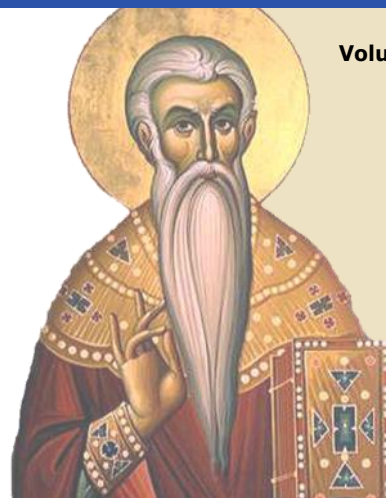


# in Touch

Volume 24, Issue 1

January 2016



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

## The Feast of Epiphany

**Forever  
Young • 2**

**The Lord is  
Our Fortress • 3**

**Parish Council  
Elections • 4**

**Summer  
Camp • 6**

**Let Us Gather  
in Prayer • 7**



## House Blessings for the New Year

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

# Forever Young

Greetings to All “Forever Young” members, I hope that you had a Blessed and Merry Christmas with your family and friends. Best wishes for a “Happy & Healthy New Year”.

After a very busy month of December, we start our new year with a Forever Young Pot-luck gathering at Lea Mancini’s home in Peoria, on Saturday, Jan. 16. We will also have a special entertaining treat for All. Directions and a list of things to bring will be sent out to all attending. Please be sure to contact me if you plan to attend and what you will be bringing. Email: [juliekaroutas@gmail.com](mailto:juliekaroutas@gmail.com) or call 623-972-2382.

On Saturday, Jan. 23; our four Philoptochos chapters will be having the “Agape Ball”, Camp Agape/Kids with Cancer benefit, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, in Phoenix. Please plan to support this worthy endeavor with either a contribution, support a child and or attend the Ball!

Early in the month of 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. On Sunday, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m., the Arizona Winds Concert Band will perform “Two Iconic 20th Century Composers” concert. The concert will be held at the Cactus High School Auditorium at 6330 W. Greenway Rd., Glendale, AZ 85306. The Christmas concert that we attended was wonderful! Some of us gathered at my home afterwards for dinner and fellowship. Music is soothing to the soul.

On Sunday, Mar. 6, at 5 p.m.; 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 the first week in January, 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 by Feb. 19. 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.



Our trip to Prescott was wonderful; we were also joined by friends from Holy Trinity, St. Katherine’s and Assumption. We had a bus full! Please see photo of some of our group standing at the Christmas tree, in the town square. The Gingerbread Village was absolutely fantastic featured at the Prescott Resort. We also had some winners at Cliff Castle, but they did not divulge how much they had won! Thanks to all who attended.

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.





## The Lord is Our Fortress

*“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust.” (Psalm 18:2)*

This psalm verse is recited by the priest shortly before everyone recites the Nicene Creed together during the Divine Liturgy. It is one of my favorites because of the depth of its meaning in so few words.

The Lord is our rock, solid and strong. We may get tired and worn out, but we know that the Lord never does. He is there for us whenever and wherever we may call upon him. We know that his strength, his spiritual strength, is so far beyond what we possess, yet we should never be afraid or embarrassed when calling out to him.

He wants a relationship with us, one that exists in open honesty and sincere humility, so that when we do pray, we are not heaping up empty words or phrases to show him how truly holy we are. The Lord sees through any and all masks we choose to wear. He created us, he knows exactly how we look and, more importantly, he knows what’s going on inside of us. He knows our true intentions and motives at any given moment.

The Lord is our rock, but he can also be moved. He is compassionate and merciful. This does not mean that he doesn’t hold us accountable for our actions. We are accountable to God for every word, deed and thought we have. But when we repent for things we know we’ve done wrong, he is moved to mercy and forgives. These are traits we do well to imitate within our families, with friends and acquaintances.

The Lord is our fortress, a place of refuge, a stronghold. When we know we’ve sinned against our neighbor, our spouse or friend, it is tempting to turn

away from them rather than to return and ask their forgiveness. It is tempting to do the same with the Lord and with the Church. The path to forgiveness and reconciliation is found in returning, not in turning away. Returning to Christ in humility and repentance brings us great strength. The strength that comes from reconciliation with our God and our neighbor is life-changing. We all need to learn how to best live with our neighbor, and to live under the protection of God’s shelter, refuge, fortress.

The Lord is our deliverer. He can deliver us from the depths of despair and give us the courage to face another day. He is able to deliver us from any malady, spiritual or physical. With sincere repentance, he has promised to deliver us from this fallen world into the eternal paradise of Heaven.

Have we learned to trust God? Do we doubt his mercy, his strength, his intimate knowledge of us, his care for the world he created or his promise to open the gates of heaven to those who follow and love him?

Begin the New Year with the knowledge of God’s love and care for each of us. Read Psalm 18, other psalms and books of the bible. Pray without interruption using your own words. Make Sunday mornings time for community worship in Church. Practice forgiveness. Take down the walls that separate us and build bonds of friendship that unify us. Help make 2016 a year of grace, of love for God, and love for one another!

