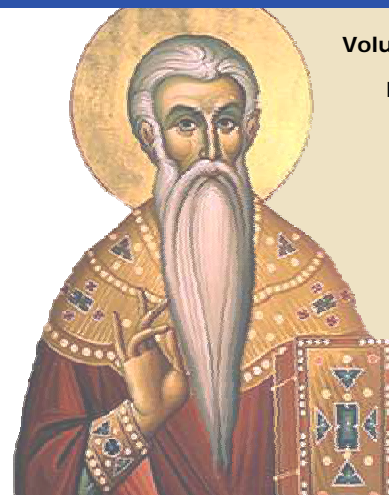


in Touch

Volume 19, Issue 2

February 2011



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Who is Saint Haralambos?

Come and see!

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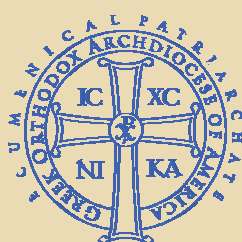
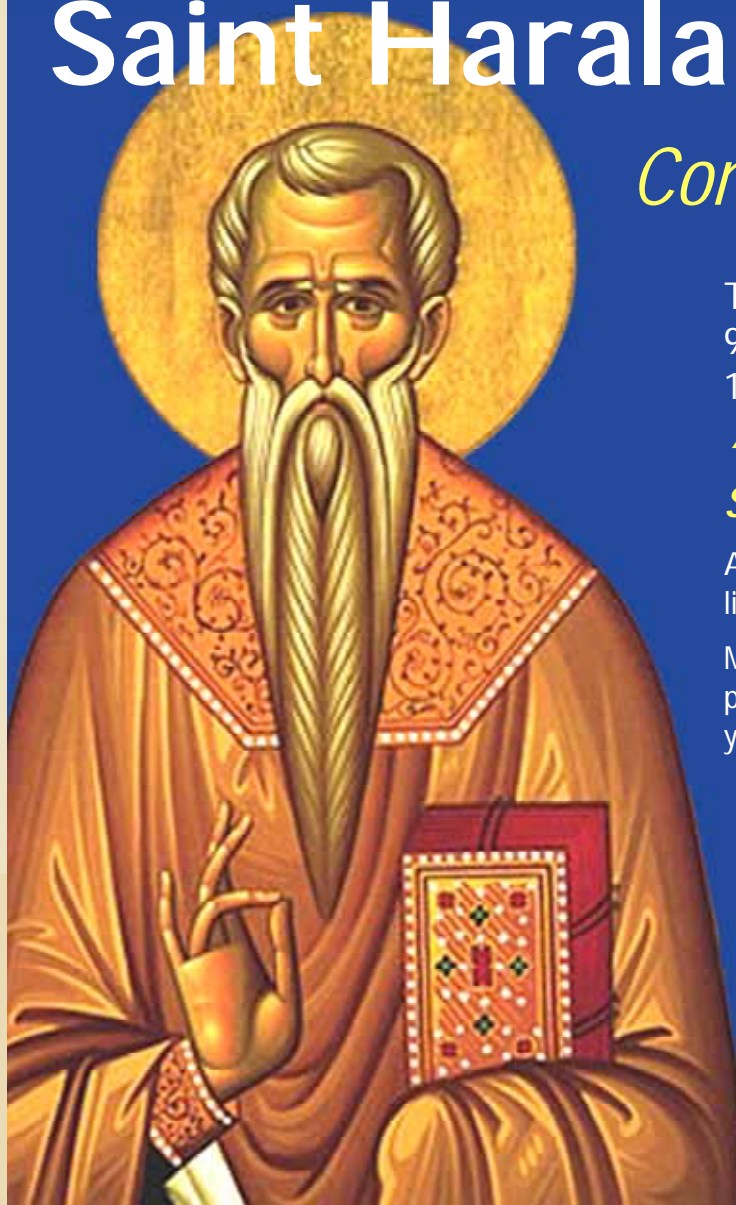
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Thursday, February 10
9:00am Divine Liturgy
10:30am Movie

