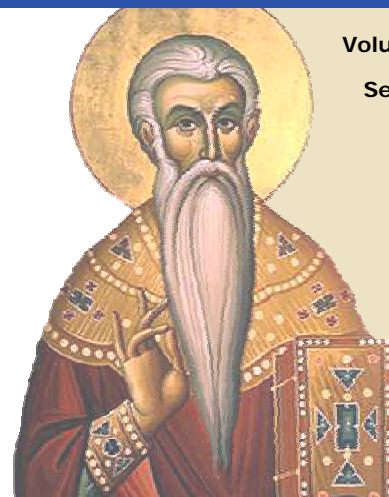


in Touch

Volume 17, Issue 9

September 2009



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

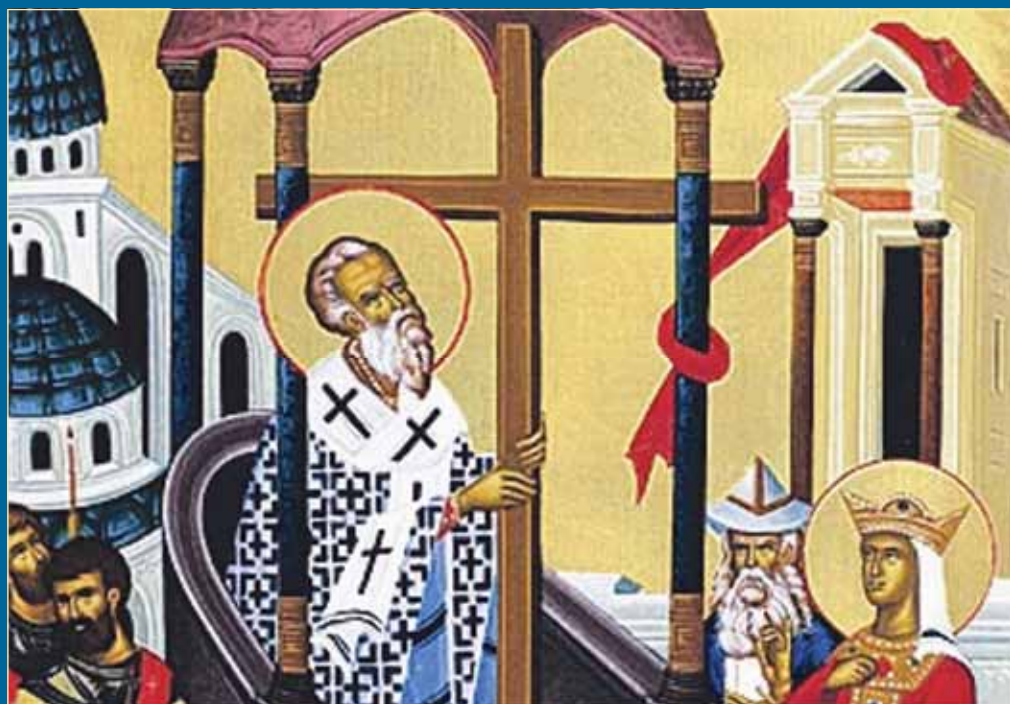
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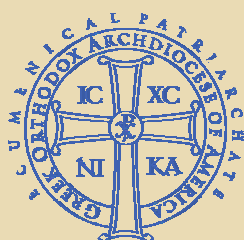
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Feastday of the Life-giving Cross
Monday, September 14



**Groundbreaking of
St. Haralambos Building Project**
Sunday, September 20

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



Taking a Leap of Faith
St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
Peoria, Arizona

*Proudly Announces a
 Two-Day Groundbreaking Event
 Celebrating the Construction of Our New
 Worship Space and Fellowship Hall*

*Officiated by
 His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos*

Saturday, September 19, 2009

5:00pm Vesper Service

6:00pm Reception and Dinner Banquet

St. Haralambos Church

10320 North 84th Avenue, Peoria, Arizona

Adults: \$50 – Children under 12: \$25

RSVP by September 12, 2009

Sunday, September 20, 2009

8:45am Orthros

10:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

12-1:00pm Social Hour

1:30pm Groundbreaking Service

*75th Avenue and Greenway Road
 Peoria, Arizona*

Two-Day Ground Breaking Celebration

September 19 - 20

The time has finally arrived for us to celebrate and be celebrated. We have all worked hard for this and we should all be proud of our achievements. Plan to attend both Saturday and Sunday and be a part of this milestone event as we remove that first shovelful of dirt and start the long-awaited building process at our new location, 75th Avenue and Greenway Road.





