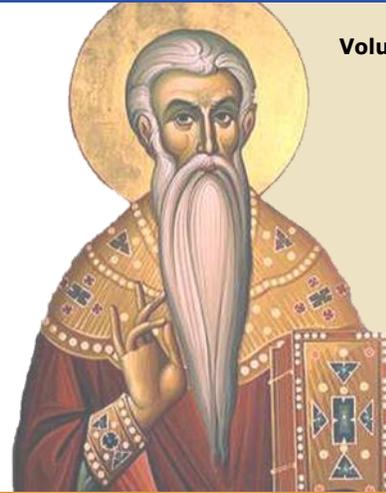


in Touch

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The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Transfiguration of Christ

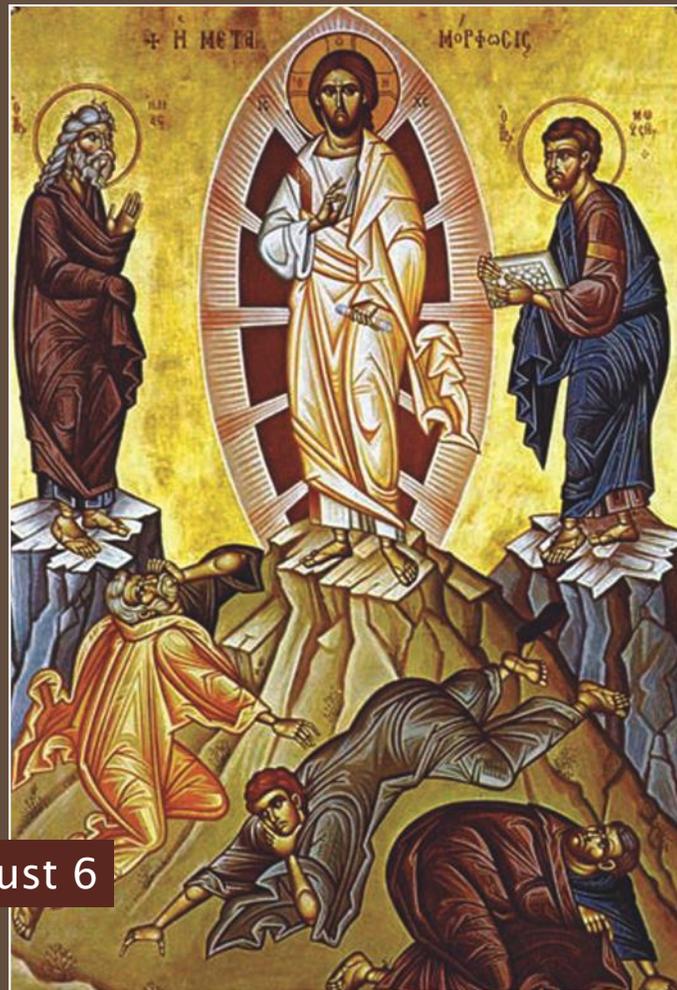
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August 6



“You were transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, revealing Your glory to Your disciples, insofar as they could comprehend.”

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

Meeting the New Archbishop of America

All parishioners are invited to meet His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America on his first visit to Arizona at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, Aug. 6 at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Beginning with praying the Office of Supplication to the Theotokos and followed by a wonderful reception in the Speros Community Center, this will be the first time to greet and personally welcome His Eminence.



Valley-wide Youth Event

The first Valley-wide Orthodox youth kick-off event will be Saturday Aug. 24. Everyone 6th–12th grade is invited. This fun night with youth from churches around the valley will include games, great talks, and fellowship. Starting at 5:30 pm, wrapping up around about 9:30 pm at St John the Evangelist Church in Tempe. Those willing to help please contact Fr. Jacob Saylor, frjacob@assumptionaz.org St Haralambos contact is Jean Baxter 602-616-0740 or jiangsumom@cs.com

St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church, 916 S. 52nd Street, Tempe. Phone: 480-427-0630

August Feastdays

The Office of Supplication to the Theotokos will be chanted on Aug. 2, 7, 9 and 12 at 7 pm at St. Haralambos Church. This beautiful prayer service offers prayers and hymns to the Holy Mother of God, asking for her special intercessory prayers.

The Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos will be celebrated on Thursday, Aug. 15 at 9 am.

The feastday of the Transfiguration of Christ will be celebrated with Vespers on the evening of Aug. 5 at 7 pm, followed by the Divine Liturgy on Aug. 6 at 9 am.

Sunday School

Our young people need you. Sunday School will start on Aug. 25 (registration form page 8). If you are willing to help share a class or substitute, please volunteer. Sunday school runs through the school year. We're looking to share teaching with no one person completely responsible for the class. You will get the support you need and curriculum, too. No experience needed, just your willingness. Please contact Jean Baxter, Sunday School coordinator at 602-616-0740 or jiangsumom@cs.com A text or call is just fine!

Church Building and Grounds Summer Clean-up

Volunteers needed! All are invited at 8 am on Saturday, Aug. 17, to help keep our grounds and building in good condition. The work will include: removing wax on floors and chairs, patching and paint touch-ups, carpet cleaning, organizing rooms, window washing and anything else we can do to prepare our home for the guests we will be inviting to join us in the near future. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Please contact Dean Milonas at 602-540-9920 if you have any questions.





A Miraculous Vision for the Disciples

The Disciples of Christ watched Him perform a variety of miracles: healing the sick, raising Lazarus from the dead, even walking on water. Certainly they were amazed and couldn't believe their eyes when they saw what these miracles did for others, and for themselves. But there was one miraculous event that revealed Jesus' divine nature unlike any other. This event is known as the Transfiguration of Christ.

Celebrated on the Orthodox Church calendar on Aug. 6, and written in Saint Matthew's Gospel (Chapter 17) it was an event witnessed only by three of the disciples: Peter, James and his brother, John. They climbed a high mountain together (traditionally Mt. Tabor) where Jesus was transfigured before them. "His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as the light." (Mt. 17:2) Beholding their Master illuminated with divine light, they fell to the ground in awe, as did Moses when he beheld God on Mt. Sinai in the burning bush. (Ex. 3)

No human being is capable of being transfigured in such a way. St. Peter responds with the only words that seemed appropriate, "It is good for us to be here." A thick cloud then descends on the scene, and Moses and Elijah appear, conversing with Jesus! And finally, the voice of God the Father speaks from within the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!"

The disciples eventually lift up their heads only to see that the cloud had disappeared and Jesus, again, standing alone. What an experience! And then they had the long journey back down the mountain, but Jesus commands them, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Don't tell anyone? Not the family, not the other disciples? Can you imagine a more difficult secret to keep? Perhaps Jesus knew it would seem too far-fetched for anyone to believe, or perhaps he didn't want these three to fall into pride, being privileged to witness an event that the other nine disciples did not. They saw the miracle, showing Jesus' divinity, but were forbidden to talk about it afterwards.

Not so simple! And yet, it is something with which people of faith are very familiar. How easy a thing is it to describe your faith in God to someone? Has there been an event in your life that convinced you that God was real, that He is not just the God of the Bible, but a living and present God today?

Again, not so simple. Some may not want to listen, or might not believe you, or believe what you say is true for you, but not for them. Others will insist on proof before they consider believing in God. So far, as we all know, that proof doesn't exist.

Even the account of first-hand witnesses to miracles is not enough to convince everyone. It helps, it might inspire, even persuade, some. To be absolutely convinced, and to be converted from the heart, where real faith takes root, one must experience the living God personally.

