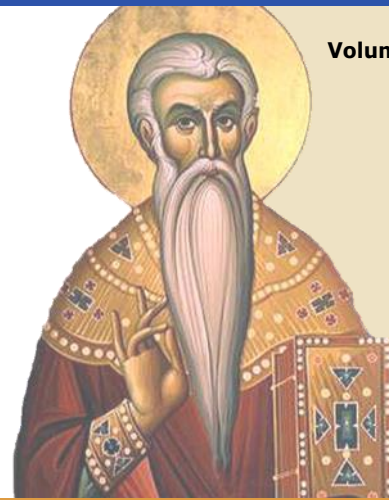


# in Touch

Volume 27, Issue 10

October 2019



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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## OPEN HOUSE



October 26, 12:30pm – 4:00pm



*All our Welcome*

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

# Open House

We are hosting an Open House on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 12:30 pm – 4 pm. This is an opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to visit our church home and have an opportunity to learn about the Orthodox Christian Church.

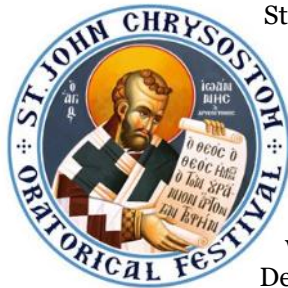
Visitors will have the opportunity to spend time looking throughout our building, enjoying a no-cost lunch, hear presentations on Orthodox Christianity and take descriptive brochures home with them.

Although we have been at this location since March 2010, and our annual festival attracts thousands of visitors, we are attempting to increase awareness of our parish and Orthodox Christianity in our local community.



Everyone is encouraged to invite their friends and neighbors or family members. We are opening our doors to our entire local community.

# St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival purpose is to give our youth (grade 7 thru grade 12) an opportunity to learn, write, and speak about their Orthodox Faith, Church and Heritage. The 37th National Oratorical Festival will be hosted by the Metropolis of Denver in June of 2020. Our parish

festival speeches for Junior (grades 7 thru 9) and Senior (grades 10 thru 12) Division is scheduled on Sunday Mar. 1,

2020. Upon receipt, the dates for the district and metropolis festivals will be distributed. First step is for all participants to select a topic from the official 2020 Topic list included below. The second step will be to complete the on-line registration, once available. Need more information about the Oratorical Festival? The Department of Religious Education publishes information about the Oratorical Festival at their website address [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org) along with Facebook and Twitter. Want more information locally from our parish? Please contact Jeannette Hollander at [jehollander@gmail.com](mailto:jehollander@gmail.com) or Father Michael.

## Oratorical Festival Topics for 2020

### Junior Division (Grades 7–9)

1. The Orthodox Church honors the Virgin Mary as the Theotokos. Discuss the role she plays in the Church and as a role model for all Christians.
2. Christ and many Church Fathers often criticized the wealthy. Do Christians need to live a life of poverty? Is it a sin to live a comfortable life?
3. “Lord have mercy” is the most repeated phrase in the Divine Liturgy. What does it mean to truly have mercy?
4. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3). Discuss the importance of reading Scripture in your life.
5. The theme of the upcoming 2020 Clergy–Laity Congress is “the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13). Discuss the way St. Paul defines love in this important chapter of the Bible.

### Senior Division (Grades 10–12)

1. Discuss how the separation of church and state benefits us as Orthodox Christians in the United States.
2. In his enthronement address, Archbishop Elpidophoros said, “We are all deacons.” Discuss the importance of being a deacon – a servant – in the Church.
3. Discuss the significance of Constantinople in Church history and the struggles Orthodox Christians in Constantinople face today.
4. How have modern-day saints from the past 100 years, from St. Nektarios to St. Paisios and others, helped Orthodox Christians live their lives today?
5. “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Hebrews 13:2). How might Orthodox Christians put this command into practice?

# National Church Music Sunday

On Sunday, Oct. 6, we will have a special blessing for our church musicians in recognition of National Church Music Sunday. Held on the first Sunday in October, we honor those choir members, chanters, directors and accompanists

who use their musical gifts and talents in our worship services each week throughout the year.





## Having nothing, and yet possessing everything

2 Cor. 6:10: *“We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.”*

One very obvious message we learn from the writings of St. Paul is that his life as a Christian missionary was no walk in the park. The above quote from his second letter to the Corinthians is one example.

