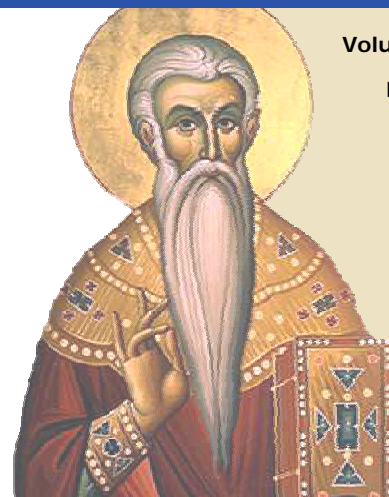


in Touch

Volume 18, Issue 2

February 2010



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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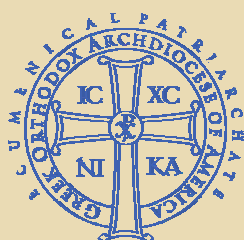
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The Sunday of Orthodoxy

The 1st Sunday of Lent – February 21
Commemorating the Restoration of the Holy Icons



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

History-Making General Assembly

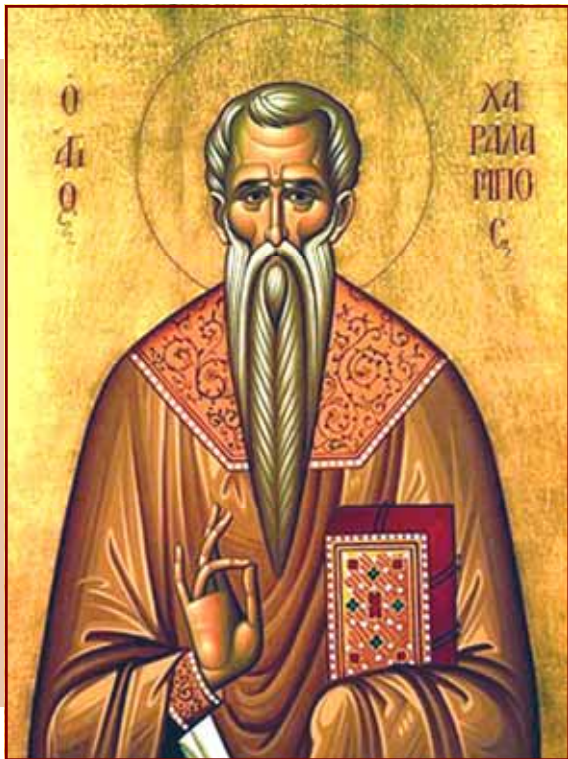
Motion: "Recognizing the current and unsettled economic conditions; to provide for the immediate needs of our parish family, and to secure the future viability of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church; it is moved that the Special General Assembly of January 10, 2010, approve the purchase of property located at 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Peoria, Arizona."

Results of Vote: 84-4 in favor of the motion.



Calendar

1. Open Escrow – Jan. 15
2. Area orientation meeting – Week of Jan. 19
3. Design, Cost, Contractor to complete Narthex Renovation
4. Procure Storage Containers – Arrange deliver and site orientation
5. Begin Boxing up books, kitchen utensils, etc.
6. Close Escrow – Feb. 12
7. Administrative Move Begins – Feb. 15
8. Kitchen Move can begin – Feb. 15th
9. Education & Library move can begin – Feb. 15
10. Liturgical Move Begins – Mar. 15 – COMPLETE this week if possible – coordination and discussion with alternatives to Liturgical requirements and adjustments to Services.
11. FIRST SERVICE – Lazarus Saturday – Mar. 27
12. Palm Sunday – Mar. 28
13. Easter (Pascha) – Apr. 4



Parish Feastday

Parish Feastday celebration and services, commemorating St. Haralambos, the holy Priest-Martyr.

✙ Feastday Luncheon

Sunday, Feb. 7, in the social hall

Donation: \$5/person (Hosted by the Parish Council)

✙ Great Vespers

Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7pm.

Followed by a reception in our social hall.

