

The **Hieromartyr Haralambos**, Bishop of Magnesia, the Martyrs Porphyrius and Baptus and Three Women Martyrs suffered in the year 202. Saint Haralambos, successfully spread faith in Christ the Savior, guiding people on the way to salvation. News of his preaching reached Lucian, the governor of the district, and the military commander Lucius. The saint was arrested and brought to trial, where he confessed his faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifice to idols.

Despite the bishop's advanced age (he was 113 years old), he was subjected to monstrous tortures. They lacerated his body with iron hooks, and scraped all the skin from his body. During this the saint turned to his tormentors, "I thank you, brethren, that you have restored my spirit, which longs to pass over to a new and everlasting life!" Seeing the Elder's endurance and his complete lack of malice, two soldiers (Porphyrius and Baptus) openly confessed Christ, for which they were immediately beheaded with a sword. Three women who were watching the sufferings of Saint Haralambos also began to glorify Christ, and were quickly martyred.

The enraged Lucius seized the instruments of torture and began to torture the holy martyr, but suddenly his forearms were cut off as if by a sword. The governor then spat in the face of the saint, and immediately his head was turned around so that he faced backwards. Then Lucius entreated the saint to show mercy on him, and both torturers were healed through the prayers of Saint Haralambos. During this a multitude of witnesses came to believe in Christ. Among them also was Lucius, who fell at the feet of the holy bishop, asking to be baptized.

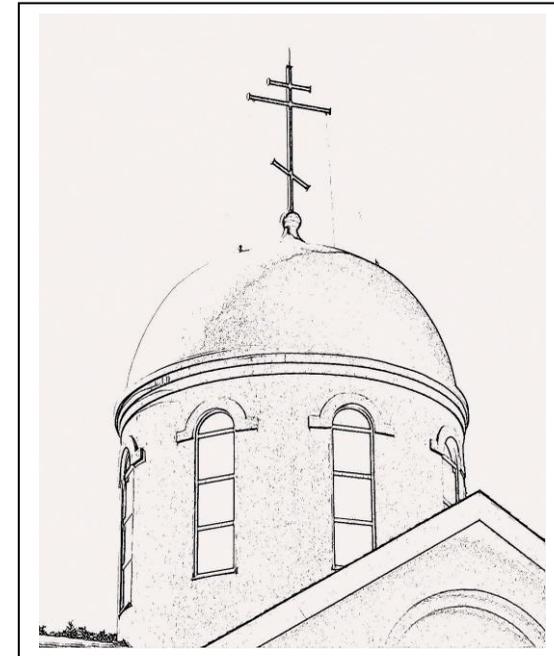
Lucian reported these events to the emperor Septimus Severus (193-211), who was then at Pisidian Antioch (western Asia Minor). The emperor ordered Saint Haralambos to be brought to him in Antioch. Soldiers twisted the saint's beard into a rope, wound it around his neck, and used it to drag him along. They also drove an iron nail into his body. The emperor then ordered them to torture the bishop more intensely, and they began to burn him with fire, a little at a time. But God protected the saint, and he remained unharmed.

Many miracles were worked through his prayer: he raised a dead youth, and healed a man tormented by devils for thirty-five years, so that many people began to believe in Christ the Savior. Even Galina, the daughter of the emperor, began to believe in Christ, and twice smashed the idols in a pagan temple. On the orders of the emperor they beat the saint about the mouth with stones. They also wanted to set his beard on fire, but the flames burned the torturer.

Full of wickedness, Septimus Severus and an official named Crispus hurled blasphemy at the Lord, mockingly summoning Him to come down to the earth, and boasting of their own power and might. The Lord sent an earthquake, and great fear fell upon all, the impious ones were both suspended in mid-air held by invisible bonds, and only by the prayer of the saint were they put down. The dazed emperor was shaken in his former impiety, but again quickly fell into error and gave orders to torture the saint.

And finally, the emperor sentenced Saint Haralambos to beheading with a sword. During Saint Haralambos' final prayer, the heavens opened and the saint saw the Savior and a multitude of angels. The holy martyr asked Him to grant that the place where his relics would repose would never suffer famine or disease. He also begged that there would be peace, prosperity, and an abundance of fruit, grain, and wine in that place, and that the souls of these people would be saved. The Lord promised to fulfill his request and ascended to heaven, and the soul of the hieromartyr Haralambos followed after Him. By the mercy of God, the saint died before he could be executed. Galina buried the martyr's body with great honor.