---

*The strength that comes from reconciliation with our God and our neighbor is life-changing.*

---



**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**

Marina Finch  
Dennis Georgen  
Kathie Harvey

Tim Harvey  
Russ Skocypiec





## St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Anna Kinniburgh, President

*"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

Happy New Year from St. Anna's Philoptochos! We wish all our parish family a healthy and joyous New Year, full of love and God's blessings!

We want to first acknowledge all who donated toward the Philoptochos brunch! The \$251 proceeds that were collected will be added to other donations going toward the building of St. Nicholas National Shrine. Thank you for your generous support and contributions!

St. Anna's society met Dec. 1 and voted on our National Commitments for the month: UNICEF, \$25 and the General Medical Fund, \$25. The Metropolis Commitments were \$150 to St. Nicholas Ranch and \$100 to BAPSAEF, Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Seminary Aid Endowment Fund.

We encourage all who can to support the annual Agape Ball, a dinner dance benefit at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday, Jan. 23. Tickets are \$40 per person and proceeds benefit Kids 'N Cancer Camp Agape. Please consider supporting this worthy cause by attending the ball or by donating to support a child. See me for tickets and information.

Every year the Philoptochos Society asks willing and able bakers to contribute towards Vasilopita Sunday. We will have a silent auction Sunday, Jan. 10 where

donated Vasilopites will be sold. Philoptochos will host the traditional cutting and sharing for the New Year 2016. All proceeds from sales go toward St. Basil's Academy.

For those of you who purchased Dove cards for the Tree of Remembrance, Philoptochos will sponsor a Memorial Service the first Sunday in January for the reading of names. Proceeds from the cards help support the many philanthropic endeavors of Philoptochos.

**Coffee Hour** - A sincere thank you to those who host Sunday Coffee Hour! The sign-up sheet is located on the wall outside the kitchen. Below are January supporters (subject to change due to printing deadlines):

- Jan. 3 – Philoptochos (sponsoring memorial for Tree of Remembrance)
- Jan. 10 – Philoptochos (Vasilopita Sunday)
- Jan. 17 – Gathering of Prayer Ministry
- Jan. 24 – George and Georgia Trakas and Koula Ratliff
- Jan. 31 – Ellen, Lydia, Nardos

Philoptochos 2016 membership dues are payable this month. Please see me for a membership form.

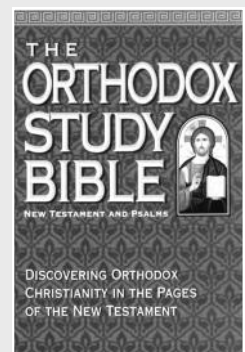
- National dues: \$15
- Metropolis dues: \$15
- St. Anna's: \$10

The January Philoptochos meeting will be on the 4th at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!



## Orthodox Study Group

Starting in January we will be starting on Genesis in the Old Testament on a new night - Thursday. Bring family members and your Orthodox Study bible (for sale in the church library). We will be meeting between 7 and 8:30 p.m. on a weekly basis - Jan. 14, 21, and 28. If you have any questions please contact Ted Manos at [tedmanos@zona.net](mailto:tedmanos@zona.net) or 623-680-6547.



## Festival Imports

The Festival import booth will once again have a Yia Yia's Attic section. If you have any gently used imported (from Greece or other countries) items that you would like to donate for the booth, please contact Pam Lemons or the Church

office. We are looking for unique collectibles, jewelry, decorative items, etc. Due to limited space, we are not able to take clothing.

Thank you! OPA!

## Birthdays



Christine Hollander (2)  
Sharon Magnani (3)  
Gary Nicholas, Sr. (3)  
Esther Christenson, II (4)  
Constantine Danos (4)  
Ruth Panousopoulos (5)  
Maria Dicks (7)  
John Papakalos (7)  
Peter Stamas (11)  
Judy Farr (12)  
Antonios Papamatheakis (13)  
Philemon Russom (13)  
Zondra Cooper (14)  
Elaine Giannias (14)  
Dennis Finch (16)  
Athanasius Romero (19)  
Georgia Pikoula (20)  
Naomi Woldesilassie (21)  
Art Amoroso (25)  
James Kambanos (27)  
Ocbai Tesfay (27)  
Catherine Baxter (28)  
Frosene Bravos (31)  
Reni Milonas (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.

## Summer Camp

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is proud to announce the 36th year of its Summer Camp ministry at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. Organized by the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, this program is a highlight of youth ministry throughout the year. All three sessions of Summer Camp are for campers ages 8–18.

### The dates for the 2016 Metropolis Summer Camp are:

- Staff Orientation Week - July 5-9
- Session I - July 10-16
- Session II - July 17-23
- Session III - July 24-30

*Due to high demand, campers are now limited to registering for only ONE session of summer camp.*

### Pricing for 2016:

- \$475 Early Registration (December 1 – February 29)
- \$500 Normal Registration (March 1 – April 30)
- \$525 Late Registration (May 1 – June 15)

*All siblings receive a \$25 discount.*

### Online Registration

Camper Registration and more information is now available online at [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org). You can make a deposit now to lock in the “Early Registration” pricing and make payments until Jun. 15.

