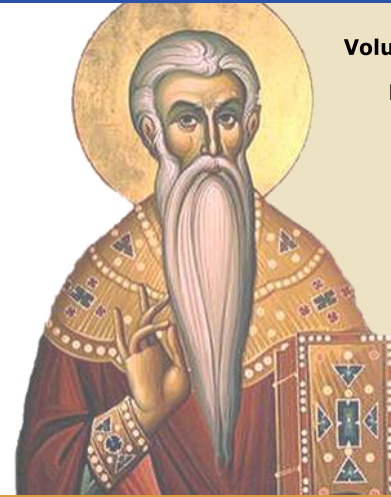


in Touch

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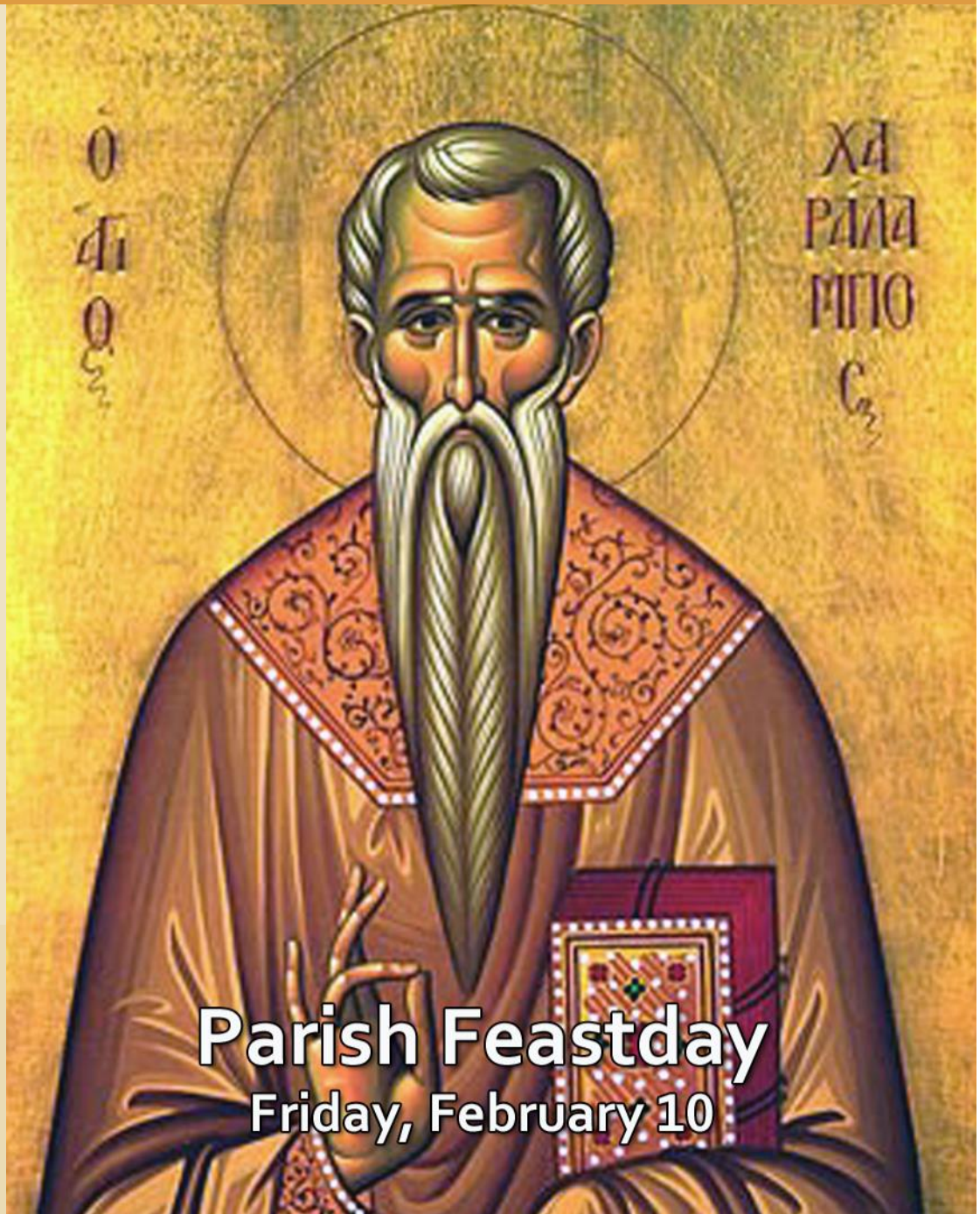
The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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Parish Feastday
Friday, February 10



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

Adult Education Class: Journey to Fullness

All are welcome to enjoy six evening sessions of good food, inspiring teachings, and enjoyable fellowship as we learn more about the teachings and practices of Orthodox Christianity.

Registration is required by Sunday, Feb. 26, either with the enclosed Registration form (page 6) or online at www.stharalambos.org. The doors of our Fellowship Room open at 5 pm with dinner served at 6 pm, followed by the evening lesson and discussion questions.



Stewardship



All who consider St. Haralambos Church as their home parish, should be showing their support and participation by becoming Stewards. This means completing and returning the annual Stewardship Form which was mailed last month.

Additional forms are available at the church on Sundays or by calling the church office.

There are no Membership Dues, there is no required minimum or maximum donation. But we should all take seriously caring for our Church, and not leaving its care to others.

The teaching on Christian Stewardship remains consistent to help us learn to be good stewards: we give back to God what is already His. We come into this world with nothing, and we leave it with nothing. All that we

have in this life comes from God's blessings, and returning back a portion to God through His Church, is our way of acknowledging the source of our blessings.

Our financial contributions should be a percentage of our income. This continues the biblical teaching on deciding an appropriate amount each year. It is fair because percentage giving is not a fixed amount applicable to all families, and is founded on the biblical teaching of the tithe, or 10% giving back to God through His Church.

Above all, our giving should be cheerfully given, recognizing our desire - not simply obligation - to give back to God a portion of our blessings we receive from Him.

Being a Steward of St. Haralambos Church implies much more than membership. Our parish will continue to grow according to how each of us gives our time, talent and treasure in support of our mission to be 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."

Front Entry Portico Project

Help Us Reach Our Goal!

We are well on our way to funding the construction of a front entry portico for the entrance of our church! \$46,000 of the \$110,000 goal has been reached!

Can you help with a gift this month? Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated to help us build this wonderful addition to our building. Donate online at www.stharalambos.org or checks can be made payable to Saint Haralambos Church and sent to the church office.





Haralambos, the Holy Priest-Martyr

Speaking about martyrdom is never easy. It involves a brutality that most of us, thank God, will never experience. It is, however, something not uncommon throughout the history of Christianity, put upon children, men and women of every age and station in life. Beginning in ancient Roman society, Christians have endured religious persecution from religious and secular leaders, co-workers, friends and even family. The martyr is not the one who kills in defense of his or her faith, but rather is persecuted, tortured and killed for not renouncing their faith in Jesus Christ.

The Orthodox Christian calendar is filled with the annual commemoration of saints and martyrs. It is our way of remembering them, praying for them, and being inspired by their strong and unrelenting faith. They said “no” when told to renounce their faith in Christ. It was never easy and always painful, yet there are many accounts of Christian martyrs – as early as Saint Stephen the first Christian martyr – and including our beloved Saint Haralambos, who, during their torturous martyrdom, asked God to forgive their persecutors. These are martyrs not only with tremendous faith in God, but also showing the love of God in the most difficult of times.

To be sure Christian persecution and martyrdom continues in many countries today. From subtle offenses such as withholding job promotions, to imprisonment, torture and death. The words of our Lord, recorded in Saint John’s gospel, ring as true today as they have throughout the centuries:

“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.” (John 15:20)

This month we celebrate the patron saint of our parish, Haralambos, the holy Priest-Martyr, with evening Vesper service on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7 pm, then followed by the Divine Liturgy on Friday morning, Feb. 10, at 9 am.

