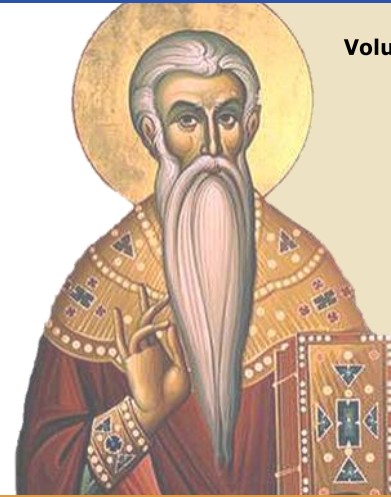


in Touch

Volume 32, Issue 3

March 2024



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

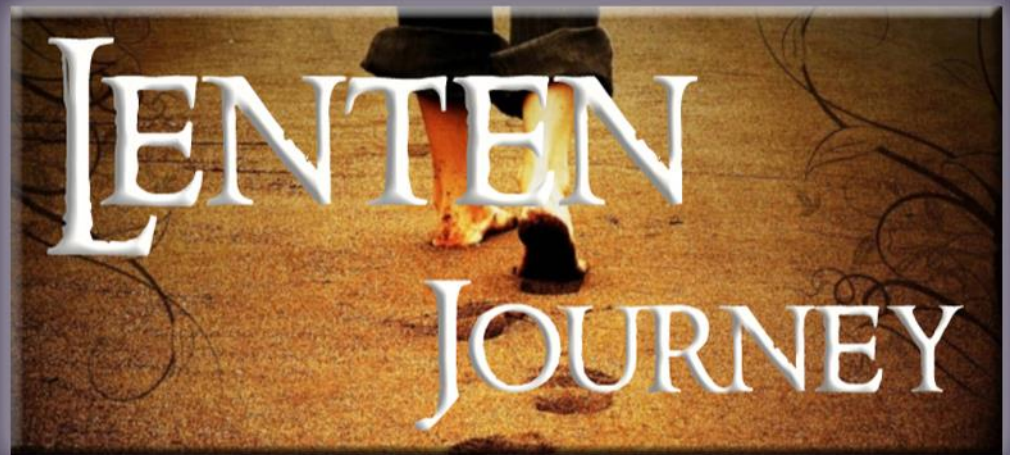
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The 7 Week Journey Begins
Monday, March 18



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

Front Entry Portico

Excitement continues to build with the construction of our Entry Portico! The substructure of the dome has been added, along with framing of the rest of the Portico. Updates will be posted on our website (www.stharalambos.org) and our Facebook page.

If you have not yet done so, please consider donating to this wonderful project that is sure to increase the visibility of our church in our neighborhood. Donations can be made online at www.stharalambos.org, by clicking the Online Donations and Prayers button, then the Donate button at the bottom of the page, and select the Entry Portico from the drop-down menu. Thank you!



Adult Education: Journey to Fullness

All are invited to attend Sessions 9 – 16 of “The Journey to Fullness,” beginning Saturday, Mar. 9 at 11 am. Video presentations by Fr. Barnabas Powell teach the basics of Orthodox Christianity. Workbooks include summaries of the sessions along with discussion questions. Here are the dates and topics:

- Session 9: When We Say God, Part 1; 11am, Saturday, March 9
- Session 10: When We Say God, Part 2; 7pm, Tuesday, March 12
- Session 11: God With Us; 7:30pm, Tuesday, March 19 (following the Lenten Compline)
- Session 12: Our Ultimate Purpose; 7:30pm, Tuesday, March 26 (following the Lenten Compline)
- Session 13: Salvation as Participation; 7:30pm, Tuesday, April 2 (following the Lenten Compline)
- Session 14: Orthodox Worship; 7:30pm, Tuesday, April 9 (following the Lenten Compline)
- Session 15: A Beautiful Rhythm; 7:30pm, Tuesday, April 16 (following the Lenten Compline)
- Session 16: The Journey Continues; 7:30pm, Tuesday, April 23 (following the Lenten Compline)



St. Haralambos Greeters



Bible Study

Please note that during Lent, the Wednesday morning Bible Study will move to Thursday morning at 10 am, in the church library.





