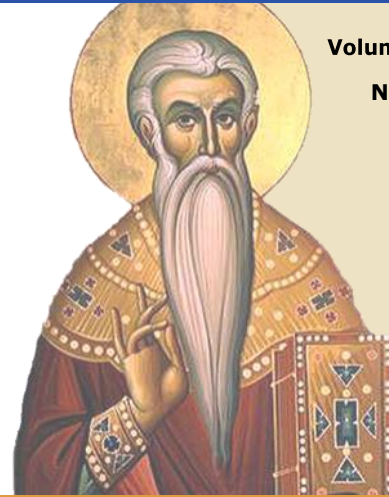


in Touch

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Portico Construction Begins!



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

4th Annual Blessing of the Animals

All are invited to the 4th Annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 9 am, in the church back yard. Advance reservations are required by calling the church office at 623-486-8665. Please be aware that all pets must be on a leash or in a carrier.

Join us asking the Lord's blessings on our beloved family pets!



Happy Thanksgiving



We wish all our families a very Happy Thanksgiving, and encourage all to spend time together with family and friends in fellowship and prayer, giving thanks to our good and loving God for His mercy, grace and love for mankind.

For those who enjoy singing one of the traditional Thanksgiving hymns, we are happy to provide the text here:

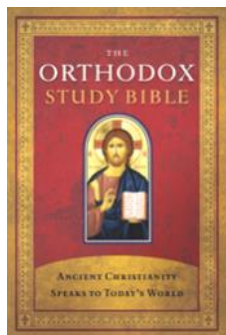
We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.
Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning:
the Lord was at our side- the glory be Thine!

Front Entry Portico: Construction Begins

Beginning this month, construction on the entry Portico will begin! After months of planning, we look forward to seeing this beautiful addition to our building, giving it a more traditional look as an Orthodox Christian place of worship.

Please note that the front entry doors will not be accessible during construction, and look for the signs on Sundays showing where to enter from either the east or the west side parking areas.

As the construction progresses we will post photos on our parish website and Facebook page.



Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 10 am, the Bible Study meets in the church library. The discussions have been wonderful,

meaningful and very helpful in relating the Scriptures to modern life. All are welcome to attend.



Thank God for Your Blessings

The month of November has two religious celebrations, one found in the bible, and the other found in our nation’s history. The first, the feastday of the Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple, is celebrated each year on the 21st of November, commemorating that moment when, as a young child, the blessed Theotokos was brought to the temple by her parents, Joachim and Anna.

This was to fulfill a promise they made to God in thanksgiving for her birth. Joachim and Anna were unable to conceive children, yet were both told by angels of God that their prayers were heard, and that they would be soon become parents. When Mary was three years old, she was brought to the temple to be consecrated to God.

Celebrated shortly after this feastday, we come to the American religious holiday of Thanksgiving celebrated each year on the fourth Thursday in November.

Having lost nearly half of their group the first year to the harshness of winter and lack of food, the pilgrims set aside a day of feasting and prayer in thanks to Almighty God the following year for having survived with the help of native American Indians.

November is the Thanksgiving month within the Church and in American society; a wonderful time for us to count our blessings, and to be thankful for all that God has given to us.

What is one very practical and helpful way to thank God for our blessings? To think about sharing with others, to help others with needs greater than our own may not be the first thought that comes to mind, but is a wonderful way to let God know that we are thankful, enough so that we pass that love on to others.

That does require a bit of humility, doesn’t it? In our minds, we know that there are countless number of people – men, women and children – who are in need of

basic comforts such as food and shelter. It is something else, though, to act on what we know; to put knowledge and prayer into action. But this is the Christian response to God’s love – passing it along. It’s also such a wonderful way to thank God – to pass it along!

If someone gave you a gift, and you enjoy it so much you just have to share it with someone else, you not only bring happiness to a third person, you honor the friend who gave you the gift in the first place. A very moving example is recorded in the 3rd chapter of the New Testament Book of Acts (Acts 3:1 -8) involving the apostles Peter and John:

If someone gave you a gift, and you enjoy it so much you just have to share it with someone else,

“Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them— walking, leaping, and praising God.”

Give from what you have! Are you thankful to God for his blessings, his great mercy and love? Pass it along; give to others out of love, expecting nothing back. You bring joy to another human being, and you are saying ‘thank you’ to God by extending that love to others.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship

Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

[Services live online](#)

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Hours

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parish Council

Cynthia Bekiaris	Dan Teska
Deborah Chionchio	Vivian Teska
Virginia Dent	Mary Wysmierski
Hope Evangelinos	Ray Wysmierski
Anna Kinniburgh	Solomon Woldesilassie

Parish Council News

By Ray Wysmierski, President

The council has been very busy this past month in preparation of all the upcoming projects that you will begin to see. The fence will be erected in coming weeks, the lighting along the driveways will begin to illuminate your path to church and keep you safe.

We have had some cost overruns that were not anticipated however we need to move forward to get the initial Fema grant money reimbursed. Even with the overruns, we will still realize benefits that we wouldn't have seen if it were not for the \$126,500 grant. It will just take time to get our money back.

