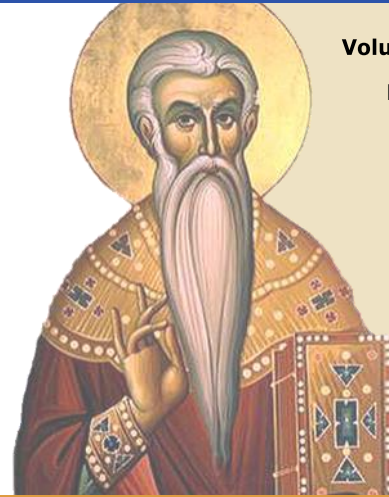


# in Touch

Volume 32, Issue 2  
February 2024



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

## Saint Haralambos

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**Parish Feastday**  
Saturday, February 10



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

# Front Entry Portico

Continual progress is being made on the construction of the Entry Portico! As sometimes happens in construction projects, there are cost overruns. We are asking for donations to cover these increased costs so there is no delay in the completion of this project.

Donations can be made at [StHaralambos.org](http://StHaralambos.org), by scrolling down and clicking on the Portico photo. We will continue to post updated construction photos on the parish website and Facebook page.



# Adult Education: Journey to Fullness

All are invited and welcome to attend the final eight session of the Journey to Fullness classes beginning next month. The first class will be following the Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy on Saturday, Mar. 9, and the remaining classes will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning on Mar. 12. The video presentations and discussions will be in the Fellowship Room.

# Book Club

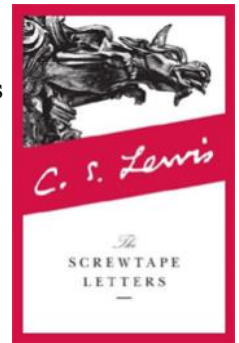
The second meeting of St. Haralambos Book Club will be Monday, Feb. 19 at 1 pm.

The book to be discussed is *Touching Heaven* by John Oliver. Oliver's poetic and beautiful prose recounts his astonishing journey to the island of Valaam to restore an ancient Russian monastery. He is forever changed as he discovers Orthodox Christianity, monastic life, and the longing for God in the every day.



In March, the classic satire *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis will be discussed. Using wit and wisdom, Lewis addresses the serious topics of temptation and evil.

If you are interested in reading books of faith and participating in lively discussion with your fellow parishioners, contact Irene Nathanson to join!



# Christian Stewardship

Do you attend services at Saint Haralambos Church, and participate in its ministries, events and activities? We ask all individuals and families who do, to offer their time, talents and treasures as good stewards of our parish. This means completing and submitting a Stewardship card at the beginning of each year.

The 2024 Stewardship brochures are available in the church office and at the Narthex candle stand. No maximum or minimum is required or suggested. Christian Stewardship giving is based primarily on the

understanding that we are simply, and cheerfully, returning to God a portion of His blessings to us. The amount of financial offerings should be based on a percentage of our income or other financial resources, rather than a fixed number or fee that is required for all. This follows the biblical teaching of the 10% tithe, and is a more equitable system than membership dues.

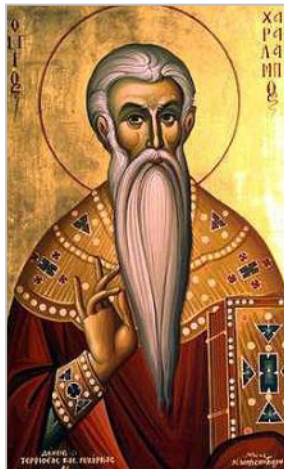
Stewardship donations may be made online at the parish website ([www.stharalambos.org](http://www.stharalambos.org)) at the iPad at church or by US mail to the church office.





## Saint Haralambos

At 113 years of age, Saint Haralambos fell asleep in the Lord. You might imagine that having lived for such a long life, his final year would have been spent peacefully. Unfortunately, the truth was much more violent and unforgiving for this great saint. In his final year on this earth, Saint Haralambos was put to the ultimate test, choosing to endure savage torture rather than deny his faith in Christ. What type of people would torture a man at his age? What were his crimes? The pious priest was found guilty of continuing to preach, teach and baptize in the face of the ultimatum given him by the local governmental authorities. Saint Haralambos was not persuaded in the least, and was attracting more attention among those living in his village and surrounding areas. Ultimately, orders were given to have him executed.



Two soldiers, Porphyrios and Vaptos were ordered to seize Haralambos and have him beheaded. When the time came, however, a voice from heaven was heard, saying, “Well done My good and faithful servant; enter now into the joy of your Master.” At moment, the saint gave up his life before having been executed. Having witnessed this miracle, Porphyrios and Vaptos repented and were baptized the same day. This news was relayed back to the local governor who became so enraged, he ordered the two soldiers executed. They are also commemorated together with Saint Haralambos.