✙ Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 9am

Join in the annual celebration of our patron saint!



A New Lenten Journey

With the beginning of Great Lent on the 15th of this month, we begin a spiritual journey towards the celebration of the most sacred day of the church calendar: the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This year, however, due to the overwhelming show of support at the Special General Assembly last month, we will be making an additional journey during Lent: moving to our new church home at 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd. in north Peoria.

It's going to be an emotional time as we say goodbye to the church that has served our parish since 1988, just a few years after St. Haralambos Church was first organized. Finding the Peoria Nazarene Church (as it was originally known) was a big help in getting our parish firmly established. It has been home to dozens of weddings, baptisms, liturgies and 20+ Greek Festivals. Over the past two decades, many families and wonderful parishioners have come and gone, some leaving an indelible mark on our parish history, and all of them contributing to the parish that exists today.

It is good to know that we leave our current church facilities in better condition than when we first moved in. Some of you will

remember the Carayas family Eagle Scout project which provided all the gravel, shrubs and drip lines along the exterior of the property. Thanks to a horrendous summer hailstorm, we were able to install a new shingle roof over the sanctuary and office buildings, just for the cost of the insurance deductible. The social hall was expanded, new carpeting was installed throughout, new tile for the altar and solea, new kitchen cabinets, new paint, and new entry/exit doors are just some of the many improvements that were made over the years.

It is also good to see how excited the new owners, the parishioners of St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, are to be making this their new church home. You may have noticed that they have already begun remodeling the back storage house for worship space and youth activities. It is gratifying to know that, even as we leave this church, the presence of Orthodox Christianity will remain. We pray that God continue to guide and bless Fr. Philemon Hanna and the parishioners of St. Mary's.

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, we will be moving

into a new church home - not where we originally thought, of course, but one that provides us with a furnished building almost identical to what we had planned to build, and with more than enough room to continue to grow in the years ahead. As was mentioned at the General Assembly, we still hold title to the Greenway property, which gives us the added option to sell or build on it at some future time.

Our double Lenten journey this year will require much time, energy and patience from all of us. We will soon be packing boxes, loading cars and trucks, and transporting a large number of liturgical items, office, kitchen and classroom furniture and equipment, and a host of other items to our new location. At the same time, we must remember to take advantage of the weeknight Lenten services, to help keep our focus on Lent and to nourish our spirit.

God-willing we will soon be chanting together the hymns of the resurrection, not just at a new location, but in our new church home.

Our double Lenten journey this year will require much time, energy and patience from all of us.



**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
David Durgam

Dave Fredericksen
Demetri Gryparis
Mary Manos
Peter Retsinas
Roberta Szklarski
Katherine Tally

ORGANIZATIONS



Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Feb 7	Parish Feastday luncheon
Feb 14	Mary Dascalos
Feb 21	Valla Wrona
Feb 28	Available

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

"In all things show yourself an example of good works." Titus 2:7

Thanks to those who baked or purchased Vasilopita Breads; all proceeds sent to St. Basil's Academy.

Can you believe we are now in the Lenten Season? Continuing with past custom, Philoptochos will sponsor a Lenten Supper following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

Lenten Supper Hosts

1. February 17 - Alice Hecht, Ann Yacyszyn
2. February 24 - Penny Obren, Charlotte Servetas
3. March 3 - Open
4. March 10 - Open
5. March 17 - Chryss Danielek
6. March 24 - Aphrodite Devolitis

Please support the Military Care Box Program.

Food for thought: Victory goes to those who keep fighting and have removed the phrase, "I can't" from their Lexicon.

What is Philoptochos?

Philoptochos means "friend of the poor". The Greek Orthodox Ladies Society is the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, and is the largest women's Christian philanthropic organization in the United States! We ladies of St. Anna's (patron saint of our chapter) Philoptochos are dedicated to finding ways to make an impact and a difference not only at the National level, but in OUR own community, as well. Your participation in the organization AT ANY LEVEL OF ENERGY you are willing to commit to, is important in fulfilling this ministry of our church.

