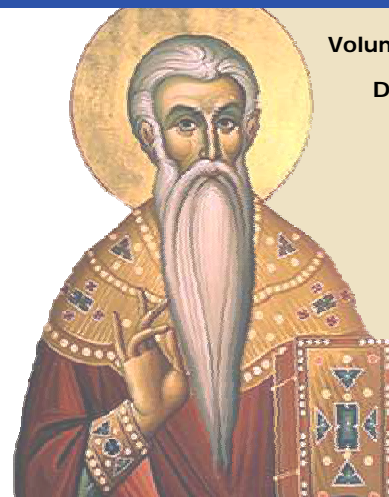


# *in* Touch

Volume 20, Issue 12

December 2012



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

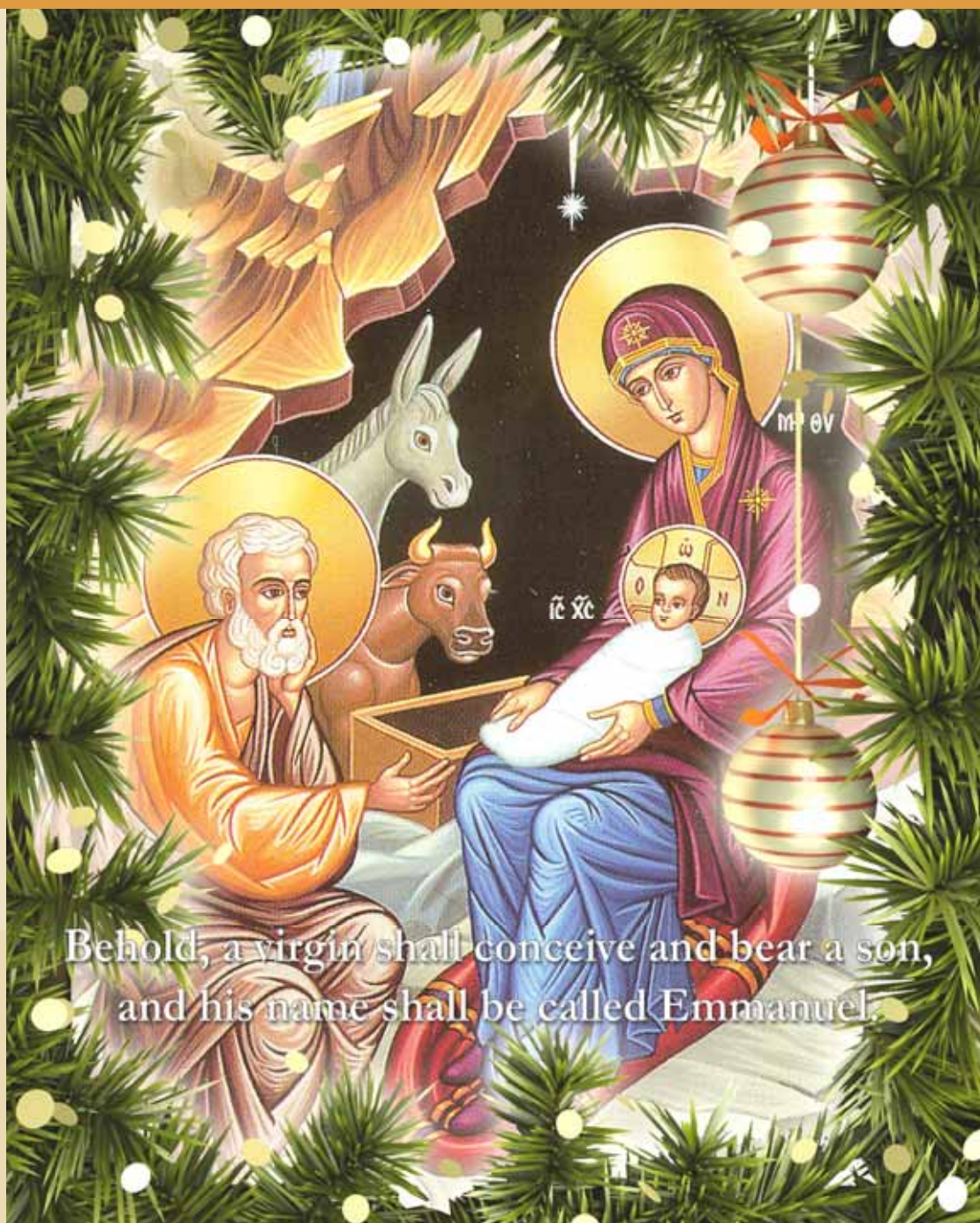
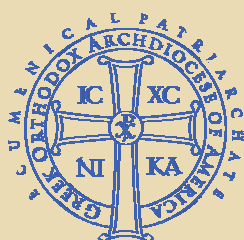
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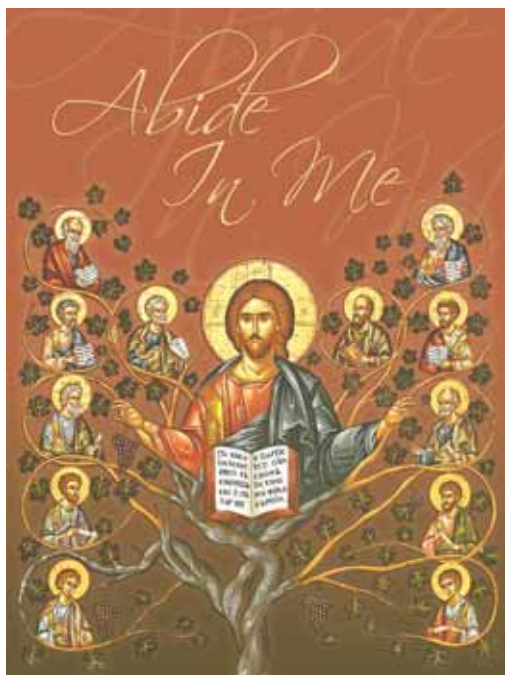
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Donations • 11**



Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and his name shall be called Emmanuel.

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





**"By this My Father is glorified,  
that you bear much fruit."**

# Stewardship Sunday

## How Do We Abide in Jesus?

We abide in Jesus Christ when we follow His example and love, serve and support the Church which is His Body.

This year's celebration of Stewardship Sunday will be on Sunday, December 16. A presentation following the Divine Liturgy will help answer questions and give us all a better understanding of what Church membership is all about.

Everyone will receive a packet of information, including the 2013 Pledge Card that is not just to be returned with a monetary donation, but a gift of our time and talents, as well as our treasure.

St. Haralambos Church offers something for everyone: male, female, children and adults. As we defined at the General Assembly, our Mission Statement is: 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."

Let us continually increase our awareness and our involvement in our sacred calling as Stewards of Christ's Holy Church!

## YOUTH GROUP

By Lindsay Vardalos

Thank you to all who came to our November Youth Group Meeting! The kids learned about the Presentation of the Theotokos and how Mary went to live at the temple at three years old and was taken by the high priest into the Holy of Holies.

The kids then created their own iconostasis by placing Christ, the Theotokos and two angels in their proper place. We also had a great Thanksgiving

Feast; thank you to all of the families who attended and contributed!

The Youth Group is working on a service project for IOCC by collecting donations for Emergency Clean-Up Buckets to help with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Our goal is to send TWO buckets, so we need TWO of everything on the list. Please bring your donations to the Social Hall and place them in the White Buckets:



- Shipping Cost Donations (about \$25/bucket)
- Five scouring pads
- Seven sponges, assorted sizes
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes)
- One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
- One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol)
- One 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn)
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs latex gloves
- One 22-27 count box heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon)
- One 6-14 oz. bottle of insect repellent (drops or lotion, not aerosol)

Youth Group will not be meeting in December but will meet again after the New Year. We know there are some new families, and we invite you to attend our Youth Group. It is such a blessing for our kids to have social

time together and they have a great time!

Mark your calendar now for the following dates in 2013!