Keep in mind it has a tremendous benefit to our tenant, Brilliant Blessings Day Care .

The church is our home, not only for a place to meet and converse but our place to worship. So many issues are taking place in this world, however we have a home in peace and our divine liturgy. We must pray for all the people in distress and peril. You can rest assured we are safe in God's home. Soon you will see God's handiwork taking place.

The fire alarm system has been transitioned over to another company and we have only spent several thousand

dollars for now and not currently faced with replacing the system yet. However, keep in mind this is the next major expense we will be facing.

As our church ages so do all the operational aspects of our church. Yes, it would be nice to replace the grass with artificial turf, however again a major expense. The carpet is over 20 years old and showing signs of wear. Also, on our list of beautifying the church. As costs continue to rise, we are up against a steadfast battle. Know we keep the best interests of our church in mind and are always seeking the most cost saving investments we make for the church.

We all struggle in some way ourselves, increases in social security will be minimal next year, however, know that your church faces the same struggles. We continually try to work within our means, but as I said the building is aging and repairs become an ongoing issue.

God has provided us with a place to worship and the council wants to insure it stays that way. With all that I have said we always look to the horizon for the ultimate peace and happiness.

I have included a brochure on page 6 with some very spiritual and heartwarming reading

Building Projects

As we mentioned at our previous General Assembly, the Department of Homeland Security grant we were awarded in 2022 is being used for the following projects designed to increase security: Exterior and Interior Security cameras, additional parking lot lights and a fence around our entire property with four entry/exit gates.

The cameras have been installed, the fence and parking lot lights are due to be installed this month.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

During the month of November, we are working with the City of Peoria Community Action Agency in putting together Thanksgiving dinners for 10 low-income families. We are asking for donations of frozen turkeys, canned and boxed foods that can be delivered to the church until Sunday, Nov. 19.

Please enter your donations on the sign-up sheet in the Observation Area. This shows the amount and type of foods for each family, and will help us keep track of what is needed. Food or financial donations can be delivered to the church Mon-Fri from 10 am – 2 pm and on Sundays until 1 pm. Please bring all donations by the Sunday, Nov. 19 deadline.

Thank you for helping give the less fortunate in our community a wonderful Thanksgiving meal!



St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Anna Kinniburgh, President

November will be a very busy and productive month for our Philoptochos. November 5th is set to be our second meeting, after church services and coffee at 12 Noon. Guests are welcomed to come and see what we are about.

Philoptochos will be baking our well known pastries for Thanksgiving. We will be selling to our parishioners' on Sundays Nov.12th and 19th after church services in

the observation room. During the month of November there will be a collection of food for the 10 families the church supports and Philoptochos will be helping with the collection. November 25th we will be decorating the church for Christmas.



Divine Liturgy Classes

This new four-session series produced by Faith Tree Resources offers a wonderful guide to make attending the Divine Liturgy a more spirit-filled experience. Offered for those who are new to the Orthodox Church and for those who have been attending for

years, the information from the speakers, including priest and laymen and women, offers very helpful ways to prepare ourselves to engage and experience the beauty of the longest, continual form of Christian worship today.

Journey to Fullness Classes

The Journey to Fullness classes continue this month on Tuesday evenings, beginning with dinner at 5p m. The video presentations lead by Fr. Barnabas Powell

are very well done and make learning about the Orthodox Christian faith very enjoyable.

2023 Stewardship Families

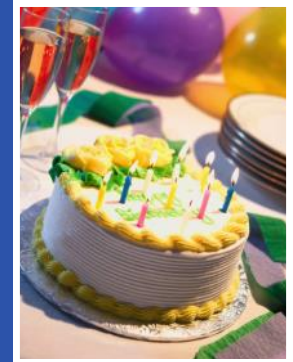
Abbitt, Dimetra
Asfaha, Moges
Bastell, Rudenio (Suad)
Baxter, Jean
Berhe, Almaz
Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia
Bravos, Frosene
Bryson, Tom & Joan
Carlson, Olga
Chionchio, Debbie
Cholas, Angie
Christian, Thalia
Conklin, Maria
Contes, Jamie
Covault, Lloyd & Angela
Danielek, Michael and Chrissy
Davis, Mary

Deming, Janet
Dent, Virginia
Dodd, Voula
Evangelinos, Parry & Hope
Farr, Paula
Farr, Kevin
Farr, Jeff & Judy
Finch, Dennis & Marina
Gardener, Semos
Giannias, Elaine
Gryparis, Demetri and Magda
Hartsel, Barbara
Javaras, Harry
Jolly, Judith
Kapetenakis, Voule and Cathy
Karabetos, Andreas & Angel
Kinniburgh, Bob & Anna

Lafayette, Henry & Maria
Lazzelle, Estelle
Levendi, Mary
Loukas, Christos & Peggy
Magnani, Sharon
Mavridis, Christos
Michas, Peter
Milonas, Nick & Jane
Munteanu, Mirela
Nathanson, Irene
Nicely, Edna
Pagos, Stella
Pallad, Fr. Michael & Pres.
Kristin
Pappas, Irene
Servetas, Charlotte
Singleton, Melanie

