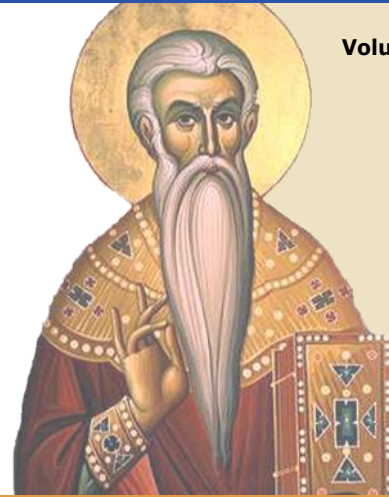


in Touch

Volume 25, Issue 1

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St. Haralambos Church

30
1987-2017
Celebrating Thirty Years

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

The Feast of Theophany

On the 12th day of Christmas, January 6th, the Orthodox Church calendar celebrates the feast of Theophany (also known as Epiphany), the baptism of Christ in the Jordan River. The term Theophany, which means a revelation of God, recalls the moment when, at Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, flew down and rested over his head, and a voice from God, the Father in Heaven spoke, saying, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Following the Divine Liturgy, the tradition of the Orthodox Church is to conduct the Blessing of the Waters service, where everyone receives a bottle of the Holy Water. Bottles can be brought from home, but there will also be bottles available during the service.

Some of this water is kept in the altar and used when the priest visits homes for the New Year house blessings (see page 6).



Christmas Angels and Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Christmas Angel tree and food boxes. Everything was packed and ready for pickup by the Peoria Community Action Agency in time for the 10 families to enjoy for the Christmas holiday.



Old Church Building Remodeled

St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church in Peoria, the parish that purchased our previous church building in Old Town Peoria, has started an extensive remodeling and expansion project. As the photos show, the interior has been completely torn out and a new roof is being installed above.

Fr. Philemon Hanna, St. Mary's parish priest, is looking forward to the remodeling being completed in time for Holy Week and Easter services.





The Lord's Divine Glory

2017 marks the 30th anniversary of St. Haralambos Church, in Peoria, Arizona! The Anniversary Committee is hard at work preparing events and activities to commemorate this milestone. Further information will be published in this newsletter as well as announcements on Sundays.

The month of January, in addition to starting the new calendar year, also brings us the feastday of Theophany on Jan. 6. This event commemorates our Lord's baptism in the Jordan River, and in addition, the manifestation of Holy Trinity. Recorded in Chapter 3 of Saint Matthew's gospel, this Theophany event reveals the Holy Trinity in a unique way: God the Father's voice from Heaven, God the Son, Jesus Christ, being baptized, and God the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove appearing above the head of Jesus.

Shortly after His baptism, our Lord spent 40 days in the wilderness, at the end of which He encounters a series of temptations from the Devil. How ignorant is Satan? An expert, perhaps, at offering an endless variety of temptations for all of humanity; but, trying the same on the Son of God? Did he really think the Lord would fall?

Later in the New Testament there are some vivid examples of demons who encountered the Lord, but they either fully recognized Him and begged for mercy, or were utterly powerless in His presence. (See Mark 5:1-14, and Mark 9:14-30) Perhaps

seeing that his best efforts had no effect on Jesus, the Devil quickly spread the word to the other demons about the Lord's power over them.

Our Lord's baptism followed by the 40 days in the desert provide us with a good reminder of the Lord's divine glory, and His power over temptation and sin. Commemorated at the beginning of the year, they help us remember our identity and path in life as Christians.

Are we living a life that is pleasing to God? Are we willing to consider making changes to our life that we know would be pleasing to God? These are questions worth considering as we begin the new year because the value of new year's resolutions is not simply in making changes, but making changes that are pleasing to God.

*Are we willing to
consider making
changes to our life
that we know would
be pleasing to God?*

Following the Divine Liturgy on Friday, Jan. 6, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Blessing of the Waters service, after which everyone is given the opportunity to receive Holy Water. This Holy Water is also used for House Blessings, which all parish families are invited to receive by completing and returning the House Blessing Request form on page 6.

May our Lord Jesus Christ grant a Happy and Blessed new year to all!