***"The Life of
St. Haralambos"***

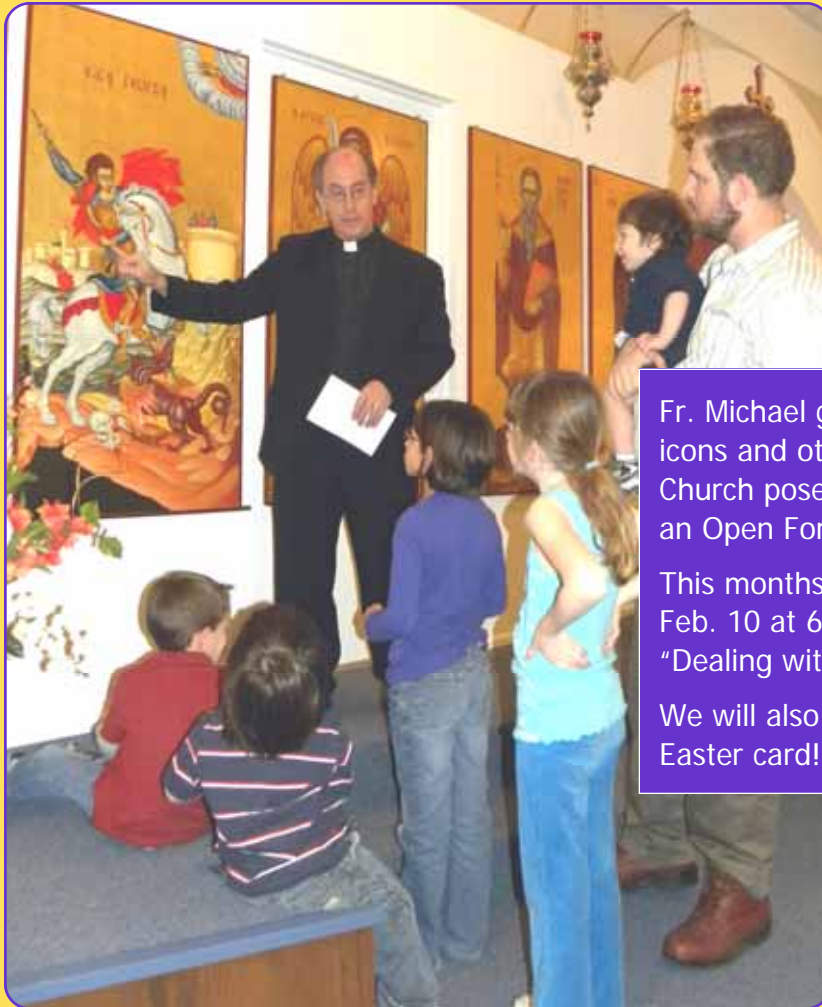
A very moving film on the
life of our patron Saint.

Miraculous stories of his
presence felt hundreds of
years after his martyrdom.



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

YOUTH NIGHT



Fr. Michael gave explanations of the icons and other questions about our Church posed by our young people in an Open Forum event last month.

This month's Youth Night is Thursday, Feb. 10 at 6pm. The evening's topic is "Dealing with Temptations."

We will also begin designing our parish Easter card! Bring your creative ideas!




Parish Feastday Celebrations

Vespers and Reception: Wednesday, February 9 at 7pm

Divine Liturgy and film on the life of St. Haralambos: Thursday, February 10 at 9am

Feastday Luncheon: Sunday, February 13, sponsored by the Parish Council. All are welcome. Suggested Donation: \$5/person.

For the Whole Family

Join us on Saturday, February 26, beginning with the Divine Liturgy at 9am, followed by a fantastic Pancake Breakfast and then a workshop on "Learning to Bake the Prosfora (Offering Bread used in the Divine Liturgy)." 



St. Haralambos the Priest-Martyr

February marks the month of commemoration of the patron saint of our parish, St. Haralambos the priest-martyr. This year's celebration, the first in our new parish home, will include the addition of something new: the showing of a film on the life of St. Haralambos.