Praised in his festal hymn as “an unshakable pillar of the Church of Christ,” Saint Haralambos is a marvelous example of how strong faith in Christ can give us courage to face anything in life. This month we remember and celebrate the life of our patron saint. The service of Great Vespers is celebrated on Friday, Feb. 9 at 7 pm, followed by a

reception in our Fellowship Room. Saturday morning, Feb. 10, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 9 am.

The strong and unyielding faith of Saint Haralambos is truly a challenge for us today. Have any of us reached the age of 113? Are any of us under threat of execution? Do we fear being taken by military personnel for our faith as Christians? If not, do we really have any excuse not to push ourselves to increase our faith and love of God? Let’s not allow spiritual laziness become our excuse, and let us instead remember and imitate the incredible example of Saint Haralambos, the beloved patron saint of our parish.

Ours is only one of three Greek Orthodox parishes in this country named after this great saint. His name translated into English as Joyful Light, Haralambos is truly a bright light of the Christian faith, one that bears remembering and celebrating!

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*The strong and unyielding faith of Saint Haralambos is truly a challenge for us today.*

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**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

623-486-8665  
7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ 85383  
Office@StHaralambosAZ.com  
FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

### Hours

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Parish Council

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

## Parish Council News

By Ray Wysmierski, President

I would like to welcome two new members to our Parish Council, Angie Cholas and Harry Bekiaris.

Now that the project-filled 2023 is behind us, all of the FEMA grant work is almost completed. The electrical contractor is waiting for the final approval from the City of Peoria. The cell tower lease has been sold and will be finalized the last week of January.

Going forward, we will need to continue filing reports with FEMA for seven years and update any changes to the construction at St. Haralambos.

Once a keypad is installed at the east entrance, everyone will be provided a code. The code will be used primarily during the week. We will be using the same entrance for entry and exit. We cannot illuminate the westside driveway according to the

City of Peoria; we have an alternative in mind and will see what the contractor can do to make it work.

Sunday, Jan. 28, the Gospel reading was from Luke 19: 1-10. This story was about a very interesting man named Zacchaeus, a tax collector, who wanted to see Jesus but he was short in stature so he had to climb a sycamore tree. Much to the chagrin of the people all around, Jesus told him to come down from up high as He was to have dinner that evening. Zacchaeus comes to have a heart for Christ and becomes changed. Because he was so richly blessed, he was glad to do something voluntarily, which the rich ruler would not. Exactly what happened in the house of Zacchaeus is not known. But joy rings out in Christ's words. Today salvation has come to this house. This story reminds us to repent wholeheartedly as we approach this Lenten season.

### Birthdays



- Nicholas Wysmierski (4)
- Koula Ratliff (5)
- Erini Braddock (11)
- Peter Vardalos (11)
- Olivia Nicholas (12)
- 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.

## St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Anna Kinniburgh, President

Each month I will present the ministry commitments for that month, to inform everyone where the funds Philoptochos raises, are used for.

The month of February the funds are used to heighten awareness of Autism, with assistance and support. Amounts are determined by each chapter and sent to the National Orthodox Philoptochos.

On Feb. 10 it is The St. Haralambos name day Feast, which we celebrate on the evening of Friday Feb 9. We have evening services with prayers (Vespers) and

Artoklasia, 5 loaves of Bread will be offered during these Prayers.

The service will be followed with a Potluck dinner. All are welcome. Anyone wishing to bring a Fasting dish will be welcomed. We will be inviting the other Orthodox Churches and hope everyone will attend.



## 2024 Stewardship Families

Abbitt, Dimetra  
 Basha, Genti & Elda  
 Bastell, Suad & Rudy  
 Bekiaris Harry & Cynthia  
 Cholas, Angie  
 Christian, Thalia  
 Christie, Paul & Patricia  
 Deming, Janet

Dent, Virginia  
 Evangelinos, Perry &  
 Hope  
 Finch, Marina  
 Giannias, Elaine  
 Jolly, Judith  
 Kinniburgh, Robert &  
 Anna

Lazzelle, Estelle  
 Levendi, Mary  
 Mavridis, Christos  
 Meyer, Herman  
 Nathanson, Alan & Irene  
 Pagos, Stella  
 Pallad, Fr. Michael &  
 Kristin

Raiciof, Catalina  
 Sambol, Patricia  
 Servetas, Charlotte  
 Singleton, Melanie &  
 Bryan Frost  
 Surman, Dina  
 Teska, Daniel & Vivian  
 Thieke, James

Vardalos, Lindsay  
 Wysmierski, Raymond &  
 Mary  
 Yannakopoulos, George  
 Zakas, Speros & Linda  
 Zaruba, Estelle

# FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>The Presentation of the Lord</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Great Vespers (Reception Following)	<b>10</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Saint Haralambos Parish Feastday</b>
<b>11</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>15</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Sts. Athanasios and Cyril</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Beginning of the Triodion (pre-Lenten) Period	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>29</b>		