- Jan. 12, 4-7 in the Social Hall with a Greek Potluck
- Feb. 9, 4-7 for a picnic and hike-- location TBD
- Mar. 9, 4-7 in the Social Hall with an Italian Potluck
- Apr. 13, 4-7 in the Social Hall with a Lenten Potluck
- May 11, 4-7 in the Social Hall with a pizza and ice cream social

And don't forget to find us on Facebook! Search: St. Haralambos Youth Group





## Fully Human and Fully Divine

The Orthodox Church calendar of scripture readings brings us on the Sunday before Christmas, the genealogy of our Lord, Jesus Christ, as recorded in Chapter One of St. Matthew's gospel. We are presented with the "royal" lineage of our Lord, the lineage of kings going back through King David to the Patriarch Abraham. Why? Because the Messiah, according to Old Testament prophecies, was to come from the royal lineage of King David, and St. Matthew wanted to show that the birth of Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. (St. Luke's gospel presents a different lineage, the "non-royal" or physical, of Jesus, going all the way back to Adam, the first-created, to show Jesus' human ancestry.)

The early Christian Church spent many years debating over the topic of how to define the person of Jesus Christ, ultimately using the phrase, "fully human and fully divine." The Church taught that Jesus was truly the Messiah, and that He was God-incarnate, God become Man. For the apostles Matthew and Luke, the Lord's genealogy was definitely worth writing about; it was a critical part of the Christian gospel.

Commenting on these verses, St. John Chrysostom writes: "Think not, therefore, it is of small things

you are hearing, when you hear of this birth, but rouse up your mind, and straightway tremble, being told that God has come upon earth. For so marvelous was this, and beyond expectation, that because of these things the very angels formed a choir, and in behalf of the world offered up their praise for them, and the prophets from the first were amazed at this, that "He was seen upon earth, and conversed with men (Baruch iii. 37)."

For Christians today, I think it is important to remember these teachings. In today's society Jesus is regarded as many things: a good person, a moral teacher, someone who respects the dignity of all people. And, while all true, those same attributes can be applied to many others throughout history and in our own time as well. But, as Christians, we do ourselves, and God, a disservice by not also adding, "Savior, Master, Redeemer, Lord and God" to make a more complete list, and to help remind us that we're not talking about any other person in human history.

Jesus is God's "only-begotten" Son, there is no other; no other person quite like Jesus. His words may be found among the words of other wise teachers, but not His works. We don't find other men in

history walking on water, healing others who are blind from birth, or paralyzed for years. There aren't other men in history who brought others back to life, and who, Himself, rose from the dead. These divine acts only come from Jesus Christ, the Messiah, God become Man.

Celebrating His birth, His entrance into our world, will always be a sacred celebration; one that shows God's immense love for His people. An appropriate celebration, according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church, is preceded with prayer and fasting, perhaps not so easy during this season, but one that increases spiritual joy and our relationship with God.

May you celebrate our Lord's birth together with your loved ones, may your Christmas be peaceful and joyful, but above all, may your celebration bring to mind God's love by sending His Son, our Savior, into the world for our eternal benefit.

*There aren't other men in history who brought others back to life, and who, Himself, rose from the dead.*



**St. Haralambos  
Greek Orthodox  
Church**

**Rev. Michael Pallad**

[www.stharalambos.org](http://www.stharalambos.org)

### 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](mailto:Office@StHaralambosAZ.com)  
[FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com](mailto:FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com)  
  
*Hours*  
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Parish Council

Roy Christian  
David Durgam  
Dennis Georgen  
Dimitri Gryparis  
George Miller  
Dean Milonas

Tony Panousopoulos  
Chris Theotocatos  
Peter Vardalos  
Dorothy Vordos  
Lee Vordos  
Ken Wrona



## Taste of Greece Festival

Thanks again to the wonderful volunteers, booth chairmen, sponsors, boosters, dancers, staff and EVERYONE who participated in the 25th Anniversary Greek Festival. Without YOU, the Festival would not be possible. I hope that our patrons continue to feel the love and hospitality that our parish has to offer and that we continue to grow with each new year. If you have not already done so, would you please take a moment to fill out the Festival evaluation form in this issue and return it to the Church office at your earliest convenience.

Thank you! Pam Lemons

## 25th Anniversary Banquet

The final and grand celebration of our parish 25th anniversary is being held Saturday, Dec. 8 at the Arrowhead Country Club in Glendale.

