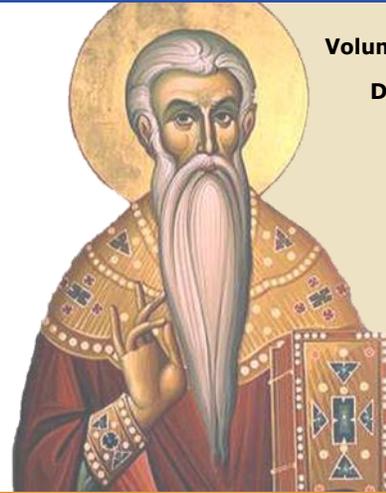


in Touch

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The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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The Nativity of our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



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



Christmas Services

All are welcome and encouraged to attend Christmas services and celebrate the birth of Christ as a parish family. Services begin with the reading of the Royal Hours on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 4 pm. This will be followed by the Christmas Eve Divine Liturgy at 5 pm. Divine Liturgy is also celebrated at 10 am on Christmas Day.

Annual Christmas Food Drive

During the month of December, we will be collecting canned and boxed food for ten needy families served by the Peoria Community Action Agency. We can use everyone's help in donating canned and boxed foods for a wonderful Christmas meal by the Dec. 15 deadline.



Christmas Angel Tree

Christmas angels are now up, and we invite parishioners to take an angel home and return it with the gift listed on the angel. You will be brightening the Christmas of a child or family unknown to you, while remaining anonymous to the recipient; this is how angels work!

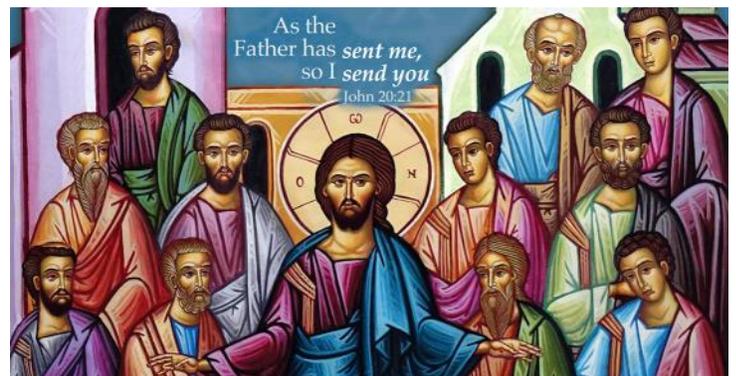
Please return all gifts, wrapped or unwrapped, by the Dec. 15 deadline.

Stewardship Sunday

Stewardship Pledge Cards will be available on Stewardship Sunday, Dec. 29, following services. For those not in attendance, the cards will be mailed.

Stewardship is not just a means to support the parish budget; it is a means of putting our faith in action, using our God-given gifts and talent in ways that glorify God, help one another, and build up His Church on earth.

All parish families are encouraged to complete and return their 2020 Stewardship Pledge cards as soon as possible, noting their offerings of time, talents and treasure.





More Blessed to Give than to Receive

At his retirement dinner, a priest offered these words: “I’ve spent time with perhaps hundreds of people who have been hospitalized for various reasons. I’ve prayed with them and heard their confessions. You know the one thing I’ve never heard any of them say? “I wish I hadn’t given so much away; I wish I had kept more for myself.”

Many people have offered various opinions on what is the key to true happiness. Let’s recall the words of St. Augustine (354 – 430AD), who wrote, “Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness.” He was reflecting on the words of our Lord from the Sermon on the Mount, “for where your treasure is, there is your heart also.” (Matt.6:21)

But why do you think St. Augustine’s comments also mention pleasure and happiness? Perhaps because he understands the connection between being a happy person and a giving person; a connection that is pleasing to God, as St. Paul wrote about in 2nd Corinthians: “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Coming now to the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, we are asking parishioners to renew their stewardship of St. Haralambos Church, committing a portion of their time, talents and treasure, not just in support of the Church, but in recognition that all that a person has comes from God, and it is a good thing to use those gifts properly in ways that are pleasing to God and continue to build up His Holy Church.

