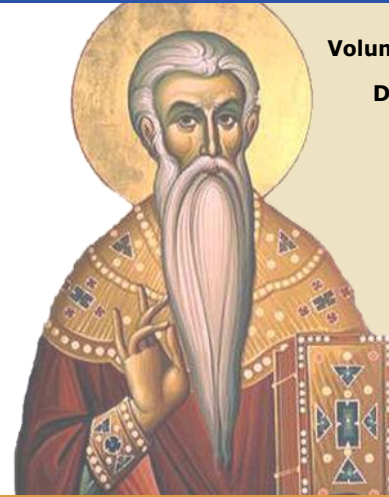


in Touch

Volume 23, Issue 12

December 2015



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

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“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” (Matthew 1:1-2)



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

Forever Young

By Julie Karoutas

Greetings to All "Forever Young" members, I hope that you had a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Our trip to the Arizona Broadway Dinner Theatre to see the "West Side Story" was glorious!

There were 21 attending!

Right: Chris and Paula Theotocatos enjoying a special moment.



December is here and we start off the month with a bang! On Dec. 6 at 2 pm; we will be attending the Arizona Winds Concert Band's presentation of, "A Jubilant Christmas" concert, at Midwestern University on 19555 N. 59th Ave., Glendale 85308. I would get there an hour early for this very special performance. This fills up quickly for this special holiday performance. I would like those attending to please consider a small donation of \$5 each, the concert is free, but they do rely on donations. Following the concert, those attending, are invited to my home (17248 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373) for some light refreshments.

There is much excitement for our Dec. 7 trip to Cliff Castle Casino and Prescott, Arizona's Christmas City. The flyer was posted in the August issue of the "In Touch". Also in December, AHEPA #219 is hosting a Christmas Ball, a beautiful dinner/dance on Saturday, Dec. 12; at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Phoenix. The cost is only \$45. This special event sells out quickly, please do not hesitate to notify me for tickets. Sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to All!

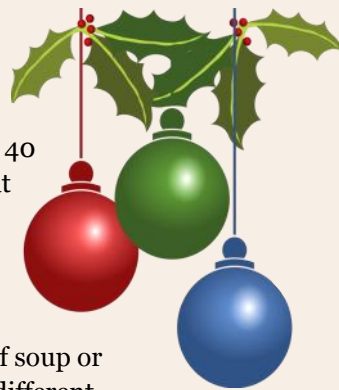
Make a note, please; on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016, we are having a Forever Young Pot-

luck gathering at Lea Mancini's home in Peoria; we will have some surprise entertainment that you are sure to enjoy! Directions and a list of things to bring will be sent out. On Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016; our four Philoptochos chapters will be having the "Agape Ball" Camp Agape/ Kids with Cancer benefit, at Holy Trinity in Phoenix. Please plan to support this worthy endeavor with either a contribution, support a child or attend the Ball!

In February we will be going to The Bible Museum, 2000 N. Litchfield Rd., Goodyear, AZ and following the tour, we will go to Dino's Greek/Italian Restaurant at 1550 N. Dysart Rd., Goodyear, AZ for lunch. Time and date to be determined, more detail to follow.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Mar. 6, 2016, at 5 pm; I have booked seating at the Arizona Broadway Dinner Theatre to see; "Fiddler on the Roof", the cost of this performance is \$62 per person. I will need commitments for tickets; I have to give a 25% deposit in order to hold the very good seats that I have been able to get. They are holding 40 seats for me and I believe that we will book all of them, but, I must have quick responses and payment. The cost of your ticket includes: fresh rolls, choice of soup or salad, a choice of one of five different entrees, your tea and or coffee, plus the servers gratuity. If you wish anything extra such as a dessert, soda, a cocktail or upgrading your main entrée, you will receive a bill for it along with the tax and additional gratuity. The checks need to be made out to me; I pay the entire bill with my own credit card. They will not accept multiple payments.

Thanking you in advance for your timely response to our outings, it is very important to know how many to plan for; we have much more coming up, so don't hesitate; please join us for fun and fellowship.





Stewardship Sunday

The message each year on Christian Stewardship remains constant: we give back to God what is already His. We come into this world with nothing, and we leave it with nothing. All that we have in this life comes from God's blessings, and returning back a portion to God through His Church, is our way of acknowledging the source of our blessings.

On Sunday, Dec. 20, we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday, and remind ourselves of our responsibility as Stewards of everything God has blessed us with.