An Exciting Month Ahead

12 men and women from our parish will be sporting smiles and shovels for the groundbreaking ceremony led by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos on Sunday, Sep. 20, to be held on our new church property at 1:30p.m. This long-awaited event, at which everyone in our parish should do their best to be present, signals a major milestone in the history of St. Haralambos Church. As is the tradition of all Orthodox Christian parishes undertaking a project of this significance, the ceremony will begin with prayers asking for the continued guidance and blessing of Almighty God.

The large fellowship hall, the first building to be constructed according to the Master Plan of our building project, will initially be subdivided to provide space for worship, fellowship, education and administration. (Everyone should be aware by now, that the size of the new fellowship hall is going to be as large as our current church property, minus the backyard.) City of Peoria requirements along with the architectural design elements will result in a beautiful and functional new church home complete with plenty of on-site parking. It is

an exciting beginning to the new church year!

Also taking place in September will be the weekly Tuesday morning bible study, and the Wednesday evening "Know the Faith" adult education classes on "the Basics and Beyond" of Orthodox Christianity. (Flyers on the Know the Faith classes will be available at an information table at the groundbreaking ceremony. All are welcome.) Sunday School classes begin, festival preparations continue, the Philoptochos resumes its monthly meetings, along with a host of other activities.

The major feastday on the liturgical calendar for September is the Elevation of the Universal and Life-giving Cross celebrated on the 14th, commemorating the finding by St. Helen of the cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified.

The written history of the finding of the cross notes that, "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."

Through divine intervention, the cross of our Lord was revealed, prompting St. Helen to build a new church over the place where it was discovered.

I believe it is quite meaningful for us that the groundbreaking ceremony for our new building takes place on the Sunday following the feastday of the Holy Cross. St. Helen's efforts were blessed by God, and combined with her unwavering faith and dedication, led to one of the most sacred and historic discoveries in history.

May our efforts be worthy of God's blessing, may our faith and dedication imitate that of St. Helen, and may the ground that we break to begin construction of our new fellowship hall be a sign to all of the continued growth of St. Haralambos Church and of the Orthodox Christian faith.

Through divine intervention, the cross of our Lord was revealed



**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



Parishioner Profile

Dennis Georgen, our Choir Director, was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, where he met his wife Victoria. They were married in 1979. Dennis's employment made it necessary to move frequently: seven times in 22 years! His four children were born during this time but none were born in the same city. He also has three grandchildren.

The Georgens landed in Phoenix in 2000. Through all the moves Dennis was active in the Orthodox Church. He has sung in the choir since he was 18, and has been choir director at St. Haralambos for

the past three years. Anyone who attends church will recognize all the improvements he has implemented.

His hopes for our church are to finish the building project, increase the number of church choir members, and for the choir to record a CD and win a Grammy for it.

Listen to Dennis and the choir and look back to see how much he has given to St. Haralambos, and what a great job he continues to do!

Supporting Our Building Fund

"The most acceptable service to God is doing good to man."

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

A pledge of any size makes a difference – it truly does! It is much easier than you think. Can you afford \$10 per week for the next five years? This would fulfill a pledge of \$2,500. Dedicating just \$20 dollars a week would pay for a \$5,000 pledge. Or look at it another way: *Set aside the first hour of your workweek as a labor for God.* If your hourly pay rate is \$10, or twice that, this solidifies and endows your participation in the Building Fund.

