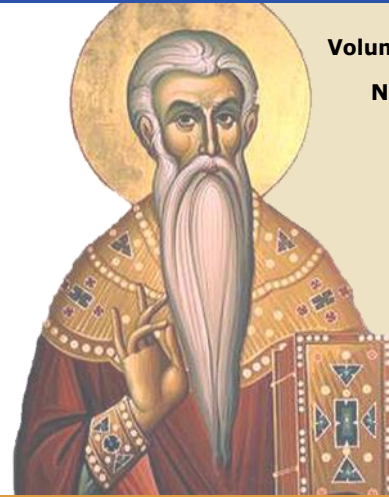


# *in* Touch

Volume 27, Issue 11  
November 2019



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1

## Happy Thanksgiving

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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



## Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

By Reni Milonas, Project Leader



**Saturday, Nov. 9 at 10 am**, St. Haralambos will have a shoe box packing party with a church goal of 200 boxes. Everyone is encouraged to attend and help fill shoeboxes.

**Nov. 18-25**, St. Haralambos Church will be serving as the Northwest valley drop-off for Operation Christmas Child. We will be receiving packed shoe boxes from various churches and individuals. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Judy Morley at 480-512-1210 or email her at [baba100908@yahoo.com](mailto:baba100908@yahoo.com).

## Happy Thanksgiving

Please join in prayer the morning before Thanksgiving for Divine Liturgy and Thanksgiving Prayer service, Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 9 am.

Here are the lyrics to the beautiful Thanksgiving Day hymn, "We Gather Together." If the melody is unfamiliar, you can find it on YouTube or ask at your local music store.

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens His will to make known. The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine; So from the beginning the fight we were winning; Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant, And pray that Thou still our Defender will be. Let Thy congregation escape tribulation; Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!



## Open House

Thank you to all the volunteers who came to help during our Open House last month. Although the turn-out was less than expected,



those who came were warmly welcomed and enjoyed seeing our church for the first time. We received many nice comments, and several who said they plan on returning.

## Honoring Our Veterans



In honor of Veteran's Day, a special prayer service for U.S. service men and women will be offered on Sunday, Nov. 10, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. All active and retired military veterans are welcome to attend services in uniform.

Let's all join together to pray for the health and well-being of our US military veterans.



## Thank God for Your Blessings

How relevant is the gospel of Jesus Christ today? Do you think it continues to have the same life-changing effect as it did from the days of its inception?

The Good News of our Lord's Resurrection is more than 2,000 years old and has been translated into almost 3,000 languages (United Bible Society, 2008). The Bible is only a click away on the internet, and available in virtually every public library and retail bookstore, so access has never been greater.

However, for most all of the first converts, their conversion to the Faith did not come about by reading. In the first place, the books and letters of the New Testament were being written during the last half of the first century AD, but were not compiled into the New Testament canon (official listing) we have today for another three centuries. St. Athanasius provides the earliest complete listing of the New Testament in his 39th Festal letter of 367AD.

Secondly, prior to the invention of moveable type printing in the mid-fifteenth century, copies of bibles were kept only in churches and monasteries. For centuries there were no copies of the bible around the house, and no Sunday School classes. So how did they do it? How did people learn - and not just learn but adopt as their way of life - the gospel of Christ?

The answer is through Church communities. As the Apostle Paul made his travels following his own conversion experience, he would preach the gospel everywhere and anywhere he would find an audience: indoors, outdoors, in synagogues and in homes. (Much later in the early 13th century, St. Francis of Assisi, with a similar evangelical passion, would say, "Preach the gospel always, if necessary, use words.")

The gospel, transmitted by word of mouth, was spread to a variety of nations beginning with the feastday of Pentecost. In each case, the message was met with

either whole-hearted acceptance or total rejection. Those who accepted it, embraced and lived the message, and continued to meet, pray and worship together, forming the first Christian church communities.

Encouraged by St. Paul, the other apostles and by newly baptized converts, their newfound faith in Christ filled their hearts with hope and love. Living in a society that was openly hostile to Christians, many were confronted, often with very little warning, with a life or death decision: renounce their faith or be put to death.

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*...their newfound faith in Christ filled their hearts with hope and love.*

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The number of martyrs in the first three centuries after Christ's resurrection gives more than ample testimony to the fact that the gospel meant so much more than belonging to another group or social organization. Christians would not have given their lives for anything less than what they knew was something greater and eternal; the hope of rejoining their loved ones who had gone before them, and to be in the loving presence of their Creator and God.

The writers of the New Testament did not write in a vacuum; they wrote about the faith they lived. They were the ones who walked with Christ, who witnessed his crucifixion and spoke with him following his resurrection. They were forever changed, and were compelled to talk and write about it, to share this Good News at every opportunity. The gospel is meant for every nation on earth, just as Jesus Christ died for all of humankind. Learning about the gospel by reading the bible should be part and parcel of our lives as Christians.

Living the gospel, however, can't be done alone, simply reading in our room by ourselves. It requires

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

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

During the month of November, 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 turkeys, canned and boxed foods for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Volunteers are needed on Monday, Nov. 25 to help sort food and prepare the food boxes for pickup. Donation sign-ups are on Sundays during Coffee Hour.



## Fall General Assembly

All parishioners are encouraged to attend the Fall General Assembly scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 3, in the Fellowship Room. This is your best opportunity to hear and discuss the current and future issues of our parish.

Our Philoptochos will be preparing and serving lunch for everyone. The General Assembly notice and agenda were emailed.

Stay for the Assembly, and stay informed about St. Haralambos Church!