We typically don’t see those two titles – Priest and Martyr – when referring to the same person.

Yet Haralambos was, in the latest stage of his life, becoming quite well-known not only for his refusal to renounce his faith in Christ, but for his miraculous recovery after many brutal tortures. People began referring to him as “the man who couldn’t be killed.”

People began referring to him as “the man who couldn’t be killed.”

As a parish family with such a noble, faithful, and loving patron saint, we should accept our sacred responsibility to honor him by attending the feastday services: Vespers and Divine Liturgy.

It may not be easy to speak about martyrdom, but we should not forget that Christian martyrs through the ages have given us incredible examples of unyielding faith, trust and hope. A martyr is not someone forgotten by God, but rather is blessed with an eternal reward in Paradise. May the memory of Saint Haralambos, patron saint of our parish, be eternal!



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship

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

[Services live online](#)

Office

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FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

Hours

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parish Council

Cynthia Bekiaris	Dan Teska
Deborah Chionchio	Vivian Teska
Virginia Dent	Mary Wysmierski
Hope Evangelinos	Ray Wysmierski
Anna Kinniburgh	Solomon Woldesilassie

Parish Council News

By Ray Wysmierski, President

May God Bless and be with you always. Your recently elected council had our first meeting on Jan. 10. We elected our officers for the year and started off with a full council of 10 members and one opening to fill with the passing of Roy Christian.

The agenda was robust with many pressing issues.

Fr. Michael, Dan Teska, and Harry Bekiaris presented our plan to Peoria for the fencing of our property. A meeting with the city's review is scheduled for the first week of February. Our daycare lease will be in the preliminary steps of re-negotiating based on their increase needs. Both the daycare and cell tower are current revenue sources, as well as the current mortgage payments we are receiving from the sale of our former church, we still face a deficit in our income v. expenses and need to look for additional revenue. Your stewardship is so very important, so if you haven't filled out a pledge card, please call the church office to have one sent to you.

The fencing, additional lighting and security cameras are through a reimbursable grant of \$125,000 through the Department of Homeland Security with the only condition, that the buildout must be completed by Sep. 30, 2023. So this is process is on the move, once approved we will find a contractor to complete the fencing, then the lighting followed by the cameras.

The festival is being postponed this year due to the Super Bowl being held in Arizona this year during our normally scheduled festival time, which made the needed equipment scarce. So, onto 2024 for the festival. We are still working on the kitchen certification so it will pass the city of Peoria's strict requirements. A shout out to all those involved in this process.

We have contracted with a commercial weed control contractor that will spray a pre-emergent and kill existing weeds on Feb. 8. You will see notices posted around

church regarding this spraying.

The Portico donations are slowly streaming in however we still need your help in building this fund, so expenses don't out pace our fundraising. We all know the cost of materials are steadily climbing along with increased labor costs.

Fr. Michael is in the process of moving his office to the crying room in the rear of the sanctuary, if you can lend a hand, I am sure he would appreciate it.

We have also seen an increase in insurance costs for the church, when I called our agent, he has attributed the increases to cost of replacement materials and labor costs. So, no cost savings in this area.

We are tightening our belts everywhere we can without compromising our church. I know it's a challenge for all of us, however if you can't increase your commitment, we will also take your time and talents for sure.

Mary and I were members when we secured the land and building over 10 years ago, and we were both on council. We were very blessed to be a part of this tremendous move and acquisition. We, as a parish are truly blessed to have Fr. Michael and this wonderful parish family.

Let's breath new life into the life of our church as we learn to live with COVID. God has a plan for our church and all the members, I am grateful for all our members who have and currently are of service to God and his church, St. Haralambos. Also, may God grant eternal rest to those that had been of service to this church and have passed on.

I will keep you informed of our current events as they unfold.