Some would propose a solution to request that all parishioners increase their annual giving by a certain dollar amount. This solution may seem equitable, but would really put an unfair financial burden on those

who are already contributing a significant portion of their income. And this gets to the heart of the most traditional – and fair – concept of giving to the Church: percentage giving.

Starting in the Old Testament with a 10-percent tithe to the temple, this teaching is that by offering a percent of God’s blessings back to His church, each family will not be offering an equal amount, but each will be making an equal sacrifice. So when considering how much to give in support of the church, begin by thinking in terms of percentage giving, rather than a specific dollar amount.

There are no church membership dues or fees that all parishioners are expected to contribute.

Every family in our parish should also consider how they can contribute to parish ministries. Do you have the call to serve our young people, to visit or offer assistance to the sick or shut-ins, help with liturgical needs such as singing or reading, prepare the offering bread (prosfora), memorial wheat (koliva) or church flowers, greet new members, help teach current members, assist with building maintenance, or offer to begin a new ministry? How is God calling you to serve in your church? Your response to this call is the foundation of Christian stewardship.

In summarizing the meaning and purpose of the Church, Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh wrote, “The Church is the great sacrament of salvation that Christ has instituted in the world. It is the Ark of Salvation, and the inaugurated Kingdom of God... The Church thus conceived is not just another human

Every family in our parish should also consider how they can contribute to parish ministries.

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**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship

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

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 3 p.m.

Parish Council

Philip Bell	Paul McGinn
Olga Carlson	Dean Milonas
Roy Christian	George Semancik
John Hrapchak	Ken Wrona
Anna Kinniburgh	Valla Wrona
Ted Manos	

Name Days

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

St. Myrope (2nd)
St. Theodore of Alexandria (3rd)
St. Barbara (4th)
St. Savvas (5th)
St. Nicholas (6th)
St. Ambrose (7th)
St. Daniel the Stylite (11th)
St. Lucia (13th)
St. Modestos (16th)
St. Sebastian (18th)
St. Juliane (21st)
St. Anastasia (22nd)
St. Eugenia, Virgin and Martyr (24th)
Nativity of Christ (25th)
St. Simeon (28th)
St. Melania (31st)

Special General Assembly

On Sunday the Nov. 3, the fall General Assembly was held in part to review and approve the 2020 Parish budget. The proposed budget was not accepted, and a motion to amend the budget was made to review, adjust errors that were identified, and include an increase in the priest's compensation. The compensation adjustment is to bring it up to the minimal recommended amount by the Archdiocese Clergy Compensation Guidelines.

This motion was passed by the assembly.

The Parish Council is now in the process of revising the budget, and has scheduled a Special General Assembly for Dec. 15 for the purpose of presenting and requesting approval of the amended 2020 Parish budget.

The Parish Council will send out the revised budget (with above-mentioned revisions) on Dec. 5 via email. This will allow time for parishioners to review the adjusted budget prior to the scheduled Special General Assembly.

Parish Council Elections

Parish Council elections will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8. Our Parish Council consists of 12 members, each having a two-year term of office. The election will be for six open seats. Candidates for this election are: Angie Cholas, George Semancik, Roy

Christian and Anna Kinniburgh.

Requests for absentee ballots can be made to the church office, but must be returned no later than Saturday, Dec 7.

Sunday School

Sunday school continues for all ages preschool through high school. All are welcome. Please join us for the

Christmas program on Dec. 22 following liturgy.

Young Adult League

A new fellowship group for parishioners between 18 – 35 began meeting last month with an Ice Cream Social held on Friday, Nov. 22 in the Fellowship Room. This month the group will again be meeting at

the church on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 pm, to decorate Christmas cookies and Gingerbread Houses. All young adults are welcome to attend!

Community Christmas Card

We will again be providing parishioners the opportunity to send Christmas greetings with a beautiful full-color icon greeting card to all our parish families. For each family name, the cost is just \$10.

