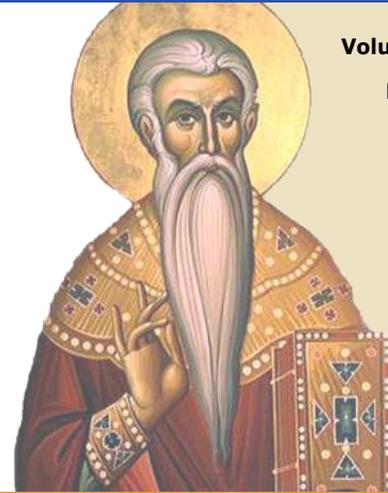


in Touch

Volume 25, Issue 2
February 2017



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

30th Annual Greek Festival

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Three Fabulous Days of the Best Greek Food and Pastries You Will Find in the Valley!

PEORIA GREEKFEST

Friday • February 10th • 5 pm to 10 pm
Saturday • February 11th
11 am to 10 pm
Sunday • February 12th
12 pm to 8 pm

Authentic Greek Food & Pastries
Live Greek Music • Live Folk Dancing
Kid's Zone • Marketplace
Activities for All Ages!

Children, Students & Active Military **FREE!**
Use on our Facebook Page: Peoriagreekfest

\$300 General Admission

PEORIA GREEKFEST 2-for-1 ADMISSION!
CODE: City of Peoria

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ
(Just east of 83rd Ave on Pinnacle Peak Rd)

For more information, visit www.peoriagreekfest.com or call 623.486.8665



Friday, Feb 10 – Sunday, Feb 12

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

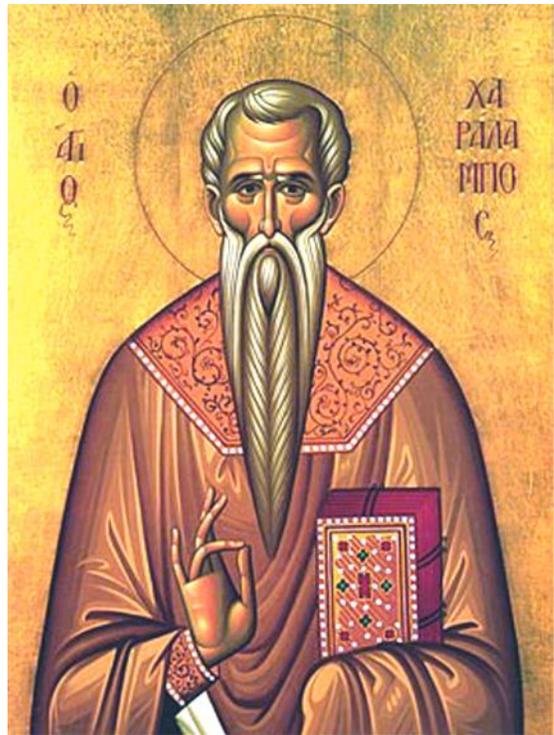
Feastday Services and Icon Blessing

February is the month for celebrating the nameday of our parish. The feastday of Saint Haralambos is Feb. 10, and we invite our brothers and sisters from throughout the valley to join us for our Vesper service on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7 pm, and for the Divine Liturgy on Friday, Feb. 10 at 9 am.

Following the Vesper service on Feb. 9, we will also be blessing the new icons for our church interior. The 12 icons will be brought to the church to have the blessing prayers read over them. They will be installed at a later date, but this will give everyone a chance to see the beautiful new icons.

Afterwards there will be a reception outdoors, since our fellowship room will be set up for festival use.

Join your church family for these blessed celebrations on Thursday, Feb. 9th at 7 pm, and on Friday, Feb. 10 at 9 am.



A Gathering of Prayer

Prayer can be hard to do sometimes; distractions, noise, worry and a busy schedule all contribute to making it difficult to stay focused. This is a lovely quote about prayer that I'd like to share with you from Irina Valerievna, of Moscow.

"I now have a body. In several dozen years (or months, or weeks, or days...) I will not have it. Living with the body I am free to do whatever I want. When I die the soul will not be free. It will not have the mouth, the heart, the mind, which are the tools for praying. While I have these tools, let me pray...the body is a democratic thing. It makes me equal to the aristocrats of spirit, (the Saints) because it can pray

to God as much as I want to. And if my soul is that of a spiritual pigmy, it can talk to God through my body. When my body is dead, the chance will be lost. Sometimes I imagine our big world as an infinity of evil, chaos and death - and prayer as a tiny island of culture, order, warmth and beauty. I cling to this island, knowing that a puff of wind can carry me away into the darkness."

