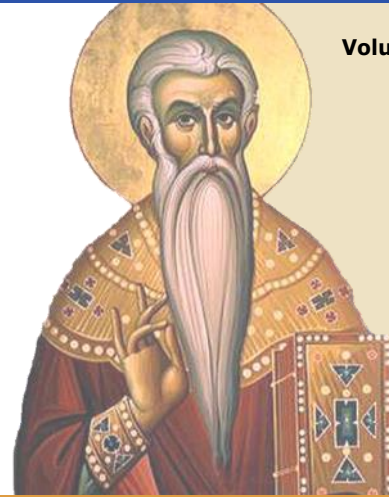


# *in* Touch

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

# Top Oratorical Festival Speaker from Saint Haralambos Church!

Congratulations to Naomi Solomon for being awarded the Top Speaker in the Senior Division of the National Archdiocese St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival! (Pictured with Naomi is Stavros Spanakis, Top Speaker in the Junior Division, from Holy Trinity Church in Canton, Ohio.)

The judges heard from nine speakers in each division, each representing a different metropolis from the Archdiocese of America. Naomi's speech, delivered on Saturday, Jun. 8 at Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church in Port Washington, New York, was on the topic: "Describe how science and technology should always be at the service of humanity and, ultimately, of God, in harmony with His purposes." She spoke beautifully and passionately, earning her the top spot and a college scholarship award.

***Super job, Naomi!***



## Caring Friends

The Caring Friends Ministry is currently in need of a Chairperson. The Ministry is over ten years old and was originally created to visit and call on fellow parishioners who were hospitalized or were homebound in assisted living, group homes, in rehab, or with their family.

The primary Chairman duties include working closely with Father Michael to assign new parish members with matching volunteers, working with current volunteers to coordinate Easter and Christmas giving, keeping files

updated, and helping to recruit new volunteers to the Ministry.

Contact Father Michael if you think you can contribute to this vital Ministry of hope and fellowship to the sick and elderly. This volunteer position is an opportunity to become a ray of light, to extend kindness and love to those in need of remembrance in their twilight years, and above all to walk in our Lord Jesus Christ's footsteps of giving of ourselves.

## Orthodox Christian Choral Fellowship

Look how happy people are when they sing together! They came to sing for "One Day, One Hymn, One Church," a Pan-Orthodox choral fellowship event sponsored by Orthodox Christian Choral Fellowship, and hosted by Sts. Peter and Paul Church on Mar. 23. Singers were from the Arizona Orthodox Christian parishes, from Flagstaff to Tucson. (watch the video at [www.occfellowship.org](http://www.occfellowship.org))

The next event will be hosted at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale on Saturday, Sep. 21, from 10 am – 3 pm. No previous choral experience is necessary! If you love to sing, you're going to love this event.

Registration opens next month at [www.occfellowship.org](http://www.occfellowship.org). You can also follow updates at [www.facebook.com/occfellowship](https://www.facebook.com/occfellowship).





## The Keys to a Joyful Life

Have you ever noticed someone who does a job with a smile on their face; a smile that projects peace, contentment and calm? Does seeing such a person make you stop and wonder what planet they're from?

We see so many images today of unhappy people, of conniving, manipulative people, jealous, angry, stressed-out people, of exhausted and hopeless people. We may work with them and they may be members of our family. They're everywhere; in fact, at times, we may even be one of them!

This continual bombardment of unhappiness, anger and despair affects all of us to the extent that the sight of someone at peace, truly enjoying what they're doing, can seem quite extraordinary, even abnormal.

But before making such a diagnosis, we should take a moment and listen to our heart. Besides doing an amazing job of continuously pumping blood throughout our bodies, our hearts can also tell us things that our brain cannot. In the case of peaceful and happy people, our hearts are likely telling us that this really should be the norm, and these are the kind of people we'd all like to be.

I hope it comes as no surprise to learn that the Christian faith shows us the path that leads to real happiness, fulfillment and peace. The Church and Holy Scriptures both offer valuable tools to help keep us on this path. The more we read from the bible and the more we participate in the life of the Church (services, sacraments, ministries, fasting and feast-days), the more we learn about the Christian life as designed by God, and taught by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have*

*tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33)

Jesus taught that we should never confuse the Christian life with an easy life, or a life without stress or conflict. Still, He counsels us to "be of good cheer," not in a phony, patronizing way, but in a way that expresses the true joy of living as servants of a good and loving God.