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

*Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!*

*Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos*

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Very Rev. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, *Retired Attached Priest*

Fr. Deacon Alexander Smida, *Deacon*

Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*

Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

February 10, 2019

THIRTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday of Zacchaeus

*Tone 4. Hieromartyr Haralambos, Bishop of Magnesia in Thessaly, and Martyrs Porphyrius, Baptus and three women Martyrs (202). Synaxis of the Hierarchs of Novgorod, buried in the Cathedral of the Holy Wisdom (Sophia) in Novgorod: Joachim (1030), Luke (1058), Theodore (1077), Herman (1096), Arkádii (Arcadius)—(1163), John (1185), Gabriel (1193), Martyrii (1199), Anthony (1231), Easily (Basil)—(1352), Moses (1362), Simeon (1421), Evfim (Euthymius)—(1458) and Aftonii (Aphthonius—1652). Rt. Blv. Princess Anna of Novgorod (1056). Ven. Prokhor (Prochorus) of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—1107). Ven. Lóngin (Longinus) of Koryazhemsk (Vologdá—1540). Virgin Martyrs Ennatha, Valentina and Paula, of Palestine (308). The “AREOVINDUS” Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos.*

**Today's Readings:**

*Epistle:* 1 Timothy 4:9-15

*Gospel:* Luke 19:1-10

**Upcoming Service Schedule:**

**Today – 9:00am** Divine Liturgy

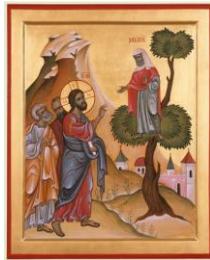
**Saturday - 7:00pm** Great Vespers

**Sunday – 9:00am** Divine Liturgy

**Next Sunday's Readings:**

*Epistle:* 2 Timothy 3:10-15

*Gospel:* Luke 18:10-14



*The Sunday of  
Zacchaeus*

**Coffee Hour Teams:**

*Today – The Smida Family*

*Next Sunday – TEAM D (Paxton, May, Alpaugh)*

**Special Prayers**

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Olga Kornafel, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Meni Mari, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Alan Diaz, Cathy Diaz, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Ron Madensky, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Elba Cinciarelli, and Catherine Ratushuk.**

**Welcome** to our visitors who have joined us today for worship and prayer. We invite you to stay with us after today's services for an Agape Coffee Hour in our Parish Hall. Please sign our guest book before you leave, tell your friends and family members about us, and bring back one or two of them on your next visit!

Annunciations

**TODAY** – The **Church School** does **NOT** meet today. Classes will resume next Sunday at 11:15am.

**TODAY** – **Deacon Alexander Smida** will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood here during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. We welcome **Archbishop Michael, Deacon Stephan, Subdeacons Mark and Matthew**, and all who are visiting with us today. Following the service, all are invited to a **celebratory luncheon** hosted by the Smida family in the Parish Hall. **Axios! Axios! Axios!**

**TODAY** – We are blessed to have **relics of St. Haralambos** in our parish. They are located between the candle stands on the left side of the church as you face the altar. Please take the opportunity to venerate the relics of this saint on this, his feast day.

**Sunday, February 24** – A dinner in appreciation of all **Distinguished Diocesan Donors** will be held at **Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Bayonne**. Anyone who has participated as a DDB or who has interest in becoming one is invited to attend. Details will be forthcoming.

Our brother in Christ, **+Walter Romanofsky**, fell asleep in the Lord this past Tuesday. Services took place in the church on Friday and Saturday, and **+Walter's** body was interred at St. Vladimir Cemetery in Jackson. **May his memory be eternal and may his soul dwell with the Blessed!**

The  **blessing of homes** will continue during the next few weeks. A **sign-up sheet** is located in the parish hall. Please indicate days and times that are most convenient for you to have Father Gary come and bless your home. Alternatively, you may **email Father Gary** with your request for a houseblessing.

**Parish Calendars for February** are located in the narthex and in the parish hall.

*The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding of our diocesan activities and programs. Please consider participating in the program. Brochures are located by the bulletin board in the parish hall or at the diocesan website at [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org).*

**MANY YEARS**  
*Birthdays this week:*  
**Saturday** – Carole Stavrou

**OUTREACH**

- **Food Pantry donations** are always accepted. Place non-perishable food items in blue bin in the narthex
- **Clothing donations** are accepted on the last Sunday of each month. Place donations next to the food pantry bin.