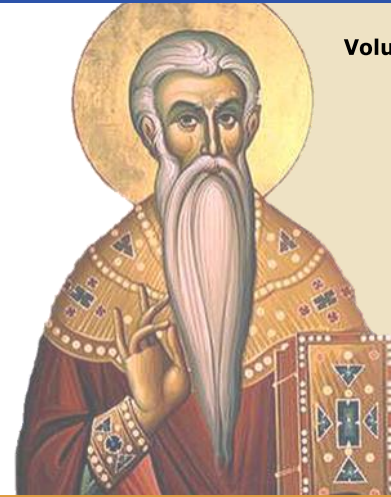


in Touch

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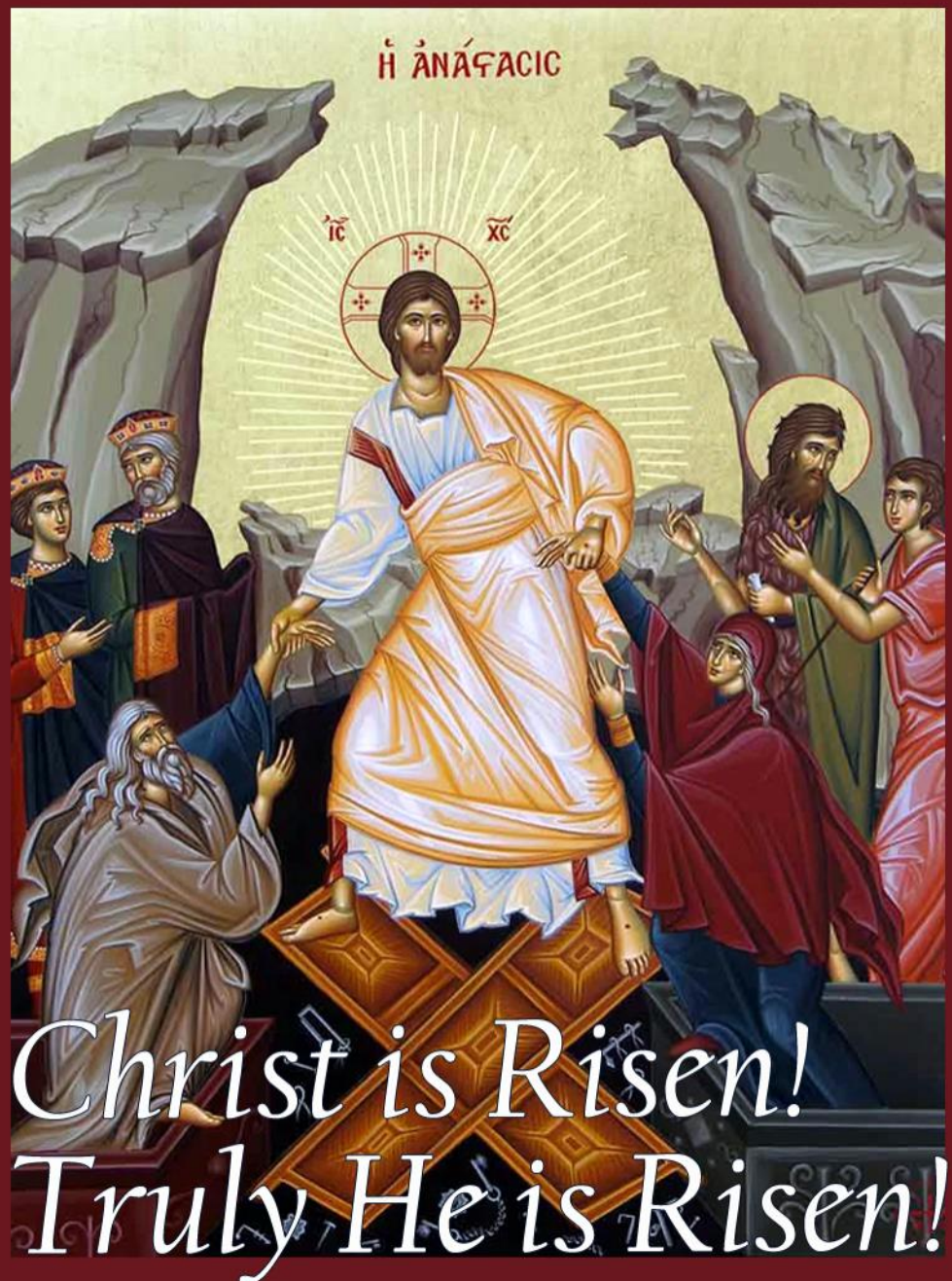


The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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



The Message of Salvation for all Mankind!

Whether your family exchanges the Easter greeting in English, Greek, Eritrean, Slavonic, Romanian or another language where the Orthodox Christian Church is alive and well, there is no celebration quite the same as the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We begin close to midnight on Saturday, and continue well into the early hours of Sunday morning when we are all typically fast asleep. Yet on this most important and inspirational celebration, we come together to proclaim our faith in God as we receive the light from the always-burning altar vigil light, singing the hymn of our Lord's resurrection time after time.