## Parish Council Ministry

The Parish Council, together with the Parish Priest, has the authority and sacred responsibility to administer the parish, in accordance with the Archdiocese Uniform Parish Regulations, the parish by-laws, along with the Mission and Vision of St. Haralambos Church. The Saint Haralambos Parish Council has twelve seats, with a two-year term of office. Council members meet at least once each

month to discuss current and future administrative needs of the Church.

Parish Council elections will be held on Sun., Dec. 8. All candidates will be nominated at our Fall General Assembly, Sunday Nov. 3. All eligible candidates must attend a Parish Council Seminar led by Fr. Michael on Wed., Nov. 20 at 7 pm.

## Sunday School

Sunday school continues after communion for ages preschool through high school. All are welcome. There will be no Sunday School on Thanksgiving

Sunday Dec. 1. Mark your calendars for the Sunday School Christmas program on Dec. 22.

## Mortgage Burning Dinner

Save the date: Saturday, January 11, 2020; we will be celebrating the Burning of Our Church Mortgage with a beautiful banquet taking place at the Speros Community Center at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix.

A wonderful feast and fellowship for our families, as well as families from our sister Orthodox parishes, to celebrate this great milestone in the life of Saint Haralambos Church. Further information and invitations will be forthcoming.

## 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

*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 Oct. 20 and the following commitment was discussed: National Philoptochos Emergency Fund: \$150 and a donation to Operation Christmas Child for \$50 was voted on and approved. November's commitments are: Ecumenical Patriarchate: \$25 and National Sisterhood of Presbyteres: \$25.

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, the Ball benefits the Kids N' Cancer Summer Camp that we support along with the other local Philoptochos chapters.

The Philoptochos will be providing lunch for the General Assembly on Nov. 3.

Our next Bake/Deli Sale prep is on Nov. 16 and our Bake/Deli Sale will be held Nov. 17 after Liturgy just in time for your

Thanksgiving festivities. Since this will be an "Old Fashion Bake Sale", we will be offering a variety of home baked goodies and you are welcome to participate by bringing in your favorite homemade dessert for us to sell.

Nov. 30 at 10 am, we will decorate our parish for Christmas; volunteers are needed!

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, Nov. 10 at 12 pm.



## Women's Chains of Love

Thank you to all who are continuing to donate yarn for the Crochet Ministry (Women's Chains of Love) at Perryville Prison. The program continues to grow, with more inmates and additional prison yards participating.

These women depend on our donations to continue their ministry. Our parish has become the supplies sponsor, and they are very grateful for giving them the materials to help put their creative skills and talents

to good use. All donated yarn is delivered to the prison each month. Finished items are donated to Phoenix Children's Hospital and Maggie's House to benefit children and young families.

Yarn donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday 10 am to 3 pm, or after Sunday services. The donation box is in the observation area where refreshments are served on Sunday morning.



## Parish Council News

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

The final details of the open house were discussed. Roy Christian volunteered to pay for 50 small King James Bibles and 50 key chains to offer to guests. In addition, we currently have a large number of bookmarks to pass out, and the council agreed to purchase some one-page historic Christian timelines. Dean previously prepared a ministries page that will also be copied.

At the Fall General Assembly, nominations for council members will be taken. Please contact Marina Finch

through the church office to submit your nomination. A budget was prepared and will be presented at the assembly. Dean will prepare a summary sheet for the budget to make it easier to understand.

A \$250 donation was made to St. Nicholas Ranch.

A parish-wide survey is in the works from the Strategic Planning Committee. Parishioners are requested to call the office to update their email addresses.

The council approved the menu for the Mortgage Burning Dinner and Celebration which will be held at Holy Trinity on Jan. 11, 2020 from 5 pm to 10 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 12 at 6:30 pm.

## Birthdays



Maria Maniatis (1)  
Dan Milonas (2)  
Thomas Papazoglou (2)  
Argyro Vasquez (3)  
Don Henson (4)  
Michael Christian (5)  
Banna Tesfay (5)  
Marina Finch (8)  
Maria Lafayette (8)  
Lamar Forque (10)  
Irene Pappas (10)  
Cynthia Bingham (12)  
Joan Bryson (16)  
Irene Stratos (17)  
Nicholas Stoia (18)  
Mary Dasalos (19)  
Judy Jolly (19)  
Brittany Retsinas (20)  
George Macrides (21)  
Maria Stoia (22)  
Kadence Kelly (23)  
George Stratos (24)  
Gary Duhe (25)  
Nikolas Panousopoulos (25)  
Markos Papamatheakis (27)  
Dean Milonas (28)  
Kristin Pallad (28)  
Alvin Hollander (30)  
Estelle Lazzelle (30)

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.

## Thank God for Your Blessings

*(Continued from page 3)*

contact with others, within a community of believers, the divine/human living organism we know as the body of Christ, the Church.

This is how Christianity developed and grew from the beginning; and this is how people are still converted today. The bible may indeed be ancient literature when viewed in the 21st century, but its contents communicates God's eternal story for mankind. This is why it will continue to be relevant in every age, and in every society. There will always be people willing to listen, to learn and convert their minds and hearts to faith in the living God.

We all know people who are apathetic about the gospel and others who insist it is irrelevant to contemporary life. Never let those people or that kind of thinking sway your faith or cause anger or despair to overcome you.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, let us turn our thoughts to

thanking God for his blessings in our lives. Read again these words of St. Paul from his letter to the Colossians, who suffered greatly for his faith, yet giving thanks always to God.

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Col.3:12-17)

# NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Cosmas and Damian</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Fall General Assembly	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Archangel Michael and Archangel Gabriel</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Philoptochos Meeting 12:15pm Strategic Planning Committee	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Parish Council	<b>13</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>John Chrysostom</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Deli/Old Fashion Bake Sale	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>27</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy and Thanksgiving Prayer Service	<b>28</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> (Office Closed)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>St. Andrew</b> 10:30am Christmas Decorating