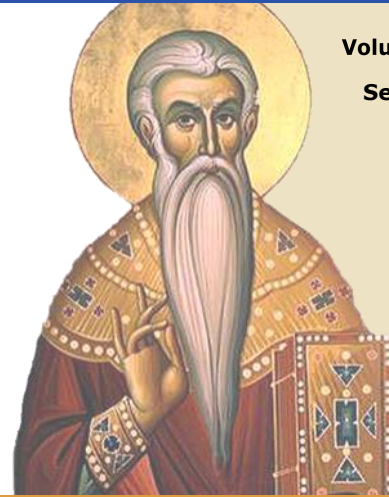


in Touch

Volume 32, Issue 9
September 2024



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Join Us on September 29 for a
"Teaching"



Divine Liturgy

**Teaching
Divine Liturgy • 2**

**Parish Council
News • 3**

**Adult Education
Class • 6-7**



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



A Special Teaching Divine Liturgy

It should come as no surprise that contemporary Sunday worship services differ widely from church to church. These include the Orthodox Divine Liturgy, the Roman Catholic Mass, along with various forms of contemporary Praise and Worship services from any number of Protestant or Non-denominational traditions.

If you have family members from different Christian traditions, you may have been invited to attend their services, or may have watched various services recorded on social media. The differences are pretty obvious both in form and content, sight and sound. All of them have a history and tradition behind them, including, of course, the Divine Liturgy of the Orthodox Christian Church.

Why is there only one Divine Liturgy on Sundays? What is the meaning of the many symbols, processions and rituals? Is the Liturgy the same every Sunday, and has it changed over time?

To help answer these and other questions, a special Teaching Divine Liturgy will be offered on Sunday, Sep. 29, at 10 am. The liturgy will be stopped at various times with commentary on the


history and meaning of the Divine Liturgy, Christianity's oldest continuous form of worship.

When Orthodox Christianity first came to this country, the Sunday morning services were the same as they are today here at Saint Haralambos Church, and at Orthodox parishes throughout the country. There hasn't been a revolutionary movement to change, to update or to improve upon what has been handed down to us from previous generations.

So let's do a little digging below the surface, and listen to some explanations to help us understand better why the Divine Liturgy is the way it is, and why Orthodox Christian churches continue to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, and only the Divine Liturgy, every Sunday of the year.

Bring a friend or a family member with you for the Teaching Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Sep. 29! All are welcome! There will be time for Question and Answers afterwards.

listen to some explanations to help us understand better why the Divine Liturgy is the way it is

**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 Wyszmierski
Angie Cholas	Ray Wyszmierski
Virginia Dent	Linda Zakas
Dan Teska	

Parish Council News

By Ray Wysmierski, President

Well, the Fall is upon us as we begin to welcome back our snowbirds. The past month has been fairly quiet with just a few maintenance issues we have dealt with as we are aware the building is getting older.

The daycare has asked to renegotiate the lease by relinquishing the added space they acquired, the center section of the fellowship hall and some hallways. Cynthia Bekiaris has been working on calculating our loss of revenue, which is about \$24,000 a year.

We are also working on our investments to maximize our monthly interest stream; however this loss of income needs to be addressed for the long-term.

The opportunity to sell the cell tower lease was truly a gift from God, as it has helped get our financials in a positive direction. However, we still have many challenges with ongoing maintenance issues.

Thank God for Harry Bekiaris who has taken on some of those maintenance issues to lessen our financial burdens in that area.

The HVAC issues still require us to have our outside experts manage them. It's the same with the walk-in cooler, we are faced with potentially replacing the motor/condenser.

Those issues would be nice to have repaired but we have to look at our priorities, such as the daycare, our tenant that must follow the state's licensing guidelines to avoid any problems with them.

All in all, we are dealing steadily with all these issues to ensure we have our house of God in order, for the parishioners. I truly hate to constantly report the negative issues with the church; however, I feel it's

best to keep everyone informed.

This is not just the parish council's church, as we serve the Lord, but all of us. We were just voted to help Father Michael manage it.

We always need volunteers, so if you have the time and talent please come forth, we can always use helping hands.

Remember when God closes one door, he opens another.

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 if you're making your visit 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.



Name Days

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

St. Symeon (1st)
 St. Sozon (7th)
 St. Efrosynos (11th)
 St. Niketas (15th)
 St. Euphemia (16th)
 Sts. Faith, Hope and Love (17th) and their mother Sophia
 St. Euphrosyne (25th)
 St. Chariton (29th)
 St. Gregory (30th)

Are You a Steward of St. Haralambos?

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
 Baxter, Jean
 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
 Huth, Cynthia
 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
 Romanos Soles, Samuel
 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
 Tripsas, Basil & Ann
 Tucker, Marvin & Eleni
 Vardalos, Peter & Lindsay
 Woldesilassi, Solomon & Lydia
 Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
 Yiannakopoulos, George & Helen
 Zakas, Speros & Linda
 Zaruba, Estelle

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

September starts our Ecclesiastical Year.

