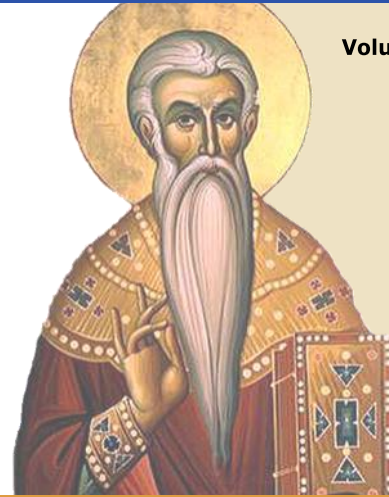


in Touch

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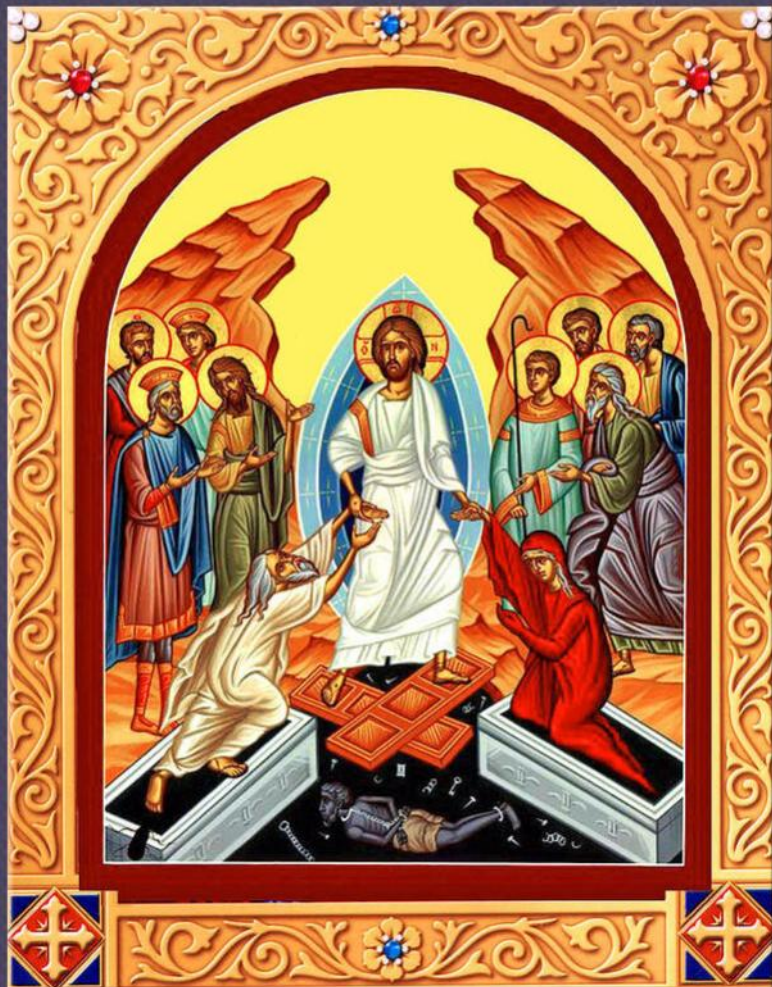
The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Christ is Risen!

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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

Oratorical Festival

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival has provided Greek Orthodox teens, grades seven to twelve the opportunity to write and speak about their faith for over forty years.

This year, Atticus Brightwell, the junior speaker from Saint Haralambos, participated in the festival on both the parish and district levels. The parish festival was held March 8th. Linda and Speros Zakas provided valuable feedback for Atticus to hone his skills. Atticus represented the parish in the junior division at the Southwest District festival on March 21st at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale.

Atticus chose the topic asking that he choose an Old Testament story and explain how it teaches us important



lessons that apply to young people today. He chose the story of Cain and Abel, Adam and Eve's sons. Cain killed Abel out of jealousy after God favored Abel's sacrifice. Atticus tackled the tough issues presented in this tragic situation, and did a great job of composing and delivering his speech.

Since Atticus is a seventh grader, we look forward to many years of hearing from him, and we also hope that he will inspire other students to participate.

Thank you Atticus for your hard work and heartfelt words. You are in our prayers for your continued faithfulness and boldness to speak God's truth.



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, February 5-7, 2027, 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 February 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!!



The resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Resurrection, the foundation of the Christian faith, can never be reduced to simply a teaching, a part of the theology of the Church. We do learn about it in books, in hymns and prayers of the Church, and we, as Orthodox Christians, loudly proclaim it together during the late-night Resurrection service. But if it were to remain just a teaching, we would be missing the point of our Lord's life, death and resurrection, which happened over 2,000 years ago!

Resurrection is new life from death, the birth of something new, of something better than before. Jesus rises from the grave not as he was during his earthly ministry, but as the conqueror of death, teaching of this new life for only 40 days before ascending into heaven to be seated at the right hand of His Father, and our Father, in heaven.

Our fasting, praying and works of charity during Great Lent are not meant to test us to see how well we do for 7 weeks, and then return to our pre-Lenten habits and lifestyle. They are meant to change us, to resurrect us to something new, something better than we were before. Those three spiritual tools help us to grow in Christ, to show us that spiritual growth is possible each and every year.

The Orthodox Church teaches us to properly prepare for, and celebrate, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For the 40 days following, we proclaim the resurrection together in church, at home with our family, in prayer by ourselves. On the Thursday of Ascension, we celebrate the return of Jesus to the Kingdom of Heaven, and ten days later, the sending of the Holy Spirit on the Sunday of Pentecost, bringing to a close the beautiful and spiritually beneficial part of the year.

