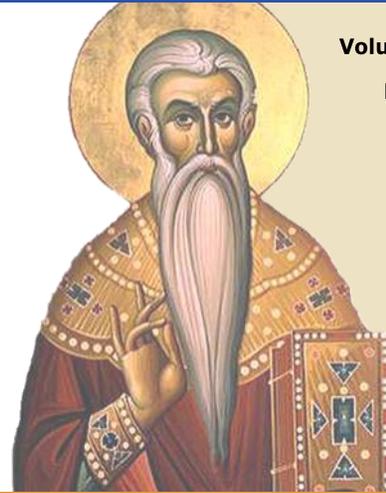


in Touch

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Outdoor Sunday Services



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

Great Lent Begins

With the beginning of Great Lent on Monday, Feb. 23, printed copies of the annual Lenten Parishioner Guidebook will be available on Meatfare Sunday, February 15. Digital copies will be emailed on the prior Wednesday, Feb. 11.

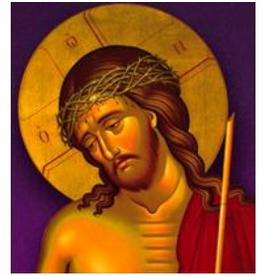
Great Lent in the Orthodox Church is a time of spiritual discipline and growth, one that calls us to focus on prayer, fasting and works of charity. The Lenten Parishioner Guidebook is offered to help learn about and practice these spiritual disciplines. The Lenten worship calendar calls us to come together during the week in addition to Sundays, with the Evening Compline service on Tuesday evenings, the Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts on Wednesday, alternating between morning and evening service times, and the Akathist Hymn on Friday evenings.

This is how Orthodox Christians prepare themselves, physically and spiritually, to celebrate the holy Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is also an appropriate time to schedule an appointment for the

Sacrament of Confession.

While there are certainly no shortage of commercials, videos and social media posts about the importance of maintaining a healthy body, the Orthodox Church teaches to focus more of our time and attention on ways to build a strong spiritual life, one that is based on a strong and vibrant faith in God, on following the teachings of His Son, Jesus Christ, and on devoting daily time to prayer as guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The 40-day Lenten Journey is a wonderful opportunity for us to stretch ourselves spiritually to grow more fully into a life that is pleasing to God, our Heavenly Father, His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy, Good and Lifegiving Spirit.



A Taste of Greece!



Unbelievable, but six years have passed since our parish family last hosted our Peoria Greek festival. The exciting news to share with family, friends and neighbors is that we are planning on bringing it back, October 23-25, 2026, and it will be better than ever!

While the flavor of the festival might be Greek, our festival is a community wide celebration, showcasing who we are as Orthodox Christians. In Greece, as well as in other predominantly Orthodox countries, most churches have a festival, typically in celebration of the Patron Saint of the community. St Haralambos is observed on February 10. Unfortunately, this year that timeline presented us with numerous challenges for our reset.

Moving to October gives us needed time to be thoughtful in our planning and think outside of the box in re-imagining what our festival will look like. While we have some experience within our parish, we really are beginning with a clean slate.

Subcommittees are forming focusing on many different aspects including food and beverage, pastries, music and entertainment, children and family activities, cultural and religious experience, promotion and social media, infrastructure, parking and security, volunteer and vendor management.

Everyone has talents to offer and your enthusiasm is needed. To express your interest and offer your help, call the church office or reach out to Father Michael, Committee Chair Dennis Georgen, or any member of the Parish Council. OPA!!



Parish Feastday Services

We've come now to the month of February, which, for us, means the celebration of the Feastday of Saint Haralambos, patron saint of our church. Services will begin with Great Vespers on Monday, Feb. 9 beginning at 5:30 pm, followed by the Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 9:00 am.

Join us in celebrating and honoring the memory of this great Priest-Martyr, who lived 113 years as a dedicated servant of the Lord.



Thankful for Arizona Fall Weather

As was announced last month, due to a broken sprinkler head in the early morning hours on Friday, January 9, the church kitchen was flooded with water which extended into the adjacent hallways, classrooms and much of the sanctuary. A remediation company was contacted and began the water extraction and drying out of all affected areas. While the repairs continue, Sunday services will continue to be held outdoors.

Fortunately, the Arizona Fall temperatures are moderate, and while we are able to provide seating in the outdoor covered tent for Sunday services, if this had happened during the summer months, other arrangements would have been necessary.

While parking is still available on both the east and west sides of our building, the “entry area” is best accessed from the east side lot. Exercise caution while walking on the gravel, and please



follow the guidance of our Greeters for lighting candles, picking up the Sunday bulletin and entering into the tent. We ask for your patience while we hold services outdoors. The setting may not be perfect, but we are celebrating the same Sunday Divine Liturgy as we always have, calling upon the same Holy Spirit to be with as we continue to offer our traditional corporate worship as an Orthodox Christian Church.

The setting may not be perfect, but we are celebrating the same Sunday Divine Liturgy as we always have

We look forward to worshipping together, outdoors for the first time, each Sunday morning beginning at 8:45 am with Matins, followed by the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am.



**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

Evan Bachanos	Daniel Teska
Avery Brightwell	Vivian Teska
Angie Cholas	Basil Tripsas
Virginia Dent	Eleni Tucker
Stella Pagos	Solomon Woldesilassie
Catalina Raicioff	Linda Zakas

Service In Love: Mission Sunday

During Great Lent we are called to reflect on Christ's love and share His message of salvation with the world. On Sunday, Feb. 22, St. Haralambos will once again observe Mission Sunday, the day that reminds us of the importance of preaching Christ's gospel of peace and offering our support to those who bring these "glad tidings." In light of this theme, all are invited to participate in this year's calling: Service in Love.

