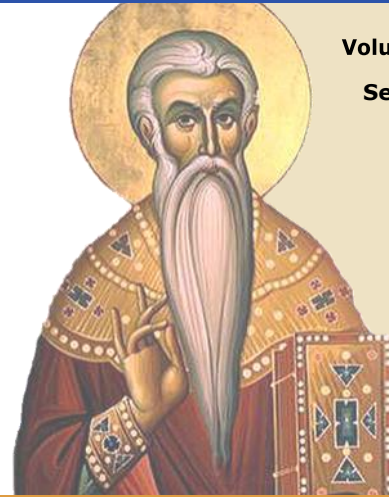


in Touch

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*Welcome to the
New Church Year!*



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

Major Feastdays this Month



September 8: Birth of our All-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary

On the 8th of September, the first major feastday of the Church Year, we celebrate the birth of our All-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary. It is a celebration of bringing joy to the whole world, since she is the one to give birth to the Savior of Mankind, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

According to the ancient tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was born of barren and aged parents, Joachim and Anna, about the year 16 or 17 before the birth of Christ. Joachim was descended from the royal line of David, of the tribe of Judah. Anna was of the priestly tribe of Levi, a daughter of the priest Matthan and Mary, his wife.

Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for most of their adult life, well into old age. They prayed together and separately that God would grant them a child, and promised to dedicate the child to God. God heard and answered their prayers, blessing them with their daughter, Mary.



September 14: The Universal Exaltation of the Life-giving Cross

This holy day, which we celebrate with Divine Liturgy at 9am, commemorates the finding, by Saint Helen, mother of Saint Constantine the Great, of the cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. It was a

miraculous journey and discovery!

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered.

The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves

In one of the festal hymns, the Kontakion relates not only the joy of Joachim and Anna, but even moreso about the gift of life that will come from her. "In your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of the corruption of death. And so your people, free of the guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, who nourishes our life."

Known as the Righteous Ancestors of God, the Orthodox Church honors Joachim and Anna with their own feastday on September 9, the day following the feast of the birth of their daughter.

At the age of three, Mary's parents brought her to be presented in the temple and dedicated to God. Celebrated on November 21 in the Orthodox Church calendar, Mary remains in the temple until her annunciation from the Archangel Gabriel, that she has found favor with God, and would be the one to give birth to the Christ.

Joachim and Anna visited their daughter Mary frequently, until Mary was about 10 years old, when Joachim was about 80 years old, and Anna was 79. Both Joachim and Anna fell asleep in the Lord prior to the Annunciation of Mary.

crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation.

At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole.

Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy."

It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own countr. Later, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place. (source:

www.goarch.org)



New Church Year

September 1 begins the New Church Year for Orthodox Christian Church communities. Why September 1? In early church history, September 1st marked the beginning of the harvest season, which meant bringing in and enjoying newness of life from God's good earth. That teaching and tradition continues into the 21st century, when parishes welcome the beginning of new parish programs and ministries. St. Haralambos Church is no different, and we encourage all to read through this newsletter to see the many new ministries and events taking place this new Church Year!

The front cover shows the completion of our church interior following the devastating flood this past January. New flooring, pews, chandeliers and ceiling tile have all been recently installed truly giving a new and beautiful look to our sacred worship space.

Sunday School is beginning for our young people, along with evening adult education classes for those interested in learning about Orthodox Christianity. All are encouraged to attend our new Second Saturday events, beginning this month at 5 pm with Vespers on Saturday, Sep. 12. There will be dinner for all, games for kids and talks for adults on the Sacraments of the Church. Weekly Bible Studies will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm and on Wednesday mornings at 10am to accommodate different schedules.

We will begin the New Church Year as we do every year, with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at 9 am on Tuesday, Sep. 1. Please see the Church Community Calendar page for dates and times of all church services.

Looking a bit further into the future, we are looking forward to celebrating our parish 40th anniversary in 2027. A big part of that celebration will be the return of the Peoria Greek Fest scheduled for February 5 – 7 on our church grounds! Interested in helping? See any of our Parish Council members for information on how to offer your help.