**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

Russ Skocypec



Thank You

Words cannot express our gratitude for all of the prayers, food, gifts, flowers, books, and visits from Fr. Michael and all of our wonderful St. Haralambos family. I wish I could name each and every one of you, but the In Touch just doesn't have enough space. Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

We truly appreciated all the love that was shown to us while Carl was in the rehabilitation center. He still has a long road to travel, but by the time you read this in January 2017, we hope to have returned to worship with you.

God bless you all,
Dina and Carl Surman

Stewardship

As we do each year, we are asking all parish families to consider renewing their Stewardship of Saint Haralambos Church, and for new families to consider becoming Stewards as well.

The 2017 Stewardship Brochures are available from Fr. Michael after Sunday services or by appointment during the week.

Good Stewardship for Christians, is recognizing that everything we have: health, wealth, time and talents, are all

gifts of God; none of it belongs to us! To exercise good stewardship is to use God's gifts in ways that glorify Him and build up His Church. This means using our gifts for the benefit of others, giving a portion of our time and treasure for the building up of the Church.

When a person realizes his dependency on God's blessings, sharing them with others and through His Church is a very natural and joyful response.

Parish Council Election Results

Congratulations to Nardos Russom and Solomon Woldesilassie, the newly elected members of our Parish Council. They will be joining Dennis Georgen, Russ Skocypec and Marina Finch beginning this month.

Thank you to council member Kathie Harvey who served as Treasurer, and

whose term expired at the end of 2016.

May our Lord bless and guide our Parish Council to continue to administer our Church community with dedication and love.

Book Chat

By Irene Nathanson

Come for fellowship and discussion about the profound book, [The Shack](#) by William Paul Young on Tuesday, Jan. 31. [The Shack](#) is a timely novel that will have you thinking outside the box in a way you never thought possible!!!

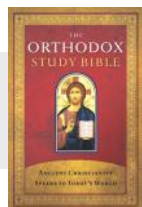
This novel, a soon to become movie in March, is one you will want to read and share about. Please see Irene Nathanson now to get a new or used copy of the book so you will be ready to "chat" with Father Michael on Jan. 31, 11:30 am, following the Bible Study class.

The Gift of Welcome

Become a Gateway to our church and consider being a Greeter for our parish!!

If you can come to church between 9:30 and 9:45 am once every four or five weeks, you would greatly contribute to this important Ministry! The duties are greeting and

welcoming all who come to our parish for Sunday liturgy. We also direct the lines during Holy Communion and assist with the passing of trays. Please consider being a first and lasting impression for our church family! We are in critical need at this time. See Desi Medina.



Bible Study Class

will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 10:00 am.

Birthdays



Christine Hollander (2)
 Sharon Magnani (3)
 Esther Christenson, II (4)
 Constantine Danos (4)
 Ruth Panousopoulos (5)
 Maria Dicks (7)
 Peter Stamas (11)
 Judy Farr (12)
 Antonios Papamatheakis (13)
 Philemon Russom (13)
 Elaine Giannias (14)
 Dennis Finch (16)
 Athanasius Romero (19)
 Georgia Pikoula (20)
 Naomi Solomon (21)
 Andrea Pagos (22)
 Art Amoroso (25)
 Maria Macrides (26)
 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.

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Anna Kinniburgh, President

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

Happy New Year 2017!

Thank You to everyone who donated and contributed toward our Christmas drive to help ten disadvantaged Peoria families have gifts and a delicious meal for Christmas! Special thanks to Joan Bryson, Angie Cholas and Irene Nathanson for helping to share the bounty to our community!

Also a special thank you to Donna Manos, our Caring Friends Ministry, and all who contributed in remembering our parish homebound elders. We were able to deliver home baked goodies and visit 13 members for Christmas! We also had very successful deli/bake sales during the month and appreciate all who contributed toward our fundraising efforts. The funds collected will go toward our many philanthropic efforts.

December Commitments

Our commitments for the month were:

- UNICEF which benefits the United Nations Children's Emergency fund
- General Medical Fund which provides financial resources for individuals in need of assistance
- St. Nicholas Ranch
- Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Seminary Aid Endowment Fund

Vasilopita Sunday

We are once again calling upon our talented Parish bakers to contribute

toward our traditional ceremony of auctioning Vasilopita for 2017. If you can, please consider bringing a New Year's Vasilopita for our sale Sunday, Jan. 15. Philoptochos will be hosting this event to raise proceeds for St. Basil's Academy.