Jesus spoke about the love of God continuously, about his unconditional love for all humankind, and about his desire for people to inherit his heavenly kingdom, to spend eternity with him in paradise.

*"And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."* (Luke 12:29-32)

This is the ultimate goal of the Christian life, something so wonderful that we can scarcely imagine its beauty. This is one reason Jesus encourages us to "be of good cheer."

St. Paul was one who understood that message. While in prison, he wrote the following words in his letter to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice!" This great Christian Missionary to the Gentiles understood what it meant to suffer, physically and emotionally, but never to the point where he could no longer

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*Jesus spoke about the love of God continuously, about his unconditional love for all humankind*

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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

Olga Carlson	Ted Manos
Roy Christian	Paul McGinn
John Hrapchak	Dean Milonas
Anna Kinniburgh	Ken Wrona

## New Parish Ministries: Strategic Planning and Outreach



### Strategic Planning Ministry

Long-range or Strategic Planning is something that all parishes in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America are encouraged to establish. Basically, it provides an organized approach to help move a parish from where it is today, to where it would like to be tomorrow. A typical Strategic Plan provides this roadmap for the next 3-5 years.

From the initial Strategic Planning Seminar in November 2018, a 3-member Executive Committee was selected to begin the process of establishing a Strategic Plan for St. Haralambos Church. The Executive Committee members, Ath Argiris, Chair; Jean Baxter, co-Chair and John Hrapchak, Secretary, all received further training by Steve Tibbs, the director of Parish Leadership for the Metropolis of San Francisco.

An announcement about this new ministry was made at the Spring General Assembly, and has the full support of our parish council.

The process will take several months to complete, and also welcomes the thoughts and ideas from all parishioners. A parish-wide survey is being prepared to provide the opportunity for our parishioners to express their desires and concerns about our future.

In the meantime, the committee recently welcomed the addition of six new members: Erini Braddock, Henry Lafayette, Mary-Elaine McGinn, Chrissy Pritchard, Bereket Russom and Linda Zakas.

Our new Strategic Planning Committee is working towards fulfilling the mission and vision of St. Haralambos Church in an organized and transparent way that builds on our parish history to provide a warm

and welcoming parish home for future generations.

### Outreach Ministry

Our parish Outreach Committee was recently formed to create an organized way of reaching out to people who no longer are affiliated with our church or any church. The Church does not exist only to serve the needs of its members, but is outwardly focused as well. Of the myriad reasons people are not part of a church, a surprising number say it is because they have not been asked.

“Becoming Truly Human” ([www.becomingtrulyhuman.com](http://www.becomingtrulyhuman.com)) is an outreach ministry developed by the Antiochean Orthodox Archdiocese, and is based on a documentary film of the same name. The film presents the personal stories of eight men and women, collectively referred to as “nones;” a term from the Pew Research Center survey on religion and public life to define those who are no longer affiliated with a church (respondents checked the “None” box on the survey.) This demographic is proving to be one of the fastest growing in American society.

The purpose of this ministry is to invite people (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers) to discuss their own thoughts and experiences on religion and church life, in a caring the safe environment. There are no teachings, no solicitations to join the church, no right and wrong responses; just a time to make sincere and friendly connections.

The Outreach ministry, led by Irene Nathanson, is preparing to start the first six-week session this summer.

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## Sunday School

Our young people need you. If you are willing to help share a class or substitute, please volunteer. Sunday school runs through the school year. We're looking to share teaching with no one person completely responsible for the class. You will get the support you need and curriculum, too. No experience needed, just your willingness. Please contact Jean Baxter, Sunday School coordinator 602-616-0740. A text or call is just fine!

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## Understanding our Mission

*We are a loving Christ-centered community whose mission is to keep, practice and proclaim our Orthodox Christian faith as a living presence to those around us.*

We are a loving Christ-centered community.