This year we are also looking at the physical resurrection of our church! The flood incident this past January has provided us an opportunity to rebuild, to

resurrect our physical church to a condition more beautiful than before. New flooring will be installed shortly, new ceiling tiles will be added, and finally, pews are scheduled to be installed in May!

May this celebration of our Lord's resurrection truly be a time for rebirth for all, growing from our past, looking confidently to a new and brighter future as followers of Jesus Christ!

The Orthodox Church teaches us to properly prepare for, and celebrate, the 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](#)

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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 Woldeasilassie
Catalina Raicioff	Linda Zakas

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Cynthia Bekiaris, President

This month, I would like to share the unconditional love and dedication of the Philoptochos Sisters of St. Anna's at St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church.

Recently, when a bus failed to arrive for our scheduled monastery visit, our sisters simply looked at one another and said, "We'll drive."... We see this dedication in action often.

This commitment to our faith and sisterhood is also evident every Sunday, as Elpida, Estelle, Sofia, and Thalia provide, prepare and clean up for our fellowship coffee hour. Their service is a testament to their unconditional love for our church

family.

To be truly dedicated to our faith, we must surrender ourselves to Unconditional love and dedication. These are our footing our Alpha and Omega our beginning and our end.

We are an "army of ἀγάπη" (love) that conquers pain and anguish through generosity and kindness. We are a model of cooperation and collaboration for our Church. We prove that alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

From the Manger, to the Cross, and through the Resurrection and Ascension, Christ's presence in our lives shows us the true meaning of these values.



Our St. Anthony Monastery trip was a beautiful experience, highlighting the strength of our Philoptochos Society.



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, [Stewardship brochures](#) are available at the Narthex candle stand.

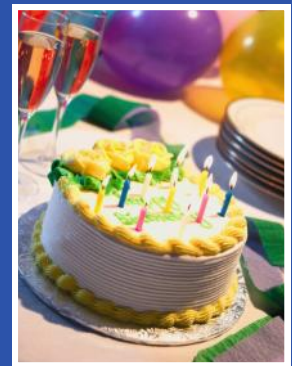
2026 Stewardship Families

Abitt, Dimetra
 Abbott, Paula
 Anest, James
 Asfaha, Mogos & Almaz
 Bachanos, Evangelos & Jewelene
 Basha, Genti & Elda
 Bastell Suad R.
 Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia
 Brightwell, Avery & Brook
 Cahlamer-Hallick, Michael & Athanasia
 Chambers, Michael
 Christian, Thalia
 Conklin, Tom & Maria
 Cornetta, Alexander
 Danielek, Chrissy
 Deinhard, Kimi
 Deming, Janet
 Dent, Virginia
 Evangelinos, Mr. and Mrs

Farr, Jeff
 Finch, Marina
 Ghattas, Edward & Nada
 Giannias, Elaine
 Govis, William
 Hartsel, Barbara
 Horne, Kevin & Denise
 Huth, Cynthia
 Jolly, Judith
 Kinniburgh, Anna
 Kondiles, Anastasia
 Laios, Efthimios (Tim)
 Lazzelle, Estelle
 Levendi, Mary
 Mavridis, Christos
 Milonas, Nick & Jane
 Nathanson, Irene
 Pagos, Stella
 Pallad, Fr. Michael & Pres.
 Kristen
 Pappas, Irene

Raiciof, Catilina
 Russom, Bereket & Nardos
 Sambol, Patricia
 Schepers, Duane & Nadia
 Selles, Argiroula & Brianna
 Servetas, Charlotte
 Singleton, Melanie
 Surman, Dina
 Tesfay, Ocbai & Genet
 Teska, Daniel & Vivian
 Thieke, James
 Trakas, Georgia
 Tripsas, Basil
 Tucker, Eleni
 Vardalos, Lindsay
 Woldesilassie, Solomon
 Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
 Yannakopoulos, George & Helen
 Zakas, Speros & Linda
 Zaruba, Estelle

Birthdays



Noah Soloman (3)
 Lucy Thieke (4)
 Adonna Moges (5)
 Abraham Brightwell (12)
 Nardos Yohannes (15)
 Almaz Berhe (15)
 Janet Deming (20)
 Jeff Farr (20)
 Georgia Trakas (20)
 Katelyn Pritchard (22)
 Melanie Singleton (22)
 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.

Name Days

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

St. Mary (of Egypt) (1st) St. George the Great Martyr (23rd)
 St. Joseph (the Hymnographer) (3rd) St. Mark the Apostle (25th)
 St. Alexandra the Queen (21st)

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00pm Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts	2 10:00am Lenten Bible Study	3	4 9:00am Divine Liturgy Lazarus Saturday Lenten Breakfast Palm Cross Making
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Palm Sunday 5:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	6 Holy Monday 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	7 Holy Tuesday 7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service The Hymn of Kassiani	8 Holy Wednesday 8:00am Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:00pm Sacrament of Holy Unction	9 Holy Thursday 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Last Supper 6:00pm The Twelve Passion Gospels	10 Holy Friday 9:00am Reading of the Royal Hours 11:00am Youth Retreat 3:00pm Vespers The Descent from the Cross 7:00pm The Lamentations Procession of the Epitaphios	11 Holy Saturday 10:00am Divine Liturgy "Arise, O God!" 11:15pm Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy
12 Holy Pascha/ Easter Sunday 1:00pm The Agapi/ Love Vespers	13 Bright Week No Fasting	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Thomas Sunday	20	21	22	23 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saint George, Great Martyr	24	25
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Myrrh-bearing Women	27	28	29	30		