The Spiritual Journey of Great Lent

Great Lent in the Orthodox Christian Church is a seven-week journey of physical, mental and spiritual exercise designed to help grow and mature as Christians in preparation of the celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection from the dead. Though the first day of Lent falls on Monday, the Church calls us together the night before with the beautiful Vespers of Forgiveness, held at 6pm on Sunday, Mar. 17. This service provides us with the opportunity to forgive others, as well as to ask forgiveness from one another, prior to the start of our Lenten Journey.

We are called to focus on three primary disciplines during the Lenten Journey: Prayer, Fasting, and Works of Charity. The following is meant as an aid to help understand each of them, as well as offering practical examples of putting them into practice.

Prayer

Before meals, at the start of the day, for the health of others, in times of sorrow or for expressing thanks, prayer is our time with God. Either with the aid of printed prayers or in our own words, the first discipline of the Lenten Journey is prayer. Try to establish a daily Rule of Prayer. This means praying at the same time each day or each evening. It might be difficult at first, but stick with it, make it a priority, and you’ll find it becomes more fulfilling as time goes on.

The questions about prayer that many ask typically have to do with wondering whether or not God is really listening, and whether or not we will hear an answer. The answer the Church has consistently offered is yes, God always hears and answers prayers, but not always in the way or at a time we expect. Know that God is always listening to your prayers, and make your prayer time as peaceful as possible with no distractions.

Fasting

“And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (Matt.6:16-18)

The Orthodox Church has continually taught the benefits of fasting especially during Great Lent. It is not meant as a weight-loss system, and shouldn’t be seen in a negative light as not being able to eat this or that type of food.


We are called to fast, both from our Lord Jesus Christ, and from the Church, as a form of personal discipline, to learn the benefits of having more control over the food we eat.

Orthodox Christianity also teaches that fasting is not just about food, but behavior as well. St. John Chrysostom writes: *“...for the honor of fasting consists not in abstinence from food, but in withdrawing from sinful practices; since he who limits his fasting only to an abstinence from meats, is one who especially disparages it. Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works!”*

Although fasting is limiting both the amount and types of food we eat, if we still keep anger, hatred and envy in our heart we have missed the point. Why? Because

We are called to fast, both from our Lord Jesus Christ, and from the Church, as a form of personal discipline

(Continued on page 5)



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

Parish Council News

By Ray Wysmierski, President

All the permitting is complete! The lights will be installed the second week of March, the power will be run for the automatic gate and power to illuminate the church monument, The FEMA grant is completed. The portico will be a very nice added touch to our edifice too. Last year was a banner year for the church with all these projects, thanks to all who have assisted in getting things done.

Dan Teska and Harry Bekiaris cleaned out the one storage container so we have room to move items stored in the church. The second container is next. We always can use more assistance in spring cleaning before Pascha.

The cell tower lease has been sold to Landmark investments and we are now in the black. If you see construction trucks on

the eastside parking area, we are renting the space. Every little bit helps.

Know that the council is working very hard to make God's home safe and secure as well as beautiful.

We continue to accept donations for the portico completion and we will also take donations for any specific project you would like to support, if you name it we probably have one.

We hope to see the icons completed in the narthex, maybe by Pascha...We will see.

I also want to thank all the new members who will be chrismated or baptized on the eve of Pascha. Welcome!

May the Lord be with you as we enter the Lenten season as we culminate it with our beautiful Pascha.

Birthdays



Dina Surman (1)
 Joselyn Braddock (2)
 Paraskevi Tsioutsopoulos (4)
 Kathryn Macrides (7)
 Mary Davis (11)
 Christina Gardner (16)
 Carly Macrides (16)
 Patricia Christie (17)
 Malia Panousopoulos (19)
 Estelle Zaruba (19)
 Nick Milonas (23)
 Amy Singley (24)
 Adeline Braddock (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.

Saturday of Souls

Beginning on the Saturday before Meatfare Sunday (March 9), and continuing the following two Saturdays (March 16 and 23), the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9 am and include a special

Memorial Service. Everyone is welcome to submit the names of loved ones who have passed on, to be commemorated during these memorial services.

Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

All are invited and encouraged to attend the Sunday evening Pan-Orthodox vesper services, hosted by various parishes throughout the valley. Please see the enclosed flyer on page 9 for dates and

places. These services provide the opportunity for parishioners of all the various Orthodox churches to come together in prayer and fellowship.