This is what a Church is. The word ἐκκλησία (ekklesia) church, means the called out ones. We are the Church, the people, also known as the Body of Christ. We are a group of individuals whom God has called out to form the Body and follow our Lord Jesus. Each one of us has unique gifts that God has bestowed upon us for the sole purpose of pleasing Him and serving each other.

- Do you know what your gifts are?
- Are you using the talents that God has given you?
- Do you realize that without your involvement the Body is not complete?

The following verses will help us better understand the way this works and the loving attitude behind it.

Eph 4:11 - His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and builds itself up in love.

Rom 12:4 - For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the

grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators.

1Co 12:8 - To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge, to another faith, to another gifts of healing, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits. All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. For just as the body is one and has many members, so it is with Christ. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving the

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## Birthdays



Stelios Kondiles (3)  
 Mary Levendi (4)  
 Janet Morin (5)  
 Alexandros Papamatheakis (6)  
 Cathy Kapetanakis (8)  
 Nicholas Pappas (8)  
 Mary McGinn (9)  
 Alexander King (11)  
 Lisa Theoharatos (11)  
 Patricia Martin (14)  
 Alaina Perreault (14)  
 Mr Christos Mavridis (17)  
 William Winn (17)  
 Anastasia Kondiles (18)  
 George Trakas (18)  
 Laine Kinney (20)  
 Linda Zakas (22)  
 Ioannis Papamatheakis (23)  
 Jeannette Hollander (25)  
 Alexandra Levendi (26)  
 Desiree Milonas (27)  
 Terry Pritchard (28)  
 Ms Sharon Bolas (29)  
 Anastacia Macrides (29)  
 Anastasia Macrides (29)  
 Magda Gryparis (31)  
 Donna Manos (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.

## DEBT FREE 2020

### Mortgage Payoff Campaign

We have applied the \$400,000 Estate Gift towards our mortgage as we agreed to do at the May 19 General Assembly Meeting. We have brought our building mortgage down to just \$44,000! If we all donated \$450 by the end of the year we will be "Debt Free by 2020".

- Daily: \$2.50
- Weekly: \$17.50
- Monthly: \$75.00
- By Year End: \$450.00

Please be as generous as possible in helping to pay off the mortgage and achieving this goal.

## Name Days

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

- St. Kyriaki (7th)
- SS. Cyril and Methodios (7th)
- St. Euphemia (11th)
- St. Mary Magdalene (22nd)
- St. Paraskevi (26th)
- St. Panteleimon (27th)
- St. Irene (28th)
- St. Julietta (30th)
- St. Joseph of Arimathea (31st)

## Summer Food Drive

The shelves at Valley View Community Food Bank in El Mirage, which we have been supporting for several years, has announced that they are facing a critical shortage of canned food. This will be particularly hard during the summer when the demand is greater from their younger clients. The Food Bank, started in 2007, now serves 300,000 people per year.

During the summer months (June - August) please remember to bring canned goods to support the Valley View Food Bank! The collection bin is in the Observation Area (where Sunday

refreshments are served), and can also be dropped off Mon – Fri, 10 am – 3 pm.



## Clergy Column

*(Continued from page 3)*

continue his missionary work. He was committed to preaching the gospel, and would not let temporary hardships get the better of him. *"Be anxious for nothing,"* he later writes, *"but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

The peace of God is something that kept St. Paul from feeling defeated, overwhelmed and depressed. He always had the ultimate goal in mind, the kingdom of God, and was able to rejoice in all circumstances, even while languishing unjustly in prison.

There have always been people that go through life complaining about everything: the weather, hard work, low pay, expectations from others, stress over having too much to do, bored by not having enough to do, along with a myriad of physical aches and pains. What good does the complaining accomplish? Then there are other people who, while experiencing the same struggles of life, still manage to maintain an attitude of joy and thanksgiving. These are the ones that may seem a little strange at first glance, but are also people that have found an answer, that so many of us are looking for, to the question of joyful, happy and peaceful living.

Which type of person would you prefer to be?

## Understanding our Mission

*(Continued from page 5)*

greater honor to the inferior part, that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

There is a peaceful joy and fulfilment that can only be found in serving the Lord and His followers.

# JULY 2019

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