We look forward to welcoming His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and enjoying the evening's festivities which include a fantastic dinner, live band and dancing, Silent Auction, and special performances by the Academy of Classical Ballet and the Honor Choir from Mountain Ridge High School, all in honor of our special Silver Anniversary.

Our Good and Loving God has blessed St. Haralambos Church in so many ways over the past 25 years. Under His guidance we have built a spiritual home for Orthodox Christians in the west valley. Our ministries continue to grow and expand.

May all of us look toward 2013 as a new year of personal spiritual growth, continuing to strengthen our faith and works pleasing to God and helping one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

## Stewardship – Are you in 100%

By Dennis Georgen, President, Parish Council

As each year comes to a close, we reflect on our accomplishments and anticipate the upcoming year. This December, our parish family of St. Haralambos celebrates 25 years since its founding. From our humble beginnings on 84th Avenue we now number approximately 170 pledged Steward Families. We give thanks to those who came before us and laid the foundations for our Church as it is today. What a wonderful legacy they gave us. Twenty-five years from now, another generation will look back and reflect on our legacy. What will it be?

At our November General Assembly, our Treasurer, Dean Milonas, addressed our upcoming 2013 budget. For all of the blessings we have received, we must reflect on the numbers that he spoke of. Our parish continues to attract new members, and while we have seen a modest increase in the average pledged amount, as Dean pointed out, the current trend is not sustainable. Actual 2012 expenses are up by 4%, while stewardship dollars actually received as of today are off by 3%.

Our 2012 budget called for a deficit of

\$16,000 and we anticipated net income from our annual festival to reach \$47,000. Attendance was down this year and preliminary numbers indicate that we may fall short, resulting in an even larger actual deficit.

As discussed, expenses continue to increase and the proposed budget for 2013 projects a \$30,000 deficit. If the current trends continue, within the next two years we will have exhausted our cash reserves, and we may not be able to meet our monthly expenses unless we make some difficult decisions.

These are the facts.

Recently we have been focused on stewardship in the broader sense, of Time and Talent, in addition to that of Treasure. We believe that if we have 170 plus stewards, all in with their time and talent, we won't need to be concerned about treasure at all. The fact that we have to be concerned about a projected 2013 budget deficit of \$30,000 might mean that we have more work to do in terms of giving of our time and talent.

And that is my appeal to you.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Philoptochos



By Reni Milonas,  
President

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

Thank you to all who donated food or money to fill the Thanksgiving boxes for the disadvantaged families in Peoria. I am so grateful to our parishioners at St. Haralambos for your kindness and for sharing your bread with the poor as written in

Proverbs 22:9. Please keep in mind we will be preparing food boxes for Christmas as well.

The Philoptochos will be selling basil seeds to Plant a Seed, Grow Our Faith benefitting The Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund (BAPSAEF) for \$5 per package. It is through this fund that our future priests, educators, and pastoral assistants are supported both financially and spiritually. By purchasing the basil seeds, your generosity will touch the lives of many of our future clergy and theological scholars. We hope that you will become an integral part of this very worthwhile ministry by assisting us in

assisting them.

We delivered 40 handmade Huggy Heart pillows to John C. Lincoln North Hospital for their Cardiac ICU. John C. Lincoln loved them so much; they asked us to deliver 35 pillows quarterly starting this January. Each pillow comes with a small pocket in front that holds a St. Anna's Philoptochos calling card to assist in our outreach ministry. Well done, Sacred Sewing Circle!! Donations will be gladly accepted to purchase fiberfill and material.

We next meet on Dec. 3 at 6 pm for our Christmas potluck, followed by a quick meeting at 7 pm, and finally Bunco.

## Holiday Invitation to Seniors

By Julie Karoutas, Senior Group Coordinator

"St. Haralambos Seniors" - 50 years old and up; have been invited to partake in a joint Holiday Party at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 11:30 am. Come and join the fun!

There will be a \$5 gift exchange; pot luck luncheon; (peanut butter and jelly for those who are maintaining a strict

fast). We have been asked to bring an assortment of bread, peanut butter and jelly; plastic knives, forks and spoons. Do not miss out on the fun!

