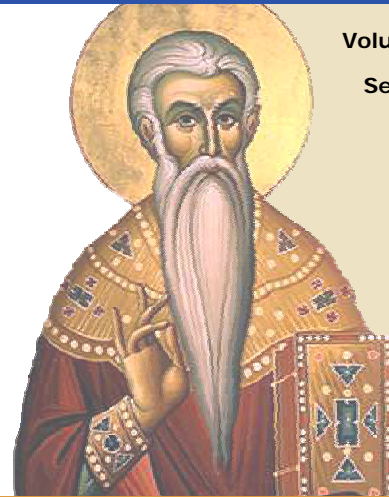


# in Touch

Volume 18, Issue 9  
September 2010



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

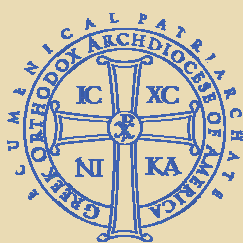
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Lord, You know that men are flesh and blood; forgive them their sins and pour out Your blessing on all. — St. Haralambos



The kick-off youth BBQ and swim party held last month was a great success and lots of fun for our young people. Many thanks to Olga Fredericksen for hosting the party at her home. Parents and children together enjoyed great fellowship, barbecued burgers and hotdogs, and a host of side dishes and desserts.

The first meeting night is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 16 at 6 pm in our social hall. Young people through high school are all welcome to attend.







## A New Church Year

How many of us will be bringing in the harvest this month? I know some of our parish families have worked on family farms in the past, but today? I can't think of any. (Backyard gardening is close, but on a much smaller scale.)

In the first several centuries of the Church, the harvest season was basic both to family survival and to the understanding of the seasons of the year. September meant gathering up the harvest and beginning to plant for future crops – a new beginning. With the Christian understanding that God is the giver of all blessings in life, the church established this time of year, September 1st, as the beginning of the Church year. The majority of us may no longer have much personal connection with life on the farm, but we still maintain our reliance on God, who “blesses and sanctifies all things.”

For St. Haralambos Church, this new year signals much hope and excitement with new programs along with the continuation of well-established events that begin their preparations. For our young people, we look forward to our Sunday School classes resuming, along with the addition of our evening youth program. For adults, the Spiritual Gifts seminar is being held (another is being planned during the Spring), and later in the month the beginning

of the Know Your Faith classes on the teachings of Orthodox Christianity. For the ladies of our parish, the Philoptochos begins its monthly meetings and, for men and women, our choir continues its weekly rehearsal. And for the entire parish – and we really do need everyone's help, preparations for our annual Greek Festival are moving along for the first festival on our new property.

The church calendar in September also celebrates the feastday of the Elevation of the Lifegiving Cross on the 14th. This first of the major feastdays of the church year recalls the finding of the cross our Lord Jesus was crucified upon by St. Helen, mother of St. Constantine the Great. The reading (from goarch.org) for this beloved feastday follows:

“Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our

Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, “Lord have mercy.”

It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country. Later, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.”

***September meant gathering up the harvest and beginning to plant for future crops – a new beginning.***



**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

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



## Know Your Faith

The Know Your Faith classes, for those considering converting to Orthodox Christianity, as well as for those who would like to learn a little more about the teachings of the Church, will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 29, at 7pm, and continue weekly on Wednesday evenings. Please contact the office so we know how many copies of class materials to make.

## Being Present in the Presence

Archimandrite Meletios Webber, Abbot of the Monastery of St. John of San Francisco, in Manton CA—monk, priest, psychologist and author of two books: [Steps of Transformation](#) and [Bread & Water, Wine & Oil](#)—presents a spiritual retreat in three sessions on:

### ***“Being Present in the Presence”***

1. **Forgiveness** (10am-noon)  
Lunch (noon-1pm)
2. **Gratitude** (1-3pm)
3. **Prayer** (3-5pm) Of course, this session on prayer will transition into: **Great Vespers** (5-6pm)

This FREE one day spiritual retreat will be hosted by **SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church** on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 10am-6pm.

Donations toward Fr Meletios' monastery are encouraged. A light lunch will be provided for a donation of \$5.

(On Sunday the 19th, Father Meletios will give the homily at Assumption Orthodox Church in Scottsdale.)

## 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](http://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.

## Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

*“Faith without works is dead.” (James 2:17)*

St. Anna Philoptochos is looking forward to the challenges and demands of the new Church Year with everyone's guidance and support.

We have a rich faith inheritance and culture of which we can be proud and worthy to pass on to future generations.

