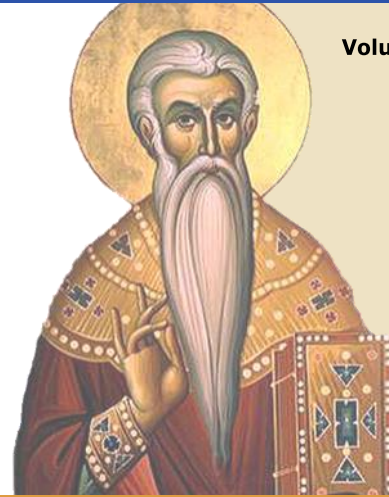


# *in* Touch

Volume 33, Issue 4

April 2025



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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## Come Receive the Light



**Resurrection Service**  
Saturday April 19, 11pm

*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.

Two teen members of Saint Haralambos participated in the festival this year on both the parish and district levels. The parish festival was held Mar. 23. Nile Solomon and Adonna Moges represented the parish senior division at the Southwest District festival on March 30 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix. Only two participants from each division progress to the Metropolis level, and this year both girls will be representing Saint Haralambos and the district, and advancing to the Metropolis level.

Nile chose the topic asking that she choose a lesser known figure from the Bible, and explain who they are, how they fit into the Biblical narrative and what we can learn from them. She chose Ebed-Melech, a brave and clever

Ethiopian eunuch who saved the prophet Jeremiah. To hear the rest of the intriguing story, you will need to hear Nile's winning speech.

Adonna chose the topic to discuss Christ's role as the bringer of hope and how that fits into modern life when today's youth appear to be more anxious about the future. Adonna gave an inspiring speech talking about how her hope is in Christ and how she has been inspired by her parents' faith. She gave a challenging call to action that we should all listen to.

The Metropolis Level Festival will be held at St. Nicholas Ranch outside Fresno, California over Mother's Day weekend in May.

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



## 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)      | Sts. Jason and Sosipater (29th)     |



## Christ's Holy Resurrection

*“Come, receive the Light, from the Unwaning Light, and glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead!”*

The excitement is building, as it does every year at this time, approaching the end of our Lenten Journey. The hymn text above, sung only at one evening service each year, in the midst of a darkened Church, when our attention is drawn to a single vigil candle which rests on the Holy Altar table. Celebrated on Holy Saturday evening in Orthodox Churches throughout the world, the priest is the first to receive this flame from which he lights the paschal candle, then moves out from the altar and shares this light of Christ's Resurrection with the faithful in attendance.

The hymn is repeated by all as the Church interior begins to glow brighter as more and more rows of candles are lit. No mention, just yet, of the Resurrection. What follows next is the procession outside, under our beautiful Entry Portico, and the scripture reading from the gospel of Saint Mark, who wrote of the women that first found the empty tomb into which the body of the Lord Jesus was placed just two days before.

They are the first to hear the Good News from the angel at the tomb who proclaims, *“You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here!”* (Mark 16:6)

Dear Faithful, the message that Christ the Savior was no longer confined to the tomb, that He truly

had risen from the grave and death, is a profound and life-changing message that has continuously been spread throughout the world to this day. It has lost neither its meaning, its power, nor its significance for humankind over the centuries.

I lovingly encourage and invite all to take part in our parish celebration of Christ's Holy Resurrection, beginning with the daily Holy Week services, the Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday morning, this year celebrating with His Eminence Archbishop Gerasimos of San Francisco, and then returning at 11pm for the Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy, and concluding with the Vespers of Love on Easter Sunday afternoon.

The full Holy Week schedule can be seen on the Calendar page of our website: [www.stharalambos.org](http://www.stharalambos.org).


There will always be time for family celebrations. But let us not lose sight of our obligation, as Orthodox Christians, to come together as a Church family to “praise, bless and worship the Lord” according to the sacred tradition of this most Holy Week.

As you hear the above hymn, “Come, receive the light!” chanted on Holy Saturday evening, I look forward to sharing the light of the joyous Resurrection of Christ with you and your family.

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*“praise, bless and worship the Lord” according to the sacred tradition of this most Holy Week*

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**St. Haralambos  
Greek Orthodox  
Church**  
[www.stharalambos.org](http://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](mailto:Office@StHaralambosAZ.com)  
[FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com](mailto:FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com)  
**Hours**  
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Parish Council**  
Evan Bachanos  
Harry Bekiaris  
Avery Brightwell  
Deborah Chionchio  
Angie Cholas  
Virginia Dent  
Catalina Raiciof  
Vivian Teska  
Demetria Themistocles  
Solomon Woldeasilassie  
Ray Wysmierski  
Linda Zakas

## Stewardship

We remind all that there are no Membership Dues in the Orthodox Church. To become a Member in Good Standing, all parishioners must complete and return the Stewardship brochure pledging offerings of our time, talents and treasure in support of our Church, recognizing that all we have, including life itself, are gifts from God.

The 2025 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 donations. Completed brochures can be mailed to the office or dropped off on Sundays.

The teaching on Christian Stewardship remains consistent to help us learn to be

good stewards: we give back to God from what He has given us. We come into this world with nothing, and we leave it with nothing. All that we have in this life comes from God's blessings. Returning back a portion to God through His Church, is our way of acknowledging the source of our blessings.

Financial contributions should be a percentage of our financial resources. This continues the biblical teaching of tithing or percentage

giving rather than setting a fixed amount applicable to all families. Above all, our offerings should be cheerfully given, recognizing our desire - not simply obligation - to give back to God a portion of our blessings we receive from Him.



## Birthdays



Noah Solomon (3)  
Lucy Thieke (4)  
Abraham Durgam (5)  
Adonna Moges (5)  
Abraham Brightwell (12)  
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)  
Rhone Martinez (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.

## 2025 Stewardship Families

Asfaha, Mogos & Almaz  
Bachanos, Evan & Jewelie  
Bastell, Rudy & Suad  
Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia  
Benjamin, George & Jessie  
Bruno-Doster, Jenny  
Christian, Thalia  
Conklin, Tom & Maria  
Danielek, Chryss  
Deming, Janet  
Dent, Virginia  
Evangelinos, Perry & Hope  
Farr, Jeff & Judy  
Finch, Dennis & Marina  
Gavriilidis, Eugene & Ekaterini  
Giannias, Elaine  
Hartsel, Barbara

Hooper, Sophia  
Horne, Kevin & Denise  
Huth, Cynthia  
Jolly, Wallace & Judy  
Kinniburgh, Anna  
Lazzelle, Estelle  
Martinez, Raul & Danielle King  
Mavrides, Christos  
Milonas, Nick & Jane  
Nathanson, Alan & Irene  
Pallad, Fr. Michael & Pres. Kristin  
Pappas, Irene  
Ratliff, Koula  
Russom, Bereket & Nardos  
Sambol, Don & Patricia  
Schepers, Duane & Nadia

Servetas, Charlotte  
Singleton, Melanie & Brian Frost  
Tsfay, Ocbai & Genet  
Teska, Daniel & Vivian  
Thieke, Dr. James & Lucy  
Trakas, Georgia  
Tucker, Marvin & Eleni  
Vardalos, Peter & Lindsay  
Vasquez, Argyro, Giota Kostas and Family, & Elizabeth Kostas -Polston and Family  
Woldesilazzie, Solomon & Lydia  
Wysmierski, Ray & Mary  
Yannakopoulos, George & Helen  
Zakas, Speros & Linda

# LENTEN PROJECT

benefitting the homeless in Tempe

TOILETRIES

TISSUES

SOCKS

TOOTHBRUSHES



Join our parish in gathering supplies for the ARIS Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to helping the homeless community in Tempe, AZ.

## **DONATIONS ACCEPTED** **March 3 – April 20**

### **REQUESTED ITEMS**

Toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, small bars of soap, shampoo, body wash, tissues, tampons/pads, lip balms, hair brushes, baby wipes (for cleaning off), band-aids, blankets, shoes, small bags of dog food

Find more information at [arisfoundation.org](http://arisfoundation.org)  
See Lindsay Vardalos for questions

**PLACE  
DONATIONS  
IN BOX IN  
LIBRARY**



**JOIN US FOR A PALM SUNDAY  
FISH FRY LUNCHEON**

Sunday, April 13, 2025

12:00pm after Divine Liturgy

Sponsored by

St. Anna Philoptochos

at

St. Haralambos Church Social Hall

7950 W Pinnacle Peak Rd

Peoria, AZ 85373

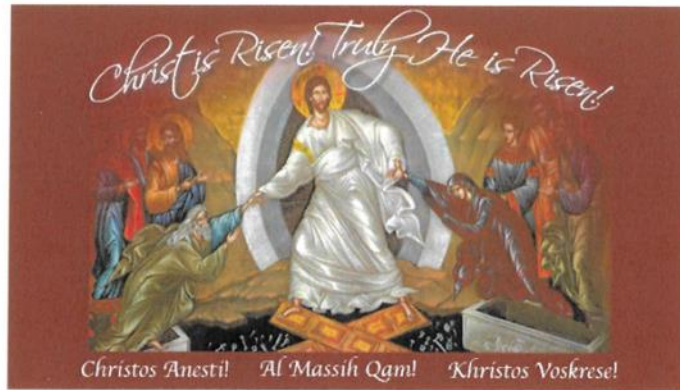
\*Reservations Required\*

Adults: \$15.00

Under 12: \$10.00

Text: Anna Kinniburgh @ 602-531-2175

Or: Stella Pagos @ 623-975-0027



## Easter Sunday Celebration

Come celebrate with your  
St. Haralambos Church family on Easter Sunday,  
April 20!

Please join us for a potluck dinner after the  
Love/Agape Vesper service and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Help us prepare for this event by texting or calling  
Linda Zakas at 978-335-1982. Please indicate the  
number of people attending and what you might be  
bringing (main, Side or dessert).



# APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy of the Pre- Sanctified Gifts	<b>3</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Akathist Hymn: Complete	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy <b>5th Sunday of Lent</b> 6:00pm Pan- Orthodox Lent Vespers Holy Trinity	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Lenten Compline	<b>9</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy of the Pre- Sanctified Gifts	<b>10</b> 10:00am Bible Study  6:00pm Parish Council Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Lazarus Saturday</b>
<b>13</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Palm Sunday</b> 5:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	<b>14</b> <b>HOLY MONDAY</b>  7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	<b>15</b> <b>HOLY TUESDAY</b>  7:00pm Christ the Bridegroom Service	<b>16</b> <b>HOLY WEDNESDAY</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy of the Pre- Sanctified Gifts 6:00pm Sacrament of Holy Unction	<b>17</b> <b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm 12 Passion Gospels	<b>18</b> <b>HOLY FRIDAY</b> 9:00am The Royal Hours 3:00pm Vespers: The Descent from the Cross 7:00pm The Lamentations	<b>19</b> <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> 10:00am Divine Liturgy: <b>"Arise, O God!"</b> 11:15pm <b>Resurrection Service</b> and Divine Liturgy
<b>20</b> <b>Holy Pascha Easter Sunday</b> 1:00pm Vespers of Love 2:00pm Family Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  10:00am GriefShare
<b>27</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Thomas Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			