So we consider, throughout our lives, and as an annual renewal on Stewardship Sunday, ways in which we can give back a portion of our Time, Talents and Treasures, in support of Christ's Holy Church.

There are no Membership Dues, there is no required minimum or maximum donation. But we should all take seriously caring for our Church, and not leaving its care to others.

Our financial contributions should be a percentage of our income, whether from the government or from regular employment. This is both a fair and biblical approach to making regular offerings to our Church.

It is a fair approach because percentage giving is not a fixed amount applicable to all families, and biblical because of the teaching of the tithe, or a 10% gift back to the Church.

Above all, our giving should be cheerfully given, recognizing our desire - not simply obligation - to give back to God a portion of our blessings from Him.

Being a Steward of St. Haralambos Church implies much more than membership. Our parish will continue to grow according to how each of us gives our time, talent and treasure in support of our mission to be 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."

***Our parish will
continue to grow
according to how each
of us gives our time,
talent and treasure***



**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

Evanne Cuccorelli
Dennis Georgen
Kathy Harvey

Timothy Harvey
Russel Skocypec
Russell Zook



This year's Christmas Angel tree will be set up in the Narthex. The angels on the tree will be used for gifts for needy families living in Peoria. As you are able, take an angel home and return it with your gift by Monday, Dec. 21. You may be helping someone you likely have never met. This type of anonymous giving represents true giving, since your gift comes from the heart, and can not be repaid by the recipient. Will you be a Christmas angel this year?

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine

On Sunday, Dec. 6, the Feastday of St. Nicholas, we will be showing a brief video on the design and construction of St. Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center location in New York. Construction has begun on what will likely become the most visited and well-known Greek Orthodox Church temple in the world.

Our Archdiocese is asking families from every Greek Orthodox Church in this country to consider offering a donation of \$100 towards the construction and

furnishing of St. Nicholas Shrine.

From this brief video, you'll be able to see and hear the story of the unique and beautiful design of the Shrine, welcoming people of all faith backgrounds.



Parish Council Elections

Elections for Parish Council will take place on Sunday, Dec. 13, following services. Ballots will be available for Members in Good Standing during the

Coffee Hour. Elections close at 1 pm. Results will be printed in the January 2016 issue of In Touch.

Thank You!

To all who make St. Haralambos Church a spiritual home that is welcoming to all. To the members of the Parish Council, our Philoptochos ladies, Choir members, Sunday School teachers and students, Sunday Greeters and Readers, Youth and Festival volunteers, Prayer Group, Bible Study and Caring Friends, you all help

make our parish fulfill its mission and vision. Thank you!

Your commitment to our parish and to everyone with whom you work, play and pray is truly heart-warming, and a great blessing. What you do makes a difference!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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. 7, 2015.**

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 Anna Kinniburgh, President

"Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." From St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians

Happy December from St. Anna's Philoptochos! We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving last month. We want to acknowledge those who contributed to our annual food drive as we were able to collect food items and delivered complete Thanksgiving meals to 10 needy families. A special thank you to Voula Dodd and Angie Cholas for leading this effort and to all who contributed to its execution!

Eleven regular, and one prospective, members attended the Philoptochos meeting on Nov. 2. National Commitments for the month were voted on, \$25 being sent to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and \$25 to the National Sisterhood of Presbyteres.

Philoptochos members and volunteers will assemble Christmas gift packs for our parish needy and elderly who are enrolled in the Caring Friends Ministry. Thank you to Donna Manos who chairs this important ministry and to the volunteers who support its mission. Our society will also lead this year's Christmas Canned/Boxed Food Drive for needy families. We will have collection boxes set up for your donations.

Tree of Remembrance – For those who wish to honor a lost loved one during Christmas, St. Anna's will once again offer memorial "doves" to decorate the Tree of Remembrance. The \$10 donation is a beautiful reminder of a beloved's spirit and your love, and helps support our ministry. See Julie or Reni.

Christmas Angel Tree – Once again we will be putting up an Angel Tree to provide food and gifts to needy families in Peoria. If you are able, please take an angel with a family's name and wish.

St. Nicholas National Shrine - Please join us in supporting the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Church at the World Trade Center by making a donation. Work on this project can be viewed in real time at www.stnicholaswtc.org/webcam.