It is the signal that our Lenten Journey has come to an end, the Fast is over and the time for feasting has come.

We hear the moving Easter sermon of Saint John Chrysostom who says, "Let all of you then enter into the joy of our Lord. The first and second enjoy your reward. You rich and poor, rejoice together. You temperate and you heedless, honor the day.

You who fasted, and you who did not, rejoice today! The Table is richly laden. All of you fare sumptuously on it. The calf is a fatted one; let no one go away hungry. All of you enjoy the banquet of faith. All of you enjoy the riches of His goodness!"

I so look forward to speaking those words! They are a fixed part of the Easter Divine liturgy, moving all of us after hearing it to sing together, "Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death, He has trampled down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted everlasting life!" Those who may be hearing this beautiful hymn for the first time will have no trouble committing it to memory; it is repeated more than once!

Those who may be hearing this beautiful hymn for the first time will have no trouble committing it to memory

We will return at 1 pm on Easter Sunday, Apr. 16, for the Agapi Vespers of Love and hear the gospel read in a variety of languages, reminding us again, that this celebration is for all people, everywhere and at all times. My parents and grandparents heard the same beautiful scripture reading, and my children and grandchildren will hear the same! All future generations will benefit from hearing and responding positively to the eternal message of God's love for mankind.

Let us all join together and proclaim - as we do each year during this holy season - our faith as part of the body of Christ, His life-giving resurrection from the dead!

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!



**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](#)

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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

The council met on Mar. 8 with another action-packed agenda. Welcome back Anna! Irene is seeking volunteers for the greeting role over lent. Please contact her if you can help. Jean Baxter spoke to council about the Oratorical contest this year and was seeking some financial assistance, if any of our young people would make the Metropoulos or even the national finals to help with travel and or lodging. The council has a small line item budgeted, however if we have more winners from the parish we could use some additional dollars. Stay tuned...

The Brilliant Blessings daycare negotiations is under way for their lease renewal. Vivian Teska, Father and I will be attending the Clergy-Laity conference at St. Nicholas ranch in Dunlap California, Apr. 23 and 24. I will update you next

month on that meeting. The perimeter fence project is moving through the city of Peoria process. We will be getting contractor bids soon.

The portico is halfway to its goal, let's push it forward by donating so we can add beautiful addition to our church.

If you haven't done so the stewardship card will be on our website, check it out and use the pay-pal app on the donate page.

All things are moving in a positive direction for the church, and we couldn't do it without your help.

Also, we welcome Mary Undiano, our new parish bookkeeper and office administrator.

Let's all have a blessed Pascha.

Birthdays



Noah Solomon (3)
Stefania Stivaktakis (3)
Dennis Germanis (14)
Almaz Berhe (15)
Paula Farr (15)
Nardos G Yohannes (15)
Annastasia White (17)
Janet Deming (20)
Jeff Farr (20)
Georgia Trakas (20)
Katelyn Pritchard (22)
Melanie Singleton (22)
Christina Garvin (23)
Eve Devolites (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.

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 donated!

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.



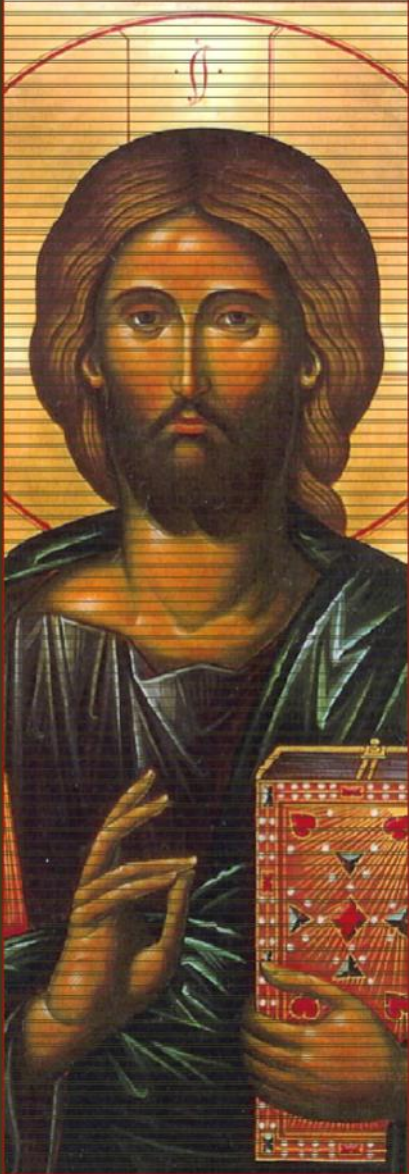
2023 Stewardship Families

Abbitt, Dimetra
Asfaha, Moges
Berhe, Almaz
Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia
Bravos, Frosene
Bryson, Tom & Joan
Carlson, Olga
Chionchio, Debbie
Christian, Thalia
Conklin, Maria
Contes, Jamie
Covault, Lloyd & Angela
Danielek, Michael and Chryss
Davis, Mary
Deming, Janet
Dent, Virginia
Dodd, Voula
Evangelinos, Parry & Hope
Farr, Paula
Farr, Kevin
Farr, Jeff & Judy
Finch, Dennis & Marina
Gardener, Semos
Giannias, Elaine
Gryparis, Demetri and Magda
Hartsel, Barbara
Javaras, Harry
Jolly, Judith
Kapetenakis, Voule and Cathy