Please contact Julie Karoutas at home at 623-972-2382 or cell at 623-313-8720 or email at juliekaroutas@gmail.com if you plan to attend and/or if you need transportation.

We are holding a "Name our Senior Group" contest; the prize is a bottle of very good wine. We will choose our name at the Christmas party. Will you be the lucky one to name our group? There are some very pleasant events being planned for our group, so do not be left behind! Contact Julie today and sign up for the Holiday Party!

## Community Christmas Card

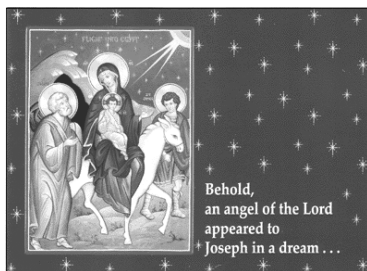
We will again be providing parishioners the opportunity to send Christmas greetings with a beautiful full-color icon greeting card to all our parish families. For each family name, the cost is just \$10. Please print your name clearly, exactly as you would like it to appear on the card. You may mail 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 Monday, Dec. 10, 2012.**

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)





**Don't forget our bookstore this year for your Christmas purchases!** It's a wonderful way to support our parish and accomplish your gift-giving for the season. We have a variety of items for stocking stuffers and inspiring presents.

One of these might be a beautiful 2013 Orthodox Saint Diary from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia. It features a different saint each day with a brief statement of origin or history. Also included are a yearly planner, website resources, and room for personal notes. The opening page of the diary includes a beautiful sentiment from Saint and Father Hesychios on the importance of spiritual journaling: "Human life extends cyclically through years, months, weeks, days and nights, hours and minutes. Through these periods we should extend our ascetic labours – our watchfulness, our prayer, our sweetness of heart, our diligent stillness – until our departure from this life."

## St. Christopher's Bookstore

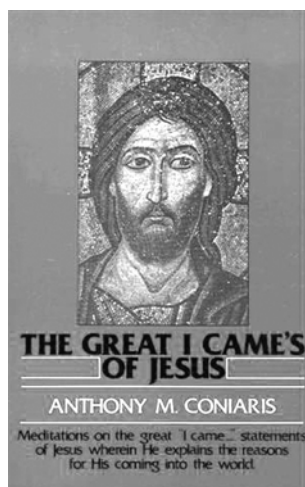
### **The Great I Came's of Jesus**

by Anthony M. Coniaris

*"For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*  
John 3:16

A perfect book to read during the month of December as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ is Coniaris' novel, *The Great I Came's of Jesus*.

Do you remember the first time you wondered or asked, "Why did Christ come to the world?" Most of us may answer what we know from Saint John and what we hear in the liturgy: "to save us." Author Coniaris, in his usual inspiring style, writes of this and the many other reasons why Jesus came to us. He recites from both Old and New Testament scripture and from early church Fathers.



Coniaris writes that "Jesus came in the Father's name... He came to tell you that you are loved, you are forgiven, you are by grace God's son or daughter. He is ready to pour His life and power into you, to overcome your death, to make you an heir of His eternal Kingdom."

Meditations, poetry and prayers highlight the text and delight the soul. A few samples follow:

*Oh Divine Light, brighter than the sun,  
come! Dispel the darkness of sin and*

*despair. Turn our sunsets into sunrises.  
Prepare us for the eternal city where  
there will be no night but the light of the  
Lamb shining in eternal glory. Amen.*

*May the thought of death be a constant  
reminder, dear Lord, that we are  
pilgrims living in tents. Help us to travel  
lightly, sharing our talents and  
provisions with our fellow pilgrims till  
we arrive into Your Blessed Presence.  
Amen.*

*Lord, if this is the purpose  
for which You came to this  
painful hour of Your life: to  
love me and save me and  
forgive me and resurrect  
me and give me fullness of  
life, then let this be the  
purpose for which I have  
come to this hour of my  
life: to love You and serve  
You and glorify You in all  
that I say and do. Amen.*

This book will truly inspire you and help you reflect on our Lord's birth and what blessings His coming gives us. If not for yourself, gift this book to another for a Christmas message that enchants and lingers the whole year through!