Please print your name clearly, exactly as you would like it to appear on the card. You may mail this form to the church office or sign up on Sundays during the Coffee Hour. Please make checks payable to: St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church. **The deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019.**

Please include my family's name in this year's Community Christmas Card.

Enclosed is my check for \$10.

(Please return to the church office)



Names (please print clearly)



St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Reni Milonas, President

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7

St. Anna's Philoptochos met on Nov. 10 and the following commitments were discussed and approved - National: Ecumenical Patriarchate \$25 & National Sisterhood of Presvyteres \$25, Local commitment: Festival donation of \$500.

We are again partnering with the city of Peoria and in particular, The Peoria Community Action Program. Philoptochos volunteers will be seeking donors for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Please help us fill these baskets to the brim for the benefit of needy families in our community.

Save the Date for the AGAPE BALL on Jan. 25, 2020 at Holy Trinity, the Ball benefits the Kids N' Cancer Summer Camp that we support along with the other local Philoptochos chapters.

Our next Bake/Deli Sale prep is on Dec. 14 and our Bake/Deli Sale will be held Dec. 15 and Dec. 22.

"Tree of Remembrance" On Dec. 1, for those who wish to honor the memory of a loved one during Christmas, St. Anna's Philoptochos will once again offer Memorial "Dove" ornaments for a donation of \$10. The doves will adorn the two trees flanking the Alter and is a

reminder of a beloved's spirit and the love that you have for them. On Dec. 29 the Philoptochos will host a Memorial service and the names of your loved ones on the dove ornaments will be read by Father Michael. Please see Dimetra Abbitt or Reni Milonas to receive a dove.

Our Christmas party and potluck will be on Thursday, Dec. 5. Spouses and guests are welcome. Please bring an exchangeable gift valued at \$5 to \$10 for each person attending.

Our scheduled commitments for various charities for the year 2019-2020 total \$4,728. This is why your continued support is so vital to help us achieve our goals.

How you can help

- Become a Philoptochos member.
- Host a Sunday Coffee Hour.
- Make a free-will donation into the Coffee Hour donation basket.
- Shop at the Deli/Bake Sales.
- Join us at our annual Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon.
- Link your Fry's card to the Fry's Community Rewards Program. (Enter the St. Haralambos Church Account #VJ497 when enrolling.)

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 1 at 12 pm.



More Blessed to Give than to Receive

(Continued from page 3)

organization; it is a gathering of people who profoundly share the life of faith, the new life in Christ, the life in the Holy Spirit, the life of God. The Church can best be characterized as a 'communion of saints.'"

Our Lord Jesus Christ calls each of us to be cheerful givers, to share our blessings,

to support those in need. As we look forward to the new year, let us begin 2020 with a renewed sense of cheerful giving, of humble and heartfelt worship; of building a church community that is alive in our desire to please God through all that we do!

Parish Council News

Members: Phillip Bell, Olga Carlson, Roy Christian, John Hrapchak, Anna Kinniburgh, Ted Manos, Paul McGinnis, Dean Milonas, George Semancik, Ken Wrona, and Valla Wrona

Parish Council elections will be held on Dec. 8.

A revised budget is being prepared and a Special Assembly will take place on Sunday, Dec. 15. A notice will be sent out on Dec. 5.

A banner is being purchased from the Archdiocese for \$150 that says, "Find Your Home in the Orthodox Church" and will be placed near the street at the front of the property. Also, for the parking lot, LED lights will be placed at the apex of the

building on both the east and west sides of the building to help light up the parking lot from dusk to dawn.

In order to improve communication, each parish council member will be a liaison to each of the main ministry heads in 2020.

Our mortgage burning dinner plans are being finalized. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos has accepted our invitation to celebrate with us! The dinner will be held at Holy Trinity on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, from 5 pm to 10 pm. Tickets will be \$45 per person.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Dec. 3, at 6:30 pm.