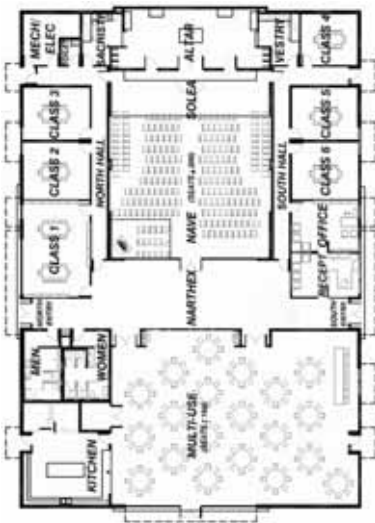
By Dec. 21, 2010, a beautiful new, state-of-the-art, 13,000 sq. ft. St. Haralambos Church will stand completed and ready to occupy at 75th Avenue and Greenway Road. You, as one of the Stewards who made this possible, can rightfully say, ***"I did my part, I helped make this dream an actuality – I made this dream come true."***

Think of the personal satisfaction of knowing that you are part of St. Haralambos' most important building project in the history of our Church (to

date). *Your pledge, no matter its size, will be deeply-rooted in the very origin of our new Church Building - forever! This will be our legacy to the future generations in a common cause for Greek Orthodoxy in Peoria and the greater Northwest Phoenix Metropolitan area.*

We are all in this **together**, and together we must rise to meet the challenge. St. Haralambos Church currently has 148 pledging families. As of August, 57 stewards have pledged to our Building Fund; this is 40% participation. If we reach our goal of all 148 Steward families pledging, we could then have additional pledges of \$806,000 over the next five years! This amount, coupled with the gifts we now have would put us over \$2,000,000 of the \$3,500,000 needed to build our new Church and campus.

Of course, some may not be able to give \$10, \$20, \$30 or \$50 per week. But then others may be able to give more. What is paramount is that the source of your gift comes from the heart, *from that part of you that recognizes the benefit of being associated with something bigger than yourself.*



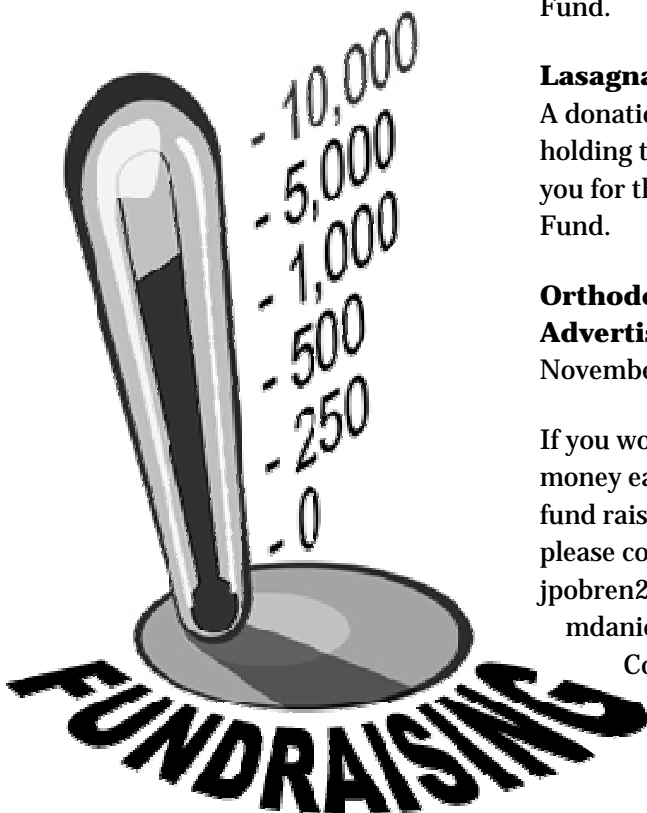
Fund Raising Activities

General Information

The treasurer's report posted on the Narthex bulletin board shows that in the first six months of 2009 over \$30,000 has been deposited into our building fund account. The fund raising committee estimated that \$60,000 would be deposited by year's end.