### **Soul Food**

"The cross of Christ signified an end of all 'natural' rejoicing; it made it, indeed, impossible." From *For The Life of the World* by Alexander Schmemmann

## Wall of Honor

Please bring pictures of your family members who "have served" or "are serving" in the military to the church office, so we can add them to our Wall of Honor. In possible, please also provide the

following information about them:

Name

Branch of service/rank

Years of service or active duty

Your relationship to the person

## Sunday School

By Martha Stithem, Sunday School  
Director & Teacher

On Sunday, Dec. 16, our Sunday School students will make a Christmas presentation following Divine Liturgy. Parents, please be sure to bring your family to church on the preceding Sundays, so that your children can attend

Sunday School and practice for the Christmas presentation.

Reminder, there will be no Sunday School classes on Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.

May all our parish families be blessed with a joyous Christmas season as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Bible Study and Book Club

The Book Club will not be meeting in December but plans for next year include marketing to the community. Before we can effectively do this, however, we need to actively support this ministry from within.

The book of the month for January will be *The Orthodox Church* by Kalistos Ware. Plan to join us Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7 pm for meaningful discussion, fun fellowship, and the hope of extending this ministry toward the future growth of our amazing parish.

All classes will meet on Thursday evenings at the church at 7 pm.

### Book Club

Thursday Nov. 29

Please purchase or obtain the following book: Joseph Huneycutt's "We Came, We Saw, We Converted"

### Bible Study

John 14

Thursday Dec. 6

### Bible Study

John 16

Thursday, Dec. 20

### Bible Study

John 15

Thursday Dec. 13

## Sacraments

Congratulations to Jim and Carolina Christian, who celebrated their wedding on Oct. 26; and to Daniel and Anna Milonas, who celebrated their wedding on Nov. 18. May God grant them many years of good health and happiness.

## Stewardship – Are you in 100%

*(Continued from page 4)*

Stewardship is not about us writing checks, it is about our salvation. Are you in 100%? In ordering your own priorities, where does time for Church come? We have a bible study group which meets regularly, book club, sewing circles, choir, men's choir, Philoptochos, Sunday school, Caring Friends, youth group, regular divine services, and the list goes on. Where do you fit in? Are you in 100%?

Our St. Haralambos mission statement says that we "keep, practice and proclaim the Orthodox Christian faith as a living presence to those around us." There are so many ways for you to get involved right now, to live our parish mission statement, and if we

don't currently have a group or ministry that you want to see, why not take ownership and start it? Are you in 100%? My vision is that in 2013, we have 180, and even more, active stewards prioritizing their time so that they are keeping and practicing their faith as a living presence to those around us. That we have new stewards seeking us out because they want to be a part of our growing, spiritually thriving Church. That we have not only our current programs and ministries, but several new ones that we haven't even thought of as yet, and that each one is well attended by a growing number of involved and excited parishioners. Are you in 100%?

Building on that excitement, each of

us taking ownership here at our Church for what is important to us, we won't have to be concerned at all about our 2013 budget deficit. In fact, it is my prediction that we will end 2013 with a budget surplus to apply against our mortgage, ultimately lessening the time it takes to pay it off. Are you in 100%?

I anticipate in 2037, when that future generation looks back upon our legacy, they will say that it was in 2013 that our parish of St. Haralambos was lit on fire by the Holy Spirit and became exactly what our mission statement says 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." Are YOU in 100%?

# ORGANIZATIONS

## *Birthdays*

Stella Pagos (1)  
 Ethel Nicholas (6)  
 Martha Jannis (8)  
 Paul DeTrana (9)  
 Kay Fulghum (9)  
 Russell Zook (13)  
 Sam Nicholas (14)  
 Leonidas Karandreas (17)  
 Adrianna Micka (18)  
 Jean Baxter (19)  
 Stella Kosta (20)  
 Danai Papamatheakis (24)  
 Christos Kotsobeis (25)  
 Brianna Selles (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.