## New Tile

The new tile in the Fellowship Room and Foyer has been finished and looks beautiful! It began with a group of about 20 volunteers who spent more than two hours tearing out the existing carpeting. That was not an easy job, but took nearly 25% off the cost of the installation, and made the tiling go much faster. Thank you to all who donated towards this project.



## Let Us Gather in Prayer

We can never pray too much! Knowing this, for our New Year's resolution many of us will probably promise to increase our prayer time in 2016. One way to do this is by becoming a member of our church ministry, Gathering of Prayer. Many already know about this ministry but some may not realize two important things: One that the group prays not only for the dying and departed of our parish but also for the living; and second, all that is needed is about 20 minutes of your time! There are no meetings, no fundraisers, no dues, and you can pray whenever and wherever you are!

### Praying for the dying and departed

The Gathering of Prayer Ministry honors the newly departed by reading the Memorial Akathist prayer which takes approximately 20 minutes. The purpose of praying for 40 continuous days following a loved one's death is not only for the departed one's remembrance and forgiveness but also for the reader as it provides "spiritual therapy" for the soul.

The significance of praying for 40 days is symbolic of the 40 days that Jesus Christ walked the Earth following His Resurrection. The Jews of the Old Testament also observed forty days as they wept for Jacob and Moses. At present, the ministry does not have forty members to complete the entire prayer cycle. Ideally a complete prayer chain would include forty members, each person praying on one designated day, the end result being forty continuous days of prayer. There is a misconception that members are required to pray all forty days but that is not the case. A person can choose to pray for one day only! Being a part of this group means you can pray whether you attended the departed's funeral or not, or whether or not you knew them. You can be active whether you are homebound, on vacation, or whether you leave for the season!

### Praying for the Living

Prayer is the ultimate gift of devotion for all and this ministry can be our prayer group not only when someone falls asleep but during other difficult times for ourselves or

for other such as in times of illness, hospitalization, travel, or during times of great despair or stress.

Praying is an act of faith and love that we can do alone or share with our family. Praying with your children or having them sign up as a member can teach them the importance of prayer and instill Christian values early in life. Praying with a spouse or elder parent can also provide much love, hope and bonding.

Below are a few comments from parishioners who have found solace in this Christian endeavor:

- "As I pray for God's mercy for familiar departed ones, I also pray for their families and for myself. Doing so gives me hope and helps me feel closer to God and my faith."
- "When my mother was failing, I requested prayers from the group. It helped me greatly to know others were joining me in prayer."
- "It is comforting to know that our parish continues to pray for those members who have passed. My participation in this mission is a reminder to keep those members and their families close to my heart."
- "It gives me great peace to know that when my own time comes to fall asleep, my church family will pray for my soul's rest."

The ministry plans to host Coffee Hour on Sunday, Jan. 17 to recruit new members, answer questions, and hear any suggestions about continuing the ministry. To volunteer see Father Michael or Kay Fulghum. This new year consider giving the gift of prayer all year long!



## Angel Tree and Food boxes

Thank you to all our parishioners who donated food for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Food boxes for needy families in Peoria, and to all who bought gifts for the Angel Tree (photo attached). Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

# JANUARY 2016 FESTIVAL BAKING SCHEDULE

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

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



# JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> New Year's Day 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Basil the Great	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Mortgage Reduction Tray	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Philoptochos	<b>5</b> 3:30pm Divine Liturgy Eve of Epiphany and Blessing of the Waters 6:00pm Youth Night	<b>6</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy Epiphany and Blessing of the Waters	<b>7</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. John the Baptist 7:00pm Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00am Church Music Institute
<b>10</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Vasilopita Sunday	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Parish Council	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Youth Night	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy IOCC Offering Tray	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:00pm Youth Night	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Executive Council	<b>26</b> 6:00pm Youth Night	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00am Divine Liturgy Three Hierarchs
<b>31</b> 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy						

# House Blessings

Start the New Year with a special family event, according to the traditions of the Holy Orthodox Church, asking God's blessings for your home and your family!

Please complete the form below to indicate your preferred date and schedule your house blessing. Mail the form to the church office, or bring it with you to church on Sunday. You will be contacted by our secretary to confirm your day and time.



## House Blessing Request Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE

**Zone 1: North of Bell Road and West of 99th Ave./Lake Pleasant Pkwy**

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday, January 11                      \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday, January 17  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday, January 24                      \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 28

**Zone 2: North of bell Road and East of 99th Ave./Lake Pleasant Pkwy**

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 12                      \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 19  
\_\_\_\_\_ Monday, January 25                      \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, January 30

**Zone 3: South of Bell Road and West of 99th Ave./Lake Pleasant Pkwy**

\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, January 13                      \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, January 20  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26                      \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday, January 31

**Zone 4: South of Bell Road and East of 99th Ave./Lake Pleasant Pkwy**

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 14                      \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21  
\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, January 27