I Hope every one had a safe summer and with new enthusiasm for our church start our new year. Our first Philoptochos meeting will be Oct. 13 and we will be welcoming new members. I hope many more will join us.

Thank you to all for helping volunteering at our coffee hour on Sundays. We appreciate all the help, and with all the monetary offerings we have been able to pay for our supplies and to be able to keep up with our obligations. Please continue to help us with your donations.



Evangelism Season

This month is the start of our parish Evangelism Season! Come and listen on Sundays to members of our Evangelism Ministry discuss ways each of us can be sharers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, including information on learning more about Orthodox Christianity and our parish.

Do you know someone in your family, workplace, school or neighborhood who you'd like to invite to church? Bring them with you on Sunday, Sep. 29, when we will

have a Teaching Divine Liturgy, pausing at various times to give explanations about what is happening during the service.

On the first two Sundays of the month, everyone will receive Prayer Cards which will have places to enter the names of people you want pray for, that they would continue their Christian walk. The names will be collected and prayers offered during special Akathist Hymn services to Saint Innocent, the patron saint of our Evangelism Ministry.

Eternal Memory

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of His servant, Patricia Christie, who fell asleep in the Lord last month on Aug. 2. Funeral services were held at St. Haralambos Church on Aug. 22, with interment at the Phoenix National Memorial Cemetery. May our Lord Jesus Christ grant peace and comfort to her family, and may her memory be eternal!

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of His servant, Aphrodite Devolites, who fell asleep in the Lord on Aug. 24. The Funeral Service is scheduled for Saturday, Sep. 21, and the Trisagion and interment in California. May our Lord Jesus Christ grant peace and comfort to her family, and may her memory be eternal!

Stay Informed on Parish News and Events

In addition to the monthly InTouch Newsletter, we also maintain email and cell phone number databases to help deliver more timely announcements and

information. To help ensure you stay current on parish events and activities, be sure to send us your current email address and cell phone number.

Birthdays



- Angie Cholas (4)
- Demetrios Gryparis (4)
- Jessie Baruti (5)
- Katherine Tally (7)
- Lloyd Covault (9)
- Solomon Woldesilassie (16)
- Efrosini Curran (19)
- Trenton Wilkins (20)
- Raymond Wymierski (20)
- Jane Milonas (22)
- Lydia Ghebrehiwot (25)
- Mogos Asfaha (27)

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.

“A Journey to Fullness”
Adult Education Class on the Orthodox Christian Church



Why learn about Orthodox Christianity? Today, perhaps more so than in previous generations, the Christian Church has become divided into hundreds of different denominations. This naturally leads to questions about the differences between them, and the value of learning about one tradition over another.

A Journey to Fullness presents the history, teachings and traditions of Orthodox Christianity in a series of 16 weekly sessions. Sessions 1-8 begin at 6pm on Wednesday, October 2. (Sessions 9-16 continue on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. (See class schedule and topics below.)

Each evening session begins with a delicious dinner, then explores the origins of Orthodox Christianity with a brief video segment and further discussion.

Pre-registration is required by the September 27 deadline by completing the Registration Form below. Send in yours today!

“A Journey to Fullness” Registration Form

Please complete and return by the September 27, 2024 deadline

FALL SESSION*

All class sessions begin with dinner at 6pm in the Fellowship Room.

- Session 1: Wednesday, Oct 2: Is this Trip Really Necessary?
- Session 2: Wednesday, Oct 9: What is the Orthodox Church?
- Session 3: Wednesday, Oct 16: When did Orthodoxy Begin?
- Session 4: Wednesday, Oct 23: Characteristics of Orthodox Christianity
- Session 5: Wednesday, Oct 30: Mindset Matters
- Session 6: Wednesday, Nov 6: A Healing Purpose
- Session 7: Wednesday, Nov 13: Truth and Tradition
- Session 8: Wednesday, Nov 20: How Do I Understand the Bible?

****Registration for the Spring Session (8 classes beginning Wednesday, January 8, 2025) will take place in December.***

(Please print information clearly)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Registration Fee: \$65/person; \$110/couple

*Includes 10 dinners and Workbook

Payment Method

Credit or Debit Card(available online [Here](#))

Cash or Check(payable to Saint Haralambos Church) \$ _____

*Please enclose with Registration Form and send to:

Saint Haralambos
 Orthodox Christian Church
 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road
 Peoria, Arizona 85383

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Beginning of the New Church Year	2 Labor Day (office closed)	3	4	5	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy Miracle of the Archangel Michael in Chonae	7
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Nativity of the Theotokos	9	10	11	12	13	14 9:00am Divine Liturgy Elevation of the Holy Cross
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	23	24	25	26 9:00am Divine Liturgy Falling Asleep of John the Evangelist	27	28
29 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	30					