Stewardship

As we do each year, we are asking all parish families to consider renewing their Stewardship of Saint Haralambos Church, and for new families to consider becoming Stewards as well.

The 2017 Stewardship Brochures are available from Fr. Michael after Sunday services or by appointment during the week.

Good Stewardship for Christians, is recognizing that everything we have: health, wealth, time and talents,

are all gifts of God; none of it belongs to us! To exercise good stewardship is to use God's gifts in ways that glorify Him and build up His Church. This means using our gifts for the benefit of others, giving a portion of our time and treasure for the building up of the Church.

When a person realizes his dependency on God's blessings, sharing them with others and through His Church is a very natural and joyful response.



Great Lent Begins

It's amazing to consider that for 30 years, Saint Haralambos Church has been putting together an annual Greek food and dance festival. Most of the festivals have been held on our Church grounds, and all have featured home-made recipes of traditional Greek food and pastries. After 30 years, even though many of us are familiar with the time and energy needed to prepare an event like this, we've come to the realization that it doesn't get any easier after 30 years!

There are no short cuts to home-made food: the recipes haven't changed, the ingredients haven't changed, the preparation and baking time hasn't changed. And what's obvious, year after year, is that people appreciate delicious, traditional recipes, even though they might not never have heard of Pastistio, Tiropita or Mousaka. The reactions and nice comments say it all: People truly enjoy a Taste of Greece, and in Peoria, they have been doing so for the past 30 years.

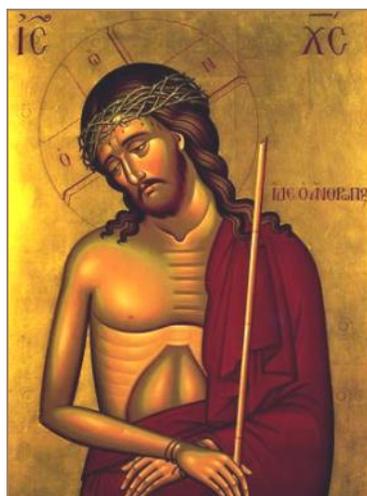
Once this year's festival has passed, and our grounds and rooms are returned back to normal, we're going to begin another annual tradition that our parish has participated in for the past 30 years: Great Lent, which begins on Monday, Feb. 27.

This annual tradition of the Orthodox Christian faith has been around for a little longer than 30 years, and also (like our festival food recipes) consists of time-honored practices that haven't

changed, and for which there are no short-cuts. Prayer, fasting and works of charity are the three main disciplines to help spiritual growth during the seven-week spiritual journey.

Although Lent always begins on a Monday, the first Lenten service begins the evening prior with the Vesper Service of Forgiveness on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 6 pm. This tradition of asking forgiveness of our brothers and sisters in our Church family helps us begin Great Lent with the proper attitude and a clean heart.

This tradition of asking forgiveness of our brothers and sisters in our Church family helps us begin Great Lent



The Participant's Guide to the Lenten Journey, which discusses fasting, prayer and works of charity, in addition to listing the complete Lent and Holy Week service schedule, will also be available on Sunday, the 26th.

Please offer your time to help with our 30th annual festival. When the festival finishes, remember to switch gears from Festival to Fasting as Great Lent begins. The tradition of feasting and fasting throughout the year, is another way that Orthodox

Christians look at the year.

In the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes, we read, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." It's good to celebrate, but also good to fast. Both are part of the Christian life, and we can certainly grow and benefit from both.

**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**
www.stharalambos.org
Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship
Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

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623-486-8665
7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ 85383
Office@StHaralambosAZ.com
FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com
Hours
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parish Council
Marina Finch
Dennis Georgen
Nardos Russom
Russ Skocypec
Solomon Woldesilassie

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Anna Kinniburgh, President

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." James 4:7

Thank You to everyone who baked, purchased, and contributed to an amazingly successful Vasilopita Sunday event! An extra special thank you to Georgia Trakas and Reni Milonas for their generous contributions and to Stella Pagos for her work and baking talent. We raised \$325 that will go to St. Basil's Academy which offers services and support to children in need of safe haven.