Memorial Dove Tree of Remembrance

Start your New Year by remembering a departed loved one in church. Memorial doves are available for decorating our Trees of Remembrance for \$10. We express our gratitude to Father Michael for reading their names in a special memorial service Sunday, Jan. 15. To purchase a dove see Irene Nathanson or Reni Milonas.

Next meeting

Our first meeting of 2017 will be held Jan. 9 at 6:30 pm. We encourage all current members to attend and invite new brothers and sisters to join us!



Name Days

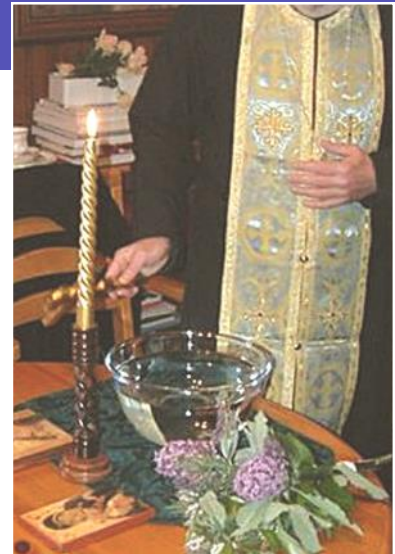
Many years/Chronia Polla to those named after the following saints:

Epiphany (6th)	St. Athanasios (18th)	St. Xenia (24th)
St. Gregory (10th)	St. Mark (19th)	St. Gregory (25th)
St. Tatiani (12th)	St. Euthymios (20th)	St. Ephraim (28th)
St. Anthony (17th)	St. Timothy (22nd)	

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

_____ Saturday, January 14 _____ Thursday, January 19
_____ Tuesday, January 24 _____ Sunday, January 29

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

_____ Tuesday, January 10 _____ Sunday, January 15
_____ Saturday, January 21 _____ Wednesday, January 25

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

_____ Wednesday, January 11 _____ Tuesday, January 17
_____ Sunday, January 22 _____ Thursday, January 26

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

_____ Thursday, January 12 _____ Wednesday, January 18
_____ Monday, January 23 _____ Saturday, January 28

2017 Greek Festival: February 10, 11, & 12
VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

I am available to work the following booths:

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Admission | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival Bank | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Imports/Deli | <input type="checkbox"/> Gyros/Souvlaki |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious/Bookstore | <input type="checkbox"/> Loukoumades | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Food Line | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastries | <input type="checkbox"/> Runner | <input type="checkbox"/> Saganaki & Kalamari | <input type="checkbox"/> Taverna | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Fries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office/Information | | | | |

I am available to work the following shifts:

- | <u>Friday</u> | <u>Saturday</u> | <u>Sunday</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5pm to 10pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 11am to 4pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 12pm to 4pm |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 4pm to 10pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 4pm to 8pm |

I am available to help with the following Pre-Festival and Post-Festival needs:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Booth Setup (week before) | <input type="checkbox"/> Booth Teardown | <input type="checkbox"/> Food and Pastry Preparation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer/Signage Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion & Advertising | |

Name _____ Phone _____

Your assignment will be confirmed. If you cannot fulfill your assignment,
please call Desi: 623-876-1967 (after 6 pm) or the Church office: 623-486-8665.

Please return this form as soon as possible. Thank you!

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JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. Basil the Great New Year's Day	2	3	4	5 7:00pm Choir	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy Epiphany and Blessing of the Waters	7
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	9 6:30pm Philoptochos	10	11	12 7:00pm Choir	13	14 8:30am Koulouria
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Vailopita Sunday IOCC Offering	16 Martin Luther King Day (office closed)	17 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Anthony	18 9:00am Divine Liturgy Sts Athanasios and Cyril	19 7:00pm Choir	20	21 8:30am Melomakarona
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	23	24	25	26 7:00pm Choir	27 8:30am Tsourekia	28 8:30am Tsourekia
29 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	30 9:00am Divine Liturgy Three Hierarchs	31				