Philoptochos helps maintain the value of the Orthodox family. Help us continue this legacy. We urge all women of our parish to join us.

Next meeting is Monday, Sept. 13, at 6 pm. As has been customary the first meeting is a “Pot luck” supper prior to the meeting. Hope everyone had a restful and fun summer and are now ready to work!

## Parish Council Corner

By Ray Wysmierski, Parish Council President

Here we are and the summer is behind us and our fall activities start to take shape.

The youth programs are beginning, Sunday school starts, the festival planning and preparation, Divine Liturgy times change back, the choir returns from a summer hiatus, our snow birds return, the stewardship continues to grow, the maintenance needs to maintain our building and grounds increase...Did I say building maintenance and grounds?

Yes, we have a brand new building (although temporary for Divine Liturgy) and it needs the TLC to keep it in great shape.

How can you help? If you can spare the time and have the talents for window washing, changing light bulbs etc. please contact Stella Pagos in the church office. If you are able to contribute any "above and beyond" stewardship donations, that will work too.

As we continue to grow the parish both spiritually and physically, our financial obligations are ever-present. In addition to the cell tower rent, and St. Mary's Coptic Church payments, we have our monthly mortgage. With that said, the second collection on Sundays is currently used to help cover our current maintenance costs. Please be generous so we can not only maintain our current building, but hopefully begin to develop our vision for the building of our permanent church building.

Also keep in mind we have a program in place called the "Mortgage Protectors." Please see Stella Pagos for more information.

There are also so many exciting events taking place; however, the soon-to-be

largest Greek Festival in Northwest Phoenix will be taking place next month with plenty of our own parking, and other new additions that will have you in awe.

Thanks to all of those who are donating time, talents and finances to the success of this event and the operation of the church. And, most importantly, the organizers: Stella Pagos and Pam Lemons.

I would like to leave you with a very touching article, written by Michael Albanese, from a publication called The Upper Room July-August 2010.

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* (Matt 5:3)

"My church's pledge form had come in the mail and sat on my table for about a week. Each day as I saw the envelope and thought about all the bills, I had a conflict I felt about the spirit of my giving to the ministries of my church.

One morning I read the Bible story of the poor widow who gave generously in spite of her poverty, contributing all she had to live on, believing in faith God would sustain her. Jesus recognized this gift as more precious than the offerings of the rich who gave out of their abundance.

I realized that we all come to Christ in spiritual poverty. We have nothing to offer in return from the gifts that God gives us; we can only offer ourselves as servants to the will of God.

God receives us and welcomes us into the fullness of life. While supporting my church is an important part of my Christian calling, God does not desire offerings given out of obligation or ritual but out of my heart's love. Acknowledging my spiritual poverty before God has made me deeply grateful for all that I have and has opened my heart to support the work of the church."

## 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



Angie Cholas (4th)  
 Michael Papas (5th)  
 Jaxon Albrant (6th)  
 James Kalafat (9th)  
 Dennis Marshall (9th)  
 Nicholas Tremoulis (17th)  
 Penny Obren (17th)  
 Sierra Albrant (18th)  
 Ray Wysmierski (20th)  
 Jane Milonas (22nd)  
 Irene D. Howerin (24th)  
 Anna Kennedy-Bautista (24th)  
 Leandros Tremoulis (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.

## Name Days

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

St. Symeon (1st)  
 St. Sozon (7th)  
 St. Efrosynos the Cook (11th)  
 St. Niketas (15th)  
 St. Euphemia (16th)  
 Sts. Faith, Hope and Love (17th)  
 and their mother Sophia  
 St. Euphrosyne (25th)  
 St. Chariton (29th)  
 St. Gregory (30th)

## Sacraments

Congratulations and God's blessings to June Allen on her baptism on Sunday, Aug. 22. Her godparents are Nick and Cheryl Kosmakos. June is engaged to Gary Nicholas; and both are with the 161st Airborne Refueling Wing in the Air Force; June is a medic and Gary is a jet engine mechanic.

## Piggy Bank Fundraiser



By John Obren & Zoe Dress

In a little more than one year, your piggy bank donations have added up to

\$2,140.64, which have been deposited into the St. Haralambos Building Fund

Account. Thank you for your support of the program. In the next two months, we will be receiving some new banks, which will have a key and will not have to be destroyed to count your donation. We will put out an information bulletin when the new banks arrive. Thank you again for your "Change For The Church".