Make no mistake - this is not a boring documentary! Just 25 minutes in length, the film is narrated by several Greek Orthodox priests, and, in addition to his life story, it gives a very inspirational account of the miracle that occurred in 1943 in a small town in Greece during the days of the German occupation of World War II. The memory of this miracle, still strong today throughout Greece, is one of the main reasons why St. Haralambos remains such a beloved saint.

I will never forget the opportunity Presvytera Kristin and I had while living in Greece in 1990. A local Elderhostel group, taking a day trip to visit Meteora, had two last-minute cancellations. Though we were significantly younger than the others in the group, we happily accepted the invitation to take their places, and joined the tour group to visit the incredible monasteries carved high in the cliffs.

The amazing view as the bus

pulled into the parking lot was breath-taking. How was it possible to build churches so high into the cliffs? First inhabited by monks in the late 11th or early 12th century, the monasteries of Meteora provided a place of safety in addition to solitude. Whenever threatened by invaders to their holy monasteries, the monks simply had to raise the rope ladders leading to the entrance, removing the only means of ascent.

The tour was wonderful, and concluded with the chapel of St. Stephen, which, unknown to us at the time, would become the most memorable part of our visit. We entered the chapel dedicated to St. Stephen with the entire group. After a few moments I noticed that at the chanter stand there was a Byzantine music book opened to one of the evening vesper hymns. As I was looking at it one of the tourists asked if I knew how to read the chant. When I said 'yes' he immediately asked for a sample. I began chanting the hymn (from Psalm 104) while the others stopped to listen.

My chanting caught the attention of one of the nuns who looked after the chapel. After the group continued on, she approached and asked presvytera

and me to stay for a moment. When the others left, she asked if we were Greek Orthodox, and when we said 'yes' she told us she would return with one of the special relics housed in the altar. She came back carrying a metal box, which, when opened, revealed the top portion of a skull. When I asked her the name of the saint whose relic we were venerating, she said this was the remnant of the skull of Saint Haralambos. We both thanked her for the blessing of being able to venerate this precious and holy relic, and then left to join the rest of our tour group.

Even writing about this more than 20 years later fills me with emotion, now serving in the only Church of our Metropolis bearing the name of that holy saint. When we speak about the many blessings that have been bestowed on this parish, I am certain they are due to the prayers of our patron saint, who has been watching over this parish since its inception.

The film on the life of St. Haralambos will be shown following the Divine Liturgy on Thursday, Feb. 10.

She came back carrying a metal box, which, when opened, revealed the top portion of a skull.



**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

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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

Angie Cholas
Mike Danielek
David Durgam
Dennis Georgen
Dimitri Gryparis
Mary Manos

George Miller
Dean Milonas
Roberta Szklarski
Katherine Tally
Ken Wrona
Ray Wymierski

Birthdays



Christina Harris (1)
 Kalliope Chafoulis (4)
 Nicholas Wymierski (4)
 Koula Ratliff (5)
 Matthew Iliana Stithem (7)
 Kenneth S Wrona (9)
 Esther Lampropoulos (11)
 Kerri Stamas (11)
 Peter Vardalos (11)
 David Solomon (13)
 Chris Birtsas (14)
 Giorgio Thomas (14)
 Emil Sprintz (17)
 Dennis Georgen (24)
 Robert B Kinniburgh (25)
 Mary Manos (26)
 Joshua Milonas (27)
 Elizabeth Baxter (28)

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.

Oratorical Festival

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival purpose is to give our youth (grade 4 thru grade 12) an opportunity to learn, write, and speak about their Orthodox Faith, Church and Heritage. St. Haralambos is pleased to announce our goals and schedule for the 2011 Oratorical Festival. Our parish goals are:

- Initiate all three divisions for the 2011 Festival
- 100% of youth write a speech/talk
- 80% of youth present their speech/talk
- Within 10 years, at least one parish teenager represents our Metropolis at the Archdiocesan Festival

Based upon the feedback at the student/parent orientation meeting, our parish festival speeches for Junior (grades

7 thru 9) and Senior (grades 10 thru 12) Division will be held **Sunday March 27**. The Elementary Division talks will be held during the Sundays in February and March.



First step is to select your topic from the official 2011 Topic List and submit your speaker registration form to Father Michael or Jeannette Hollander.