Although created in the image and likeness of God, and having been baptized in the Orthodox Church, and having the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, God still gives each of us the ability to turn away from Him, to say "no" to faith, to walk in the exact opposite direction His teachings lead, to deny His

(Continued on page 5)

They saw the miracle, showing Jesus' divinity, but were forbidden to talk about it afterwards.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship

Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 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

Olga Carlson	Ted Manos
Roy Christian	Paul McGinn
John Hrapchak	Dean Milonas
Anna Kinniburgh	Ken Wrona

DEBT FREE 2020

Mortgage Payoff Campaign

Thank you to all who have donated towards eliminating this burden. We have brought our building mortgage down to just **\$24,000!** Please be as generous as possible in helping us achieve this goal. Together we can truly be **"Debt Free by 2020"**.



Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of His servant, Chris Birtsas, who fell asleep in the Lord on Jul. 4. May our Lord give peace and consolation to his family, and may his memory be eternal.

Understanding our Mission

We are a loving Christ-centered community whose mission is to keep, practice and proclaim our Orthodox Christian faith as a living presence to those around us.

We are a loving Christ-centered community.

Jhn 13:34 - *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

In order to be a loving we must be Christ-centered, not self-centered. We must go beyond our personal likes and dislikes. We need to leave our egos and personal agendas at home. "Not my will, but Your will be done." The very definition of love is selfless.

1Co 13:4 - Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

It is through our love and our actions (fruit) that we are witnesses to Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the Light that must shine from our community.

Luk 8:16 - *"No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

We are not in the business of making money. We are in the business of pleasing God. Our goal as followers of Jesus Christ is to please the Father in our actions. It's not about making ourselves happy but making God happy.

Phl 2:12 - Therefore, my beloved work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Heb 13:20 - Now may the God of peace make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ.

As the 'Body of Christ', we need to work harder at humbly accepting each other's imperfections and growing in the Love of God. For it is through this Love that we are unified in the Spirit through Jesus Christ (The Vine) and will bring forth the fruit which is pleasing to the Father. God wants us to unite in our mission which He has set forth.

Eph 4:1 - Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature adulthood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:15 - Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away falsehood, let everyone speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom

(Continued on page 5)

Summer Food Drive

The shelves at Valley View Community Food Bank in El Mirage, which we have been supporting for several years, has announced that they are facing a critical shortage of canned food. This will be particularly hard during the summer when the demand is greater from their younger clients. The Food Bank, started in 2007, now serves 300,000 people per year.

During the summer months (June - August) please remember to bring canned goods to support the Valley View Food Bank! The collection bin is in the Observation Area (where Sunday

refreshments are served), and can also be dropped off Mon – Fri, 10 am – 3 pm.



Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

existence in the world and in our personal lives.

Until we, ourselves, decide that we've had enough of life without God, that living in the world is empty without Him, that to be truly human means recognizing our need for something more, something better, something eternal, something beyond what we can see, touch and hear, until we come to know the love of God for us in spite of our weaknesses, sins and pettiness, we will never be convinced of His existence, let alone the need to love and follow Him.

How can we have this personal experience of the living God? A good place to start is to learn from the experiences of those who have come before us: they did

so by reading scripture, by regular prayer, by being an active part of the church community, by attending corporate prayer services (the Divine Liturgy, among many others), by regular participation in the Sacraments of the Church, by following the fasting periods, by listening to the common struggles of others who are trying to live a similar life, by praying for them, and by asking others to pray for us.

When you knock at God's door, He not only hears you knocking, but He opens wide the door. This is a promise of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Knocking on the door is just the first step. I encourage you to take that step, and experience a life of faith that can convince you of God's existence, of His love for you, and of the great joy in becoming one of His followers.

Understanding our Mission

(Continued from page 4)

you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Phl 1:27 - That you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

May God enlighten us and strengthen us moving forward towards fulfilling our mission. Amen.

Birthdays



- Paul McGinn (1)
- Irene Nathanson (4)
- Joseph Berte (4)
- Dorothy Ayan (5)
- Olga Fredericksen (6)
- Daniel Martin Jr. (6)
- Phillip Bell (7)
- Georgia Savaidis (7)
- Pierce Retsinas (11)
- Victoria Georgen (15)
- Bella Dent (15)
- Amara Dent (15)
- Theofanis Christakos (16)
- Jean DalPan (17)
- Alexis Tremoulis (17)
- Thalia Christian (18)
- Chryss Danielek (18)
- Fr. Michael Pallad (18)
- John DalPan (22)
- Michael Fulghum (22)
- Kara Martin (23)
- Nancy Birk (24)
- Angela Covault (27)
- Val Danos (27)
- Elias Caratachea (29)
- Keegan Kelly (30)
- Zewdi Asfaha (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.