\$10,000 Cash Raffle

The purchase of the raffle tickets started off with a bang but has slowed significantly. Please read your ticket stub as to how the cash prizes will be distributed if less than 500 tickets are sold. We have sold 100 tickets with 75 tickets in the hands of Stewards. Hopefully we will have at least 150 tickets sold when the winners are drawn during our groundbreaking celebration banquet on Sep.19. Let's go rafflers!



Piggy Bank Building Fund Program

This is a ongoing fundraiser and will continue until we all 'Pig Out' on our change the next two or three years. Oink – Oink! In two weeks, more than \$350 has been collected.

Denny's Fundraiser Dinner

was held last month and was a lot of fun. Thank you Connie Scouffas for coordinating this fundraiser.

Letters for Gifts

August, September & October

Letter for Donations

August, September & October

Wine & Cheese Tasting

A donation has been given in lieu of holding this fund raising event. Thank you for the donation to our Building Fund.

Lasagna Dinner

A donation has been given in lieu of holding this fund raising event. Thank you for the donation to our Building Fund.

Orthodox Observer – Donation Advertisement

November

If you would like to sponsor or conduct a money earning project or if you have any fund raising ideas, activities or questions please contact John Obren at: jpobren2@cox.net or Mike Danielek at: mdanielek1@cox.net or during our Coffee Hour in our Fellowship Hall after Divine Liturgy. Thank You.

Return to Regular Service Schedule

September marks the end of the summer Sunday schedule! We return to regular schedule beginning Sunday, Sep. 6: Matins at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy at 10am

ORGANIZATIONS



Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Aug 2	Pam Lemons
Aug 9	Philoptochos
Aug 16	Arthur & Mary Manos
Aug 23	Philoptochos
Aug 30	Ray & Mary Wymierski
Sept 6	Stella Kosta
Sept 13	James & Andrea Constant
Sept 20	Philoptochos
Sept 27	Sue Charbel

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

Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

I hope all of you had a good summer.

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, Sep. 1 at 6pm. We will have a pot luck and would like to invite everyone to attend. Our beautiful quilt will be given to one

lucky winner at the potluck.

The 2nd edition of the Philoptochos Cookbook is at the printers and will be available in time for the Festival.

We are always looking for new members and invite all of you to come and join us.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

WHO AM I? Our Secular Identities Contrasted with our Identity in Christ Anthony M. Coniaris., 90 pp.

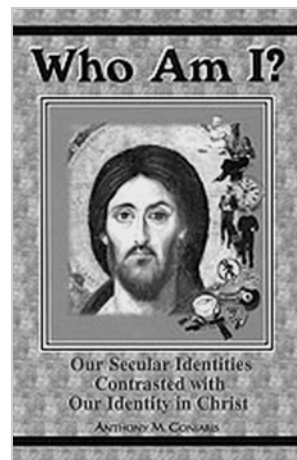
"Society is sick and dreadfully unhappy, because of their 'identity crisis'. People don't know who they are." According to Fr. Anthony, "The basic question which determines our identity is 'Who am I before God?' Sometimes we suffer from 'amnesia in our spiritual life,' forgetting who God says we are and why He has put us here.

We are here because God created us in His image and instructed us to address Him as "Our Father." We are linked to the lower animals, but "the English word 'anthropoid' comes from the Greek 'anthropos' which means 'a creature that looks up.' We're created to look up to find the link binding us to God. "If man has a physical link to the animal kingdom in pithecanthropus", he has "a spiritual link to God" in Christ who is "our link to our true identity, to salvation, to purposeful living and life everlasting."

"When did the prodigal son decide to leave the pigpen? Exactly when he remembered who and whose he was. He remembered his father. Life without God is like living in a pigpen...believing that the pigpen is all there is to life."

"As living images and children of God, we have an eternal inheritance, a kingdom prepared for us to behold His glory forever!" He has chosen us as His "favorite dwelling place". St. Augustine wrote, "...value yourselves by the price that was paid for you."

In a survey that Fr. Coniaris did among atheists, one person responded that he felt like baggage left on a conveyor belt that no one wanted to claim. But God has claimed us for His own, put His mark on us during Chrismation.