Deli/Bake Sale - Our next bake sale will span across three Sundays in December: the 6th, the 13th and the 20th. We will be selling melomakarona, koulouria, and other delicious homemade products.

Coffee Hour - A sincere thank you to those who host Sunday Coffee Hour! The signup sheet is located on the wall outside the kitchen.

December 6: Charlotte Servetas and Maria Lafayette

December 13: Available

December 20: Available

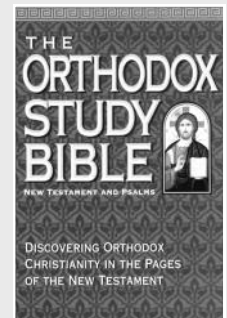
December 27: Available

St. Anna's Philoptochos wish all our brothers and sisters in Christ a blessed and Merry Christmas!



Orthodox Study Group

The orthodox study group is meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. Dates in December are the 1st, 8th, and 15th. We will not meet on the 22nd or 29th due to the holiday. We are continuing to study the Gospel of Matthew.



Birthdays



Stella Pagos (1)
 Ethel Nicholas (6)
 Kay Fulghum (9)
 Gabriel Gavrilidis (9)
 Thomas Bryson (14)
 Daniel Martin (15)
 Luc Papakalos (15)
 Adrianna Micka (18)
 Jean Baxter (19)
 Stella Kosta (20)
 Maximus Gavrilidis (21)
 Alex Papakalos (22)
 Christos Kotsobeis (25)
 Peter Retsinas (25)
 Milton Agelastos (27)
 Connie Scouffas (27)
 John Hrapchak (29)
 Ronald Samawi (29)
 Brianna Selles (29)
 Elliot Sokol (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.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Get into the Christmas spirit with an evening of instrumental and vocal selections of the Christmas season. Come and listen to a concert of Christmas music performed by our own St. Haralambos parishioners on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7 pm, in our church sanctuary. Refreshments will be served afterwards.



Name Days

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

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

JANUARY 2016 FESTIVAL BAKING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 8:30am Koulouria Social Hall	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 8:30am Tsourekia Kitchen	16 8:30am Tsourekia Kitchen
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 8:30am Melomakarouna Karithopita Social Hall
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Food Prep TBA
31			8:30am Paximadia		Food Prep TBA	Food Prep TBA

All pastry prep and baking will be done at St. Haralambos Church. Please contact Desi Medina with any questions at 623-363-1859.

FEBRUARY 2016 FESTIVAL BAKING SCHEDULE

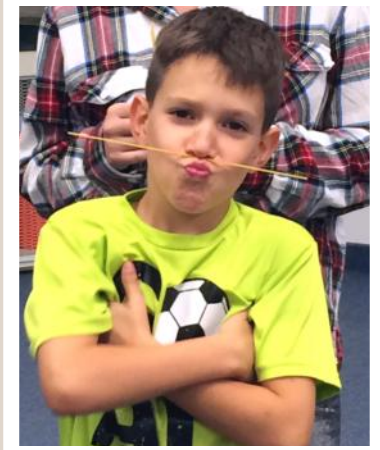
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 8:30am Kourambiedes Social Hall
7	8 8:30am Baklava Social Hall	9 8:30am Diples Social Hall	10	11	12 OPA	13 OPA
14 OPA	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

All pastry prep and baking will be done at St. Haralambos Church. Please contact Desi Medina with any questions at 623-363-1859.

DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00pm Parish Council Candidate Seminar	3 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Barbara John of Damascus 7:00pm Choir	4	5
6 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. Nicholas Mortgage Reduction Tray	7 6:30pm Philoptochos	8 6:00pm Youth Night 7:00pm Bible Study	9 9:00am Divine Liturgy Conception of St. Annas	10 7:00pm Choir	11	12 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Spyridon
13 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Parish Council Elections	14 7:00pm Parish Council	15 6:00pm Youth Night 7:00pm Bible Study	16	17 7:00pm Choir	18	19 7:00pm Community Christmas Concert
20 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy IOCC Offering Tray	21	22 6:00pm Youth Night	23	24 9:00am Royal Hours of Christmas Christmas Eve 6:00pm Divine Liturgy	25 Christmas Day (Church Office Closed)	26
27 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	28 7:00pm Executive Council	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

YOUTH GROUP



Our JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) and GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth Association) continue to meet each Tuesday evening from 6 pm – 8 pm. All parish youth are welcome to attend and join the fun and fellowship.