Arizona Pan-Orthodox Choral Event: Registration Is Now Open!

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHORAL FELLOWSHIP

ONE DAY. ONE HYMN. ONE CHURCH.

September 21, 2019

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - SCOTTSDALE, AZ

COME SING WITH US!

- An enjoyable day of choral music fellowship
- Join parishioners from AZ Orthodox churches
- World premiere of "Christ is Born; Glorify Him!", a new Orthodox Christmas hymn
- Video recording to be posted on social media

DETAILS

- Family event for ages 8 - 98!
- 10:00am - 3:00pm
- Lunch included
- Adults \$15
- Students \$10
- Register at occfellowship.org after August 1st

No choral experience necessary.

If you love to sing, you will love this event!



<https://www.facebook.com/occfellowship>



The Way, An Introduction to the Orthodox Christian Faith

Please join us for this wonderful 12-week program, beginning Tuesday, Sep. 17 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Room. Each evening will begin with dinner, followed by the topic of the evening, small group discussion and ending with a Question and Answer session.

Evening Agenda

Dinner 6pm – 6:30pm

Presentation: 6:45 – 7:30pm

Small Group Discussion: 7:30pm – 8pm

Question and Answer Session: 8pm – 8:30pm

Registration Fee

Received by September 1: \$60/person; \$100/couple

Received after September 1: \$70/person; \$120/couple

Tuesday Evenings

1. Sep. 17: The Search for Faith
2. Sep. 24: God the Holy Trinity
3. Oct. 1: Being Human: Fully Alive
4. Oct. 8: Why Did Jesus Come to Us?
5. Oct. 15: Salvation in Christ
6. Oct. 22: The Holy Spirit
7. Oct. 29: What on Earth is the Church?
Nov. 5: No Class
8. Nov. 12: Living the Faith: The Divine Liturgy
9. Nov. 19: Living the Faith: The Holy Mysteries
10. Nov. 26: Living the Faith: The Bible, Prayer and Fasting
11. Dec. 3: Living the Faith: Christian Behavior
12. Dec. 10: Heaven on Earth: Members of the Church and Citizens of Heaven

Name(s) _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Payment Method

Check (payable to Saint Haralambos Church) enclosed: \$ _____

Credit Card (Available Sundays during Coffee Hour)

Mail Registration Forms to St. Haralambos Church, 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, Arizona 85383



Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
Peoria, Arizona

Youth Registration Form

PARENT INFORMATION

FATHER

Last Name, First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

MOTHER

Last Name, First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT (other than parent or guardian)

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

CHILDREN

Last Name, First Name	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)	Grade level	Medical Issues, Allergies, Restrictions

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

Sunday Snacks

Christmas Program

Holy Friday Retreat

Classroom Assistant

Preferred Level:

Pre-K (age 3 - 4 yrs)

K-3rd Grade

4th-6th Grade

7th-8th Grade

9th-12th Grade

Event Chaperone

Event Transportation

AUGUST 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the Theotokos	3
4 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	5 7:00pm Vespers Transfiguration of Christ	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy Transfiguration of Christ 6:30pm Office of Supplication Greeting of Archbishop Elpidophoros (Holy Trinity Cathedral)	7 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the Theotokos	8	9 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the Theotokos	10
11 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	12 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the Theotokos	13 6:30pm Parish Council	14 6:00pm Vespers Dormition of the Theotokos (Scottsdale)	15 9:00am Divine Liturgy Dormition of the Theotokos	16	17 8:00am Building/ Grounds Clean-up
18 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	26	27	28	29 9:00am Divine Liturgy Beheading of John the Baptist	30	31