

in Touch

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The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

The Lenten Journey Comes to a Close

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*Come Receive
the Light*



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

Forever Young *Out to Lunch*

Dear fellow seniors, yes that means anyone 50 or older, we are planning to go to lunch on Thursday, Apr. 3 at the "Two Brothers Kitchen Restaurant".

We will meet there by 1 p.m. The address is: 3655 W. Anthem Way, Anthem, 623-551-2276, they are in the Safeway Shopping Center on the east side of I17 going north from the valley. The restaurant is owned by the Alexopoulos family, who attend St. Haralambos.

If anyone wishes to carpool, please call or email Julie.

Please plan to join us for this delicious trip; you will not be disappointed! I have checked their web site and the comments that customers have made about the quality

of their food has left my mouth watering. I cannot wait to go.

Please make your reservations ASAP; we need to have a count, contact Julie at her home, 623-972-2382, or email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com. Julie will also be available at church on Sunday.

On Sunday, Apr. 13 at 3 p.m. there will be a free concert by the Arizona Winds Concert Band at Mountain Ridge High School, 22800 N. 67th Avenue, Glendale. Please plan to be there by 2:30 p.m. as these concerts are very popular. Please try to

make this, I promise you that you will enjoy their "Spring Concert".

I am planning an outing for May, a picnic or a trip to a local fair. More info will follow.



St. Anthony's Monastery, March 15, 2014

YOUTH GROUP

On Saturday, Mar. 8, 16 of us met at Valley View Community Food Bank to volunteer our time. We spent a few hours packaging bags of dried pasta that could be distributed. It was so nice to have a group from our church volunteer, and I know the kids really enjoyed their time volunteering. In all, St. Haralambos donated 32 hours of time. Thank you to all who came!



Plans are underway for our annual Holy Friday Retreat. Since the children had such a wonderful time volunteering, our focus for the retreat will be Let Us Give. Children will participate in a service project for the homeless and much more! The retreat will be Apr. 18 from 12 p.m.—3 p.m. Parents, more details will be coming soon, but please plan on feeding your children lunch before attending and then joining the youth for the 3 p.m. service in which the children will be participating in the service.

There is no cost for children to attend the retreat; however, any donations would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers are needed on the day of the retreat.

See Lindsay if you would like to help. Please register as soon as possible!



Holy Week

The celebration of Christ's resurrection is celebrated in both eastern and western Christian traditions this year on Sunday, Apr. 20. (If you recall in 2013 the dates were five weeks apart, and in 2015, they will be one week apart.) It doesn't happen that often, but it is good when all Christians celebrate this holy feastday on the same date.

In the Orthodox tradition, the week prior to Easter/Pascha is known as Great Week or Holy Week, consisting of daily services commemorating the final Passion Week of our Lord's earthly life and ministry. It is the final week of the Spiritual Journey of Great Lent.

Why daily services? The Orthodox Christian Church has always made a special point of bringing the faithful together to celebrate the great holy days. For the most important feastdays, there is also a good deal of preparation so the celebration is more meaningful.

The Holy Week services are a daily reminder of Christ's final week on Earth, and they help us relive that awesome time in history. By the end of the week, we are really ready to proclaim His holy Resurrection!

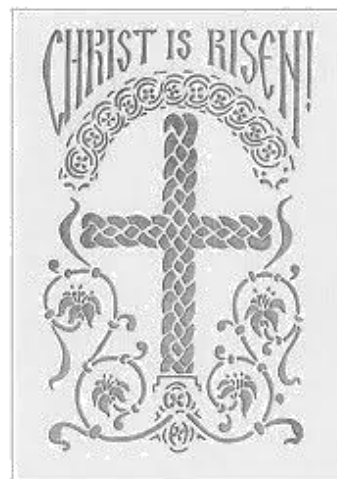
This represents the spreading of the news of our Lord's Resurrection.

Many Orthodox Christians make it a point to be in church for the midnight Resurrection Service, in order to receive the light that comes from the altar table and is spread to each person holding a candle. This represents the spreading of the news of our Lord's Resurrection.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, everyone proclaims "Christ is risen! Truly He is Risen!" It is amazing to see how, usually around

2am, the congregation comes alive with strong voices and candles held high.

This is the time for the St. Haralambos Church community to come together and celebrate both our Lord's Holy Resurrection, and the unity of our faith as Orthodox Christians!



