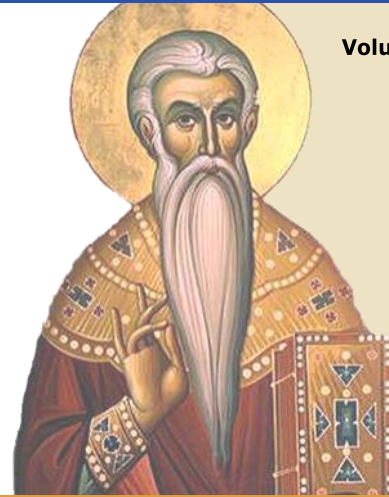


in Touch

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“Most Holy Theotokos Intercede for Us.”

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



The Mother of God (Theotokos), Prays for Us

There should be no doubting that the Christian Faith is primarily based upon the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Following His resurrection, the Good News of this miraculous and lifesaving event spread like wildfire, received with awe and great joy by some, disbelief and rejection by others.

Following His resurrection, and before ascending into heaven, Jesus spent the next 40 days with His disciples, teaching and encouraging them for the work that lay ahead. They witnessed His awesome physical ascent into heaven and, 10 days later, were filled with the Holy Spirit when it descended upon them on the feast of Pentecost.

Orthodox Christianity, while always celebrating the primary events in the life of our Lord, Jesus Christ, also includes among its major feasts, four events in the life of His mother the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary. These include her birth (September 8), her Entrance into the Temple (November 21), the Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel (March 25), and her Dormition, celebrated this month on Aug. 15.

These four feasts give us, as Orthodox Christians, the opportunity to remember, honor and celebrate the life of our Lord's mother with some of the most beautiful, inspiring hymns and prayers ever composed. They are found not just in the Matins, Vespers, Divine Liturgy, but also in two additional services composed in her honor: The Akathist Hymn which is prayed during Great Lent, and the Paraklesis or Office of Supplication to the Theotokos, offered during the first 14 days of August.

The Akathist Hymn and the Paraklesis service were composed later in the 6th and 7th centuries as hymns of praise and supplication, asking her prayers on behalf of us, as the one having the closest and most loving personal and human connection with our Lord.

The first two weeks of August are designated as the final fasting period of the church year, which begins Sep. 1. We fast and we come together in prayer with the addition of the Paraklesis service (see the Community Calendar for service days and times) to help us prepare for the celebration of this great feast on Thursday, Aug. 15, with the Divine Liturgy at 9 am.

At 5 pm the evening prior, we are all invited to the Vesper service and fellowship reception at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale.

As stated earlier, the Christian Faith is centered on the lifegiving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He – and no other - as the Divine Logos, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, God-become-Man, is the Savior of humankind. The Orthodox Christian Church gives appropriate honor and remembrance to its saints throughout history, especially to the Theotokos, and ever-Virgin Mary. Because of her unique and central role in salvation history, the Church refers to her as the Great Intercessor of Mankind.

In the Divine Liturgy we sing together, "Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us." In

(Continued on page 5)

*the Christian Faith
is centered on the
lifegiving death
and resurrection of
Jesus Christ*



**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	Vivian Teska
Harry Bekiaris	Solomon Woldeasilassie
Deborah Chionchio	Mary Wysmierski
Angie Cholas	Ray Wysmierski
Virginia Dent	Linda Zakas
Dan Teska	

Parish Council News

By Ray Wysmierski, President

We are now past the construction phase of the FEMA project and Portico. We just have a few finishing touches and it will all be done. Now we will concentrate on the repairs and replacements of the aged equipment, i.e.: air-conditioning, furnaces, plumbing, electrical and the like.

Please remember, we have a tenant, the daycare, that must have a safe environment, not only security but a sustainable one with the amenities. The daycare is essential to our bottom line.

Harry Bekiaris is a man of many talents; however he knows his limitations, that is where the cost comes in to play. We need bonded and insured repair persons to deal with the complicated issues. This is where your stewardship comes into play and why it's so important.

At the General Assembly I called for volunteers to assist with our parish strategic vision. So far, I have not been contacted by anyone. This is a very simple process in order to document what we plan for our parish over the next 5-10 years. (Side note, Dennis Georgen chaired the strategic planning committee with 20 volunteers in 2007, it's in the In Touch, Fall 2007, just saying Dennis)

The Parish Council took a vote at our meeting on Jul. 23 and made the decision to table the festival. We have published requests seeking volunteers for a committee and have received no responses since the last General Assembly. If no one comes forward with at least 25-30 volunteers and elects a chair it is a tabled subject for now.

We will continue to seek other opportunities to financially support our

parish in a way that won't take on a monumental event with numerous volunteers.

I realize our parish has a lot of experienced members; however, we must realize that we cannot put that type of burden on our seasoned veterans.

Please note as of Sep. 1, we will be activating the main gate. It will be left open for Sunday and other liturgical services. However, during the week it will be closed and you will need the gate code.

The plan is to have a gate code for the parishioners (same code), the daycare to have their own for all parents and staff, our delivery services, and safety forces have activation devices on their vehicles to gain access.

Harry has also had a sign at the gate made with the daycare and office phone numbers. Father Michael will have a remote, the daycare and also our front office.

If you're stuck, please call the phone number for the office when visiting between 10 am and 2 pm, unless you have meetings with Father Michael, who may also give you access via remote. We will also be printing the notice in the weekly bulletin.

This is a nuisance, so bear with us as it is a work in progress. The campus is lit up, no more darkness and we are secure.

Keep in mind the cameras, fence, repairing the back wall, and lighting are all part of what was required to secure the FEMA grant. Now we must comply with the stipulated requirements in our agreement with the government.