From one perspective, his words show not just the extent of his sufferings, but the cruelty inflicted on him from both his own people, fellow Jews, and from the Roman government and military authorities.

In this particular passage, though, something else should be noted, otherwise his words might be taken as just another laundry list of complaints and disappointments that life can put in front of just about anyone.

What is that something else? The last two phrases reveal it most clearly: *“As poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.”*

These words do not come from a defeated heart, a “poor old me” attitude, a “nobody is hurting like I’m hurting” complainer or from someone who thinks life is just not fair. No, these words show that in spite of life’s misfortunes, unfairness, pains and misery, St. Paul is anything but defeated. He knows that what he offers, as a Christian witness, teacher and evangelist, he possesses the most important message this world needs to hear; namely, that Christ, having risen from the dead, offers eternal life in Paradise to those who pick up their cross and follow Him.

Does St. Paul have wealth? Certainly not in terms of a hefty bank account or properties or toys. But what he does have is priceless; the knowledge, the deep faith, the

unwavering trust in God that not only keeps him moving forward with his missionary journeys, but causes him to look even at his persecutors as brothers and sisters, fellow human beings. He must share this gift given to him, this knowledge of Christ the Savior of the world, with everyone. His desire is that all people should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth of the One, True God, revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, God’s only-begotten Son.

This is why Paul can say he is punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor (from a worldly perspective) and yet making many rich (by teaching them about Christ), and as having nothing (again, from the worldly perspective) and yet possessing everything (everything that is needed for eternal life).

He is not putting on a phony, happy face. He expresses his sincere pain, both physical and emotional; but, he does not, can not, let that be a reason to quit. His purpose is too important, he must continue to teach, spread the Good News of Christ, turn the other cheek when people harm him, let alone refuse to listen.

This man was honest! Life was tough, very tough. But in each place where he taught, he found those who listened and were convinced, as well as those who refused to listen and hardened their hearts. Knowing that there were those who were open to his message, as well as the knowledge of the love (Christ) behind his message, is what kept him going and going and going.

Listen for this reading during the liturgy on Sunday, October 6. Reflect on the words, the man behind the words, and the message he felt so strongly about sharing.

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*His desire is that all people should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth of the One, True God*

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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

## Understanding our Mission

By Dean Milonas

*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.*

### To keep the Orthodox Christian Faith. Part2-Trusting God

How much do we really trust God? Where do we draw the line? Jesus repeatedly noted this lack of trust in His followers.

Luk 9:41 “You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you and put up with you?”

Mat 6:25 “That is why I tell you not to **worry about everyday life**—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? **Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?**

“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. **Why do you have so little faith?** “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and do what is right, and he will give you everything you need.** “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

He noticed that we, the people He created, do not really trust God but think that we are in control of our lives and our futures. We focus too much on making

ourselves happy and creating false securities. Financial stability, insurances, retirement, etc.... As a result of focusing on pleasing ourselves, we become miserable and thinking that we are in control only creates fear and anxiety within us over all the “WHAT IF’S” of the future and anger or despair when things don’t go the way we planned.

1Pe 5:6 **Humble yourselves** therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. **Cast all your anxieties on him**, for he cares about you.

1Ti 6:8 So if we have enough food and clothing, **let us be content.** But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. But you, are God’s children; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. **Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life** to which God has called you.

Luk 9:23 Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, **you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.** If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?

Jesus came to restore us and show us how to live the way He designed us to live, having total trust in the God the Father. **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and do what is right, and he will give you everything you need.** If we focus on pleasing God, He will take care of us. God wants to be in control of our lives, both personally and as a

*(Continued on page 5)*

## DEBT FREE 2020

### Mortgage Payoff Campaign

Thank you to all who have donated towards eliminating this burden. We have brought our building mortgage down to just **\$20,000!** Please be as generous as possible in helping us achieve this goal. Together we can truly be **“Debt Free by 2020”.**



## St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Reni Milonas, President

*Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:9*

Our first meeting featured a potluck lunch that was shared with our church community and there was plenty of delicious food to go around kicking off our Philoptochos year!

Oct. 5 at 12:30 in the Social Hall, there will be a Norwex Presentation on how to create healthier homes that are free of chemicals. With water alone these products can significantly reduce and replace those harmful chemicals under your sink and in your cabinets. Items purchased will benefit St. Haralambos' kitchen. RSVP to Reni Milonas 602-548-9900 or [rmilonas@cox.net](mailto:rmilonas@cox.net).