When we are "lonely, tempted, weary, afraid, sick or guilt-burdened," Fr. Anthony says we also must "remember who [we] are and whose [we] are," children of God, "chosen by Him, forgiven by Him, and loved by Him for all eternity." His strength, love and peace are ours "for the asking".

"God foreknows each one of us in our special uniqueness, and for each one He has a special love and a different plan." In

each of us He sees unique possibilities. As adults, Fr. Coniaris urges us to ask ourselves, "Do I live in the Spirit each day and pray in the Spirit? Does my life glorify God?" We need to "actualize the image of God in us," and realize "I am not a sex object, a consumer, a computer number, a receptacle for drugs...I am made to be the dwelling place of God."

Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Director

Sunday School begins on the 13th of September. We are continuing to register students for our classes so please find us in the fellowship hall during our Social hour. We have forms for you to fill out and, of course, a brand new, sharpened No. 2 lead pencil is waiting.

We are excited and honored to have your children under our care, and we pray that we build an Orthodox Christian foundation that will hold all of us under our Lord's care.

We welcome a new teacher this year, Stephanie Danos. She was a former

student of mine at Holy Trinity in the 7th and 8th grade Sunday School class. Stephanie has committed to teaching our youngsters and creating 32 weekly lessons for her students. We welcome Stephanie Danos to our faculty. I am looking forward to mentoring her and assisting her to be the best that she can be.

For additional information or if you would like to volunteer as a teacher or teacher's assistant, please contact the Church office or you can email Mike Danielek at mdanielek1@cox.net

Stewardship

Reproduced from the newsletter of St. Sava Servian Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana.

Do you know someone who has gone through life with these attitudes regarding Stewardship? A sad commentary, but hopefully one that can change with education and the right attitude about returning a portion of our blessings back to God by supporting His Church.

Age 1: "I'd like to give to the church, Lord, but you see I'm still in diapers, and I don't have any money of my own. I'm sure you understand."

Age 3: "I'd like to give to the church, Lord, but you see I'm just a toddler, and I haven't learned to count just yet. I'm sure you understand."

Age 6: "I'd like to give to the church, Lord, but daddy only gives me a quarter for allowance, and ten percent would only be 2-1/2 cents. I'm sure you understand."

Age 16: "I'd like to give to the church, Lord, but mom says to save the money for college, though \$7.50 at the movies only seems fair, so I won't be square. I'm sure you understand."

Age 20: "I'd like to give to the church, Lord, but now that I'm on a college scholarship it would be unfair to give an offering when some are helping me. I'm sure you understand."

Age 25: "I'd like to give to the church, Lord, but I just got married and setting up a home has to be the number one priority... payments and everything. I'm sure you understand."

Age 35: "I'd like to give to the church, Lord, but you see, raising a family's more expensive than I thought. And I never know when I might be laid off or go on strike. I'm sure you understand."

Age 45: "I'd like to give to the church, Lord, but a college education these days is more than ever. My mission is to my kids for the next ten years. I'm sure you understand."

Age 65: "I'd like to give to the church, Lord, but retirement's come for both of us, and you know what it's like to live on a fixed income. I'm sure you understand."

Age 80: "I'd like to give to the church, Lord, but now my will is all drawn up, and though I forgot the church, I'm sure my kids will take care of it the way I always did. I'm sure you understand."

2009-10 Sunday School Calendar

Sept. 13 - Opening Day

Sept. 20 - Groundbreaking Ceremony (no school)

Oct. 25 - 'Taste of Greece' (no school)

Nov. 29 - Thanksgiving Weekend (no school)

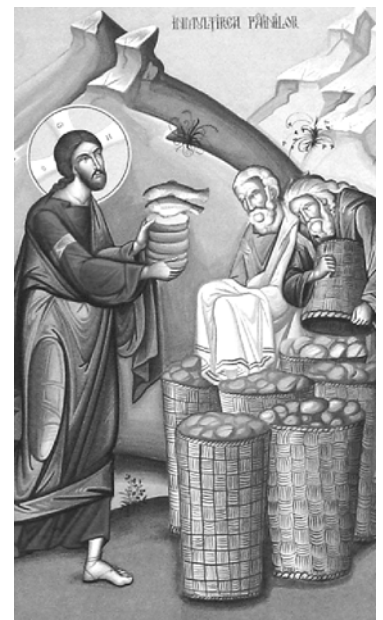
Dec. 27 - Christmas (no school)