2024 Stewardship Families

Abbitt, Demetra
 Basha, Genti & Elda
 Bastell, Rudy & Suad
 Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia
 Bryson, Joan
 Chionchio, Deborah
 Cholas, Angie
 Christian, Thalia

Christie, Patricia and Paul
 Danielek, Michael & Chrissy
 Deming, Janet
 Dent, Virginia
 Dodd, Stavroula
 Evangelinos, Parry & Hope
 Finch, Dennis & Marina

Giannias, Elaine
 Hartsel, Barbara
 Javaras, Harry
 Jolly, Judith
 Kinniburgh, Anna
 Lazzelle, Estelle
 Levendi, Mary
 Mavridis, Christos
 Meyer, Herman

Nathanson, Alan & Irene
 Pagos, Stella
 Pallad, Fr. M & Kristin
 Raiciof, Catalina
 Sambol, Patricia
 Servetas, Charlotte
 Singleton, Melanie
 Surman, Dina
 Teska, Dan & Vivian

Thieke, James
 Tucker, Eleni
 Vardalos, Peter & Lindsay
 Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
 Yiannakopoulos, George & Helen
 Zakas, Speros & Linda
 Zaruba, Estelle

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Anna Kinniburgh, President

Each month we are committed to a different cause. These are expenses coming out of our Budget.

Our commitments for the Month of March are:

- OCMC Christian Mission Center
- Support a Mission Priest
- Different Regions Earthquakes
- Social Welfare Emergency Relief

Camp AGAPE Auction Fundraiser

All proceeds raised are to fund a camp in Arizona for kids who have cancer. To support this worthy cause please visit the auction site: www.32auctions.com/

[KidsnCancerCampAgape2024](#). Auction is currently scheduled to close Mar. 17 at 7 pm

Everyone is encouraged to attend the St. Barbara's Philoptochos of Assumption Women's Lenten Retreat on Saturday, Apr. 13. Lenten lunch and snacks provided. Email Tina Kanelos Jones at tkanelos@gmail.com

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
8202 E Cactus Rd.
Scottsdale AZ 85260

I want to thank everyone for attending my husband's funeral services and for all the donations toward the building of the Portico



Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

proper fasting teaches us to be more concerned with our spiritual growth, becoming more like Christ. If our behavior - towards God and one another - does not change as a result of our fasting, all we've done is change our diet.

Fasting is not meant to make us sick, but it should teach us at least two things: 1) we typically don't need as much food as we're used to eating; and 2) learning to control the desires of the flesh helps us to focus more on our spiritual growth.

Start your Lenten Fast with prayer, asking God to strengthen your discipline during Lent. Enjoy, in moderation, fast-free foods such as fruits, vegetables, shellfish, grains, legumes and nuts. Remember that your Fast is between you and God; there is no benefit either to comparing yourself with anyone else or judging the fasting of another.

Works of Charity

"Truly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." (Matt. 25:40)

The third of the three primary disciplines of the Lenten Journey is Works of Charity, also referred to as Almsgiving.

This is what puts our belief and faith into action.

The following are practical, real-life examples all of us can do to show love for our neighbors near and far. Feel free to participate in these or others of your own choosing.

*Located in Sun City, the Valley View Community Food Bank is always looking for volunteers to help sort and package food boxes. Food donations can be brought to the church and placed in the collection box in the Observation Area.

*Visit www.projectmexico.org and see the many volunteer and donation opportunities to help support St. Innocent Orthodox Christian Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico.

*On the international level, become familiar with and support the work of International Orthodox Christian Charities. Visit www.IOCC.org.

"The purpose of Lent," writes Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, "is not to force on us a few formal obligations, but to soften our hearts so that it may open itself to the realities of the spirit, to experience the hidden thirst and hunger for communion with God."

Stewardship



We ask and encourage all our parish families to send in the 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, there is no required minimum or maximum for offerings. Our offerings show our care for the continued functioning of our Church. 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.

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 have been mailed to all parish families. Additional 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.

Lent Reader's Needed

We would love to have you as a Lenter Reader!

If you are interested in being a reader during the Lenten season, please contact Lindsay Vardalos by Sunday, Mar. 10, so that a schedule can be made prior to the beginning of Lent. We would love to have

you, and this is a wonderful way to share your talents with our parish! We need readers for services on Tuesday evenings (7 pm), Wednesday evenings (5 pm), Friday evenings (7 pm), and Holy Week.

Lindsay's contact info: 480.580.4904, lvardalos@gmail.com, or see her in person

Eternal Memory

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of His servant, Robert (Bob) Kinniburgh, who peacefully fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, Feb. 1. The funeral service was held at St. Haralambos Church on Saturday, February 10, and the interment

was at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona with military honors.

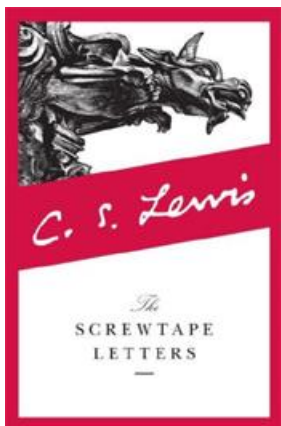
May our Lord comfort his beloved wife, Anna, and their family, and may his memory be eternal!

Book Club

If you like books that shock and engage you, you won't want to miss the March Book Club gathering. The group will meet Monday, Mar. 18 at 1 pm to review the classic satire The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis. Told from the vantage point of "the Father Below," Screwtape coaches his

nephew on ways to triumph over the "Enemy." Join us to discuss this fascinating ironic read, or to enjoy fellowship with book loving Christians!

The April pick is The Hope of Glory by Jon Meacham. Contact Irene Nathanson



Treasurer's Report

By Cynthia Bekiaris, Treasurer

We have been blessed with an amazing year so far and have exciting news!

The church now has the ability to accept stock donations through our Wells Fargo Advisor Harry Calivas. Contact the church office for details.

Through the hard work and dedication of our President Ray Wysmierski, we have closed the Lease Purchase of the Cell Tower. This netted the church \$280K which will be used to pay off the remaining \$29K on the Portico and \$48K on the FEMA/DHS capital improvement projects. We should be able to balance the budget with a positive number for the first time in several years, while returning money into our savings.

\$150K in funds was invested in a short term CD at 4.87% APR to provide additional income from the interest. We will continue to find other investment

options in the interim.

In addition to the above blessings, we have also been gifted estate funds from two Sisters in Christ. May their Memory be Eternal.

Coming up are two more projects needing financing; an adult baptismal font and Icons for our Narthex. We are working with Father Michael to finalize the funding needed.

Due to the age of the building, a proposal is in process to repair our front door hinges once the Portico is completed.

The Church Fundraiser planning for May 11 is in process and deposits have been made.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at shgocparishcouncil@gmail.com.

The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss are on page 8 for you to view.



Orthodox Christian Mission Center

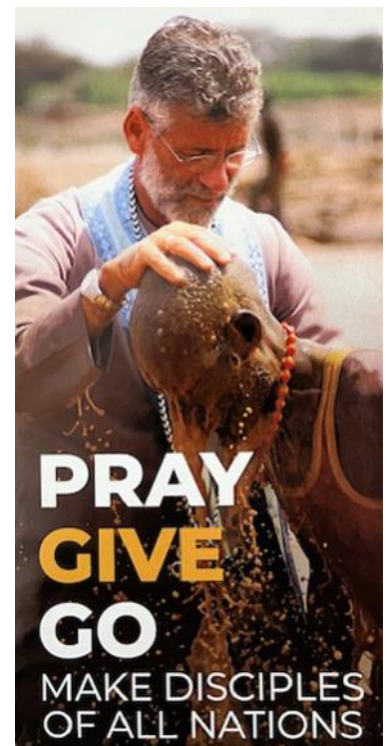
Make Disciples Of All Nations: Mission Sunday-March 17

It is believed that the popular phrase, "it takes a village..." originates from an ancient African proverb. It conveys the message that it takes many, or an entire community, to provide a safe, healthy environment for children to develop and thrive in. In essence, this is the task that OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) has undertaken while proclaiming the Gospel and bringing people to the Orthodox faith.

Not only do Mission projects meet physical and spiritual needs of children and adults around the world, they also help establish and strengthen local churches in developing countries. Funds that are raised provide grants for mission teams and for specific projects that include the establishment and construction of churches, water wells, housing, and support for indigenous priests.

Each year at this time, OCMC holds a major drive for funds and awareness of this crucial, global ministry. Many of you may not remember this ministry or its name, but you probably remember the coin boxes on the tables in the fellowship room. Your children may remember something from their special lesson that Sunday. This year, the drive will begin on Mission Sunday, Mar. 17, when you will be called upon to offer prayers and your support.

Coin boxes will once again be displayed and/or distributed. You are welcome to take one home, to pray, and envision a village in need of care—in need of Christ. Your generous donations make a huge worldwide impact and bring people to the Orthodox faith. To become more involved in this vital ministry, contact Irene Nathanson at ireneorRena@cox.net.



PARISH NEWS

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church Balance Sheet As of February 22, 2024

	Feb 22, 24
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · GENERAL CHECKING	14,820.37
1015 · SAVINGS	
1016 · Ayan	98,440.48
1017 · Kitchen	3,030.14
1015 · SAVINGS - Other	32,877.79
Total 1015 · SAVINGS	134,348.41
1020 · PETTY CASH	141.50
Total Checking/Savings	149,310.28
Total Current Assets	149,310.28
TOTAL ASSETS	149,310.28
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00

Profit & Loss January 1 through February 22, 2024

	Jan 1 - Feb 2...	% of Income	% of Expense
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
3000 · TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	23,692.64	6.9%	24.4%
3700 · OTHER INCOME	317,756.28	93.1%	326.6%
Total Income	341,448.92	100.0%	351.0%
Expense			
4700 · PROFESSIONAL FEES	2,470.00	0.7%	2.5%
4000 · MINISTRY	23,537.21	6.9%	24.2%
4050 · OFFICE PAYROLL	2,708.48	0.8%	2.8%
4100 · CHURCH ASSESSMENTS	5,474.64	1.6%	5.6%
4150 · Business Assessment	236.07	0.1%	0.2%
4200 · OFFICE	1,560.11	0.5%	1.6%
4300 · UTILITIES	4,760.60	1.4%	4.9%
4400 · FACILITY	3,007.36	0.9%	3.1%
4500 · LITURGICAL	709.42	0.2%	0.7%
4900 · INSURANCE	1,807.30	0.5%	1.9%
5020 · CANDLE	274.00	0.1%	0.3%
5100 · FEAST DAY - HOLIDAY	520.75	0.2%	0.5%
5800 · BANKING	294.57	0.1%	0.3%
7200 · FUNDRAISER	1,500.00	0.4%	1.5%
7500 · CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	48,431.58	14.2%	49.8%
Total Expense	97,292.09	28.5%	100.0%
Net Ordinary Income	244,156.83	71.5%	251.0%
Net Income	244,156.83	71.5%	251.0%

LENTEN VESPERS

SUNDAY EVENINGS DURING LENT

MARCH 24 | ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH, PHOENIX, 6 PM

MARCH 31 | ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMANIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH, GLENDALE, 6 PM

APRIL 7 | ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH,
PHOENIX, 6 PM

APRIL 14 | ST. KATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH,
CHANDLER, 6 PM

APRIL 21 | STS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
AMERICA, PHOENIX, AZ, 6 PM

MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy The Prodigal Son Parish Oratorical Festival	4 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly	5 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly	6 Metropolis Clergy Retreat	7 10:00am Bible Study	8	9 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls 11:00am Journey to Fullness
10 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Meatfare Sunday	11	12 7:00pm Journey to Fullness	13	14 10:00am Bible Study	15 6:00pm Parish Council	16 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
17 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday of Forgiveness 6:00pm Vespers of Forgiveness	18 Beginning of Great Lent	19 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service 7:30pm Journey to Fullness	20 5:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (Lenten dinner following)	21 10:00am Bible Study	22 7:00pm Akathist Hymn: 1st Stanza	23 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Theodore of Tyre Saturday of Souls
24 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy First Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers: St. George Antiochian	25 9:00am Divine Liturgy Annunciation of the Theotokos	26 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service 7:30pm Journey to Fullness	27 5:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (Lenten dinner following)	28 10:00am Bible Study	29 7:00pm Akathist Hymn: 2nd Stanza	30
31 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Second Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers: St. John Romanian,						