We are officially beginning a membership drive in the weeks ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Voula Dodd, Membership Chairwoman, 623-546-2277 or Charlotte Servetas, President, 623-933-6647.

Easier Method for Parish Contributions

We've got a dozen parish families so far who have signed up with Parish Pay! Thank you!

Parish Pay is a means of sending church contributions electronically via the internet. By going to our parish website (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 are no costs 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 contributions for the New Year.

Parish Council Corner

By Ray Wysmierski, Parish Council President

Our parish has made a very positive and supportive decision to move into a new worship space which includes so many amenities. This was done at the Jan. 10 special general assembly with your overwhelming approval. THANK YOU!

I was recently elected to a second term as council president and look forward to working with Fr. Michael and my fellow council members in 2010. As they say, "get ready and buckle up" for a busy several months in preparation of moving to our new home. Now the work begins! Time to think of volunteers coming forward to undertake our move: sacred items, office furniture, kitchen equipment, etc. This will be a parish family effort to get this accomplished, however not without your help. Please call the office to offer your time, talents - and especially if you have a truck.

This is a very exciting time for our parish embarking on a venture that will

certainly bring growth and fresh surroundings. Remember, this location is an investment and not a means to abandon 75th and Greenway. This is truly an answer to prayer as it had been said many times over the last couple of months. This is an investment to further our future.

I want to personally thank my Vice-President, Mike Danielek who, by his love for Orthodoxy and our parish, worked countless hours to ensure this purchase was the best opportunity before us. Also to Dennis Georgen for compiling the information into a very copious presentation leaving no stone unturned in our options; and Fr. Michael for his support and continued leadership of our parish.

Finally, as time moves forward please consider involvement in YOUR church and think about how you can best offer your time and talents.

St. Paisius Monastery

We need a count of the people interested in the bus trip to St. Paisius Serbian Women's Monastery in Safford, Arizona, on Saturday, Mar. 6.

The bus will leave St. Haralambos Church at 6:30 a.m. and return around 6 p.m. on the same day. It's a 4-hour trip each way and includes lunch and a tour of the Monastery. The only cost is for the bus, which is \$30 per person.

You can reserve a seat with a \$10 deposit anytime from now until Sunday, Jan. 31. The balance of \$20 will need to be

paid by Sunday, Feb. 14. The bus seats only 47 people so make your reservation early! See Penny Obren or call her at 623-214-1289.



Name Days

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

St. Agathi (5th)
St. Theodore the Commander (8th)
St. Haralambos (10th)
St. Theodora the Empress (11th)
St. Zacharias (11th)
St. Christos (12th)
St. Meletios (12th)
St. Theodore of Teron (17th)
St. Agapetos (18th)
St. Eustathios (21st)
St. Photini (The Samaritan Woman) (26th)
St. Kyranna (29th)

Birthdays



Lola Durand (3rd)
 Kalliope Chafoulis (4th)
 Chris Thomas (4th)
 Nicholas Wysmierski (4th)
 Cristiano Mikael Genes (5th)
 Koula Ratliff (5th)
 George Tremoulis (7th)
 Matthew Stithem (7th)
 James Papas (8th)
 Esther Lampropoulos (11th)
 Kerri Stamas (11th)
 Peter Vardalos (11th)
 Anna Georgen (12th)
 David Solomon (13th)
 Elena Hansford (14th)
 Giorgio Thomas (14th)
 Alexander Kalafat (19th)
 Dennis Georgen (24th)
 Mary Manos (26th)
 Dina Surman (26th)
 Elizabeth Jianyele (28th)

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.

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, Don Hensen, John and Mary Karavaras, Nikita and Josette Reisler.

Sacraments

2009 ended with five new converts to the Orthodox Faith: Christine Batalis, Ken and Valla Wrona, Brittany Retsinas and Jennifer Leros. Each of them completed the "Know the Faith" classes last Fall, and then took the next step to become Orthodox Christians through the Sacrament of Chrismation. We welcome them into the faith and into our parish, and pray that the new year brings them good health, happiness and continued growth in their faith.