Kinniburgh, Bob & Anna
Lafayette, Henry & Maria
Lazzelle, Estelle
Levendi, Mary
Loukas, Christos & Peggy
Magnani, Sharon
Mavridis, Christos
Michas, Peter
Milonas, Nick & Jane
Munteanu, Mirela
Nathanson, Irene
Nicely, Edna
Pagos, Stella
Pallad, Fr. Michael & Pres. Kristin
Pappas, Irene
Servetas, Charlotte
Singleton, Melanie
Stratos, George & Irene
Surman, Dina
Tally, Katherine
Tsfay, Ocbai & Genet
Teska, Dan & Vivian
Tsioutsopoulos, Demetre & Holly
Vardalos, Peter & Lindsay
Vasquez, Argyro
Woldesilassie, Solomon & Lydia
Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
Yannakopoulos, George & Helen
Zakas, Speros & Linda



You are a Member of the Body of Christ



Come and See

1

**“Now you are
the body of Christ,
and individually
members of it.”**

1 Corinthians 12:27



To be a member of the Church is not the same as being a member of a club or civic group. The Church is the “Body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 12). Therefore, to be a member of the Church is to be a part of the living body of Christ.

Just as every member has a different function in the human body, so do we each have a specific function or calling in His Church. God did not create each of us to do the same thing.

If a member of the human body is missing or not functioning, the entire body does not reach its full potential. In the same way, without all the members of the Church participating and working together, our ministries do not reach their full potential.

The Church needs not only to maintain its current ministries, but also to grow its ministries and add new ministries as needs or opportunities arise. Often new

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ministries come about because one member has an idea and the gifts, talent, training, abilities, education and skills to make it a reality. Each of us is called to offer our gifts as we have been blessed and serve according to the task that God has placed before us in service to His Church.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Holy Scripture provides guiding principles for us as members of the Church for building up the body of Christ:

Promote Truth and Unity

In Ephesians 4:25 we read, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body."

Use Our God-given Abilities to Serve

In I Corinthians chapter 12 we read of the importance of using our gifts to serve the Church. Your gift is unique and important. The proper functioning of the body requires that you use your gifts in service to God.

Regular and Cheerful Giving

In I Corinthians 16:2 we read "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his/her income." In this way, we offer back to God's Church the "first fruits" of our labor, realizing that all we possess comes from Him.

In II Corinthians 9:7 we read "Each person should give what he/she has

decided in his/her heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Keep in mind that the expenses of the Church increase every year. In order to grow our ministries, your stewardship contributions must also increase each year.

Let your life be an example to others

In chapter 5 of the Gospel of Matthew Jesus tells us that we "...are the light of the world." He calls on us to let our "...light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Worship God

In Psalm 92 we read "It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night." We are healed by praying and worshipping with others. There is a great sense of community that gives us strength when we pray and worship together in liturgy. We pray for ourselves and others, and we thank God for the many blessings in our lives.



Love each other

In I John 4 we read, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." And in the 13th chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

EVALUATE YOUR LIFE

Are you a contributing member of the body of Christ? Are you actively serving God and sharing Him with others? Are you contributing to peace and unity within His body? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life in light of these principles.

We are called to apply our gifts, training, abilities, education and skills to the tasks that God places before us. If we do this humbly and prayerfully, the body of Christ will function to its full potential.

The New Testament's motivation for giving is grace; giving is an act of worship in response to the generosity of God. You are to give, Paul says, "as God has prospered you." II Corinthians 8 and 9 teaches clearly, "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." God blesses those who give with generosity."

Giving is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question is not, "How much do I give to stay in the club?" or "What are the dues?" but "How can I thank God for my many blessings?"



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BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP, OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

83 St Basil Road • Garrison, NY 10524

646/519-6160 • Stewardship@goarch.org

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APRIL 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fifth Sunday of Lent 12:00pm Philoptochos Parish Oratorical Festival | 3 | 4 7:00pm Lenten Compline | 5 9:00am Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:00pm Parish Council | 6 4:00pm Book Club 6:00pm Journey to Fullness | 7 | 8 9:00am Divine Liturgy Lazarus Saturday Breakfast and Palm Crosses |
| 9 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Baked Fish Lunch Palm Sunday 6:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service | 10 HOLY WEEK 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service | 11 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service | 12 9:00am Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:00pm Sacrament of Holy Unction | 13 9:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm 12 Passion Week Gospels | 14 9:00am Royal Hours 3:00pm Vespers Descent from the Cross 7:00pm Lamentations | 15 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:15pm Resurrection Service |
| 16 EASTER SUNDAY/HOLY PASCHA 1:00pm Vespers of Love Community Potluck Lunch | 17 Bright Week No Fasting | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy | | | | | | |