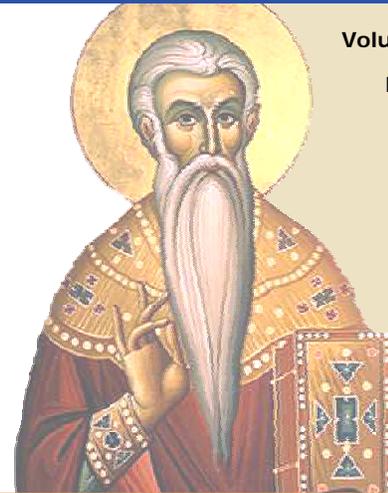


in Touch

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February 2008



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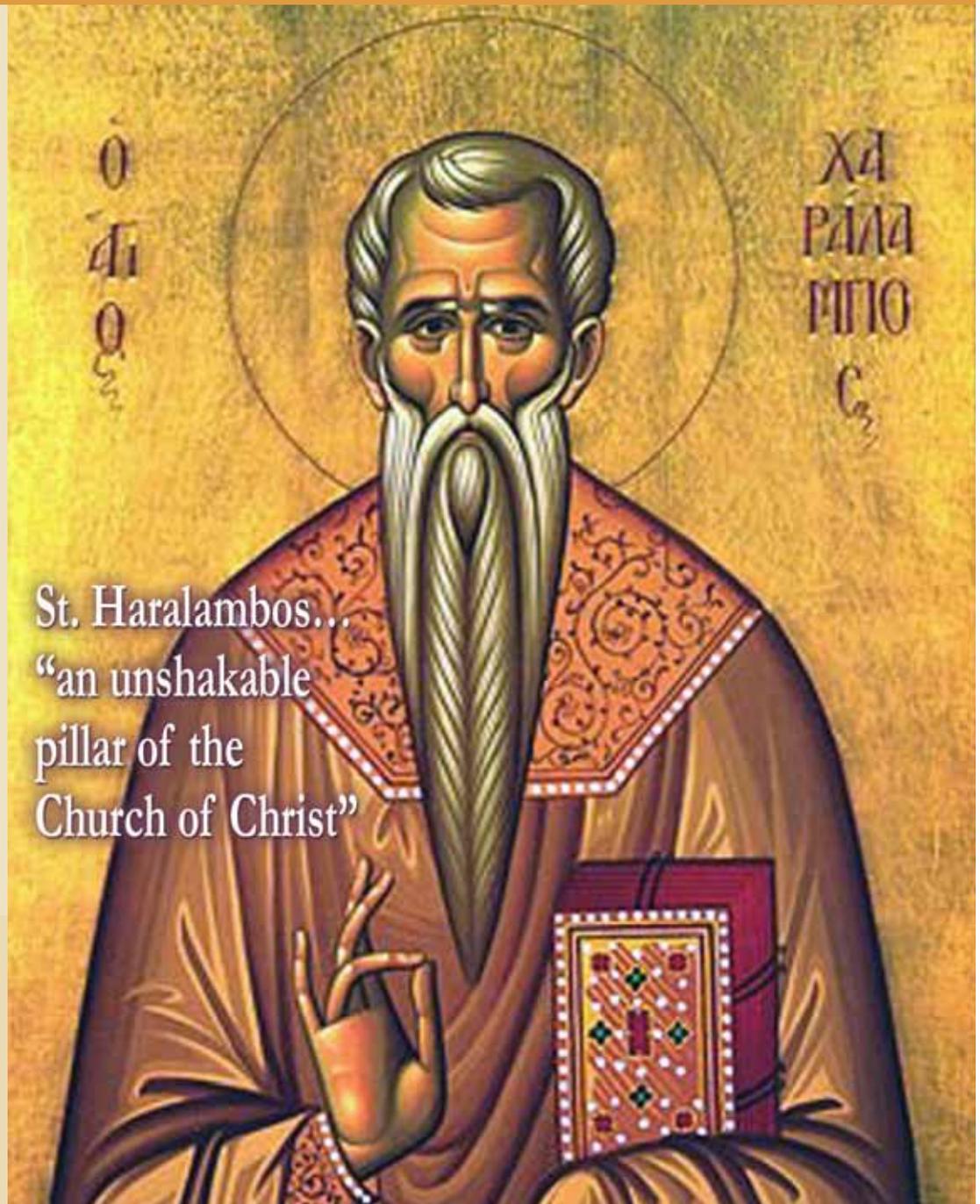
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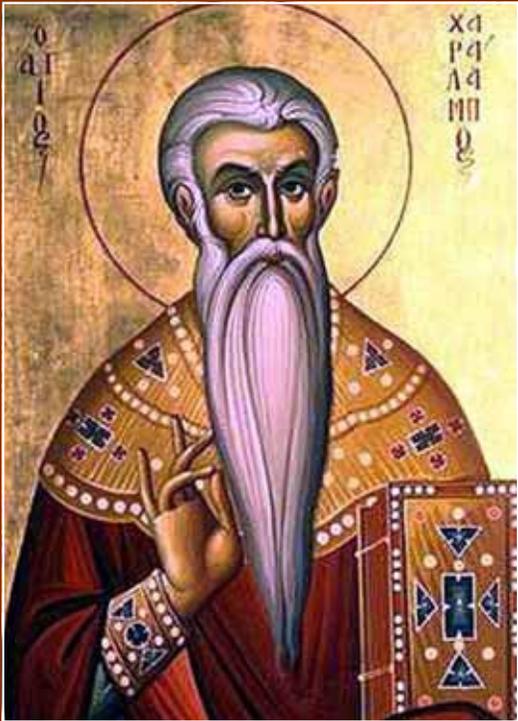
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St. Haralambos...
"an unshakable
pillar of the
Church of Christ"

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



CELEBRATING THE FEASTDAY OF OUR CHURCH

Vespers and Reception

Saturday, February 9th at 7 p.m.

Divine Liturgy and Luncheon

(sponsored by the Parish Council)

Sunday, February 10th at 10 a.m.

Vasilopita Sunday

This year's annual Vasilopita (New Year's bread) celebration was held on Jan. 13 in the Social Hall following Divine Liturgy. Parishioner Alice Hecht discovered the commemorative coin in her slice of Vasilopita. And, according to tradition, she will have a blessed 2008. Additionally, Stella Pagos led the Vasilopita auction where parishioners bid on the delicious loaves while raising nearly \$400 that will be sent to St. Basil Children's Academy in New York. Thank you to all those who supported this wonderful, and delicious, community event.

Happy New Year to Everyone!





St. Haralambos and St. Symeon: Two inspiring examples of faith and trust.

This year, the month of February not only brings us the celebration of our patron saint, Haralambos (see inside cover), but also one of the most prolific and acclaimed authors and speakers of 20th century Orthodoxy, in the person of Metropolitan Kallistos Ware. His Excellency, author of *The Orthodox Church* and *The Orthodox Way*, two classic texts on the history and development of Orthodox Christianity, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly on Monday, Feb. 25 – Wednesday, Feb. 27 at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, California. (Read his biography here: http://www.thyateira.org.uk/index_files/Kallistos.htm) Two additional delegates, in addition to the parish priest and parish council president, from our parish are invited to attend. Interested parishioners should contact Parish Council President George Retsinas.

Our entire parish family is encouraged to attend services honoring our patron saint: Vespers on Saturday, Feb. 9 at

7 p.m., which will be followed by a reception in our social hall prepared by our Philoptochos; and Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, Feb. 10, which will be followed by a luncheon prepared by members of our Parish Council. The memory of St. Haralambos, the “unshakable pillar of the Church of Christ” is appropriately celebrated each year throughout our Archdiocese, but particularly in the three parishes (Canton, OH and Niles, IL as well as Peoria, AZ) that honor him as their patron saint. St. Haralambos was an incredibly strong witness of Christian faith, and at his martyrdom even led his would-be executioner to repentance and baptism.

As it does each year, the month of February also brings us the celebration of the 40th day after our Lord’s birth, known as the Feastday of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, on Saturday, Feb. 2. In the Divine Liturgy that morning, the gospel reading reminds us of the person of Symeon, the elder in the temple who was given a

message from angels that before he died, he would see the Messiah. The blessed Thetokos, in fulfillment of Jewish religious law, brought her first-born son, Jesus, to be dedicated in temple. As Symeon beheld the infant in Mary’s arms, he approached her and Mary gave Symeon her son for the blessing. While he carried the Lord in his arms, Symeon, knowing that his dream had come true, sang out, “Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples: a light to enlighten Gentiles, and glory for Israel Your people.” (Luke 2:29-32) This song of St. Symeon is read at the conclusion of the evening Vesper services in the Orthodox Church.

We should not overlook another instance of divine promises fulfilled. Symeon waited patiently in the temple

(Continued on page 6)

We can't see or hold faith in our hands; yet, as Christians, we are called to live as faithful people.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

www.stharalambos.org

Sunday Worship

September - May
Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

June - August
Matins: 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Office

623-486-8665
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345
Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com
FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com

Hours

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parish Council

George Retsinas, President
Ray Wysmierski, Vice-President
Roberta Szklarsk, Secretary
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
George Christie
Mike Danielek

Olga Fredericksen
Mary Manos
Peter Retsinas
Katherine Tally
Peter Tremoulis
Mary Wysmierski

Parishioner Profile



George Retsinas of Buckeye is the 2008 Parish Council president. He formerly served as vice president and has been a member of St. Haralambos since 2005. Originally from Wisconsin, he formerly worked for a defense contractor and lived in Heidelberg, Germany for six years and in Bosnia for two years. Currently, he works in the funeral and cemetery industry.

He and his wife Rachel have been married for one year and the couple enjoys hiking in and around Verrado. Additionally, George enjoys playing on a community volleyball team.

As president, George is focused on helping the council and parish move forward with building the new Church building.

“We will be focused on reaching out to everyone both active and inactive

members to encourage everyone’s involvement and support in building a new Church in the West Valley,” he said.

George noted three goals as president by explaining in 2008 he hopes to be able to:

1. Help everyone keep a unified vision on what the new Church will become.
2. Plan and incorporate youth and young adult activities to maintain involvement for members of the younger generation both in the current location and the new Church building.
3. Encourage spiritual growth for him and all parishioners.

To help the Council’s planning efforts, George will help guide efforts to learn from others by conducting benchmarking. They will aim to learn from experiences from other parishes on building a new church and adding programs and activities.

Name Days

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

- Sts. Stamatios, John, and Nicholas (3rd) Neomartyrs from Spetsaia
- St. Abramios, Bishop of Arbela, Persia (4th)
- St. Agathi (5th)
- St. Boukoulos (6th)
- St. Theodore the Commander (8th)
- St. Haralambos (10th)
- St. Theodora the Empress (11th)
- St. Zacharias (11th)
- St. Christos, the Gardener (12th)
- St. Meletios (of Antioch, Syria) (12th)
- SS. Aquila and Priscilla (13th)
- St. Auxentios of the Mountain (14th)
- St. Theodore of Teron (17th)
- St. Agapetos (18th)
- St. Eustathios of Antioch (21st)
- St. Photini (The Samaritan Woman) (26th)
- St. Kyranna of Thessalonike (29th)

Men’s Monthly Breakfast

There is a renewed desire for a Monthly Men’s Fellowship Breakfast. Before choosing dates and agendas, we’d like to hear from other men in the parish who would enjoy this type of fellowship.

Using the form below, let us know your preference. Either send the form to the church office or e-mail your preferences to office@stharalambos.phxcoxmail.com.

Men’s Fellowship Breakfast (Held in the Church Social Hall)

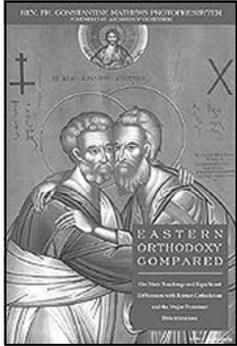
Preference: Saturday Morning Weekday Morning

Able to help prepare breakfast (rotating schedule): Yes No

Suggestions for breakfast speakers/topics:

St. Christopher's Bookstore

This month we feature three books that compare Orthodoxy to other religions.



Eastern Orthodoxy Compared, by Fr. Constantine Mathews, 2006, 110 pages.

This contains a Foreword by Archbishop Demetrios and a Prologue that helps

the reader “understand the historical developments that gave rise to the differences among the major Christian faiths.” Part One: A Brief Introduction to Eastern Orthodoxy includes 17 beliefs of the Orthodox Church, explained objectively (it’s worth the price of the book just to read Part One).

Part Two compares Orthodoxy to Protestant faiths. Parts Two and Three support the Orthodox view with quotes from Scripture, the Church Fathers and early Christian practices, as do the following two books. This book also contains a timeline of Church history and a lengthy bibliography. It does not, however, have an index. It’s succinct, simple reading, but very informative. Highly recommended!

Orthodoxy and Catholicism: What Are the Differences?

By Fr. Theodore Pulcini, 1995, 21 pages.

The major benefit of this book is that the author was formerly Roman Catholic. In college, he began to realize that “history is always written from a particular perspective,” so he decided to explore the Protestant

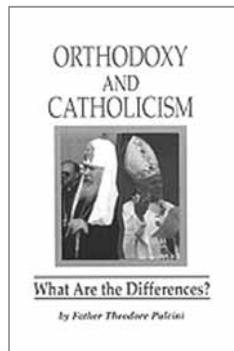
account of early Christianity.

However, he found “flaws” in the Protestant view that “did not adequately account for the sacramental and hierarchical aspects of the early Church” described in ancient texts. Eventually he found the most ancient perspective – the Orthodox perspective. Briefly, Fr. Pulcini discusses “serious aberrations” that developed in Catholicism and explains why the Orthodox view is correct. Using the first person point of view, the author conveys what he calls the “different feel” of the Orthodox Faith. Also highly recommended!

Dance, O Isaiah, by Constantine Platis, 2000, 160 pages.