*we are looking forward
to celebrating our parish
40th anniversary in 2027.*

St. Haralambos Church is moving into the new Church Year with God's blessings, with the optimism that comes with the knowledge that nothing, not even the gates of Hades, will prevail against God's Church. All are encouraged through prayer and soul-searching to find how best to participate and become more involved in our ministries, services and activities. You'll be glad you did!



**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

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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



St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Cynthia Bekiaris, President

St. Anna Philoptochos Ladies Ministry reflects Christ's love through our faithful care of others – Join Us in Making a Difference!

We are excited to announce our annual Membership Drive! The Philoptochos Society members are the foundation of church philanthropy since 1931. Your membership helps us expand our programs, strengthen our impact, and continue serving our community.

By becoming a member or renewing your membership, you are investing in our mission and helping us create positive change. Membership also provides opportunities to stay informed, participate in special events, connect with like-minded Orthodox Christians, and have a voice in shaping our future.

We encourage you to invite friends, family, and church community members to join us during this Membership Drive. Together, we can grow our network of supporters and increase the reach of our work. Each Sunday a sign is posted at the

buffet line outlining our monthly financial obligations to the Archdiocese and Metropolis in service of others.

We will be holding baking sessions for holidays, decorating the church for Christmas and Easter, holding classes to learn about Orthodox Traditions and form committees, e.g., Koliva (wheat shaped like a pillow) for memorials and Prosforo bread given at communion and after services, in addition, address any questions you may have.

Our Membership Drive for the second half of 2026 begins at our Ecclesiastical New Year on September 1st. Our first meeting will be on Sep. 13 at noon following fellowship in the back area of our social hall, in the Sunday School Room.

To join, fill out a form, look for one of us at fellowship or contact our President, Cynthia Bekiaris, via email at cynb1308@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. We look forward to welcoming new members and celebrating the collective impact we can make together.

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)
SS. Faith, Hope and Love (17th) and their mother Sophia
St. Euphrosyne (25th)
St. Chariton (29th)
St. Gregory (30th)

Calendar 2026-2027

<u>Sun. 9/13/26</u>	12:00 pm	Meeting
<u>Sun. 10/11/26</u>	12:00 pm	Meeting
<u>Sun. 11/8/26</u>	12:00 pm	Meeting
<u>Sun. 12/13/26</u>	12:00 pm	Meeting
<u>Fri. 12/18/26</u>	8:30 am	Christmas Baking - Tsourekia
<u>Sat. 12/19/26</u>	9:00 am	Christmas Baking
<u>Sun. 12/20/26</u>	After Liturgy	Christmas Bake Sale
<u>Sat. 1/9/27</u>	9:00 am	Vasilopita Baking
<u>Sun. 1/10/27</u>	After Liturgy	Vasilopita Silent Auction
<u>Sun. 2/17/27</u>	12:00 pm	Jan. & Feb. Meeting
<u>Sun. 3/14/27</u>	12:00 pm	Meeting
<u>Fri. 4/16/27</u>	8:30 am	Easter Baking - Tsourekia
<u>Sat. 4/17/27</u>	9:00 am	Easter Baking
<u>Sat. 4/24/27</u>	After Liturgy	Palm Crosses & Fish Fry Setup
<u>Sun. 4/25/27</u>	After Liturgy	Palm Sunday Fish Fry & Bake Sale
<u>Sun. 5/2/27</u>	Pot Luck?	Easter Sunday
<u>Sun. 5/9/27</u>	Sunday School/Coffee	Mother's Day
<u>Sun. 5/16/27</u>	12:00 pm	Last Meeting – Board Elections

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.



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.