## Greek Festival

By Pam Lemons, Festival Co-Chairman

The Greek Festival is less than two months away. The permit application and layout have been submitted to the City of Peoria and the planning of the event has continued over the summer months. As you are probably aware, one of the biggest challenges in our new location is the lack of kitchen facilities for food and pastry preparation. A simple phone call by one of our parishioners to the Christ Church of the Valley (CCV) resulted in a huge blessing for us. CCV, located at 67th Avenue and Happy Valley Road, has generously donated the use of their kitchen facilities for all of our food and pastry preparation as well as freezer and storage space. The CCV executive chef and kitchen staff will also be available to assist us during the baking and food preparation. Thank you, Jeannette Hollander, for the idea and contact with CCV.

We are still in need of advertisers, sponsors and boosters too offset the expenses for the Festival advertising. If you are able, please distribute the letter and form on the following page to businesses or individuals that may be interested in advertising in the Festival program. For those of you on Greek time, the ad deadline has been extended to Sept. 19.

The next meeting of the Festival Committee is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. These are open meetings and everyone is encouraged and invited to attend.





# SAINT HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ 85383 • Tel.: (623) 486-8665 • Fax: (623) 486-5290  
Web: [www.stharalambos.org](http://www.stharalambos.org) • E-mail: [Office@StHaralambosAZ.com](mailto:Office@StHaralambosAZ.com) • [FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com](mailto:FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com)

August, 2010

Dear Friend,

The 23rd Annual Taste of Greece Food and Dance Festival will be held October 22, 23 & 24, 2010 in Peoria. The "Taste of Greece" Festival attracts thousands of local and valley-wide residents each year and is the only Greek Festival in the West Valley. Proceeds from this annual event benefit parish ministries and our new Church building fund.

I write to you today to request your support of the 2010 Taste of Greece Festival. Various sponsorship opportunities are available from advertising in the Festival program to donation of raffle/door prizes. A Sponsorship Form, on the back of this letter, identifies levels of participation for your consideration. Of course, a contribution at any level is greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged in the Festival program and all donations are tax deductible. For your records, the Federal tax ID Number for St. Haralambos Church is: 86-0594146.

This past Spring, St. Haralambos Church moved from its downtown Peoria location to a new facility located at 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, in north Peoria. This new location will provide improved parking and more spacious Festival grounds. I do hope that you will join us as a contributor and also for a fabulous weekend of authentic Greek food, dancing and entertainment.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Church office at 623-486-8665.

Thank you, again. OPA!

Sincerely,  
Pam Lemons  
Co-Chairman, Annual Greek Festival

**ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**2010 "TASTE OF GREECE" FOOD AND DANCE FESTIVAL**

October 22, 23 & 24, 2010

**SPONSORSHIP FORM**

**Company Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**FESTIVAL PROGRAM ADVERTISING**

**AD DEADLINE: September 19, 2010**

Check One	Type	Cost	Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Page Ad	\$500	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 7 ½" h
<input type="checkbox"/>	Half Page Ad	\$300	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 3 ½" h
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Card Ad	\$100	2" x 3 ½" Standard size
<input type="checkbox"/>	Festival Booster	\$25	Name recognized in Festival Program

**Please provide logo, ad or business card in .jpeg format or camera ready artwork.**

Email artwork to: pamruss30@msn.com

	Other	Value	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raffle prizes-gift card, donation, etc.	\$	

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!**

**Please return completed form to:**

Pam Lemons, Greek Festival

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Peoria, AZ 85383

*For tax purposes, St. Haralambos Federal Tax ID Number is: 86-0594146*



# SEPTEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy Beginning of the Church Year	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>6</b> Labor Day (Church Office Closed)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy Birth of Theotokos 7:00pm Spiritual Gifts Seminar: Sessions 1 & 2	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday School Begins Grandparents Sunday Holy Cross Seminary Program	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Philoptochos: Potluck	<b>14</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Elevation of the Holy Cross 7:00pm Parish Council	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Spiritual Gifts Seminar: Sessions 3 & 4	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Youth Meeting 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Spiritual Gifts Seminar: Sessions 5 & 6	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Know the Faith Teachings of the Orthodox Church	<b>30</b> 7:00pm Choir Practice		

# FESTIVAL BAKING AND FOOD PREP SCHEDULE OCTOBER 2010

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

\*CCV (Christ's Church of the Valley, 67th Avenue and Happy Valley Road) Get directions from Stella, Lisa, Penny, or Jeanette  
**SIGN UP WITH PENNY OBREN: 623-214-1289**