## *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 (11th)  
 St. Lucia (13th)  
 St. Modestos (16th)  
 St. Sebastian (18th)  
 St. Juliane (21st)  
 St. Anastasia (22nd)  
 St. Eugenia (24th)  
 Nativity of Christ (25th)  
 St. Simon (28th)  
 St. Melania (31st)

## 2012 Taste of Greece Festival Evaluation

Please provide your comments/opinion regarding the 2012 Festival. Your input is valuable to the success of future events. Rate each area as follows: Needs Improvement, Average, Good, Excellent (please check). For areas which you feel need improvement, please provide a comment on how you feel it can be improved.

|  | Needs Improvement | Average | Good | Excellent |
|--|-------------------|---------|------|-----------|
| Admissions Booth                           |                   |         |      |           |
| Information Booth/Corporate                |                   |         |      |           |
| Vendors                                    |                   |         |      |           |
| Greek Imports/Deli                         |                   |         |      |           |
| Church Tours                               |                   |         |      |           |
| Religious Booth                            |                   |         |      |           |
| Pastries Booth                             |                   |         |      |           |
| Coffee Booth                               |                   |         |      |           |
| Ice Cream Booth                            |                   |         |      |           |
| Loukoumades Booth                          |                   |         |      |           |
| Saganaki/Kalimari Booth                    |                   |         |      |           |
| Gyros/Souvlaki Booth                       |                   |         |      |           |
| Main Food Booth/Salad                      |                   |         |      |           |
| Taverna/Beverage Booth                     |                   |         |      |           |
| Entertainment – Band                       |                   |         |      |           |
| Entertainment – Dancers                    |                   |         |      |           |
| Entertainment – Loukoumades Eating Contest |                   |         |      |           |
| Emcee                                      |                   |         |      |           |
| Carnival Games                             |                   |         |      |           |
| Bank                                       |                   |         |      |           |
| Advertising                                |                   |         |      |           |
| Flyers                                     |                   |         |      |           |
| Program                                    |                   |         |      |           |
| Signage                                    |                   |         |      |           |
| Set up/Layout                              |                   |         |      |           |
| Security                                   |                   |         |      |           |
| Outside Labor                              |                   |         |      |           |
| Restroom facilities                        |                   |         |      |           |
| Volunteers - Food tickets                  |                   |         |      |           |
| Other (please specify)                     |                   |         |      |           |
|  |                   |         |      |           |
|  |                   |         |      |           |

Additional comments/suggestions/ideas:

---



---

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday    | Saturday  |
|---|--|--|---|--|-----------|---|
|   |  |  |   |  |           | <b>1</b><br>8:00am Nativity Scene<br>Set Up           |
| <b>2</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy<br>Parish Council Elections   | <b>3</b><br><br>6:00pm Philoptochos<br>Christmas Potluck   | <b>4</b><br>9:00am Divine Liturgy<br><b>Saint Barbara</b><br><b>John of Damascus</b><br><br>7:00pm Men's Choir | <b>5</b><br><br><br><br><br>                              | <b>6</b><br>9:00am Divine Liturgy<br><b>St. Nicholas</b><br><br>7:00pm Bible Study<br>7:00pm Choir | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br><br><br>6:00pm 25th Anniversary<br>Dinner |
| <b>9</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy<br>With His Eminence<br>Metropolitan Gerasimos<br><b>Conception of<br/>Saint Anna</b> | <b>10</b><br><br>7:00pm Parish Council   | <b>11</b><br><br>7:00pm Men's Choir  | <b>12</b><br>9:00am Divine Liturgy<br><b>St. Spyridon</b> | <b>13</b><br><br>7:00pm Bible Study<br>7:00pm Choir  | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>   |
| <b>16</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy<br>IOCC Offering Tray<br>Sunday School<br>Christmas Program<br>Stewardship Sunday    | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b><br><br>7:00pm Men's Choir  | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b><br><br>7:00pm Book Club<br>7:00pm Choir  | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>   |
| <b>23</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy  | <b>24</b><br>9:00am Royal Hours<br>of Christmas<br>6:00pm Divine Liturgy<br><b>Christmas Eve</b> | <b>25</b><br>9:00am Divine Liturgy<br><b>Christmas Day</b>   | <b>26</b><br><br>7:00pm Executive Council                 | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>   |
| <b>30</b><br>8:45am Matins<br>10:00am Divine Liturgy  | <b>31</b>  |  |   |  |           |   |