**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

David Durgham
Dennis Georgen
Kathy Harvey
Timothy Harvey
Lali Mekvabishbili

Russel Skocypec
Dorothy Vordos
Lee Vordos
Russell Zook

Parish Council

Stewardship IS

We are very happy to announce that Kathy Harvey has been seated on your Parish Council and has been named Secretary. We thank her for offering her Stewardship.

Our understanding of Orthodox Stewardship extends beyond supporting the financial obligations of our church. It also includes caring

for the needs of the Parish and making contributions in terms of our time and talents in ways that are aligned with our spiritual gifts.

There is a real need for committed members of our Parish to come forward and contribute to the work and life of our Church in ways that are both impactful to our community and meaningful to us as individuals.

If you have a gift of Administration—We have open

seats on the Council! Unlike the past when Council seats may have been filled by drafting parishioners who may or may not have desired to serve, or be suited for the work of the Council, we have chosen to not fill these seats. Instead, we are asking individuals who feel compelled to serve, to come forward and offer yourself in service, as a Steward of His Church.

If you have the gift of Craft, we need your help with Facility Maintenance! We are blessed with having a beautiful facility. But like any home, school, or other commercial building, it needs to be maintained. We need a number of people to come forward, not only when there is a call for extra hands to help out when a task is to be done, but to take pride in ownership of our facility as though it were their own home; to identify what needs to be done and organize with others as Stewards of His Church to maintain our beautiful Church building and grounds.

If you have the gift of Hospitality, we need your smile! When we have guests in our own homes, we do whatever is needed to make them feel welcome. And, just like we do in our own homes, from the moment anyone walks into our Church, to the follow up that occurs after they leave, we need to ensure that everyone arriving in His home, and yes, even our own Parishioners, are consistently made to feel welcome. This begins with a friendly greeting on arrival, ensuring they are seated, conversing with them after Liturgy, and asking them to come see us again soon. As Stewards of His Church, we all have a part, and we need a group of individuals to act as hosts dedicated to finding out what brought them to our Church, what they are looking for, and how we can help them.

If you have the gift of Communication, we need your help with getting our message out! We have our St Haralambos website and we recently have made some improvements. But there is more that can be done. In the 21st Century, we need to rethink how we communicate. Letters in the mail are becoming obsolete. E-mail is passé. Even Facebook seems dated. Today's young people ping and tweet. To communicate effectively, we need people who as Stewards of His Church help us create an effective communication strategy and help manage the various channels so that they are relevant, and informative to our current and potential members.

These are just four examples of ways in which you can more fully become a Steward of His Church. Yes, it's pretty easy to say, I'm too busy, my job takes me out of town, or I don't want to be responsible. But, if we are truly Stewards of His Church, we make the time, take ownership, and serve however we can. He gives us the Spiritual Gifts needed to do the work that needs to be done. It is up to us to answer the call. Please see Fr. Michael, Dennis Georgen, or any Member of the Parish Council and let us know how and where you want to offer your Stewardship.



St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Valla Wrona, President

"Faith without works is dead."

(James 2:17)

Pre-sanctified liturgy is being held each Wednesday during Great Lent. Donations will be accepted at each meal and proceeds will benefit Holy Cross Seminary. Please help us fulfill our commitment. This is a meal you don't have to cook for or clean up from, so please consider being as generous as you would for an evening out.

Hosts for Pre-Sanctified meals in March

- 3/5 Jeannette Hollander and Lindsay Vardalos
- 3/12 Edna Nicely and Anna Kinniburgh
- 3/19 Ken and Valla Wrona
- 3/26 Executive Council (Fr. Michael, Russ and Lali, and Dennis)

Hosts for Pre-Sanctified meals in April

- 4/2 Sue Charbel and Mary Robbins
- 4/9 Donna Dec and Voula Dodd

Many thanks to those who offered their time, talent, and treasures for these events.

Philoptochos will again host the Palm Sunday Fish Dinner on Apr. 13. Check the weekly bulletin for details. Don't forget to be available to help on Saturday of Lazarus, Apr. 12, for the making of the palm crosses. Then join us in decorating the Epitaphio on Holy Friday, Apr. 18. And finally, please join us for the reception following the Resurrection Service on Apr. 19 which begins at 11:15 p.m.