When we recognize that everything we have: health, wealth, time and talents, are all gifts from God, there should be no

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

2026 Stewardship Families

Abitt, Dimetra	Georgen,Dennis & Victoria	Raiciof, Catilina
Abbott, Paula	Ghattas, Edward and Nada	Russom, Bereket & Nardos
Anest, James & Vaso	Giannias, Elaine	Sambol, Patricia
Asfaha, Mogos & Almaz	Govis, William	Schepers, Duane & Nadia
Bachanos, Evangelos & Jewelene	Hartsel, Barbara	Selles, Argiroula & Brianna
Basha, Genti & Elda	Hooper, Sophia	Servetas, Charlotte
Bastell Rudenio & Suad	Horne, Kevin & Denise	Singleton, Melanie
Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia	Huth, Cynthia	Surman, Dina
Brightwell, Avery & Brook	Jolly, Judith L.	Swagerty,Keith & Janet
Cahlamer-Hallick, Michael & Athanasia	Karabetsos, Angela	Tesfay, Ocbai & Genet
Chambers, Michael	Kinniburgh, Anna	Teska, Daniel & Vivian
Christian, Thalia	Kondiles, Stellos & Anastasia	Thieke, James & Lucy
Conklin, Tom & Maria	Laios, Efthimios (Tim)	Trakas, Georgia
Cornetta, Alexander	Lazzelle, Estelle	Tripsas, Basil & Ann
Danielek, Chryss	Levendi, Mary	Tucker, Eleni
Deinhard, Kimi	Maragos, Gerald & Lori	Vardalos, Peter & Lindsay
Deming, Janet	Mavridis, Christos	Woldesilassie, Solomon & Lydia
Dent, Virginia	Milonas, Nick & Jane	Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
Evangelinos, Paraskevas & Elpida	Moore, Michael & Lauren	Yannakopoulos, George & Helen
Farr, Jeff & Judy	Nathanson, Irene	Zakas, Speros & Linda
Finch, Dennis & Marina	Pagos, Stella	Zaruba, Estelle
Foondle, Jeff and Rebecca	Pallad, Fr. Michael & Pres. Kristen	
	Pappas, Irene	

Birthdays



Angie Cholas (4)
 Demetrios Gryparis (4)
 Jessie Baruti (5)
 Katherine Tally (7)
 Lloyd Covault (9)
 Solomon Woldesilassie (16)
 Trenton Wilkins (20)
 Raymond Wysmierski (20)
 Brooke Brightwell (22)
 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.

ST. HARALAMBOS

SECOND SATURDAY

Community Nights

VESPERS | POTLUCK | KIDS ACTIVITY | ADULT CATECHISM

WHERE WORSHIP MEETS COMMUNITY

✦ **STARTING SEPT. 12** ✦
5:00 – 7:30 PM

SAVE THE DATES

SEPT 12 OCT 10 NOV 14 DEC 12
JAN 9 FEB 13 MAR 13 APRIL 10 MAY 8

✦ **OPEN TO ALL**

✦ **MORE DETAILS TO COME**

STATE-WIDE PAN-ORTHODOX

FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Featuring Guest Speaker: Dr. Jeannie Constantinou

Professor, Author, Speaker, and Podcaster on the New Testament and early Church

THE THEOTOKOS AND THE LIVES OF REAL WOMEN:
A SCRIPTURAL, THEOLOGICAL AND ICONOGRAPHIC REFLECTION

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

SPONSORED BY ST. BARBARA PHILOPTOCHOS
ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH | 8202 E. CACTUS ROAD, SCOTTSDALE 85260



REGISTRATION LINK



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

TINA KANELOS JONES - TKANELOS@GMAIL.COM

Annual Women's Retreat at Assumption Church, Scottsdale

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Divine Liturgy Beginning of the New Church Year	2	3	4	5
6 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	7 Labor Day	8 9:00am Divine Liturgy Birth of the Theotokos 7:00pm Bible Study	9 10:00am Bible Study	10	11	12
13 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	14 9:00am Divine Liturgy Elevation of the Precious Cross	15 7:00pm Bible Study	16 10:00am Bible Study	17 6:00pm A Journey to Fullness, Session 1	18	19
20 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	21	22 7:00pm Bible Study	23 10:00am Bible Study	24 6:00pm A Journey to Fullness, Session 2	25	26 9:00am Divine Liturgy Falling Asleep of John the Evangelist
27 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	28	29 7:00pm Bible Study	30 10:00am Bible Study			