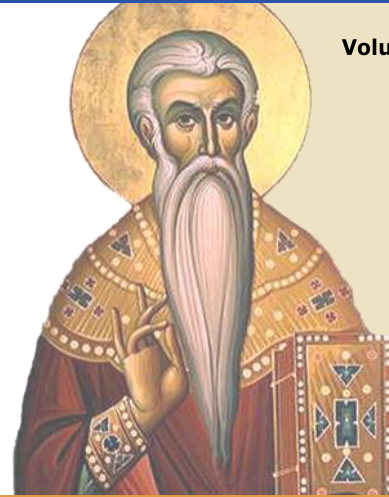


# *in* Touch

Volume 33, Issue 7  
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"Serve one another,  
humbly, in love."

Gal.5:13



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

# Back-to-School

St. Anna's Philoptochos along with our Church Ministries are kicking off a Back-to-School Supplies Fundraiser to help Heritage Elementary School students start the school year prepared and confident! Please donate dry erase markers, glue sticks, two pocket folders, graph paper and loose leaf notebook paper. These specific supplies go a long way for children in need.

With your support, we can ensure that every student walks into the classroom ready to learn and succeed. Join us in making a difference—one glue stick, one pocket folder and one bright future at a time!



The poster features a blue background with a red apple in the top left, a yellow pencil in the top right, and a pink eraser in the bottom right. The main text reads "BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE" in large white and yellow letters. Below this, it lists the items being collected: "We are collecting dry erase markers, glue sticks, two-pocket folders, graph paper, and loose leaf notebook paper." A deadline is set: "Supplies due by Aug. 31". At the bottom, it says "Place donations in church library" and provides the beneficiary information: "To benefit Heritage Elementary School and Principal Jewelie Bachanos". The Philoptochos logo is in the top right corner.

**PHILOPTOCHOS**  
PHILANTHROPY · FELLOWSHIP · FAITH IN ACTION

# BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

We are collecting dry erase markers, glue sticks, two-pocket folders, graph paper, and loose leaf notebook paper.

**Supplies due by Aug. 31**

To benefit Heritage Elementary School and Principal Jewelie Bachanos

**Place donations in church library**



## Service and Freedom

*“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” (Gal.5:13)*

Celebrating the independence of our nation this month, always brings the word “freedom” to mind. It is regarded as one of the most important human rights in most every civilized society. This month it seems appropriate to look at some scriptural passages that speak of freedom in the context of God’s love for humanity.

Service and freedom. While some see these two words as mutually exclusive, the New Testament writings of St. Paul see them as complementary, working together in pursuit of the highest of human virtues, which is love. To serve another human being, when done with a loving heart, is done neither reluctantly nor unwillingly, but joyfully and voluntarily, a gift of love. If love is not expressed out of freedom, it is not genuine love. To serve another, without expecting anything in return is serving with love. The two, service and freedom, can work together beautifully.

To serve the needs of someone else requires humility, the willingness to put someone else’s needs ahead of our own. Can that really be done freely? Doesn’t freedom mean being able to do whatever we want for ourselves first, without restrictions from anyone or anything else?

From the perspective of Holy Scripture, freedom, as treasured a gift as it is, does have boundaries. *“Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature,”* St. Paul admonishes. Unfortunately, history is filled with examples of this type of misuse or abuse of freedom.

Freedom is God-given; it is most properly expressed, therefore, in ways that please God. Recall God’s commandment to Adam recorded in the book of Genesis. *“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’” (Gen.2:16-17)*

Freedom is given by God to the first Man, Adam; but God also includes restrictions that were for Adam’s protection and well-being. Exercising freedom within the boundaries established by God allowed Adam and Eve to enjoy all that paradise, the Garden of Eden, had to offer. Their eventual disregard of those boundaries, of God’s commandment, led to Adam and Eve being expelled from Paradise, and a host of negative consequences for humankind ever since.

Even so, there have been those who have understood God’s original intent regarding freedom, and have chosen to respect His boundaries. King David writes in Psalm 119: *“I will always obey your law, forever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.”* Walking in freedom, for King David, meant obedience to God’s laws, respecting God’s boundaries.

St. Peter describes obedience to God in stronger terms when he writes, *“Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as*

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*Freedom is God-given; it is most properly expressed, therefore, in ways that please God.*

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*(Continued on page 4)*



**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

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

## Eternal Memory

May God grant eternal rest to the soul of His servant, Argyro (Sylvia) Vasquez, who fell asleep in the Lord on June 6, surrounded by her loving family. Argyro, together with her husband Bill (Vasili) were two of the most dedicated and active founders of Saint Haralambos Church.

Services were held at the church on Saturday, June 14, and the interment at Phoenix Memorial Park.

May our Lord Jesus Christ grant comfort to her family, and may her memory be eternal!

## Clergy Column

*(Continued from page 3)*

*God's slaves."* (1Peter 2:16) How do we regard ourselves today as slaves of God?

Slavery is degrading to fellow human beings, disregarding human dignity by forcing someone into servitude. How can we rightly consider slavery as an appropriate relationship between people today, or perhaps as St. Peter wrote, between a person and God?

God forces no man into slavery, into involuntary servitude. Those, like St. Peter, who serve God do so voluntarily, out of love. There is a commitment there, as much as humanly possible, to continue in that voluntary service throughout life. In this way, perhaps, we can begin to see where St. Peter is coming from. If we understand our freedom as God-given, and choose to exercise our freedom within the boundaries God has established, and recognize those boundaries as intended for

our wellbeing, I think that King David's words from Psalm 119 (quoted above) are also more understandable, and more believable.

If I choose to serve the needs of another, whether they are the needs of my children, my wife or my friends, and I do so freely, this does not make me a slave, but rather a father, a husband, and a friend. If a slave is one who does his Master's bidding, the only Master I would ever choose to follow would be our Lord, Jesus Christ, who, as St. Paul reminds, has *"loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Gal.2:20)

The right exercise of freedom is truly one of God's most important gifts to humanity. When understood within the framework of God's boundaries, it helps provide the strengthening of all human relationships, in addition to our relationship with our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ.



## Name Days

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

SS. Cyril and Methodios (7th)	St. Paraskevi (26th)
St. Euphemia (11th)	St. Panteleimon (The All Merciful) (27th)
St. Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain (14th)	St. Irene (Chrysovalantou) (28th)
St. Macrina (Sister of St. Basil) (19th)	St. Joseph of Arimathea (31st)
St. Mary Magdalene (22nd)	

## 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.

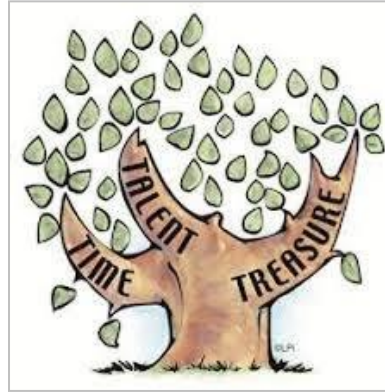
The 2025 Stewardship brochures have been mailed to all parish families. Additional brochures are available in the Narthex and the church office. Please print legibly, and enter your contributions of time, talents and donations. Completed brochures can be mailed to the office or dropped off on Sundays.

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



Mary Levendi (4)  
 Andrew Macrides (5)  
 Lisa Theoharatos (11)  
 Patricia Martin (14)  
 Alaina Perreault (14)  
 Chrisos Mavridis (17)  
 Linda Zakas (22)  
 Angela Karabetsos (27)  
 Sharon Bolas (29)  
 Anastasia Macrides (29)  
 Magda Gryparis (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.

## 2025 Stewardship Families

Abbitt, Dimetra  
 Addy, Pamela  
 Asfaha, Mogos & Almaz  
 Bachanos, Evan & Jewelie  
 Basha, Genti & Elda  
 Bastell, Rudy & Suad  
 Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia  
 Benjamin, George & Jessie  
 Brightwell, Avery & Brooke  
 Bruno-Doster, Jenny  
 Chionchio, Deborah  
 Christian,Thalia  
 Conklin, Tom & Maria  
 Cotton, John & Alexandria  
 Danielek, Chrissy  
 Deinhard, Kimi  
 Deming, Janet  
 Dent, Virginia  
 Desimone, Nilda  
 Dodd, Voula  
 Donios, Sophia  
 Evangelinos, Perry & Hope  
 Farr, Jeff & Judy

Finch, Dennis & Marina  
 Gavriilidis, Eugene & Ekaterini  
 Giannias,Elaine  
 Hallick-Cahlamer, Mike & Thana  
 Hartsel, Barbara  
 Hooper, Sophia  
 Horne, Kevin & Denise  
 Huth,Cynthia  
 Jolly, Wallace & Judy  
 Karabetsos, Angela  
 Kinniburgh, Anna  
 Lazzelle, Estelle  
 Levendi, Mary  
 Martinez, Raul & Danielle King  
 Mavrides, Christos  
 Milonas, Nick & Jane  
 Moore, Michael & Lauren  
 Nathanson, Alan & Irene  
 Pagos, Stella  
 Pallad, Fr. Michael & Pres.  
 Kristin  
 Pappas, Irene

Ratliff,Koula  
 Russom, Bereket & Nardos  
 Sambol, Don & Patricia  
 Schepers, Duane & Nadia  
 Servetas,Charlotte  
 Singleton,Melanie & Brian Frost  
 Surman, Dina  
 Tesfay, 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

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

# Discovering God's Vision For Your Life

Join us for a transformative journey to explore and understand the unique spiritual gifts God has given you.

This 8-week class is designed to help you grow in faith, deepen your understanding, and find your place in ministry.

Monday's @ 7 pm

August 18 – October 20

There will be no class on September 1 and October 13.

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For more information  
or to register,  
email Jewelie Bachanos at  
[class.spiritualgifts@gmail.com](mailto:class.spiritualgifts@gmail.com)

Participation Fee of \$25  
to cover materials



# JULY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
6 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	7	8	9	10 4:00pm Parish Council Meeting	11	12
13 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Ecumenical Council	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	28	29	30	31		