Birthdays



- Maria Nickolopoulos (1)
- Stella Pagos (1)
- Robyn Pappas (3)
- Olga Carlson (6)
- Ethel Nicholas (6)
- Kay Fulghum (9)
- Thomas Bryson (14)
- Daniel Martin (15)
- Luc Papakalos (15)
- Leonidas Karandreas (17)
- Adrianna Micka (18)
- Jean Baxter (19)
- Stella Kosta (20)
- Alex Papakalos (22)
- Christos Kotsobeis (25)
- John Hrapchak (29)

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.

JANUARY 2020 - FESTIVAL BAKING

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7	8 8:30am Tsourekia	9 8:30am Tsourekia	10	11
12	13	14	15 8:30am Melomakarouna & Paximadia	16	17	18 8:30am Koulouria
19	20	21	22 8:30am Karithopita	23 8:30am Dolmades	24 8:30am Dolmades	25
26	27	28	29 8:30am Kourabiedes	30	31 8:30am Tiropites	

FEBRUARY 2020 - FESTIVAL BAKING

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:30am Spanakopites
2	3 8:30am Baklava	4	5	6	7 OPA	8 OPA

Join us for our
Mortgage Burning Celebration



The Saint Haralambos parish family
Joyfully invites you to join
His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos
In celebrating this historic milestone!



Saturday, January 11, 2020
5pm Appetizers; 6pm Dinner



Speros Community Center, Holy Trinity Cathedral

\$45 for Adults; \$20 for children under 18; Free for children 5 and under

Please call the Church Office at 623-486-8665 for reservations.

Deadline: December 31

Catering by John Mitchell

Music by Tony Bafaloukos



SAINT HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Peoria, AZ 85383 • Tel.: (623) 486-8665 • Fax: (623) 486-5290
Web: www.stharalambos.org • E-mail: Office@StHaralambosAZ.com • FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

October, 2019

Dear Friends,

The 2020 Peoria Greekfest will be held February 7, 8 & 9, 2020 at St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church located at 7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road. We are currently seeking sponsors/donors for the event and have included a sponsorship form for your consideration. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce and promote your business.

Celebrating 32 years, the Peoria Greekfest is the only Greek Festival in the greater west/northwest valley and thousands of residents and visitors attend each year. Check out www.peoriagreekfest.com for a peek at what the Festival has to offer.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call 623-486-8665 or contact peoriagreekfest2019@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration.

We hope that you will join us at the 2020 Peoria Greekfest for a spectacular weekend of homemade Greek cuisine, pastries, live entertainment and fun for all ages. OPA!

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Peoria Greek Festival - February 7, 8, 9, 2020

SPONSORSHIP/DONATION FORM

Company/Individual Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

PLEASE INDICATE SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

Check One	Type	Amount	Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/>	OLYMPIAN	\$1,000	Business card or logo recognition in event program.
<input type="checkbox"/>	ATHENIAN	\$500	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPARTAN	\$100	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	DONOR	\$50	Name recognized in event Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER DONATION (gift card, etc.)	\$ _____	Name recognized in event Program

***Please provide logo or business card in digital format to:
peoriagreekfest2019@gmail.com***

Deadline for inclusion in the event program is January 3, 2020

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!

Please return completed form to:

Attn: Peoria Greekfest

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

7950 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Peoria, AZ 85383

For tax purposes, St. Haralambos Church Federal Tax ID Number is: 86-0594146

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	2	3 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Parish Council	4 9:00am Divine Liturgy Barbara, John of Damascus	5 4:00pm Philoptochos Christmas Party	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy Nicholas the Wonderworker	7
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Parish Council Elections 12:00pm Caring Friends Meeting	9 9:00am Divine Liturgy Conception of the Holy Theotokos	10 10:00am Bible Study	11	12 10:00am Divine Liturgy Spyridon the Wonderworker	13	14 3:00pm Young Adults
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Special General Assembly Philoptochos Deli/Bake Sale	16	17 10:00am Bible Study	18	19	20	21
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 11:30am Sunday School Christmas Program Philoptochos Deli/Bake Sale	23	24 4:00pm Royal Hours of Christmas 5:00pm Divine Liturgy Christmas Eve	25 10:00am Divine Liturgy Christmas Day	26	27	28
29 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Stewardship Sunday Dove Memorial Service	30	31				