Jan. 3 - New Years (no school)

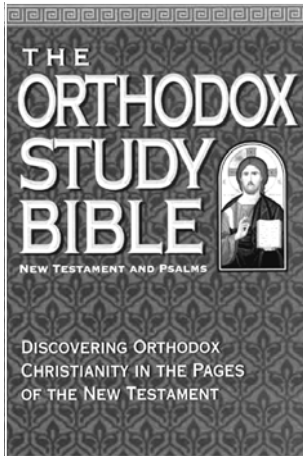
Mar. 28 - Palm Sunday (no school)

Apr. 4 - Pascha/Easter Sunday (no school)

May 23 - End of Year Ceremony (no school)



ORGANIZATIONS



Thought for the Month

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... It's about learning to dance in the rain."

Bible Study

The return of the Tuesday morning bible study starts on Tuesday, Sep. 15 at 10:30am in the library. Bring a copy of

your bible, your enthusiasm and desire to learn and discuss the scriptures. All are welcome.

Know the Faith

Understanding the Basics and Beyond of Orthodox Christianity

What is "orthodox" about Orthodox Christianity, and how does it compare with non-Orthodox Christian churches? What are the similarities and differences? Why do we celebrate Easter on a different date than other Christian churches? Why is the Virgin Mary referred to as the Theotokos? What do we believe about Saints and Sacraments?

new class held Wednesday evenings beginning Sep. 23. Classes will meet in the library at 7pm, and continue weekly until Wednesday, Nov. 18. (No classes on Oct. 21 and 28)

Please call the office if you're planning on attending so enough materials can be prepared.

Come learn, discuss and ask questions about the Orthodox Christian Church in a

2009 Taste of Greece Festival

By Pam Lemons & Stella Pagos,
Festival Chairmen

The Taste of Greece Festival is just around the corner and final preparations are being made to once again 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 for food preparation and baking schedule on page 9. Keep a lookout for Penny Obren and Despina Medina who will be available on Sundays throughout September and October to sign up volunteers. Please note that we will open the Festival early on Friday, Oct. 23 at 4 pm to accommodate early diners.

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!



FESTIVAL BAKING AND FOOD PREP SCHEDULE OCTOBER 2009

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

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

SIGN UP WITH PENNY OBREN: 623-214-1289

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.

Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of Helen Sigel, who fell asleep in the Lord on July 24. Helen, the mother of Parish Council Secretary Mary Wysmierski, had recently moved to Arizona from Wisconsin. May her memory be eternal, and may God's love grant comfort to her family.

Birthdays



Angie Cholas (4th)
Michael Papas (5th)
Jaxon Albrant (6th)
James Kalafat (9th)
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)	Sts. Faith, Hope and Charity (17th)
St. Efrosynos (11th)	and their mother Sophia
St. Gerasimos of Leondarion (14th)	St. Akilina (27th)
St. Niketas (15th)	St. Chariton (29th)
St. Euphemia (16th)	St. Gregory (30th)

The Life-giving Cross

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.



SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	7 Labor Day (church office closed)	8 9:00am Divine Liturgy Birth of Theotokos	9	10 7:00pm Choir	11	12
13 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	14 9:00am Divine Liturgy Holy Cross	15 10:30am Bible Study	16	17 7:00pm Choir	18	19 5:00pm Vespers 6:00pm Groundbreaking Banquet
20 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Gerasimos 1:30pm Groundbreaking Ceremony	21	22 10:30am Bible Study	23 7:00pm Know Your Faith	24 7:00pm Choir	25	26
27 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	28	29 10:30am Bible Study	30 7:00pm Know Your Faith			