Stratos, George & Irene
Surman, Dina
Tally, Katherine
Tesfay, Ocbai & Genet
Teska, Dan & Vivian
Thieke, James
Tsioutsopoulos, Demetre & Holly
Vardalos, Peter & Lindsay
Vasquez, Argyro
Woldesilassie, Solomon & Lydia
Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
George & Helen Yannakopoulos
Zakas, Speros & Linda
Zaruba, Estell

Birthdays



- Argyro Vasquez (3)
- Marina Finch (8)
- Maria Lafayette (8)
- Lamar Forque (10)
- Irene Pappas (10)
- Irene Stratos (17)
- Judy Jolly (19)
- George Macrides (21)
- Lori Benjamin (24)
- Nicole Benjamin (24)
- George Stratos (24)
- Nikolas Panousopoulos (25)
- Kristin Pallad (28)
- Estelle Lazzelle (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.

Love and stewardship are inseparable when we consider God's blessings in our life. We use God's blessings with love and compassion for others and to honor, worship and give thanks to him.

Our parishes can be transformed, becoming beacons of Christian love as we care for one another, face challenges together, and serve our neighbors. We would be known as Christians by the love and compassion we embody as a parish family.

We are called to be compassionate stewards, placing the needs of others before our own. Scripture is filled with passages of God's call for us to be generous, loving, compassionate givers. Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians tells us of God's call for us to "excel in the grace of giving." We are "hard-wired" to live as members of the Body of Christ and serve our larger community with compassion and love.

The priority of compassionate stewardship is not to pay the bills. It is about how we, as a community, can do God's work with love and compassion. It is less about the parish's need to receive, and more about our need to give. It is our generosity with the gifts and blessings God has entrusted to us. Compassionate stewardship is an attitude and a way of life.



EVERY PORTION MATTERS

Once upon a time, a festival was to be held in a certain village. To ensure there would be enough wine for the celebration, each member of the village agreed to pour one bottle of his best wine into a large cask. "If I fill my bottle with water," reasoned one villager, "the dilution will be so slight, who will notice?" But when the feast and time for merrymaking commenced, and the cask was tapped, nothing but water poured forth. Every member in the village had reasoned alike: "My portion will not be missed!"



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP,
OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

www.stewardship.goarch.org | stewardship@goarch.org

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Graphic Design:

Christina Meares

For additional copies of this brochure and additional resources for Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism, please visit orthodoxmarketplace.com

...the greatest of
these is love

...the greatest of these is love

Jesus spoke of love and showed compassion. He taught us by his example to love one another and to be compassionate toward those in need. In the Gospels, we read of the compassion of Jesus:

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick (Matthew 14:14).

Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him (Matthew 20:34).

...he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:34).

Compassion can often mean kindness and sympathy. In these verses, it means something deeper and much more powerful. “And he had compassion” is translated from the Greek ἐπιλεηλυμένω (epilelethē) and comes from the root word in Greek for “guts.” In other words, it is compassion and concern that are felt in one’s guts — a compassion that is felt in a deeply physical way. Compassion felt in this way compels us to respond with love and deep concern.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus says “*But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion on him...*” (Luke 10:33).

In the parable of the Prodigal Son Jesus says, “*But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*” (Luke 15:20).

These stories reflect the love and compassion that Jesus has for his people. His compassion inspires and challenges each one of us to live compassionately.

This understanding of the full meaning of compassion in the New Testament means that another person’s suffering becomes our own suffering. Compassion in this sense can change the way we live and care for others and for our community. When we feel this physical type of compassion, we are fully and physically engaged. We serve others and care for our community with love.

To love in the way Saint Paul writes to the Christians at Corinth, when he says, “...the greatest of these is love,” means we can’t live without compassion for others. Love and compassion are not expressed only in our offerings of money and other support. Love and compassion are not something we give in order to receive something in return. Pride has no place in acts of love and compassion.

Stewardship is everything we do after we say “I believe.” Stewardship is about how we live our lives and make our choices.

The love that Saint Paul describes in his letter to the Christians at Corinth is an expression of stewardship. Stewardship is everything we do after we say “I believe.” Stewardship is about how we live our lives and make our choices. Stewardship is about love and love is about stewardship.



NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 9:00am Blessing of the Animals
5 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	6 7:00pm Divine Liturgy Session 3	7 5:00pm Journey to Fullness 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8 9:00am Divine Liturgy Archangel Michael and Heavenly Host 10:00am Bible Study	9 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saint Nektarios	10	11 Veterans Day
12 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	13 7:00pm Divine Liturgy Session 4	14 5:00pm Journey to Fullness 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	15 9:00am Divine Liturgy Apostle and Evangelist Luke 10:00am Bible Study	16 9:00am Divine Liturgy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew	17	18
19 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	20	21 9:00am Divine Liturgy Entrance of the Theotokos 5:00pm Journey to Fullness 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22 10:00am Bible Study	23 Thanksgiving Day (Church Office Closed)	24	25
26 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	27	28 5:00pm Journey to Fullness 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 10:00am Bible Study	30		