Second step is to start researching, outlining and preparing your speech.

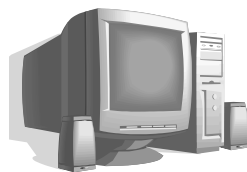
Need help getting started? Well then, please join Jeannette Hollander after Sunday School for an informal series on how to prepare you speech. Starting immediately, Jeannette Hollander and others from our parish will be available to help you research your speech, organize your thoughts, and listen to your delivery.

Stewardship

2011 Pledge Summary

Range	Count	Total Pledged	Range	Count	Total Pledged
\$100-\$199	11	\$1,571	\$1250-\$1499	1	\$1,320
\$200-\$299	17	\$3,800	\$1500-\$1749	8	\$12,240
\$300-\$399	13	\$4,130	\$1750-\$1999	0	0
\$400-\$499	9	\$3,636	\$2000-\$2499	4	\$8,300
\$500-\$749	23	\$13,540	\$2500-\$2999	0	0
\$750-\$999	10	\$7,940	\$3000 or More	4	\$16,000
\$1000-\$1249	18	\$20,600	Totals:	118	\$93,077

Computer Systems Available



Two complete desktop computer systems are available at the church. Both systems include:

Pentium 4 - 2.4GHz Processor, 256 MB RAM, 40 GB Hard Drive, Windows XP

Home Edition, Keyboard, Mouse, Monitor, and 2 speakers.

The intent is to donate these systems to an individual or family among our parishioners. Interested parties should call the church office.

Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

"To them that Love God all things work together unto good" (Rom. 8:28)

It's time to renew your membership for 2011 and an open invitation to join us this year. A special "Bravo" to all those who baked or bought Vasilopita on Jan. 9. We collected \$500 for St. Basil Academy.

Philoptochos will host a reception following St. Haralambos Vesper Service

on Wednesday evening Feb. 9 at 7pm.

We are always looking for volunteer hosts for Sunday Social hour. If interested, contact Valla Wrona at 623-245-0917.

Next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 7 at 7pm.

"Happy Valentines Day"



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) 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.

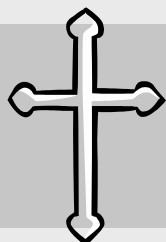
For further information, please contact our Parish Council Treasurer Stella Pagos at 623-975-0027. Consider Parish Pay for all your church donations.

ParishPay
Making it Easier to Give™

Name Days

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

St. Agathi (5th)
St. Theodore Stratelates (8th)
St. Haralambos (10th)
St. Theodora the Empress (11th)
St. Zacharias (11th)
St. Christos, the Gardener (12th)
St. Meletios (12th)
SS. Aquila and Priscilla (13th)
St. Theodore (17th)
St. Agapetos (18th)
St. Evstathios (21st)
St. Photini (26th)
St. Kyranna (29th)



Memory Eternal

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of Marie DeMoss who fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, Dec. 23, and to the soul of Orin Davis who fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, Jan. 7, and to the soul of Lillian Ryan who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, Jan. 16. May Christ our God grant comfort to their families, and may their memory be eternal.

FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:00am Divine Liturgy Presentation of Christ	3 7:00pm Choir Practice	4	5 9:00am Seminar on Spiritual Gifts (1st session)
6 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. Photios	7 7:00pm Philoptochos	8	9 7:00pm Great Vespers Parish Feastday Reception following	10 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Haralambos the Holy Priest-Martyr 10:30 Film on the Life of St. Haralambos 6pm Youth Night 7:00pm Choir Practice	11	12 9:00am Seminar on Spiritual Gifts (2nd session)
13 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Publican and Pharisee St. Haralambos Feastday Dinner	14 Fasting-Free Week	15	16	17 7:00pm Choir Practice	18	19 9:00am Seminar on Spiritual Gifts (3rd session)
20 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Prodigal Son	21	22	23	24 7:00pm Choir Practice	25	26 9:00am Divine Liturgy 1st Saturday of the Souls Family Pancake Breakfast Prosfora Baking
27 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Meatfare Sunday	28					