Are You a Steward of St. Haralambos?

Name Days

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

St. Teodosios of Argos (7th)
 St. Laurentios (Laurence) (10th)
 Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15th)
 St. Stamatios (16th)
 St. Theophanes of Mt. Athos (19th)
 St. Irenaios (23rd)
 St. Moses the Ethiopian (28th)

We encourage all our parish families to send in the parish Stewardship form each year, together with their offerings of time, talents and treasure. If Saint Haralambos Church is the church you regularly attend, please consider becoming a steward, one who not only supports the church financially, but also with involvement in parish ministries and activities.

There are no Membership Dues in the Orthodox Church. Not only to support the continued ministries and functioning of our Church, our offerings show our willingness to return to God a portion of His blessings of time, talent and treasure. In addition, being a parish steward fulfills the Archdiocese requirements of being a Member in Good Standing, allowing you to serve as godparents and sponsors for Orthodox sacraments, as well as being able to vote at parish General Assemblies.



Our financial contributions should be a percentage of our financial resources. 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 it is biblical because of the teaching of the tithe, or a 10% gift back to the 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.

The 2024 Stewardship brochures are available in the Narthex and the church office. Please print legibly, and enter your contributions of time, talents and treasure. Completed brochures can be mailed to the office or dropped off on Sundays.

2024 Stewardship Families

Abbitt, Demetra
 Asfaha, Moges
 Bachanos, Evan & Jewelie
 Basha, Genti & Elda
 Bastell, Rudy & Suad
 Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia
 Berhe, Almaz & Mogos
 Bruno-Doster, Jenny
 Bryson, Tom & Joan
 Carlson, Olga
 Chionchio, Deborah
 Cholas, Angie
 Christian, Thalia
 Christie, Paul & Patricia
 Conklin, Tom & Maria
 Cotton, John & Ali
 Covault, Lloyd & Angela
 Danielek, Michael & Chrissy
 Deming, Janet
 Dent, Virginia
 Dodd, Stavroula

Evangelinos, Parry & Hope
 Farr, Jeff and Judy
 Finch, Dennis & Marina
 Germenis, Dennis
 Giannias, Elaine
 Gryparis, Demetri & Magda
 Hartsel, Barbara
 Javaras, Harry
 Jolly, Judith
 Kinniburgh, Anna
 Lafayette, Henry & Maria
 Lazzelle, Estelle
 Levendi, Mary
 Mavridis, Christos
 Meyer, Herman
 Milonas, Nick & Jane
 Nathanson, Alan & Irene
 Pagos, Stella
 Pallad, Fr. Michael & Kristin
 Pappas, Irene
 Raiciof, Catalina

Ratliff, Koula
 Russom, Bereket
 Sambol, Patricia
 Servetas, Charlotte
 Singleton, Melanie & Bryan Frost
 Surman, Dina
 Tally, Katherine
 Tesfay, Ocbai & Genet
 Teska, Dan & Vivian
 Themistocles, Demetria
 Theoharatos, George & Lisa
 Thieke, James & Lucy Schouten
 Trakas, Georgia
 Tucker, Marvin & Eleni
 Vardalos, Peter & Lindsay
 Woldesilassi, Solomon & Lydia
 Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
 Yiannakopoulos, George & Helen
 Zakas, Speros & Linda
 Zaruba, Estelle

Class of 2024 High School Graduates

As the new school year begins this month, we remember and congratulate our recent High School graduates. May God bless them as they continue their higher education!

Yotham Moges

Graduated from Mountain Ridge High School in Glendale. Yothem was awarded the Wildcat Tuition Award to the University of Arizona to continue his studies in the field of Medicine this Fall.



Bethel Samuel

Graduated from Great Hearts North Phoenix High School. After being awarded a full scholarship from Arizona State University, Bethel plans on attending Barrett Honors College studying Biomedical Sciences and then applying to Medical School.



Birthdays



- Andreas Karabetsos (3)
- Joseph Berte (4)
- Irene Nathanson (4)
- Olga Fredericksen (6)
- Cynthi Bekiaris (13)
- Victoria Georgen (15)
- Alexis Tremoulis (17)
- Thalia Christian (18)
- Chryss Danielek (18)
- Father Michael Pallad (18)
- Evanthia Vardalos (25)
- Angela Covault (27)
- Val Danos (27)
- Zewdi Asfaha (31)

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.

Clergy Column

(Continued from page 2)

the Paraklesis service we sing together, "Most holy Theotokos, intercede for us." We ask her to hear our prayers and pray for us to her Son, our Lord and God, Jesus Christ. This intercession is not meant as a replacement of our own prayers to God, but a helpful and powerful addition to them.

The month of August, the final month of the church year, includes two major

feastdays: the Transfiguration of Christ on Aug. 6, and the Dormition of the Theotokos on Aug. 15. Let us come together during these first two weeks in prayer and fasting, honoring and celebrating our Lord and His Mother with appropriate hymns and prayers.

AUGUST 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					7:00pm Office of Supplication to the Theotokos	
4 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	5 7:00pm Great Vespers The Transfiguration of Christ	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy Transfiguration of the Lord	7 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the	8	9 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the	10
11 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	12 7:00pm Office of Supplication to the Theotokos	13	14 5:00pm Vespers Dormition of the Theotokos (Assumption Church, Scottsdale)	15 9:00am Divine Liturgy Dormition of the Theotokos	16	17
18 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	19	20	21	22 6:00pm Parish Council	23	24
25 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	26	27	28	29 9:00am Divine Liturgy Beheading of John the Baptist	30	31