St. Haralambos Feastday

Please join us to honor and celebrate the Patron Saint of our church on Thursday, Feb. 9. Philoptochos will provide refreshments in the Social Hall following Great Vespers. We welcome all and appreciate those who can contribute a dish to share.

January and February Commitments

At the latest Philoptochos meeting our National and Metropolitan commitments were reviewed and voted on:

- Social Services
- Cancer & Other Major Illnesses Fund - provides outreach, support and financial assistance to those in need
- Autism Assistance Fund - heightens awareness of autism with assistance and support
- Saint Photios Shrine - provides assistance to preserve the National Shrine

Coffee Hour

Please remember we are always looking for volunteers to host Sunday coffee hour. The signup sheet is posted outside the kitchen. Thank you for helping to continue this tradition of sharing and fellowship.

Next meeting

Due to festival preparations Philoptochos will not be meeting in the month of February. Our next meeting will be held Monday, Mar. 6 at 6:30 pm. See you at the Festival! OPAH!

Birthdays



- Christina Harris (1)
- Kalliope Chafoulias (4)
- Koula Ratliff (5)
- Silvia Christenson, II (9)
- Erini Braddock (11)
- Kerri Stamas (11)
- Peter Vardalos (11)
- David Solomon (13)
- Chris Birtsas (14)
- Martha Tsakiris (14)
- Emil Sprintz (17)
- Dennis Georgen (24)
- Nayeli Gheorghe (24)
- Solomon Tesfay (24)
- Timothy Harvey (25)
- Mary Manos (26)
- Stephanie Baxter (28)

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.



Name Days

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| St. Agathi (5th) | St. Zacharias (11th) | St. Theodore (17th) |
| St. Theodore Stratelates (8th) | St. Christos the Gardener (12th) | St. Agapetos (18th) |
| St. Haralambos (10th) | St. Meletios (12th) | St. Evstathios (21st) |
| St. Theodora the Empress (11th) | SS. Aquila and Priscilla (13th) | St. Photini (26th) |
| | | St. Kyranna (29th) |

2017 Greek Festival: February 10, 11, & 12
VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

I am available to work the following booths:

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Admission | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival Bank | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Imports/Deli | <input type="checkbox"/> Gyros/Souvlaki |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious/Bookstore | <input type="checkbox"/> Loukoumades | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Food Line | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastries | <input type="checkbox"/> Runner | <input type="checkbox"/> Saganaki & Kalamari | <input type="checkbox"/> Taverna | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Fries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office/Information | | | | |

I am available to work the following shifts:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Friday</u> | <u>Saturday</u> | <u>Sunday</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5pm to 10pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 11am to 4pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 12pm to 4pm |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 4pm to 10pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 4pm to 8pm |

I am available to help with the following Pre-Festival and Post-Festival needs:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Booth Setup (week before) | <input type="checkbox"/> Booth Teardown | <input type="checkbox"/> Food and Pastry Preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer/Signage Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion & Advertising | |

Name _____ Phone _____

Your assignment will be confirmed. If you cannot fulfill your assignment,
please call Desi: 623-876-1967 (after 6 pm) or the Church office: 623-486-8665.

Please return this form as soon as possible. Thank you!

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FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:00am Divine Liturgy Presentation of the Lord in the Temple 7:00pm Choir	3	4 8:30am Festival Baking: Kourambiedes
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Publican and the Pharisee	6 8:30am Festival Baking: Baklava	7 8:30am Festival Baking: Diples 10:00am Bible Study	8	9 7:00pm Parish Feastday Vespers Blessing of New Church Icons	10 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Haralambos, Patron Saint of our Parish 5:00pm Peoria Greek Fest	11 11:00am Peoria Greek Fest
12 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy The Prodigal Son 12:00pm Peoria Greek Fest	13	14 10:00am Bible Study 11:30am Book Chat	15	16 7:00pm Choir	17	18 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
19 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Meatfare Sunday IOCC Offering	20 Presidents' Day (church office closed)	21 10:00am Bible Study	22	23 7:00pm Choir	24	25 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saturday of Souls
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Cheesefare Sunday 6:00pm Vespers of Forgiveness	27 Great Lent Begins	28 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service				