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is the agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. They coordinate missionary efforts by sending missionary personnel to bring the Gospel to people around the world. They also support mission priests, provide training to Church leaders, and fund missions grants.

Each of us can support Mission Sunday by:

- **Attending a special webinar showing on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 pm in the church library.** There we will view "*America as a Mission Field: What is the Gospel?*" Join Father Martin Ritsi and Father John Parker in a conversation reflecting on the unchanging message of the Gospel,

the realities of a post-Christian culture, and practical ways parishes and faithful can engage their local communities with clarity and hope.

- **By taking home Mission Coin Boxes** and encouraging all, especially children, to put spare change into them
- **By making a special donation** in support of Mission Sunday
- **By praying** for the missionaries serving throughout the world

Through these efforts we too, like the Apostles, can help bring people into the fullness of life found in Jesus Christ.

Morning Bible Study

All are invited to a new, weekly Bible Study, beginning Thursday morning, Feb. 5, at 10 am in the church library. The study will focus on the Sunday bible readings, prior to, and during, Great Lent. The first session will be from Chapter 15 of the Gospel of Saint Luke, the parable of the Prodigal Son, and will continue weekly each Thursday morning. All are welcome!



February 22, 2026

The Orthodox Mission Center supports Orthodox missionaries, clergy, and projects worldwide. Please pray and donate to these life-transforming ministries.

Learn how you can get involved!



**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
MISSION CENTER**

The fullness of faith. To the ends of the earth.



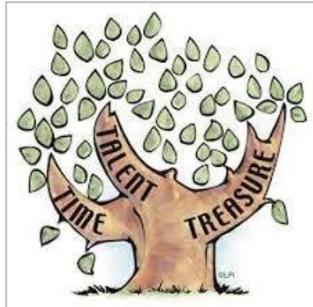
1-877-463-6784
WWW.OCMC.ORG
MISSIONS@OCMC.ORG

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center is the missions and evangelism agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.

Stewardship

One of our parish goals for 2026 is to have all parish families become Good Stewards of Saint Haralambos Church. This means carefully completing the 2026 Stewardship brochure, making sure your family information is correct, becoming involved in parish ministries, and making a financial pledge for the year.

When we recognize that everything we have: health, wealth, time and talents, are all gifts from God, there should be no hesitation in thanking God by using those



gifts to build up His Church and to glorify His name. To exercise good stewardship is to use God's gifts in ways that glorify Him and build up His Church. This means using our gifts for the benefit of others, giving a portion of our time and treasure for the strengthening of the Church. When one is aware of their God-given blessings, then sharing them with others and through His Church is a very natural and joyful response.

If needed, new/blank [Stewardship brochures](#) are available at the Narthex candle stand.

2026 Stewardship Families

Abitt, Dimetra	Evangelinos, Mr. and Mrs	Pagos, Stella
Abbott, Paula	Farr, Jeff	Raiciof, Catilina
Anest, James	Finch, Marina	Sambol, Patricia
Bachanos, Evangelos & Jewelene	Ghattas, Edward and Nada	Servetas, Charlotte
Basha, Genti & Elda	Giannias, Elaine	Singleton, Melanie
Bastell Suad R.	Hartsel, Barbara	Surman, Dina
Bekiaris, Harry and Cynthia	Horne, Kevin & Denise	Teska, Daniel & Vivian
Brightwell, Avery & Brook	Huth, Cynthia	Thieke, James
Chambers, Michael	Jolly, Judith	Tripsas, Basil
Christian, Thalia	Kinniburgh, Anna	Tucker, Eleni
Cornetta, Alexander	Laios, Efthimios (Tim)	Vardalos, Lindsay
Danielek, Chrissy	Lazzelle, Estelle	Woldesilassie, Solomon
Deinhard, Kimi	Levendi, Mary	Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
Deming, Janet	Mavridis, Christos	Zakas, Speros & Linda
Dent, Virginia	Milonas, Nick & Jane	Zaruba, Estelle
	Nathanson, Irene	

Name Days

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

St. Agathi (5th)	St. Zacharias (11th)	St. Theodore (17th)
St. Theodore Stratelates (8th)	St. Christos the Gardener (12th)	St. Agapetos (18th)
St. Haralambos (10th)	St. Meletios (12th)	St. Evstathios (21st)
St. Theodora the Empress (11th)	SS. Aquila and Priscilla (13th)	St. Photini (26th)
		St. Kyranna (29th)

Birthdays



Nicholas Wysmierski (4)
 Koula Ratliff (5)
 Peter Vardalos (11)
 Athena Tsioutsiopoulos (12)
 Lisian Basha (22)
 Harry Calivas (24)
 Dennis Georgen (24)
 Speros Zakas (24)
 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.

FEBRUARY 2026

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Publican and the Pharisee Lenten Triodion Begins	2	3	4	5 10:00am Lenten Bible Study 6:00pm Parish Council Meeting	6	7
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy The Prodigal Son	9 5:30pm Great Vespers Parish Feastday Reception	10 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saint Haralambos Parish Feastday	11	12 10:00am Lenten Bible Study	13	14 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Meatfare Sunday	16	17	18	19 10:00am Lenten Bible Study	20	21 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Cheesefare Sunday 5:00pm Forgiveness Vespers	23 Great Lent Begins 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service	24 6:30pm Missions and Evangelism Webinar	25 9:00am Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts Lenten Breakfast following	26 10:00am Lenten Bible Study	27 7:00pm kathist Hymn	28 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls