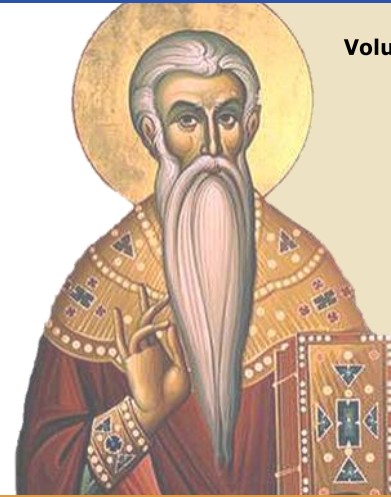


in Touch

Volume 32, Issue 4

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The Lenten Journey

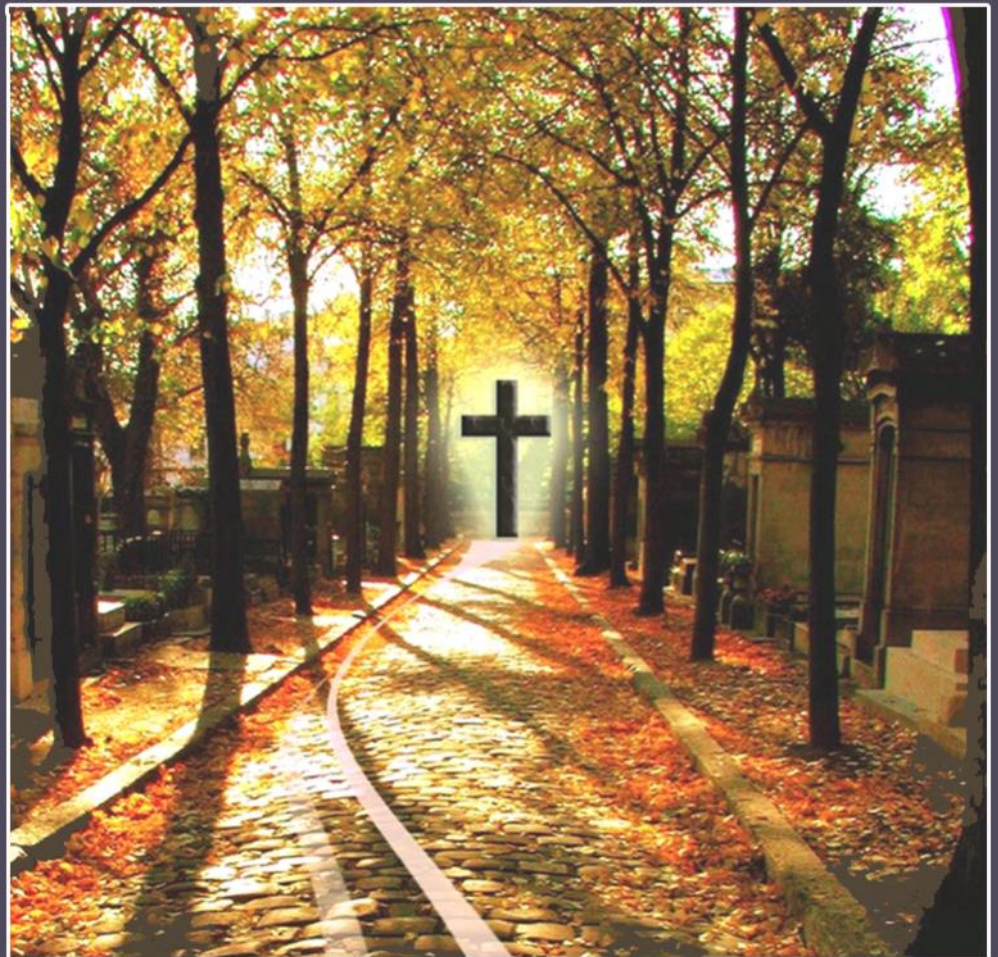
**Front Entry
Portico • 2**

**Journey to
Fullness • 2**

**Approaching
Holy Week • 3**

**Parish Council
News • 4**

**Lenten
Vespers • 4**



Continues

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

The dream is nearing reality! Our front entry Portico project is nearing completion. All that remains is the application of stucco and paint to the exterior, and the addition of the cross and dome to the top! Further 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!



Portico Celebration Dinner and Dance

Please see the flyer announcement on page 7 and join us on Saturday, May 11, in celebration of the completion of our Portico project. Advance reservations are required by Apr. 30, and may be made online at www.stharalambos.org, from our Facebook page and at church.

Adult Education: Journey to Fullness

All are invited to attend the final four sessions of “The Journey to Fullness,” on Tuesday evenings following the Lenten Compline service at 7 pm. 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 13: Salvation as Participation; 7:30 pm, Tuesday, April 2 (following the Lenten Compline)

Session 14: Orthodox Worship; 7:30 pm, Tuesday, April 9 (following the Lenten Compline)

Session 15: A Beautiful Rhythm; 7:30 pm, Tuesday, April 16 (following the Lenten Compline)

Session 16: The Journey Continues; 7:30 pm, Tuesday, April 23 (following the Lenten Compline)



Sunday of Orthodoxy

On the first Sunday of Lent we celebrated Sunday of Orthodoxy, with an icon procession around the church interior. We do this each year in remembrance of the triumph of Orthodoxy from those who opposed the use of

icons. While processing around the church, Fr. Michael offered petitions for the people, civil authorities, and those who have reposed in the faith, and then we concluded with singing May Their Memory Be Eternal.





Approaching Holy Week

Now in the mid-point of our Lenten Journey, I encourage all parishioners to continue with fasting, prayer time (private as well as together with your church family) and works of charity. It takes a lot of effort to maintain these disciplines over seven weeks, but at this point, I hope we can all see the light at the end of the tunnel!

Holy Week services begin Palm Sunday evening, April 28 at 6pm, and just a few days later we begin the remembrance of the awesome Passion Week of Christ, culminating in our Lord’s trial, crucifixion and resurrection from the dead.

The last week of our Lord’s life on earth begins with his triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. Although we remember Palm Sunday with the tremendous welcome that Jesus received as He entered Jerusalem, his disciples were not really looking forward to going with him. Fr. Tom Hopko, in his book, *The Lenten Spring*, discusses this very apprehensive time for the apostles.

“When the disciples were going up to Jerusalem with Jesus, it is recorded that they were amazed and afraid. Their amazement, no doubt, was from the strange and marvelous character of what was happening. Their fear was certainly from Jesus’ predictions about His fate, soon to be fulfilled, for they knew that the Lord’s enemies were really seeking to kill Him.” (*The Lenten Spring*, pg 159)

Fear and amazement; two related yet very different emotions. Do we feel the same as we

approach the end of Great Lent and the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection? Is our Lenten Journey really bringing us to a place of greater understanding, and greater love for Christ, and for one another?


Fr. Tom continues:

“Whatever happens during the forty days of Great Lent, whether we think, according to our limited understanding, that we have done well, or whether we learn once more that bitter but most blessed lesson of our incapacity to accomplish even the smallest of our good intentions, the result – if we are yet the least bit alive – will be the same every year: we go up to Jerusalem with Jesus, like His very first disciples, amazed and afraid! We are filled with wonder and awe at what the Lord brings to pass for the sake of our salvation. If this be so (and may the Lord grant it!), the lenten spring (journey) will not have shone forth upon us in vain.” (*The Lenten Spring*, pg 160)

We are filled with wonder and awe at what the Lord brings to pass for the sake of our salvation.

We can’t expect perfection in this life, not from ourselves and not from others. We can only try, learn from the past, and pray for the strength, patience, perseverance and compassion to do better tomorrow.

May the risen Lord fill your hearts and minds with peace and joy during this holy season.



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

Parish Council News

By Ray Wysmierski, President

Greetings and blessings to all this wonderful Lenten journey!

I am proud to report that our immediate projects are complete and we can look forward to the celebration of our “dinner, dance and diamonds” event to display our new entryway. The accent of the fence and additional lighting places our orthodox church into a unique light.

It no longer is just a building in the neighborhood, however a depiction and characteristic of our faith identity.

We welcome all our new recent baptized and charismated new members, welcome! As we hope to pursue a strategic plan this year as we maintain our current church we seek any volunteers who would like to participate in our future vision. This will not take a lot of time away from your home family however it will be for the betterment of your church family.

NOW is the time for our church to burst at the seams with lots of new and old faces. We are a very welcoming church, young and all.

We also welcome all volunteers to help us with many small projects that will help continue to beautify the church. Please see either Father Michael or a church council member to provide your name and contact information.

As a final note we had parish council elections for the new board, and it has remained the same unanimously. They are as follows, Raymond Wysmierski, President, Dan Teska, Vice- President, Cynthia Bekiaris, Treasurer, and Virginia Dent, Secretary.

I want to say “thanks to all” for your votes of confidence in the current board, for continued success.

Birthdays



Noah Solomon (3)
 Stefania Stivaktakis (3)
 Dennis Germenis (14)
 Almaz Berhe (15)
 Nardos G. Yohannes (15)
 Annastasia White (17)
 Janet Deming (20)
 Jeff Farr (20)
 Georgia Trakas (20)
 Katelyn Pritchard (22)
 Melanie Singleton (22)
 Christina Garvin (23)
 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.

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 6 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
 Asfaha, Moges
 Bachanos, Evan & Jewelie
 Berhe, Almaz
 Basha, Genti & Elda
 Bastell, Rudy & Suad
 Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia
 Bryson, Tom & Joan
 Chionchio, Deborah
 Cholas, Angie
 Christian, Thalia
 Christie, Patricia and Paul
 Covault, Lloyd & Angela
 Danielek, Michael & Chrissy

Deming, Janet
 Dent, Virginia
 Dodd, Stavroula
 Evangelinos, Parry & Hope
 Finch, Dennis & Marina
 Germenis, Dennis
 Giannias, Elaine
 Gryparis, Demetri & Magda
 Hartsel, Barbara
 Javaras, Harry
 Jolly, Judith
 Kinniburgh, Anna
 Lazzelle, Estelle
 Levendi, Mary

Mavridis, Christos
 Meyer, Herman
 Milonas, Nick & Jane
 Nathanson, Alan & Irene
 Pagos, Stella
 Pallad, Fr. M & Kristin
 Pappas, Irene
 Raiciof, Catalina
 Ratliff, Koula
 Sambol, Patricia
 Servetas, Charlotte
 Singleton, Melanie
 Surman, Dina
 Tally, Katherine

Tesfay, Ocbai & Genet
 Teska, Dan & Vivian
 Theoharatos, George & Lisa
 Thieke, James
 Tucker, Eleni
 Vardalos, Peter & Lindsay
 Woldesilassi, Solomon & Lydia
 Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
 Yiannakopoulos, George & Helen
 Zakas, Speros & Linda
 Zaruba, Estelle

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Anna Kinniburgh, President

Wishing all a blessed Lenten season:

The philoptochos expenses for the month of April are:

- Sisterhood of St. Basil Academy
- IOCC International Orthodox Christian Charities
- Agape Fund for Kids with Cancer

I would like to thank all who donate during coffee hour and purchasing our pastries. All money we raise is for the purpose for paying toward our obligations'.

A reminder to all that attending the women's Lenten retreat at the Assumption Church on Saturday Apr. 13



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.

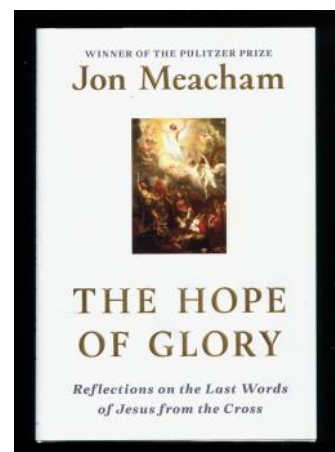
The 2024 Stewardship brochures are available in the Narthex and the church office. Please print legibly, and enter your contributions of time, talents and treasure. Completed brochures can be mailed to the office or dropped off on Sundays.

Book Club

This month's Book Club meets Monday, Apr. 15 at 1 pm to discuss Jon Meacham's The Hope of Glory, Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross. "Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham explores the seven last sayings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels, combining rich historical and theological insights to reflect on the true heart of the Christian story...Meacham returns us to the moment that transformed Jesus from a historical

figure into the proclaimed Son of God."

Reading, especially during the Lenten season, is a wonderful way to enhance our spiritual growth. Even if you have not read the book, all are welcome to come for engagement and discussion of our faith! We gather in the church library. See or contact Irene Nathanson at ireneorRena@cox.net.



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**

Celebrate! Dine & Dance

With
The St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
Community as we Delight in our new Portico

Saturday
May 11, 2024
5:00 pm—9:00 pm



7950 W. Pinnacle
Peak Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

Appetizers—Dinner Buffet with Vegetarian Options
Greek Desserts—Table Wine—Soft Drinks
Adults \$75 and children under Twelve \$50
Music by Bobby

Reservations Required by April 30, 2024

Online at stharalambos.org

Contact: shgocparishcouncil@gmail.com

Raffle Prizes:

6ct. Diamond Tennis Bracelet in White Gold
Hot Air Balloon Ride for two
Dinner for two at Greektown Restaurant
\$250 Gift Card Andrew Z's Jewelers

That's My Brick! Fundraiser
Honor, Memorialize and Donate
With Bricks on our Portico Pillars
Three (3) lines of personalization
samples will be on hand @ \$100 each.

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 10:00am Bible Study	5 7:00pm Akathist Hymn: 3rd Stanza	6
7 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Third Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers: St. Sava Serbian, Phoenix	8	9 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service 7:30pm Journey to Fullness	10 5:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (Lenten dinner following)	11 10:00am Bible Study	12 7:00pm Akathist Hymn: 4th Stanza	13
14 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fourth Sunday of Lent 6:00pm Lenten Vespers: St. Katherine, Greek, Chandler	15	16 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service 7:30pm Journey to Fullness	17 5:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (Lenten dinner following)	18 10:00am Bible Study	19 7:00pm Akathist Hymn: Complete	20
21 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fifth Sunday of Lent 11:00am IOCC Presentation 6:00pm Lenten Vespers: Sts. Peter & Paul, OCA, Phoenix	22	23 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service 7:30pm Journey to Fullness	24 5:00pm Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (Lenten dinner following)	25 10:00am Bible Study	26	27 9:00am Divine Liturgy: Lazarus Saturday
28 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Palm Sunday 6:00pm Christ, the Bridegroom	29 Holy Monday 7:00pm Christ, the Bridegroom	30 Holy Tuesday 7:00pm Christ, the Bridegroom				