Don't forget your Pennies & Prayers. If you haven't picked up a cup for your change, they are located at the head table in the fellowship hall. Please write down your name and telephone number on the list next to the cups.

If you haven't submitted your membership for 2014, please do so as soon as possible as April is our deadline.

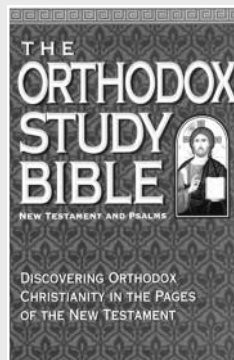
Our next meeting will be held Apr. 7, at 7 p.m. We would really love for you to join us.



Orthodox Study Group

Orthodox Study group will not be held during lent. Please attend the Compline services on Tuesday Evenings or Father Michael's study group held during lent on Wednesdays.

The Orthodox Study group will start again Thursday Evenings at 7 p.m. on May 1.



Sunday School

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School
Director & Teacher

For the month of April, this article continues to highlight the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese website www.lent.goarch.org, which is a rich and meaningful internet teaching tool, to help families better understand and prepare for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha. Additional links and gospel readings for this month's feasts and services are as follows:



5th Friday of Great Lent

The Akathist Hymn to the
Most Holy Theotokos
Archdiocese website:
[lent.goarch.org/
akathist_hymn/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/akathist_hymn/learn/)

5th Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt
(Mark 10:32-45)
Archdiocese website:
[lent.goarch.org/
saint_mary_of_egypt/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/saint_mary_of_egypt/learn/)

Lazarus Saturday

(John 11:1-45)
Archdiocese website:
[lent.goarch.org/
saturday_of_lazarus/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/saturday_of_lazarus/learn/)

Palm Sunday (John 12:1-18)

Archdiocese website:
[lent.goarch.org/palm_sunday/
learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/palm_sunday/learn/)

The Services of the Bridegroom

Sunday Evening through Tuesday Evening
Archdiocese website: [lent.goarch.org/
bridegroom_services/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/bridegroom_services/learn/)

Holy Wednesday

Sacrament of Holy Unction
Archdiocese website: [lent.goarch.org/
holy_wednesday/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/holy_wednesday/learn/)

Holy Thursday

Archdiocese website: [lent.goarch.org/
holy_thursday/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/holy_thursday/learn/)

Holy Friday

Archdiocese website: [lent.goarch.org/
holy_friday/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/holy_friday/learn/)

Holy Saturday

Archdiocese website: [lent.goarch.org/
holy_saturday/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/holy_saturday/learn/)

Great and Holy Pascha

Archdiocese website: [lent.goarch.org/
holy_pascha/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/holy_pascha/learn/)

The Sunday of Thomas

(John 20:19-31)

Archdiocese website: [lent.goarch.org/
sunday_of_thomas/learn/](http://lent.goarch.org/sunday_of_thomas/learn/)

There will be no Sunday School classes held on Pascha, Apr. 20. May all of our parish families be blessed as we celebrate the joyous Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Sunday School Monetary Donations Request

The Sunday School is requesting monetary donations to fulfill a Wish List of teacher requested items for our classrooms and students. Any monetary donation to Sunday School would be greatly appreciated and may be tax deductible.

Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts/sponsors.

March

- 2: Penny Obren
- 9: Reni Milonas
- 16: Nardos Russom – Lydia Soloman
- 23: Philoptochos
- 30: Donna & Ted Manos

April

- 6: Paula & Gale Farr
- 13: Philoptochos Fish Luncheon
- 20: Pascha
- 27: Julie Karoutas

May

- 4: Available
- 11: Available
- 18: Available
- 25: Available

Note: due to publication printing deadlines, any changes to the coffee hour listings will be noted in next month's newsletter.