Our next Bake/Deli Sale prep is on Oct. 12, the Bake/Deli Sale is on Oct. 13.

Commitments Due for October: • National Philoptochos Emergency Fund (Enables Philoptochos to respond immediately to national or international disasters.) • Women's Health and Wellness

(This benevolent fund provides financial aid to anyone in our Orthodox Community.)

Our scheduled commitments for the year 2019-2020 total \$4,728 and may be more depending on the needs of the various charities we support. 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. (See or call Stella Pagos, 623-975-0027, for more information on how to participate.)

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 20 at 12 pm.



## Understanding our Mission

*(Continued from page 4)*

community. This is what it means to live by faith, total trust in God.

2Co 5:7 For we follow Jesus by faith, **not by seeing and understanding.**

Heb 11:6 **Without trust it is impossible to please him.** For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he **rewards those who seek him.**

2Pe 1:3 His divine power has granted to us his precious and very great promises,

that we may **escape from the corruption** that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers **of the divine nature.**

Jesus has called us to escape the worldly passions and fears that non-believers are imprisoned by. This can only be achieved through trusting and following Him.

Jhn 16:33 I have said this to you, **that in me you may have peace.** In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world."**

## Parish Council News

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

We will be setting up the next year's budget at our next meeting.

An Open House invitation is being prepared to reach households within a 1-mile radius which would target about 2,500 residences and would also put up the advertisement on those residents' Facebook pages.

A festival committee meeting will be held on Oct. 6. Pam Lemons has agreed to help as advisor and to continue with Yiayia's Attic. She will also continue to be the liaison between the church and the City of Peoria. The 2020 festival will be held on Feb. 7, 8, and 9.

Marina Finch will be the chair of the Election Board. Her contact information will be included in the next InTouch for people to contact her if interested in a position on the Parish Council. In addition, nomination forms will be included in the InTouch.

The Mortgage Burning Dinner and Celebration will be at Holy Trinity on Jan. 11, 2020 from 5 pm to 10 pm. Anna Kinniburgh will coordinate.

As part of the ongoing concern for safety and emergency preparedness, an emergency evacuation page is being prepared to place throughout the church.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 9 at 6:30 pm.

## Birthdays



- Kirk Dent (2)
- Gabriel Zarate (3)
- Tom Conklin (7)
- Charles Davis (9)
- Virginia Dent (11)
- Henry Lafayette (11)
- Yotham Moges (11)
- Athena Papamatheakis (11)
- Dutch Rosenberg (13)
- Sophia Bolas (15)
- Theodore Manos (15)
- Chrissy Pritchard (16)
- Stanley Singley (16)
- Chrissy King (17)
- Ammiel Desta (18)
- David Rodriguez (19)
- Joseph Durgam (21)
- Pauline Christakos (24)
- Danny Papakalos (28)
- Savannah Zarate (28)
- Mr. Anthony Nickolopoulos (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.

## Sunday School

Thank you to all the parishioners who have contributed snacks to the Sunday School. Your generosity is greatly

appreciated. Classes continue for all age levels preschool through high school. Newcomers are always welcome.

## Festival Meeting

All who are interested in helping with our annual Greek Festival are welcome to a meeting on Sunday, Oct. 6 during Coffee Hour. The success of our festival requires the help of many dedicated volunteers, not just one or two! If you have the desire to offer help, please come to this meeting.



## Name Days

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

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| St. Ananias (1st)              | St. Luke (18th)            |
| Sts. Cyprian and Justina (2nd) | St. Gerasimos (20th)       |
| St. James (9th)                | St. James (Iakovos) (23rd) |
| St. Philip (11th)              | St. Sebastiane (24th)      |
| St. Lazaros (17th)             | St. Demetrios (26th)       |

# OCTOBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>  10:00am Bible Study  6:00pm Becoming Truly Human Session 3	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy  12:00pm Festival Meeting  <b>National Church Music Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  10:00am Bible Study  6:00pm Becoming Truly Human Session 4	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Deli/Bake Sale	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  10:00am Bible Study  6:00pm Becoming Truly Human Session 5	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy  12:00pm Philoptochos Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  10:00am Bible Study  6:00pm Becoming Truly Human Session 6	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>St. Demetrios</b>  12:30pm Parish Open House
<b>27</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy  12:00pm Caring Friends Meeting	<b>28</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy <b>Holy Protection of the Theotokos</b>	<b>29</b>  10:00am Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		