The one advantage of this book is that it does contain an index. In fact, it has two: 1) A usual standard-type index, and 2) another solely of Bible passages. The author identifies six topics of contention between the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic in Chapter 3, and 17 between the Orthodox and the Protestant discussed in Chapter 4.

Then he poses questions that Catholics would likely ask on the six topics and Protestants on the 17. The detailed answers are given from an Orthodox viewpoint and are extremely well documented.



Chapters 1-3 and Chapters 5-8 also contain a series of questions on a specific topic; apparently people who are neither Catholic nor Protestant often ask these questions. Despite its question and answer format, this book is more scholarly, not as easy to read or as captivating as the

other two books. But, it is a valuable reference book.

Birthdays



Diane Francis (1st)
Lola Durand (3rd)
Kalliope Chafoulias (4th)
Cristiano Mikael Genes (5th)
George Tremoulis (7th)
James Papas (8th)
Peter Francis (9th)
Esther Lampropoulos (11th)
Sean Marshall (11th)
Kerri Stamas (11th)
Peter Vardalos (11th)
Anna Georgen (12th)
David Solomon (13th)
Elena Hansford (14th)
Dennis Georgen (24th)
Mary Manos (26th)
Dina Surman (26th)
Elizabeth Jianyele (28th)

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.

Assisted Living, Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish, and we ask you to please remember them in prayer: Orin and Mary-Jean Davis, Fannie Huzinec, Alice Massahos, Nellie Poleschuk, Nikita and Josette Reisler and Effie Stathopoulou.

ORGANIZATIONS

Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

- Jan. 6 Gale & Paula Farr
Jan. 13 Vasilopita Sunday
Jan. 20 John & Penny Obren
Jan. 27 Sunday School, 6th, 7th and 8th Grades
Feb. 3 Christina Harris
Feb. 10 Feast Day of St. Haralambos Luncheon
Feb. 17 Michael & Voula Dodd and Steve & Sophia Mallos
Feb. 24 Russ & Pam Lemons

Note: Due to publication printing deadlines, any modifications or changes to coffee hour listing will be noted in next month's newsletter.

Simple Fund-raising Opportunity

By participating in Bashas' "Thanks A Million" program, a percentage of each purchase can be directed to St. Haralambos Church. Just sign up at Bashas for a "Thank You" card and have your card programmed with Group ID number 23212. This program will run through Mar. 31, 2008. For further information, go to www.bashas.com/charity.



Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

"To them that love God all things work together unto good." Romans 8:28.

Thanks to all who baked Vasilopita breads, helping us with our commitment to St. Basil Academy.

A reception will follow Vesper Service for St. Haralambos, Saturday, Feb. 9.

Reminder: We are a philanthropic society always looking for women with new ideas and talent. Won't you join us?

Next meeting: Monday, Feb. 4. Time to pay your 2008 dues!!



Parish Council Corner

At the January meeting of the Parish Council, the following members were elected to the Executive Board:

President: George Retsinas

Vice President: Ray Wysmierski

Secretary: Roberta Szklarski

Treasurer: Stella Pagos

Please contact the officers, or any member of the parish council, for any questions, concerns or suggestions for parish events and activities.

Pastor's Column

(Continued from page 3)

because he had faith that God would fulfill his promise. It didn't happen until the very end of Symeon's life, but his faith in God was not in vain. Just imagine the effect this had, not only on Symeon, but all those around him, who also knew why Symeon was waiting patiently each day in the temple. The faith of all present surely was strengthened in seeing and hearing Symeon with the Lord, knowing that God's promise to him had been fulfilled.

May we also learn from the unwavering faith of Symeon, and of Haralambos, both men whose faith was tested late in life. Faith is, as we read in the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews, "the substance of

things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." We can't see or hold faith in our hands; yet, as Christians, we are called to live as faithful people. God's promises are always fulfilled throughout the Bible, and throughout time. Our task is to be worthy and ready, at all times, to receive His promises, the most important of which is written in the gospel of St. John, and is always worth repeating: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

FEBRUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	4 7:00pm Philoptochos	5 7:00pm Church Design Focus Groups	6	7	8	9 7:00pm Vespers St. Haralambos
10 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Parish Nameday Luncheon	11	12 7:00pm Parish Council	13	14 7:00pm Choir	15	16
17 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Beginning of the Triodion period)	18 (No fasting this week)	19 7:00pm Church Design Focus Groups	20	21 7:00pm Choir	22	23
24 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday of the Prodigal Son	25 Metropolis Clergy – Laity Assembly	26 Metropolis Clergy – Laity Assembly	27 Metropolis Clergy – Laity Assembly	28 7:00pm Choir	29	
					1	2 9:00am Divine Liturgy Presentation of Our Lord