Remember, the Portico donations are still needed, if you haven't received a stewardship card, please call the office to get one, also the fencing that will outline and protect our diamond in the rough property and church, and any update on the daycare operations.

Birthdays



Nicholas Wysmierski (4)
Koula Ratliff (5)
Erini Braddock (11)
Athena Tsioutsopoulos (12)
Kaia White (19)
Harry Calivas (24)
Dennis Georgen (24)
Speros Zakas (24)
Robert Kinniburgh (25)
Elizabeth Baxter (28)
Stephanie 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.

2023 Stewardship Families

Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia
Bravos, Frosene
Bryson, Tom & Joan
Carlson, Olga
Chionchio, Debbie
Christian, Thalia
Conklin, Maria
Contes, Jamie
Covault, Lloyd & Angela
Deming, Janet
Dent, Virginia
Evangelinos, Parry & Hope
Farr, Paula
Farr, Kevin
Farr, Jeff & Judy
Finch, Dennis & Marina
Giannias, Elaine
Hartsel, Barbara
Javaras, Harry
Jolly, Judith
Kinniburgh, Bob & Anna
Lafayette, Henry & Maria

Lazzelle, Estelle
Levendi, Mary
Loukas, Christos & Peggy
Magnani, Sharon
Mavridis, Christos
Michas, Peter
Munteanu, Mirela
Nathanson, Irene
Nicely, Edna
Pagos, Stella
Servetas, Charlotte
Singleton, Melanie
Stratos, George & Irene
Tsfay, Ocbai & Genet
Teska, Dan & Vivian
Tsioutsopoulos, Demetre & Holly
Vasquez, Argyro
Woldesilassie, Solomon & Lydia
Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
Yannakopoulos, George & Irene
Zakas, Speros & Linda



Book Signing

On Sunday, Jan. 22, a book signing and presentation of parishioner Magda Gryparis' newest book, "The Transformative Power of Art," was held in our Fellowship Room. The book related her story of how beginning her career as an artist also began the process of healing her physical and emotional pains.

Congratulations, Magda!



Thank You

Thank you for all the kind offers of help during Bob and my health issues.

Anna and Bob Kinniburgh

A Journey to Fullness

An Introduction to the Fullness of the Original Christian Faith

Six Evening Sessions*

Thursday, March 2, 6pm: "God With Us"

Thursday, March 9, 6pm: "Our Ultimate Purpose"

Thursday, March 16, 6pm: "Salvation as Participation"

Thursday, March 23, 6pm: "Orthodox Worship"

Thursday, March 30, 6pm: "A Beautiful Rhythm"

Thursday, April 6, 6pm: "The Journey Continues"

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"A Journey to Fullness" Registration Form

<u>EVENING AGENDA</u> 6:00pm: Dinner 7:00pm: Class Presentation 7:30p.m: Discussion/Q&A	Dinner and all class sessions will be in the Fellowship Room.
Name(s) _____	
Email _____	
Phone _____	
REGISTRATION FEE \$50/person includes 6 dinners and Participant Workbook	
PAYMENT METHOD Cash or Check (payable to St. Haralambos Church) \$_____ (enclose with Registration Form) Credit Card (Available weekdays in the Church Office or Sundays during Coffee fellowship.) Online at www.stharalambos.org	
If mailing the Registration Form, please enclose payment and send to: St. Haralambos Church, 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Peoria, AZ 85383 <u>Registration Deadline is Sunday, February 26 2023.</u>	

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:00am Divine Liturgy Presentation of the Lord	3	4
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am Parish Book Club 12:00pm Philoptochos Beginning of Lenten Triodion	6	7	8	9 7:00pm Great Vespers	10 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saint Haralambos	11
12 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	13 6:00pm Parish Council	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
19 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Meatfare Sunday	20 Presidents' Day (Church Office Closed)	21	22	23	24	25 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Cheesefare Sunday 6:00pm Forgiveness Vespers	27 Great Lent Begins	28 7:00pm Lenten Compline				