# STEWARDSHIP



## Parish Families Making a 2012 Stewardship Pledge

### 2012 Pledge Update

Number of Pledges: 167

Amount Pledged: \$115,566 Average Pledge: \$692

Average: \$692.01

Milton & Pamela Agelastos

Costa Androulakis

Clifford & Theodora Argue

Kimon & Dorothy Ayan

Hercules & Tania Ballas

Christine Batalis

Peter & Lois Batalis

Jean Baxter

Chris Birtsas

Annette Bolinsky

Kalliope Chafoulis

Sue Charbel

Maria Christian

Roy Christian

George & Patricia Christie

James Constant

Jamie Contes

\*Marc & Zondra Cooper

Florence Curran

Michael & Chryss Danielek

Constantine & Bella Danos

Val Danos

Mary Dascalos

Charles & Mary Davis

Bill DeMoss

Charles DeMoss

Chris DeMoss

John & Marjorie DeMoss

Arliss Dennison

Gebreyesus & Fiyori Desta

Paul DeTrana

Aphrodite Devolites

Stavroula Dodd

Zoe Dress

Lola Durand

David & Luta Durgam

Ron & Sandra Dutton

Gale & Paula Farr

Jeff & Judy Farr

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Kenneth & Valla Wrona

Raymond & Mary Wysmierski

Anna Yacyshyn

Ali & Elaine Yaghooti

George & Helen Yannakopoulos

Alice Zeng

\*Russell & Lali Zook

Thalia Zorbas

\*Indicates new steward family.

Updated: 11/28/2012

# 25th Anniversary Parishioner Profile

Each month of 2012 we'll spend some time with a member of our parish to get their memories, views and insights about the history, development and future of our parish as part of this year's 25th Anniversary celebration.



This month's interview is with **Martha Stithem**.

**Question: How many years have you been a steward at St. Haralambos?**

**Answer:** Nine years.

**Q: Are you a native Arizonan?**

**A:** No, I'm originally from Houston. I have also lived in California, Kansas and Oklahoma while growing up. I

moved to Arizona in 1992 to get married because my fiancé moved here for work. We celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary this year.

**Q: What activities and groups have you been involved in at St. Haralambos?**

**A:** This is my sixth year teaching Sunday School and my second year as the Sunday School director. I have taught the pre-K and kindergarten classes and now teach the first to third grade class. I'm also hoping to participate more with our Youth Group.

**Q: What do you like most about St. Haralambos parish and what it offers?**

**A:** I like that the size of the community is comfortable enough for everyone to meet other people and not get easily overlooked. I also like that we are offering a wider range of ministries that will allow parishioners to use their talents. The parishioners and community we have makes me look forward to coming to Church on Sundays and the other days for services or events when I can attend.

**Q: What would you like to see happen in the next 5-10 years of our parish?**

**A:** I would like to see more

parishioners become aware of their spiritual gifts and desire to share them for the glory of God. Everyone should know that each of us has a place in Christ's Church and I don't just mean a seat in Church, but that each member's participation is vital not only to our Church's well being, but also the well being of our souls.

**Q: What legacy would you like today's parishioners to develop and leave for future generations during the next 25 years?**

**A:** I would like us to develop meaningful mission and vision statements that will be embraced by all parishioners and incorporated into our daily lives. It is very important that we all be good role models and set the right examples for our children so that they will value their Orthodox Christian heritage and Church.

**Q: Anything else we didn't cover that you would like to add or provide?**

**A:** God willing, I believe that we will one day have a new Church building to worship in. But first we need to fill our current seats each and every Sunday with "loving, Christ-centered" stewards who "keep, practice and proclaim our Orthodox Christian faith," as it says in our Parish vision statement.

## Christmas Holiday Donations

Once again we are putting up an Angel Tree to provide food and gifts to needy families in Peoria. If you are able, please take an angel from the tree and return it with your wrapped gift by Monday, Dec. 17.

We are also continuing our Canned/Boxed Food Drive until Dec. 17.

To all who donated food last month for the Thanksgiving baskets – Thank You! We were able to give complete holiday meals to 23 families. Your generosity continues to grow each year!





**St. Haralambos**  
**Greek Orthodox Church**  
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Peoria, AZ 85383

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