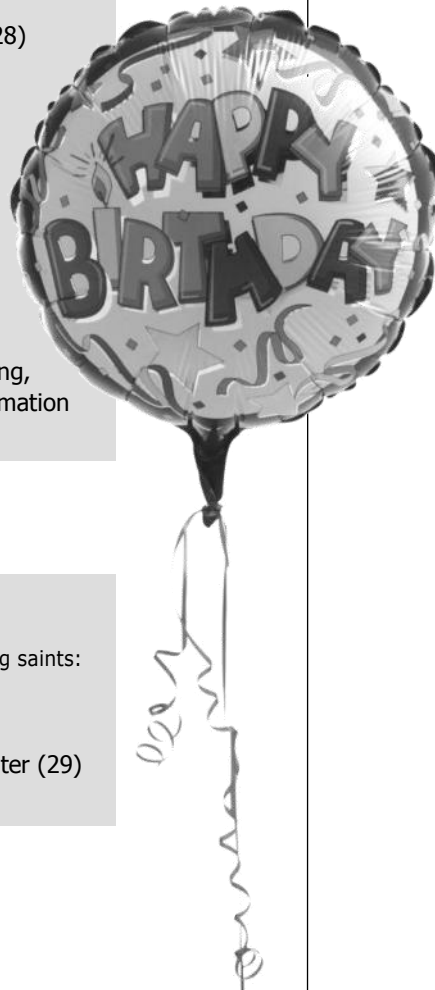


Birthdays

- Noah Woldesilassie (3)
- Paula Sallas (4)
- Sophia Karandreas (6)
- Chris Fredericksen (7)
- Dorothy Vordos (7)
- Stefanos Macrides (12)
- Barbara Savaidis (12)
- Dennis Germanis (14)
- Paula Farr (15)
- Lee Vordos (16)
- Steve Harrington (17)
- Kimon Ayan (18)
- Chrissy King (18)
- Jackson Savoy (18)
- Jeff Farr (20)
- David Rodriguez (20)

- Georgia Trakas (20)
- Katelyn Pritchard (22)
- Melanie Singleton (22)
- Roy Christian (28)
- Katherine Janofsky (28)
- Frank Samawi (29)
- Eve Devolites (30)
- Elisabeth Rodriguez (30)

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. Mary (of Egypt) (1) | St. George (23) |
| St. Joseph (the Hymnographer) (3) | St. Mark (25) |
| St. Alexandra (21) | Sts. Jason and Sosipater (29) |

Let Us Give

(a mini retreat discussing: giving)

St. Haralambos' Annual Holy Friday Retreat

Registration Form

Friday, April 18, 2014 | 12-3 PM

Parent's Names: _____

Family Address: _____

Phone Numbers: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Children's Name and Age:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Do any of your children have special needs or allergies? Please describe:

Please eat lunch before arriving; a snack will be served before the 3:00 service.

Parents, there is no cost for children to attend the retreat. However, donations are needed. Please check if you are willing to donate:

☐ Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags

☐ Peanut Butter

☐ Loaves of Sliced Bread

☐ Toothbrushes

☐ Case of water bottles

☐ Monetary Donation

☐ Brown Lunch Sacks

☐ Box of granola bars

☐ Glass Jars (Any size)

You can drop off your registration to Lindsay on Sundays or mail to:

St. Haralambos | ATTN: Lindsay/Youth | 7950 W Pinnacle Peak Rd, Peoria, AZ 85383

Registration Deadline: Sunday, April 13

APRIL 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:30am Lenten Bible Study 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	3 7:00pm Choir	4 7:00pm Akathist Hymn (complete)	5
6 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 5th Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers	7 7:00pm Philoptochos	8 7:00pm Compline Service Video and Discussion	9 10:30am Lenten Bible Study 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	10 7:00pm Choir	11	12 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Lazarus Lenten Breakfast Palm Crosses 10:30am Festival Meeting
13 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon 6:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	14 Holy Monday 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	15 Holy Tuesday 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	16 Holy Wednesday 9:00am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy 10:30am Lenten Bible Study (children) 4:00pm Holy Unction 7:00pm Holy Unction	17 Holy Thursday 9:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm 12 Passion Gospels	18 Holy Friday 9:00am Royal Hours 12:00pm Holy Friday Youth Retreat 3:00pm Vespers: The Descent from the Cross 7:00pm The Lamentations	19 Holy Saturday 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:15pm Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy
20 Easter Sunday/Pascha 1:00pm Easter Agapi/Love Vespers Children's Easter Egg Hunt	21 Bright Week (No fasting)	22 7:00pm Parish Council	23	24	25	26
27 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. Thomas Sunday	28 7:00pm Executive Council	29	30			

New round tables for our Social Hall!



Thank you to Kim and Dorothy Ayan for their donation of the wonderful tables, and to the sewing wizardry of Stella Pagos, who converted the rectangular table cloths to fit the new round tables!

Come and see how they help make Sunday socializing so much easier!