Lenten Vespers Services

Sponsored by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches

All Vespers Services Begin at 6 pm

Forgiveness Vespers

(New This Year)

February 14

Church: Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 8202 E. Cactus Rd., Scottsdale

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

February 21

Church: Holy Trinity Cathedral
 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix

The Second Sunday of Lent

February 28

Church: St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria

The Third Sunday of Lent

March 7

St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church
 4436 E. McKinley Street, Phoenix

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14

Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
 1614 E. Monte Vista Rd., Phoenix

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21

St. John Romanian Orthodox Church
 3749 W. Behrend Drive, Glendale

The Sunday of Orthodoxy



The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:00am Divine Liturgy Presentation of Christ	3	4	5	6
	7:00pm Philoptochos	7:00pm Parish Council		7:00pm Choir		
7 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Meatfare Sunday St. Haralambos Feast-day Luncheon	8 No fasting this week.	9 7:00pm Parish Feastday Vespers (Reception following)	10 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Haralambos, the Holy Priest-Martyr	11	12	13
				7:00pm Choir		
14 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Cheesefare Sunday Missions Sunday Pancake Breakfast 6:00pm Lenten Vespers of Forgiveness (Assumption Church, Scottdale)	15 Beginning of Great Lent	16 7:00pm Compline Service	17 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	18	19	20 2:30pm "Secure Your Legacy" Estate Planning Seminar
				7:00pm Choir	7:00pm Akathist Hymn (1st Stanza)	
21 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 1st Sunday of Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy 6:00pm Lenten Vespers (Holy Trinity, Phoenix)	22	23 7:00pm Compline Service	24 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy	25	26	27
				7:00pm Choir	7:00pm Akathist Hymn (2nd Stanza)	
28 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 2nd Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers (St. Haralambos Church)						

PARISHIONER PROFILE



Ray and Mary Wysmierski

Mary and I are originally from the Midwest. I was born in Chicago, Illinois, and Mary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mary graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in Marketing; I attended University of Akron with a degree in Criminal Justice, Capital University with a degree in Forensic Science, and both the University of Findlay and Northwestern University for a Masters in Business with additional extended post graduate work.

Mary and I have been married for 9 years, and approaching our 10th in 6 months. Mary and I have always been active in the Orthodox Church through my many employment transfers in the last 10 years. We moved from Chicago in 2005 where we had belonged to Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview, Illinois, and landed in Anthem, Arizona.

We have been at St. Haralambos since December 2005. In fact one weekend when we

were house-hunting, we asked our realtor about Greek Orthodox Churches in Phoenix. On a Saturday afternoon we came upon St Haralambos; of course, not the typical byzantine structure we were familiar with, and Mary decided to go inside to check it out.

To our surprise when she attempted to open the door, the latch was not secure but the alarm worked! Well, the best part was finally telling Fr. Michael at the end of liturgy the next day it was Mary that set off the alarm. The irony gets better. When attending our last service at Saints Peter and Paul there was a picture of Saint Haralambos on the back of the bulletin, and we knew that God led us to the right church.

Mary and I were blessed with a wonderful son, Nicholas, on February 4th, 2008. If you haven't heard him, he is the boy with the loud "AMEN" during liturgy. He joins three other children I have: two that are married, a daughter Abby in Michigan, a son Joseph in Anthem, and another daughter Amy who is caring for Nicholas with us.

It wasn't too long before we became involved with St. Haralambos, with both of us ending up on parish council. I am also honored to have been elected council president for the second year. Now that we are moving to our new location with such abundant resources, we both look forward to not only growing the parish, but seeing outreach ministries for the children, the future parishioners of St. Haralambos.

Both Mary and I work for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals. Mary is a specialty product senior sales representative, and I work in the legal department as a compliance and ethics leader in our local office in Phoenix.

How lucky for us that our realtor picked our church to show us while looking for a home four years ago.